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Hon Tracey Martin, Minister of Internal Affairs

Proactive release of a Department of Internal Affairs briefing, and letters from the Chairs of the Council of New Zealand University Librarians (CONZUL) and Library and Information Advisory Commission (LIAC), regarding the management of the National Library's Overseas Published Collections

25 November 2020

These documents have been proactively released:

***7 December 2018, IA briefing: Management of the National Library's Overseas Published Collections***

***9 September 2020, Letter from Chair of the Council of New Zealand University Librarians (CONZUL) to Hon Martin***

***21 February 2020, Letter from the Chair of the Library and Information Advisory Commission (LIAC) to Hon Martin***

For an accessible copy of these documents, please email [onl@dia.govt.nz](mailto:onl@dia.govt.nz)

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Where information has been withheld for other reasons consistent with advice, it has been annotated with an asterisk. This information may in some cases be accessible under the Official Information Act 1982.

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# Internal Affairs briefing

Hon Tracey Martin  
Minister of Internal Affairs

Title: **Management of the National Library's Overseas Published Collections** received

Date: ~~7 December 2018~~ 11 December 2018

## Key issues

This briefing seeks your approval, in accordance with section 9(3) of the National Library of New Zealand Act 2003, to remove documents from the National Library's Overseas Published Collections. The opportunity to significantly reduce the size of the collections arises from the Preserving the Nation's Memory project plan to exit the National Library's regional storage facility in Whanganui, and aligns with the National Library Collection Policy last updated in 2015.

## Action sought

**Approve** the removal of all overseas publications from the Overseas Published Collections, excluding those in subject areas identified as collecting priorities in the Overseas Collecting Plan, and in alignment with the 2015 National Library Collections Policy.

## Timeframe

20 December 2018

## Contact for telephone discussions (if required)

Name	Position	Direct phone line	After hours phone	Suggested 1 <sup>st</sup> contact
Bill Macnaught	National Librarian	9(2)(a)		✓
Lewis Brown	Manager Strategy & Business Support			

Return to	9(2)(a)
Cohesion reference	ZV2C55T3EKPV-663608581-344
Ministerial database reference	IA2018001146

## Purpose

1. This briefing seeks your approval, in accordance with section 9(3) of the National Library of New Zealand (Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa) Act 2003, to remove documents from the National Library's Overseas Published Collections, aligning with the National Library Collections Policy last updated in 2015.

## Background

2. The Department updated you on the Preserving the Nation's Memory project on 23 August 2018. The update referred to work commencing on the proposed relocation and potential disposal of collections in the context of planning for the exit of Wairere House, the National Library's regional storage facility in Whanganui. Project completion is scheduled for 30 September 2020.
3. Wairere House is at the end of its economic life and is built next to a flood prone river. There are a number of known issues with the building that represent an ongoing risk to the safety of the collections.
4. As Minister Responsible for the National Library, your approval is required to transfer or remove documents<sup>1</sup> from the National Library's collections. Section 9(3) of the National Library of New Zealand (Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa) Act 2003 states that:  
  
*"The National Librarian must not transfer the custody or use of any documents owned by the National Library to any authority or other person, or remove any documents from the collections, without the approval of the Minister."*
5. Former Ministers Hon Marian Hobbs in 2000 and Hon Nathan Guy in 2010 approved the disposal of duplicate copies, superseded editions of reference works and some fragments of runs of overseas serials, along with uncatalogued or otherwise unlisted material no longer required for the Overseas Published Collections. In both cases these followed on from changes to the National Library Collections Policy made by the National Librarian.
6. In 2015 the National Library further revised its Collections Policy (attached as **Appendix B**) following public consultation with sector stakeholders. The policy governs the management of National Library and Alexander Turnbull Library collections and reflects the continued growth of electronic material in the collections. Of particular relevance, it increases the focus of collecting on published resources relating to New Zealand and the Pacific, with only selected areas of collecting outside of this.

