

Manuscripts



Comprises unique archival records created and accumulated by individuals or organisations in the course of their activities, retained for their cultural, legal, research and evidentiary value



Contains all formats including text, pictorial, digital and multimedia, bound together by the context created by provenance and original order



HOW WELL ARE WE DOING?

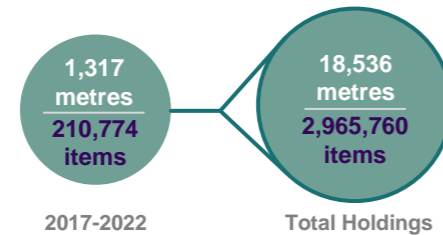
We have work to do to shift towards fully meeting strategic priorities for manuscripts



OVERVIEW

Size of the Collection

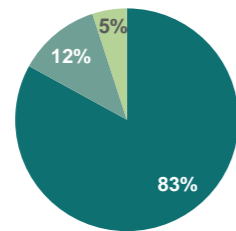
The Collection currently grows by nearly 280 shelf metres each year.



Methods of Acquisition

Methods of acquisition 2017-2022

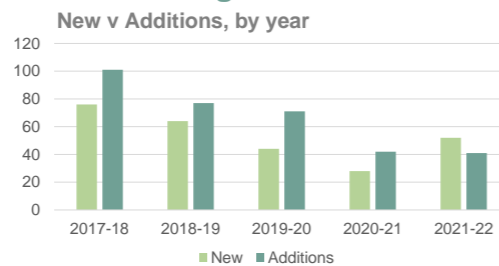
- Donation
- Purchase
- Cultural Gifts Program



Most collections are acquired via gratis donation, as well as direct purchase or donation under the Cultural Gifts Program.

New Collections v Additions to Existing Collections

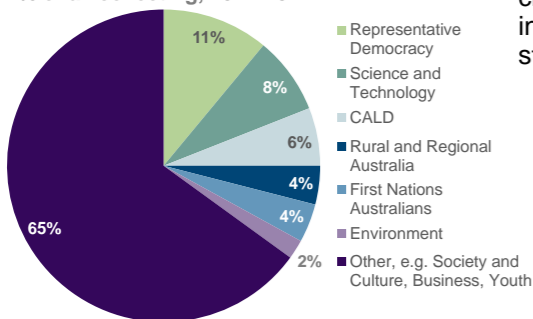
Collections are often transferred in multiple instalments. We receive more additions each year than new collections, although 2021-2022 has seen a shift towards increased engagement with new creators.



STRATEGIC COLLECTING PRIORITIES

Collection Diversity

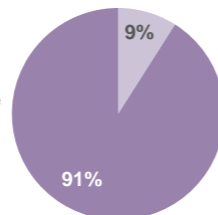
Strategic collecting priorities as a % of all collecting, 2021-2022



The diversity of the collection is changing over time with increased representation in strategic areas.

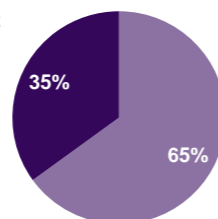
Proactive v reactive collecting, 2021-2022

- Proactive
- Reactive



Gender of manuscript creators, 2017-2022

- Male
- Female



Proactive v Reactive and Gender Parity

Currently manuscript collecting is primarily reactive, responding to incoming offers. A small percentage consists of proactive approaches to prospective donors.

There is work to do in key areas such as increasing gender parity.

HIGHLIGHTS, 2017 - 2022

Increasing the representation of First Nations communities:

Noel Tovey: Indigenous Australian dancer, actor, director and choreographer
Evelyn Scott: Indigenous Australian social activist and educator
Mudrooroo Nyoongah: Indigenous Australian novelist, poet, essayist and playwright

Increasing the representation of Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Communities:

Australian Lebanese Historical Society: fostering the study of the history of the Lebanese in Australia
Deanna Blacher: dancer, choreographer, advocate of Spanish dance and music
Don'o Kim: Korean-born Australian author and academic

Increasing awareness of Active Citizenship and Representative Democracy:

ACE Nuclear Free Collective (Friends of the Earth): anti-nuclear and anti-uranium collective
Dorothy Buckland-Fuller: peace and human-rights activist
Dennis Altman: academic and gay-rights activist

Documenting Australia's contribution to Science & Technology:

Libby Robin: science historian
Graeme Clark: otolaryngologist, cochlear implant inventor
Barrie Pittock: Nobel Prize-winning climate researcher

Documenting the relationship that Australians have with the Environment:

Alec Costin: scientist, activist and political advisor
Margaret Blakers: environmentalist and political advisor
Raymond Specht: plant ecologist, conservationist and academic

Including the perspectives and stories of Rural & Regional Communities:

Paul Collis: Indigenous writer and academic from Bourke, far-western NSW
Alfred James Burrows: Police Constable, Nyngan, western NSW
Hughes & Knight Gregson families: pioneering family from Galong, NSW

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES



How to...

- increase gender parity
- shift the balance from reactive to proactive collecting
- build new strengths in collecting First Nations Australians and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities, the environment (including climate change) and rural and regional Australia
- renew collecting in areas of previous strengths such as literature, economy, law, science, politics and academia
- increase the representation of different generations
- shift the balance between collections *about* individual communities to collections *by* those communities.



CASE STUDY – PAPERS OF DR ANNE SUMMERS AO

- Increases gender parity
- Embodies representative democracy
- Proactive acquisition
- Acquired via purchase
- Received in 17 transfers over 41 years, and will continue to grow...

- Comprises a comprehensive 'lifetime' record of Anne Summers' career as a leading Australian feminist, editor and author working in journalism and publishing.
- Documents her many achievements, from the writing and impact of *Damned whores and God's police*, her work in Bob Hawke's Office of the Status of Women and as Chief Advisor on women's issues to Paul Keating, through to her more recent *iTalk* interview series, the e-journal *Anne Summers Reports* and the *Anne Summers Conversations* events.
- Offers fascinating insight into her significant sphere of contemporaries, colleagues and friends.
- Features a diverse range of materials including paper records (6,928 items), digital files (30,879 items) and books (796 items). Formats include manuscript and typescript drafts, diaries, emails, research materials, Excel and Word files, photographs, audio and video recordings, posters, ephemera, e-journals, multimedia, newspaper clippings, books and more.
- Demonstrates how manuscript acquisitions, particularly significant 'whole-of-life' archives, require multiple contact points to appraise, negotiate and finalise the transfer of papers over time:

