

STATE LIBRARY OF QUEENSLAND

Content Strategy

Since 1902, State Library of Queensland (SLQ) has been the primary collector of Queensland's documentary heritage, capturing the essence and distinctiveness of Queensland.

Over time, the collecting environment has changed and so our collections strategy has changed to adapt to these challenges. The aim of the Content Strategy is to articulate State Library's vision for both collecting — and connecting to — a wide range of content with a focus on original and published Queensland materials, including connecting to online resources, acquiring donations, and fostering co-creation of content.

The Library Board of Queensland, the legal entity which administers State Library of Queensland, endorsed the Content Strategy in July 2012.

This Strategy addresses our ongoing responsibility under the *Libraries Act 1988* to be the principal library for collecting, preserving, promoting, and making accessible Queensland's documentary heritage. The John Oxley Library and Australian Library of Art collections are major State Library assets — recording and sharing Queensland's memory. The Information Collection (formerly the State Reference Collection) continues to provide content to meet the information needs of people in Queensland.

The Content Strategy provides a framework for State Library to define its collecting role and focus on the development of collections which tell the story of Queensland. The Vision Statement for the Content Strategy sets out thirteen principles for developing the collections. The Collection Statements for each area describe the focus, engagement, access, cooperation, and stewardship strategies for each collection.

SLQ is committed to addressing the challenges presented by the changing information environment. Challenges include the fact that content may be collected in printed or digital form and some content may require a change from print to digital to ensure long term accessibility.

Content also requires description to ensure access. By describing content items, we make them discoverable and available for use in multiple contexts, whether the client is accessing the content at the library or from another location anywhere in the world. State Library is committed to making visible, showcasing, and celebrating the diverse knowledge, stories, culture, and creative output of the people of Queensland.

Recording the story of Queensland requires engagement with individuals and communities. This engagement may include commissioning oral histories or interviews which add value to the collection, and working with specialist staff to curate exhibitions. It is here that the story of Queensland is told.

The heart of a library is its content and collections and their value is in their use. The Content Strategy provides a strong focus for State Library as a collector of Queensland content and sets a platform for increased usage. This includes content created by Queenslanders, content created about Queensland, and content that reflects the diverse experiences that make up the story of Queensland.

This Content Strategy represents a landmark development in collection thinking. The Content Strategy is a living document that will be reviewed in response to changes in State Library's goals, information trends, and client expectations. We welcome your feedback on the principles of the Content Strategy outlined in the Vision Statement.

Janette Wright
State Librarian

Endorsed July 2012
Minor revision November 2013

VISION STATEMENT

State Library of Queensland is a leading collector of Queensland's documentary heritage capturing the essence and distinctiveness of Queensland for current and future generations. It is at State Library that the 'story of Queensland' is treasured.

State Library is one of many collectors of Queensland memory. This memory is distributed internationally, nationally and locally in specialised and diverse collections that form a rich tapestry of Queensland knowledge.

As the state library we are committed to capturing, preserving, promoting and making accessible Queensland content, across all relevant formats, recognising that the value of the content is in its use. We are a knowledge facilitator, committed to providing open access to local, national and global content to support the quest to create new knowledge and support learning endeavours.

State Library comprises three distinct content areas: John Oxley Library, Australian Library of Art and the Information Collection.

The Content Strategy sets out the strategic priorities for developing content at the State Library of Queensland for today and tomorrow.

We aim to achieve this by committing to the following principles.

Focus

1. We will prioritise the collecting of Queensland content.
2. We will recognise, share and promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's knowledge and culture as integral to understanding Queensland.
3. We will celebrate Queensland's diversity through the capture of documentary heritage of people, business and organisations.
4. We will collect and connect to resources to meet the information needs of Queenslanders.

Engagement

5. We will become content experts building and participating in communities of interest around Queensland content.
6. We will engage with and enable our clients to communicate, search, learn and participate with open collections and create new content.