## Wairere House Whanganui exit plan

7. Wairere House, which is the former New Zealand Police Computer Centre, is not a specialist storage repository. The Department is of the view that it is not economically viable to upgrade this facility in order to resolve ongoing issues that pose a risk to the safety of collections stored there. The relocation (decant) of Alexander Turnbull Library collections and National Library's Overseas Published Collections will be required in order to exit the facility.

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<sup>1</sup> see Appendix A for interpretation of 'document' under the National Library of New Zealand Act 2003.

8. Approximately one quarter of the 710,000 overseas adult fiction and non-fiction volumes in the Overseas Published Collections are stored in Wairere House, while the remainder are stored in Rugby House, Wellington. The exit plan requires consolidation of the Overseas Published Collections from both locations into Rugby House.
9. The plan to exit Wairere House presents a prime opportunity to reduce pressure on overall storage capacity by reducing the volume of National Library's Overseas Published Collections in alignment with the 2015 revision of the Collections Policy. This would have the benefit that the balance of decanted collections could all be housed in fit-for-purpose owned or occupied buildings in the short to medium term.
10. Your approval to remove documents from the Overseas Published Collections is required before detailed scoping and planning for the decant of collections can occur. This will determine pre-decant activities and the extent of storage capacity required.

### **Aligning Overseas Published Collections with the National Library of New Zealand Collections Policy**

11. The National Library of New Zealand Collections Policy outlines the scope of the National Library collections and its mandate for collecting. The 2015 revision of the Policy signalled that the Library would move to giving preference, where appropriate, to collecting born-digital formats and would reduce collecting of overseas publications.
12. The National Library's Research Collections (which are maintained permanently by the Library), General Collections and the Schools Collection are covered by the Collections Policy. This request relates only to the Overseas Published Collections that form part of the General Collections.
13. The National Library holds other overseas published material, which is not part of the Overseas Published Collections, in the following areas:
  - 13.1 Cartographic;
  - 13.2 New Zealand and Pacific Published Collections;
  - 13.3 Music;
  - 13.4 Rare and Fine Printing; and
  - 13.5 Schools Collection.
14. The Collecting Plan for Overseas Published Collections identifies overseas collecting priorities for the General Collections within the scope of the revised Policy (The 2016-2018 Plan is attached as **Appendix C**). Publications relating to family history, contemporary world issues, libraries and information science, along with reference works, children's literature and materials to support people with print disabilities are still collected. Overseas adult fiction and non-fiction publications outside of these identified collecting priorities are not collected and are no longer within scope for the National Library's Overseas Published Collections.
15. The National Library's Overseas Published Collections were developed to support public libraries prior to the local authority reforms of the 1980s. The primary users of the overseas adult fiction and non-fiction material in the Overseas Published Collections have been libraries and walk-in clients in the Library's Reading Rooms.
16. The 2015 Policy revision to reduce collecting of overseas publications was driven by the recognition that there is now little or no demand for these materials. Close to 80

per cent (over 550,000) of the items in the Overseas Published Collections have not been issued since Library Management System records began in 2000. They have no New Zealand heritage or cultural value. In my view these collections are no longer in line with current information needs of New Zealanders.

17. On this basis I request your approval to remove, over time, all overseas publications from the Overseas Published Collections excluding those in subject areas identified as collecting priorities in the Overseas Published Collections Collecting Plan in accordance with the National Library Collections Policy.

### Removal of collection items

18. Due to evidence of limited readerships and the age of much of the Overseas Published Collections, overseas published material removed from the Overseas Published Collections is most likely to be securely destroyed.
19. My preferred approach is to take all reasonable steps to support access by transferring material if interested readerships can be identified and only then to dispose of the remainder through secure destruction.
20. The methods for transfer or disposal of material have implications for timeframes, costs and risk being secured for the Preserving the Nation's Memory project plan to exit Wairere House. A staged approach will be required to achieve pre-decant, removal, transfer and disposal activities.

