



Content Guidelines – Extraordinary Collections

1. Objective

To provide exceptional examples and context of books as objects.

This collection showcases material to demonstrate the physicality and format of the printed book as well as reflecting its art, craft, history and impact.

1.1. Relevant collections

- Australian Library of Art Collection
 - Australian Art Research Collection
 - Artists' Books Collection
 - History and Art of the Book Collection
 - Lindsay Collection of Pat Corrigan

1.2. Intent

State Library of Queensland has a strong tradition of collecting items that demonstrate the history of the book, that showcase technological advances in printing and that, as particularly fine examples of library materials, engage the public's imagination.

These items form a representative collection of fine printing and rare publications intended to elicit wonder. They must be of high historical significance to the history of book, rather than to a collective understanding of Queensland. High public appeal and high accessibility are essential to State Library's extraordinary collections.

1.3. Selection

These collections are built upon a history of collecting exceptional examples of bibliographic and printed material, often with the generous support of individuals and businesses. Development of these collections will be highly-considered and representative.

1.3.1 Content

When selecting for the Extraordinary Collections, content is highly important.

An assessment of content looks at beneficial or important qualities of an item or collection. The following factors may contribute to that overall assessment:

- Level of historical and cultural significance
- Standing in the artists' books canon
- Provenance
- Uniqueness – availability of content available through other institutions
- Representation – ability to provide new information above what is currently in the collection
- Artistic merit
- Research value

- Aesthetic appeal

1.3.2 Usage

Usage is a key consideration in decision-making. The following factors contribute to determining the extent of an item's benefit to users:

- Level of current usage
- Level of anticipated usage
- Interpretive potential for engagement (physical and online)
- Ability to meet needs of target audiences
- Alignment with broader agendas or strategies
- Potential for re-use and creation of new knowledge

1.3.3 Viability

When selecting for the Extraordinary Collections, Viability is highly important.

In making any collection decision, consideration must be given to the following issues that may impact State Library's ability to make that item accessible. They may include:

- Physical condition
- Copyright status
- Access restrictions that limit access, usage and engagement opportunities
- Level of description required
- Level of arrangement and ordering required
- Preservation requirements (physical and digital)
- Storage requirements (physical and digital)
- Cost of acquisition and maintenance

2. Australian Art Research Collection

2.1. Overview

The core of the Australian Art Research Collection is the James Hardie Library of Australian Fine Arts which was donated as a collection to State Library in 1988. Since that time the collection has been further developed by State Library. The collection was developed as a comprehensive art research collection containing books, including variant editions, exhibition catalogues, ephemera, posters manuscripts and private press publications.

In 2018 the scope of the collection changed to focus on items which provide exceptional examples of the book as object.

2.2. Target audiences

The target audience includes artists, curatorial and arts industry representatives, art historians, researchers, students of art, and book-lovers.

2.3. Collecting intentions

This collection is developed through selective acquisition.

- Items related to the Australian artists and Australian private press publications are selectively chosen.
- The collecting focus will be on exhibition quality items which provide exceptional examples of the book as object.

Material related to Queensland artists and galleries will now be collected as part of the John Oxley Library Collection. Other Australian art books may be considered for the State Reference Library Collection.

2.4. What we don't collect

The following items are generally not collected in the Australian Art Research Collection:

- Serials and out of print books not deemed to be exceptional examples of bibliographic and printed material
- Original artworks
- Original materials

2.5. De-selection

In some circumstances items may be identified for withdrawal. These include:

- Items which have aged and/or deteriorated beyond salvage, repair or reproduction
- Items which are more appropriate to another State Library collection may be relocated to that collection

3. Artists' Books Collection

3.1. Overview

State Library holds a nationally recognised collection of works of art that use the form or concept of a book. State Library has one of the largest publicly available collections of artists' books in Australia.

3.2. Target audiences

The target audience includes artists, curatorial and arts industry representatives, secondary school students, teachers, art historians, researchers and book-lovers.

3.3. Collecting intentions

This collection is developed through highly selective acquisition with a focus on exceptional examples of exhibition quality items.

Artists' books are selected with an emphasis on Australian works and a selection of international works that set them in a context. Many points need to be considered when viewing artists' books for possible inclusion in the Artists' Books Collection. Different books will have strengths in different areas of interest to the collection, so no criterion apart from the first holds a greater weight than others and some will not be applicable at all to some works.

3.3.1 Content:

- Does the work successfully address the form of the book? Or could the work be successful not as a book?
- Is there content of significance to the 'story of Queensland'?
- Is text presented and used in an interesting way?
- Is the printmaking/image creation/ binding/book structure technique used present in the collection, or does it provide an extension to that in works already held?
- Does the work mark a milestone in the development of artist's books as a genre?
- Is it well designed, constructed and finished?
- Is the artist an important practitioner in the area of artist's books, or in another area of artistic endeavour?
- Does it show an interesting collaborative process?
- Does the work address a topical subject?

3.3.2 Usage

- How will the book complement other material (not just artist's books) in the collections for the purposes of white glove tours, exhibitions and contextual research?

3.3.3 Viability

- Will it have significant conservation and preservation implications?
- Price (value for money taking into account size and complexity of the work, reputation of the artist).

3.4. De-selection

In some circumstances items may be identified for withdrawal. These include:

- Items which have aged and/or deteriorated beyond salvage, repair or reproduction

4. History and Art of the Book Collection

4.1. Overview

This is a collection that showcases and preserves the art, craft, history and impact of the printed book.

4.2. Target audiences

The target audience includes artists, curatorial and arts industry representatives, art historians, researchers and book-lovers.

4.3. Collecting intentions

This collection is developed through selective acquisition.

- Items are selectively chosen covering private presses, fine bindings, and works exhibiting various examples of typography, paper-making, printing, binding, marbling and other book-making technologies.
- The collecting focus will be on exhibition quality items which provide exceptional examples of the book as object.

4.4. What we don't collect

The following items are generally not collected:

- Serials and out of print books not deemed to be exceptional examples of bibliographic and printed material
- Family bibles
- Material transferred from the State Reference Library Collection which are not deemed to be exceptional examples of bibliographic and printed material

4.5. De-selection

In some circumstances items may be identified for withdrawal. These include:

- Items which have aged and/or deteriorated beyond salvage, repair or reproduction
- Items not meeting selection criteria outlined in State Library's Content Strategy
- Items which are more appropriate to another State Library collection may be relocated to that collection

5. Lindsay Collection of Pat Corrigan

The Lindsay Collection of Pat Corrigan is a collection of published books and manuscripts relating to the Lindsay family of Australian artists and writers. This core of the collection was donated by Mr Patrick Corrigan AM in 1992 and 1997. Since that time the collection has been further developed State Library a research collection relating to the Lindsay family. Many of the books contain annotations and additional material such as letters, photographs and press clippings.

Annotated and association copies are retained in addition to a fine copy.

State Library no longer acquires material for the Lindsay Collection of Pat Corrigan. It is a closed collection.

5.1 De-selection

In some circumstances items may be identified for withdrawal. These include:

- Items which have aged and/or deteriorated beyond salvage, repair or reproduction.

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