

Selection of Newspapers – Assessing Microfilm Quality Prior to Digitisation

Author: ANDP Team

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For titles identified as being of significant value to the nation the following assessment must be made of the actual microfilm before digitisation takes place. Microfilmed newspapers must meet the standard and quality outlined below in order to be considered acceptable for the Newspaper digitisation program. If significant titles do not meet the criteria the National Library of Australia will investigate other means of obtaining suitable digital images for these titles. Currently a number of significant titles are being re-filmed under the ANPlan program since they do not meet the required criteria.

Content/condition of original hard copy papers filmed:

- Complete run
- Preferably unbound, but if bound no serious obscurement of text in gutters
- Clean copies (no blotching, dirt, fading, text is readable)
- Even inking throughout
- No excessive bleedthrough
- No excessive damage, tears, holes
- No folds or other obscurement of content.

Microfilm quality:

- The microfilm is as complete as possible - more than 99% of available pages have been included
- There is no cropping of pages or text in more than 98% of the microfilm frames
- The original page reduction ratio should not be more than 20x
- The microfilm Dmax should be between 0.9 to 1.3, if possible¹
- No excessive skew (where excessive is more than ± 4 degrees from parallel) in more than 98% of frames on the microfilm
- The smallest text on 100% of the pages should be legible
- There is minimal inclusion of foreign objects e.g. clips
- Any joins in the microfilm are not be across actual content
- The text is in focus.

Microfilm Condition:

- Clean (no excessive dirt, mould or dust)
- 98% of frames on the microfilm have no scratches/marks or other extensive damage
- Age (at present any age microfilm is being scanned but this may be reviewed).

¹ A measure of the darkest shadow which can be scanned by a scanner.