9(2)(g)(i)

22. You may be aware of media comment earlier this year regarding the University of Auckland's decision to close branch libraries and to relocate the books or put them into storage. While the National Library's situation is somewhat different to that of the University of Auckland, public perception may not be.
23. The Library and Information Advisory Commission (LIAC) and the Guardians Kaitiaki of the Alexander Turnbull Library have been briefed on the plan to exit Wairere House including the deliverables relating to collections. LIAC have given support in principle for the Library's process for managing the collections, including this request seeking approval to remove documents. As noted, this request relates only to National Library Overseas Published Collections and not to any Alexander Turnbull Library collections.

### Next steps



24. Detailed scoping and planning for the management of collections from Wairere House in Whanganui will be progressed depending on your approval.

25. 9(2)(g)(i)

26. Following scoping of Alexander Turnbull Library collections in Wairere House, a further briefing will be provided in the first part of next year regarding arrangements for their safe decantation and transfer to fit-for-purpose storage.

**Recommendations**

27. I recommend that you:

- a) **note** the National Library proposes to reduce its Overseas Published Collections in line with its 2015 Collection Policy by removing overseas published adult fiction and non-fiction material;
- b) **note** that Section 9(3) of the National Library of New Zealand Act 2003 requires your approval to remove any documents from the collections of the National Library;
- c) **note** that the 2015 revision of the National Library Collections Policy was publicly consulted and increased the focus on collecting published sources relating only to New Zealand and the Pacific;
- d) **note** that due to evidence of low demand and the age of the material, secure destruction of removed items is the most likely outcome;
- e) 9(2)(g)(i) 
- f) 
- g) **approve** the removal of all overseas publications from the Overseas Published Collections, excluding those in subject areas identified as collecting priorities in the Overseas Collecting Plan, and in alignment with the 2015 National Library Collections Policy.

Yes / No



Bill Macnaught  
National Librarian



Hon Tracey Martin  
Minister of Internal Affairs

17 / 12 / 18

## Appendix A: Interpretation

National Library of New Zealand (Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa) Act 2003 Part 1(4)

**document** means a document in any form; and includes—

- (a) any writing on any material; and
- (b) information recorded or stored by means of any recording device, computer, or other electronic device, or any other device, and material subsequently derived from information so recorded or stored; and
- (c) a book, manuscript, newspaper, periodical, pamphlet, magazine, sheet of letterpress, sheet of music, map, plan, chart, painting, picture, etching, print, table, graph, or drawing; and
- (d) a photograph, film, negative, tape, or other device in which 1 or more visual images are embodied so as to be capable (with or without the aid of equipment) of being reproduced; and
- (e) a second or subsequent edition of any of the above

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## Appendix B: National Library of New Zealand Collections Policy

# National Library of New Zealand Collections Policy

## 1. Preamble

The National Library of New Zealand, Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa, was established by legislation in 1965, and collecting is core to its purpose and functions. This *Collections Policy* outlines the scope of the National Library collections and its mandate for collecting. This document is the first major revision to the *Collections Policy* since 2003.

The National Library (the Library) exists because New Zealand needs:

- **Trusted experts** to ensure New Zealand's knowledge assets, documentary cultural record and taonga are collected, protected and made available with integrity and care across time
- **Literate citizens**, recognising national leadership is required to foster the literacy skills (both print and digital) crucial for building a strong and prosperous nation
- **Leadership of national information solutions** that enable knowledge networks, promote collaborative effort and produce economies of scale
- **Knowledge** to be used and created to support research and innovation, and enable New Zealand to be competitive in the global economy
- **Equitable access to information**, enabling all to access, contribute and re-use ideas and knowledge essential for participation in the cultural and economic life of New Zealand.

The Library operates within both a national and international network of libraries and other collecting institutions and repositories. The environment is one of rapid change, particularly with regard to information technology and digital collections.

The Alexander Turnbull Library forms part of the Library, and was established in 1920 from the 1918 bequest by Alexander Horsburgh Turnbull, and preserves and protects the Crown's analogue and digital research collections of documentary heritage and tāonga.

