

Legal Deposit



Legal deposit (LD) legislation mandates all Australian publications must be deposited with the National Library of Australia. It applies to books, serials, maps and music.



Between 2017 and 2022, **117,384 publications were collected** under legal deposit.



HOW WELL ARE WE DOING?

We have work to do to shift towards fully meeting strategic priorities for legal deposit



LEGAL DEPOSIT AND NATIONAL eDEPOSIT



Legal deposit makes up the core of the Library's collection and supports preservation and access, contributing to the long-term survival of the nation's documentary heritage. It ensures that this heritage is accessible to all Australians.



In February 2016 legal deposit provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968* were updated to include electronic publications.



In August 2019 National eDeposit (NED) was launched to support collaborative electronic legal deposit. NED allows publishers authors and authors to deposit electronically including through bulk uploads and provides for the management, storage, preservation, discovery and delivery of published electronic material across Australia.

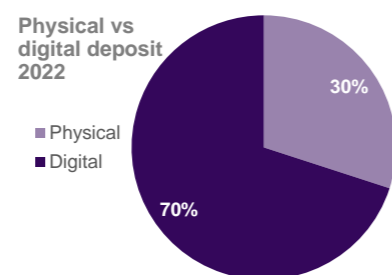
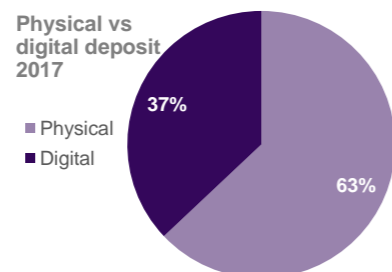
Physical v Digital Deposit

Before changes to legal deposit legislation, 20 years of digital publishing were not represented in the national collection.

In 2017, one year after changes to legislation, legal deposit was still transitioning and print collecting was dominant.

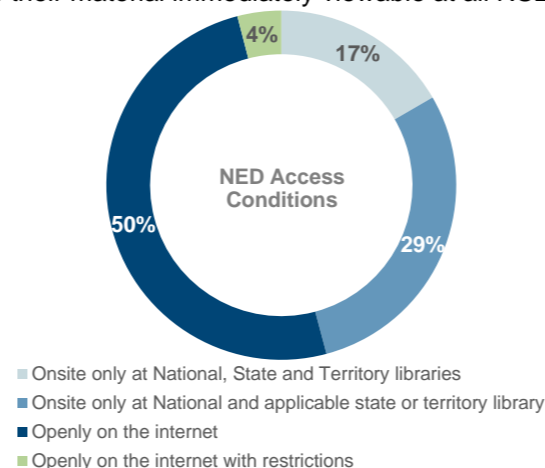
The introduction of NED in 2019 saw an increase in digital legal deposit.

Today, titles that would previously have been represented in state/territory libraries only are now shared across NSLA libraries.



IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY

Digital publications are more accessible to the public, with publishers able to make their material immediately viewable at all NSLA libraries or online.

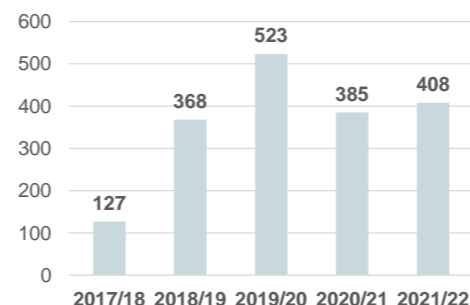


LEGAL DEPOSIT BUILDS FIRST NATIONS COLLECTIONS

In NED, Publishers can elect to identify as Indigenous. **3% of NED Publishers identify as Indigenous.**

In 2019, a concerted effort to engage with Indigenous publishers saw an increase in deposit. The decline since 2020-21 needs to be examined to determine if it is temporary and COVID-19 related or if there is a deeper underlying cause.

Indigenous content in NED, 2017-18 to 2021-22

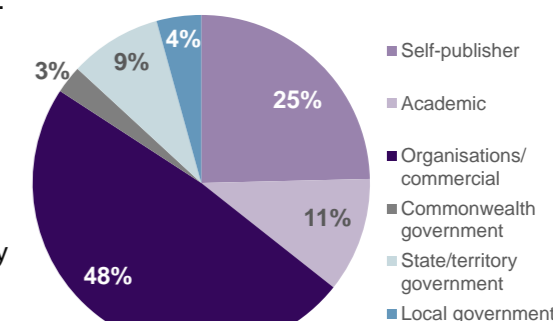


LEGAL DEPOSIT AND PUBLISHING DIVERSITY

There has been significant growth in self-publishing activity over the last decade. Self-publishers deposited 5,509 titles to NED in 2021-2022. **Self-publishers represent 25% of registered publishers in NED.**

The efficiency of electronic deposit has been particularly embraced by newspaper publishers, with over 324 new titles deposited in 2020-21, alongside 18,036 issues.

Publishing Diversity in NED by publisher type



Australia's largest national newspaper publishers deposit into NED using the bulk upload function. Last editions of regional and local newspapers which ceased production due to COVID are available in NED.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

The collaborative nature of NED and automated processes enables efforts to address collection gaps including CALD and print only publishing.

Over the next 3 years we will:

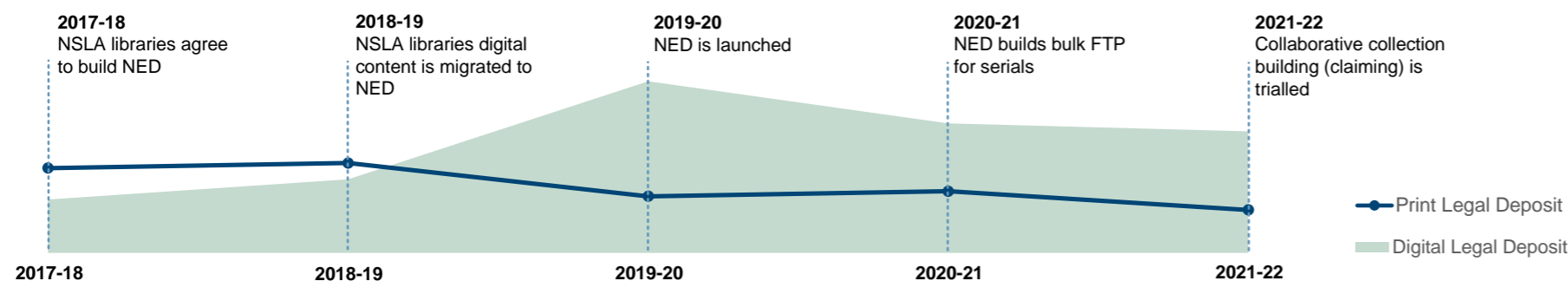
Accelerate commercial and government publishers transition from print to electronic deposit, to take advantage of bulk deposit mechanisms.

Focus our outreach to print-only publishers such as zines, artist books, children's books and family histories to ensure these specialist and limited print runs are represented in the collection.

Engage with publishing and author organisations to promote legal deposit within their client base. This will reduce the need for bespoke collection building (claiming) practices.

Make connections with community organisations to increase awareness of legal deposit obligations amongst Indigenous and CALD communities.

TIMELINE OF PRINT AND DIGITAL DEPOSIT, 2017 - 2022



NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA