



Literature

Literature is one of the major subject strengths of the State Library of Queensland. This is reflected both in the State Reference Library and in research collections such as the John Oxley Library and the Australian Library of Art. Resources include books, literary journals, audiovisual material such as video recordings and DVDs, and a range of electronic indexes and databases. In the area of Queensland literature, the research collections contain both published and manuscript materials.

The literature collection is useful for students and researchers as well as individual members of the public and groups such as book clubs. The children's literature collection provides an excellent resource for parents and teachers as well as students.

What does it include?

The collection is international in scope, although strongest in literature from Australia and Great Britain where collections offer both breadth and depth.

All forms of literature are covered; poetry is particularly well represented. Access to the poetry collection is optimised by a wide range of indexes in both paper and electronic format, including *OzEverse*, an in-house database available through the State Library's website.

The other major strength is a current and highly relevant reference collection of historical, critical and biographical works, supported by an excellent range of dictionaries, directories, encyclopaedias and concordances, and long and continuing runs of major literary journals.

Areas worthy of special note include practical works on writing, literary history and criticism, and book review indexes. The collection of works on the art of writing is one of the highlights, covering a diverse range of styles and genres.

Queensland literature

Published fiction, poetry and drama, as well as original materials such as letters, diaries and memoirs are held in the John Oxley Library, along with a range of other research materials such as photographs, newspaper clippings and electronic databases.

Australian literature

The John Oxley Library houses a significant collection of nineteenth century Australian literature with works by a diverse range of writers, including titles by lesser known authors such as *The Australian Girl and Other Verses* 1900 by Ethel Castilla. John Oxley Library's collection of nineteenth century Australian literature contains all editions of many titles, providing researchers with a wealth of contextual information about a book as alterations made in successive editions map the changes in contemporary perspective and publishing requirements.

State Library also has excellent collections of Australian literary journals from the nineteenth century to the present, with early examples including *Steele Rudd's Magazine* (1904 -1907) and long runs of major titles such as *Meanjin*, *Overland*, *Southerly* and *Australian Literary Studies*. The Australian Library of Art also has a significant collection of Australian literary magazines which includes rare and important titles such as a complete set of *Angry Penguins* (1940 -1946).

Electronic resources

A range of electronic databases are available, including:

- *Austlit* – a major resource for Australian literature
- *Literature Resource Center* – contains the full text of more than 260 literary journals
- Poetry indexes such as *Columbia Granger's World of Poetry*, *Poem Finder* and *OzEverse*.
- General databases such as *Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre* and *Australian Public Affairs Information Service*.

Children's literature

The Children's Literature Research Collection contains high quality examples of books for children and young people, with an emphasis on award winning titles. The John Oxley Library holds an important collection of juvenilia published by Queensland authors and an historical collection of Queensland school readers. Also worthy of note is a small collection of original editions of nineteenth century illustrated childrens' books, including works by Kate Greenaway, Walter Crane and Randolph Caldecott, which are held in the History and Art of the Book Collection.

What services are on offer?

Experienced librarians are available to help you with your enquiries. Ask at one of the Information Desks on level 1, 2, 3 or 4 of the State Library, South Bank, phone 3840 7810, or fill in an online enquiry form at www.slq.qld.gov.au/enquiry



How do I access these services and facilities?

Visit the State Library at South Bank, Brisbane to access:

- Journals and serials on level 2
- The State Library's general collection on level 3
- Family history resources, video recordings, DVDs, and newspapers on level 3
- The John Oxley Library and the Australian Library of Art on level 4.

For opening hours details go to www.slq.qld.gov.au/home/hours

Log on to the State Library's website at www.slq.qld.gov.au to:

- Access the online catalogue and databases at www.slq.qld.gov.au/find
- Browse the digital Queensland Heritage Collections at www.slq.qld.gov.au/oh
- Fill in an online enquiry form at www.slq.qld.gov.au/enquiry

See Info Guides on *How to search the catalogue* and *How to request an item* for more information.

How do I borrow it?

Material in the general collection is available for use in the library. For those who live outside Brisbane, items may be borrowed through your local public library.

Material from the research collections such as the John Oxley Library and the Australian Library of Art must be used on the premises. Researchers using the John Oxley Library's collections will derive maximum benefit if searching is conducted across all formats (eg. published, manuscripts, photographs, and newspaper clippings and databases).

Need further information?

State Library of Queensland, Cultural Centre, Stanley Place, South Bank

Reference Services: 07 3840 7810

John Oxley Library: 07 3840 7880

www.slq.qld.gov.au/enquiry

Visit www.slq.qld.gov.au/find/infoguides to access all Info Guides