The Library is New Zealand's legal deposit library and retained this responsibility when the Parliamentary Library separated from the National Library in 1985. Under its legislative mandate the Library collects both print and digital publications. In the digital environment it is not practical to collect everything which is in scope for legal deposit.

At the same time, the digital environment provides opportunities to connect New Zealanders to the content and information that is important to their lives, which have been collected, maintained or made available in other parts of the international library network.

## 2. Scope

The Library has three distinct collections, created and maintained for distinct purposes. This policy covers decision on the acquisition and retention for all three collections.

**The research collections** are maintained permanently by the Library. The collections contain both published and unpublished digital and physical items, particularly in the fields of New Zealand, Pacific studies and rare books. The research collections are developed and



maintained because of their value in supporting current and emerging research needs, as well as anticipated needs of future generations of New Zealanders. One copy of items collected under legal deposit is included in the research collections.

**The General Collections** of published items from both New Zealand and overseas cover subject areas that support current information needs of New Zealanders. They are developed and maintained because of their utility value and are therefore able to be borrowed and accessed throughout the New Zealand library network. One copy of physical format items collected under legal deposit is included in the general collections. The collections also provide access to selected overseas publications online.

**The Schools Collection** supports the development of young New Zealanders as engaged readers and digitally literate learners.

**This policy does not cover:**

- Metadata aggregations that bring together collections from different institutions, for example, Digital NZ, Te Puna Services, FindNZ articles.
- The services that provide management, kaitiaki, conservation, access and use of the collections. These services are covered by other policies, see section 6.

### 3. Mandate

The mandate for the *Collections Policy* is established by the *National Library of New Zealand (Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa) Act 2003*, in the following clauses:

#### *7. Purpose of National Library*

*The purpose of the National Library is to enrich the cultural and economic life of New Zealand and its interchanges with other nations by, as appropriate, -*

- a) collecting, preserving and protecting documents, particularly those relating to New Zealand, and making them accessible for all the people of New Zealand, in a manner consistent with their status as documentary heritage and taonga;*
- b) supplementing and furthering the work of other libraries in New Zealand; and*
- c) working collaboratively with other institutions having similar purposes, including those forming part of the international library community.*

The mandate for the implementation of this *Collections Policy* is provided by the following clauses of the *National Library of New Zealand (Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa) Act 2003*:

#### *9. Functions and powers of National Librarian*

*The functions of the National Librarian, in achieving the purpose of the National Library, are –*

- a) to develop and maintain national collections of documents, including a comprehensive collection of documents relating to New Zealand the people of New Zealand, and*
- b) to make the collections and resources of the National Library accessible in a manner and subject to conditions that the Minister determines, in order to provide for the most advantageous use of those collections and resources, and*
- c) to provide other services, including access to information resources, and bibliographical and school services, as the Minister thinks fit*
- d) to promote co-operation in library matters with authorities and other persons in New Zealand and elsewhere*

and

#### *12. Purposes of Alexander Turnbull Library*

*The purposes of the Alexander Turnbull Library are –*

- a) to preserve, protect, develop and make accessible for all the people of New Zealand the collections of that Library in perpetuity and in a manner consistent with their status as documentary heritage and taonga; and*
- b) to develop the research collections and the services of the Alexander Turnbull Library, particularly in the fields of New Zealand and Pacific studies and rare books; and*
- c) to develop and maintain a comprehensive collections of documents relating to New Zealand and the people of New Zealand.*

and

*31. Notice of requirement for public documents (The Notices which give effect to section 31 of the Act are: **The National Library Requirement (Books and Periodicals) Notice 2004** and **The National Library Requirement (Electronic Documents) Notice 2006.**)*

- (1) The Minister may, by notice in the Gazette, require a publisher of a public document (other than an Internet document) to give to the National Librarian, at the publisher's own expense, a specified number of copies (not exceeding 3) of—*
  - (a) the public document in printed form; and*
  - (b) if the document is an electronic document, the medium that contains the document.*
- (3) The Minister may, by notice in the Gazette, authorise the National Librarian to make a copy, at any time or times and at his or her discretion, of public documents that are Internet documents in accordance with any terms and conditions as to format, public access, or other matters that are specified in the notice.*

## **4. Principles**

The following principles frame the Library's collection development, and the actions to support these principles are described in the various collecting plans.

