

Collecting Strategy 2020–21 to 2023–24

PURPOSE: In accordance with the *National Library Act 1960*, the Library collects documentary resources relating to Australia and the Australian people so that the Australian community—now and in the future—can discover, learn and create new knowledge.

MISSION: We collect today what will be important tomorrow.

Principles

The National Library of Australia is a world-leading and respected custodian of Australia's published, written, oral, visual and digital heritage. We ensure Australian history, culture and knowledge is sustained for all Australian people, both now and in the future. The Library enables the creation of knowledge. It develops, curates and preserves an astounding and diverse collection that inspires, delights and educates Australians.

This strategy outlines the Library's priorities for collecting, operating in conjunction with the Collection Development Policy, and identifying the areas for sustained focus over the next four years.



1. As the National Library of Australia, we will sharpen our focus on collecting Australian material and material with Australian content, and look to strengthen collecting in identified priority areas.



2. Our collecting will also reflect our place in the world, regionally and strategically, with a curatorial focus on Indonesia, China and the Pacific. We will significantly reduce overseas collecting that does not have Australian content.



3. Collecting will be increasingly digital, where possible, to enable effective, efficient and sustainable collection building, storage and accessibility.



4. Collecting will be collaborative, recognising the strengths and interests of other national and state cultural institutions, while capitalising on current arrangements and exploring new opportunities for a shared national collection.



5. The Library will be responsive to the challenge of collecting new and emerging formats quickly, and provide associated tools and technology to leverage this capability as part of the national digital cultural network.

National Collecting

1. Legal Deposit

A mandated function under the *Copyright Act 1968*, the Library aims to comprehensively collect Australian publications in order to reflect the full diversity and range of Australian life depicted in the published record. For some types of publications (e.g. ephemera, posters and websites) a representation of the breadth and diversity of materials is collected.

2. Australians: Material by Australians and about Australia

The Library continues to collect primary material that is of national significance, selectively acquiring a wide range of unique materials documenting the lives and activities of Australian people, places and events that have shaped society.

To improve the range and representation of the collection, the Library intends to strengthen its thematic collecting focus through identified priorities including (not listed in priority order):

- increasing and improving representation of **Indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse communities**, including active engagement with communities through representative collecting plans
- ensuring the perspectives and stories of **rural and regional communities** are included in the collection
- increasing awareness of **active citizenship and representative democracy** by documenting individuals and communities who have sought to bring about social and political change
- collecting that documents Australia's involvement in and contribution to **science and technology** over time
- collecting that documents the relationship Australians have with the **environment**
- seeking materials in a way that ensures **gender parity** across all these collecting areas.

Collecting Priorities



International Collecting

Overseas resources are selectively collected to inform and enhance Australians' understanding of their region and their place in the world.

3. Asia-Pacific Region: Indonesia, China and the Pacific

Collecting material from and about Indonesia, China, and the Pacific (incl. Timor-Leste) is the Library's next highest priority after its Australian collecting. This reflects Australia's strategic interests and our geographical position within this region.

4. The Wider World

The Library selectively acquires, or provides access to, publications that offer an understanding of global issues, current events and topics affecting Australia. The aim is to develop the strongest possible collection for the broadest cross-section of Australian society.