### **Principle 1**

Developing breadth and depth in the Library's research collections requires decisions to be informed by, and responsive to, current and emerging research trends as well as the anticipated needs of future generations of New Zealanders.

### **Principle 2**

Active engagement with iwi, hapū and whānau helps build collections of documentary heritage and tāonga created by Māori and relating to Māori, for the benefit of all New Zealanders.

### **Principle 3**

The Library has an important leadership role in collaborating and coordinating collection related activities across institutional and national boundaries which enables New Zealanders to connect to information important to their lives and to support strong documentary heritage and tāonga collections for all New Zealanders.

### **Principle 4**

Where publications in scope for legal deposit are produced in both physical and digital formats, the Library will move to give preference to collecting born-digital formats. Exceptions may be made in cases where the print version has some special value or where restrictions to the digital version limit New Zealanders' ability to access these works.

### **Principle 5**

Resources digitised by New Zealand libraries and other institutions and made available to the public on the Internet may be collected by the Library. The Library will work with institutions on a case by case basis to enable this.

### **Principle 6**

The Library takes into account the cost of acquiring, storing, managing, and making accessible collection items when building its collections.

### **Principle 7**

The National Library's General Collections will increasingly focus on published resources relating to New Zealand and the Pacific, with only selected areas of collecting outside this.

### **Principle 8**

For content in the National Library's General Collections other than New Zealand and the Pacific focus area, the Library will facilitate access for users in preference to acquiring and owning such content.

### **Principle 9**

The Schools Collection supports the development of young New Zealanders as engaged readers and digitally literate learners by providing resources that support literacy and learning in New Zealand schools.

### **Principle 10**

The Schools Collection allows and complements the creation of online curriculum related resources.

## 5. Collecting Plans

This *Collections Policy* is implemented by three-year collecting plans, which cover the wide range of subjects, mandates, or format specific collection areas required to build collections relating to New Zealand, the people of New Zealand, and the Pacific.

The collecting plans provide greater detail on how the principles in this policy are relevant to, and will be implemented, in their specific area, as well as identifying current collecting priorities. Collecting plans exist for the following areas:

- Cartography
- Drawings, Paintings & Prints
- Manuscripts
- Music
- New Zealand and Pacific Published Collections
- Oral History and Sound
- Overseas Published Collections
- Photography
- Printed Ephemera
- Rare Books and Fine Printing
- Schools Collection

## 6. Related policies

It is assumed that:

- the development of the collections will be consistent with the Library's *Access Policy* (dated May 2003 and currently under revision)
- access to resources in the collections of the Library will be consistent with the provisions of the Library's *Preservation Policy* (dated October 2006)
- use and reuse of collection items of the Library will be consistent with the principles of the Library's *Use and Reuse Policy* (dated March 2014)
- the application of charges for copying resources in the collections will be consistent with the *DIA Pricing Framework*
- the development of the collections will be consistent with the Library's *Kaitiakitanga Policy*
- the collection policy will inform the Digitisation Strategy
- digital collection items will be preserved in accordance with the *Digital Preservation Strategy* (dated June 2011, and currently under revision)

## 7. Sources of acquisition

The Library acquires material for the collections through legal deposit, purchase, donation, and bequest. Strong relationships and collaborative partnerships with content creators and donors, is important to developing the collections.

## 8. Retention of the collections

The provisions of the National Library Act 2003 relating specifically to collections result in variant retention policies:

- The Crown must continue to own the research collections of the Alexander Turnbull Library in perpetuity.
- The National Librarian, with the approval of the Minister, may transfer ownership, custody or use of documents in the General and Schools collections.

## 9. Compliance

The provision of products and services that support building the National Library's collections will comply with the requirements of the Copyright Act 1994 and other intellectual property legislation.

## 10. Comments

Comments and questions on the application of the policy are welcome and should be directed to the Director, Content Services.

## 11. Review

The policy will be reviewed no later than 5 years from the approval date.

## 12. Approval

26 October 2015

## Appendix C: National Library of New Zealand Collecting Plan – Overseas Published Collections

# Collecting plan – Overseas Published Collections: 2016-2018

## Purpose of this plan

The purpose of this collecting plan is to describe the extent of collecting to be undertaken and any subject priorities for the non-New Zealand and Pacific component of the General Collections of the Alexander Turnbull Library and the National Library's General Collections during the period 2016 to 2018.

This collecting plan was developed in accordance with the collecting principles outlined in the National Library of New Zealand's Collections Policy.

The purpose of the Alexander Turnbull Library General Collection is to preserve and provide access to current and historical printed and digital material, published overseas, to support research in New Zealand. The collection is intended for use at the Wellington premises, when clients are unable to obtain the material elsewhere, and is preserved in perpetuity.

The National Library's General collections and National Children's Collection are available for use both onsite at the Library's Wellington premises and through New Zealand and overseas libraries via inter-library loan. The Dorothy Neal White Collection is only available for use at the Wellington premises. The Susan Price Collection is only accessible by appointment.

## Scope of the collection

The collections covered by this plan include the non-New Zealand and Pacific components of the National Library's General Lending Collection, General Serials Collection and General Reference Collection, the National Children's Collection, the Dorothy Neal White Collection, the Susan Price Collection and the Alexander Turnbull Library's General Collection in its entirety.

## National Library General Collections

Since 2003 the National Library has increasingly been focusing its collecting of published resources to those relating to New Zealand and the Pacific. This is in accordance with its purpose as defined in the National Library of New Zealand (Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa) Act 2003.

The 2003 revision of the Library's Collection Policy designated six non-New Zealand collecting areas for the National Library's General Collections: library and information science, music, reference works, children's literature, family history and print disabilities. Collecting for these areas was based on known client demand and existing collections of some strength. Collecting was at a level to support the basic informational and recreational needs of an educated general public and the independent study needs of the lifelong learner. All of these collecting areas are covered by this plan excepting music, which has a separate plan.

## The Alexander Turnbull Library General Collection

The Alexander Turnbull Library General Collection was originally based on the collecting interests of Alexander Horsburgh Turnbull. It is particularly strong in 19th and early 20th century English literature, but includes also accounts of voyages and travels, works about Milton, the history of the book and bibliographies, as well as many historical library catalogues, biographies, family history resources, limited and first editions, fine printing, examples of 19th and early 20th century trade bindings, and children's books dating from 1831 onwards. There are also over 30 named collections covering many subjects. These are the personal libraries of New Zealand individuals that have been donated to the Library in the past.

## Exclusions and related collecting plans

The following are not collected:

The Library no longer generally collects formed collections or personal libraries, unless there is *significant* provenance or textual content not available elsewhere in New Zealand.

Also excluded from this plan are areas with their own collecting plans.

- Cartography
- New Zealand and Pacific Published Collections
- Music
- Rare Books and Fine Printing
- Schools Collection

## Collection strengths

### Alexander Turnbull Library General Collection

- 19th and early 20th century book production
- Literature supporting research on the works of John Milton
- Literature supporting research on the history of the book
- Bibliographies

### National Library General Collection

- Children's literature
- Resources for New Zealand family history research

## Collecting principles

The National Library of New Zealand collection policy provides a suite of principles that guide all collecting across the published and unpublished collections by the National Library and Alexander Turnbull Library.

The relevant principles from the collection development policy are provided below, with an explanation of how they will be realised for the New Zealand and Pacific collections.

## **Principle no 1**

**Developing breadth and depth in the Library's research collections requires decisions to be informed by, and responsive to, current and emerging research trends as well as the anticipated needs of future generations of New Zealanders.**

### **Actions**

The Library will continue to build upon existing strengths of the ATL General Collection and to be responsive to emerging research trends.

The Library welcomes discussion with any part of the research community regarding collection of publications to support research that is in scope of the ATL General Collection.

## **Principle no 3**

**The Library has an important leadership role in collaborating and coordinating collection related activities across institutional and national boundaries to enable New Zealanders to connect to information important to their lives and to support a strong documentary heritage and tāonga system for all New Zealanders.**

### **Actions**

Continuing support for New Zealand's EPIC (Electronic Purchasing in Collaboration) consortium.

## **Principle no 6**

**The Library takes into account the cost of acquiring, storing, managing and making accessible collection items when building its collections.**

### **Actions**

Continuing preference for subscription electronic resources over hard copy for overseas material selected for the National Library's General Collection.

Determining retention of the National Library's existing General Collections by reviewing usage, continuing information value and assessing the availability of open access digital versions.

## **Principle no 8**

**For content in the National Library's General Collections other than New Zealand and the Pacific focus area, the Library will facilitate access for users in preference to acquiring and owning such content.**

### **Actions**

Continuing, whenever possible, to purchase overseas publications for the National Library's General Collection as subscription electronic resources.



The Library will work towards providing offsite access to many of its subscription electronic resources by the end of 2017.

Continuing to monitor the delivery of audio-books electronically across New Zealand.

## **Collecting Priorities 2016 – 2018**

### **Alexander Turnbull Library General Collection**

#### **Priorities**

Works which support specialist areas in the Turnbull Library collections, especially material relating to the works of John Milton and the history of print culture.

Limited collecting to augment Alexander Turnbull's collection of English literary work of the 19th century and early 20th century, first or significant editions, illustrated limited editions and other examples of book craft from that period.

### **The National Library's General Collections**

#### **Family History**

- Monographs and serials to support New Zealanders' family history research
- Specialist family history tools, including birth, death and marriage indexes, census indexes, probate indexes, monumental transcriptions, shipping passenger lists
- Historical newspaper databases

#### **Reference Works**

- Standard reference works and bibliographic resources

#### **Contemporary world issues**

- Monographs on contemporary issues of relevance to New Zealand as a member of the international community (examples include but are not limited to: climate change, wars, issues about medical research)

#### **Library and Information Science**

- Titles with a focus on emerging issues
- Titles which support the Library's leadership role in the New Zealand library sector

#### **Print disabilities**

- Recreational reading, both fiction and non-fiction, in a wide range of genres for adults, young adults and children with print disabilities

## Children's Literature

### National Children's Collection priorities

Selective additions, mainly comprising:

- Award winning titles
- A selection of titles that were rated "highly recommended or given "starred" reviews from each country's main reviewing journals
- Controversial titles
- The complete output of selected notable, influential or controversial authors and illustrators

### Dorothy Neal White Collection priorities

- New Zealand and overseas children's books published before 1940

Where there are gaps, titles are collected to reflect the reading habits of children in that period. This collection is added to by donation only, and the Library welcomes donations of material that is within the collection's scope.

### Susan Price Collection priorities

- A private collection donated to the National Library, to which Susan continues to add the best English language books written for children from 1930 to the present day.

Hon Tracey Martin  
Minister of Internal Affairs Parliament  
Buildings  
c/o Jason.Hewett@parliament.govt.nz

9 September 2020

E te Minister, tēnā rā koe

I am writing to you to convey the full support of New Zealand's university librarians for the National Library's initiative to rehome its low use international published collections.

Collectively, the Council of New Zealand University Librarians (CONZUL) are responsible for the 8 university libraries, including large research collections, with an annual spend of approximately \$70 million on information resources which support 175,000 students. In the last twenty years we have seen the transition of information resources increasingly moving online. At first this was for journals but in more recent times, books and multimedia resources. The result is a corresponding reduction in the use and importance of physical collections.

Our approach as research libraries has moved from a 'just in case' approach to a 'just in time' approach. This shift in our approach relies upon the international system connecting many types of libraries with a robust resource-sharing philosophy and service. We rely upon the network of global libraries, where the National Library's role is to facilitate access, rather than upon the National Library's collection of international materials.

No library can retain all the items they acquire. The National Library has identified material to be rehomed, which has very low use and developed sensible criteria for the material to be retained. We view this approach as both necessary and sensible.

The University experience during COVID has confirmed the need to access information digitally. We experience the greatest demand and the biggest gaps in online access to New Zealand, Māori and Pacific material. We endorse the National Library's collection development policy and plans, and the focus of their resources on the material that reflects our unique knowledge and place in the world. This is where the National Library can provide the most benefit culturally and economically. It is the area of the National Library's work which makes the greatest positive contribution to our ability to support learning, teaching and research in Aotearoa.

As librarians we understand the deeply held feelings of those who regret the loss of these materials. We also understand that the knowledge environment has fundamentally changed. We believe that the opportunities and benefits created through access to unique collections (for example Papers Past) have a wider impact now and in the future

I would be happy to speak with you further, if that would be useful.

Ngā mihi nui



Anne Scott  
Chair, CONZUL  
University Librarian | Pou Tuatahi,  
University of Canterbury | Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha

Copy to:

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage  
Hon Grant Robertson, Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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Hon Tracey Martin

Minister of Internal Affairs

Parliament Buildings

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E te Minister, tēnā rā koe

I have been following the increased activity on social media around the issue of the National Library's collection of overseas publications and the plans to assess their continuance as storage collections. I wish to confirm that LIAC members were well-briefed on a number of occasions during 2019 as this project was developed and we whole-heartedly support the planned work.

Assessing the relevance of collections and the occasional disposal of volumes no longer relevant is work carried out by most libraries worldwide. It is a sensitive matter, of course, but none-the-less it is part of prudent, responsible management to ensure the best use of public resources.

It is entirely appropriate that as part of planning work under the Government's funding of the Preserving the Nation's Memory programme, the Library should assess whether all current holdings need to be retained and moved to new high quality accommodation.

I would note that, perhaps expectedly, some of the commentary in social media is not fully informed about this programme of work. Of the up to 600,000 books to be assessed for possible removal from the collection, selection criteria have been carefully established. The Library will not be disposing of overseas-published works which have continued relevance to New Zealand. Subjects and categories to be retained include:

- Family history, migration, genealogy resources
- Standard reference works and bibliographic resources
- Library and information studies
- Contemporary issues of relevance to New Zealand as a member of the international community. e.g. environmental issues and climate change; war, conflict and peace;
- Print Disabilities: recreational reading, both fiction and non-fiction, in a wide range of genres for adults, young adults and children with print disabilities.
- Children's literature and the study of children's literature

We have further been advised that all material acquired in the last 20 years will be retained. Music is outside the scope of this review.

It is important to consider the changing ways in which people access information. While books remain important, there is no doubt that patterns of usage are changing. Contemporary non-fiction resources are becoming most commonly available through online search engines and web-based sources. Many older fiction and non-fiction works are being digitised by overseas organisations, vastly increasing their accessibility and reducing the need for multiple copies to be held locally.

I have also been briefed on the various channels that the Library proposes to use to dispose of publications which will not be retained at the conclusion of the assessment process. It is particularly pleasing to note that organisations facilitating this process propose to put any financial return towards reading and literacy programmes.

My final point is to note that the National Library is part of a national, and in fact global, system. Integrated cataloguing networks have long allowed knowledge of the holdings of publications in libraries up and down the country, supported by an inter-library loan system. It has never been the case that the National Library aimed to hold a copy of every overseas book that may hold interest to New Zealanders. It is the network of libraries that do this collectively, supported by professional collaboration and IT systems. It is one of the National Library's strategic priorities to strengthen this concept of "One Knowledge Network" providing access to distributed resources held locally and abroad.

I believe that you and your Government colleagues can be assured that the National Library is carrying out a responsible programme of work, carefully considering future needs in order to make best use of available resources, especially as part of planning improved accommodation of collections and services.

I hope that these thoughts are constructive and useful and I would be happy to answer any questions they may raise.

Nāku noa iti



David Reeves  
Chair LIAC

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