Access

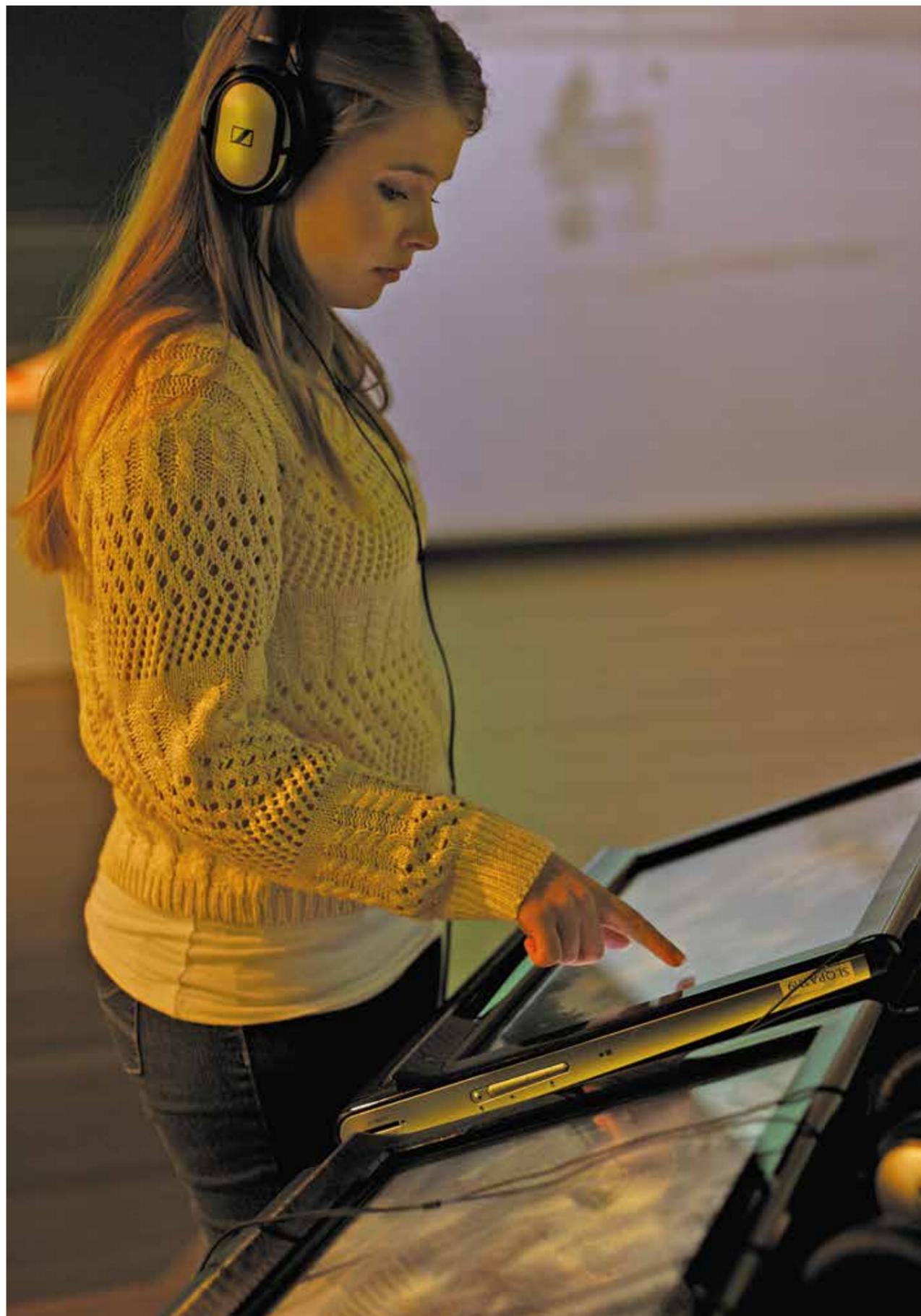
7. We will place our material in spaces accessible to our users.
8. We will demonstrate the value of the collection in new and innovative ways through the development of increased discoverability and interactivity tools.

Cooperation

9. We will actively participate in the local, national and international collecting sector as a key collecting institute for Queensland content.
10. We will actively participate in the coordinated management and sharing of our content through National and State Libraries of Australasia (NSLA) initiatives.

Stewardship

11. We are committed to being the collectors and carers of Queensland content, confident in the distinctiveness and value of our unique and original materials.
12. We recognise the legacy of the Australian Library of Art and are committed to the care of these collections.
13. We will develop new skills in the preservation of digital collections enabling Queensland digital culture to be preserved.



Collection Statement

JOHN OXLEY LIBRARY

A wide range of content both contemporary and retrospective is collected chronicling events, people, places and ideas that continue to shape Queensland.

Committed to capturing the essence of the Queensland story for current and future generations, this collection is a resource for people wishing to understand Queensland.

Our challenge is to proactively seek material that represents the diversity of the Queensland experience. Material may be acquired in any medium from traditional paper-based materials and photographs to digital images and files. We collect both original materials such as diaries, letters and oral histories and materials published in and about Queensland and by Queensland authors.

Materials are collected for their:

- research value
- historic associations
- and their social and cultural significance.

Other factors to be considered are provenance and context, representative criteria, rarity, condition, completeness, integrity and interpretive potential.

Focus

We are committed to the collecting of contemporary and retrospective Queensland content regardless of format. With an emphasis on unique resources, we will continue to build the original materials collection, this includes manuscripts, photographs, original maps and plans and oral histories.

The publishing output of Queensland is diverse. Our legal deposit obligations ensure that a broad collection is maintained as a last copy collection.

To ensure a comprehensive collection of the Queensland story is available materials published anywhere about the Queensland experience are also collected.

Engagement

Through a wide range of activities we aim to provide multiple levels of engagement with our collections including: exhibitions, tours, events and fellowships.

We will actively build and connect with communities of interest to foster deeper engagement with the content of the John Oxley Library.

Access

We are committed to providing multiple channels for the community to access and discover the resources collected by the John Oxley Library.

Increasing visibility of our undiscovered collections will be a priority. As a custodian of many unique collections we are committed to increasing access through digitisation.

Cooperation

John Oxley Library is focussed on Queensland content both retrospective and contemporary. We acknowledge that we are only one in the network of many collecting organisations and value the need for coordinated management of content.

John Oxley Library will engage partners, connect with other collectors, advocate and build capacity to develop a dynamic network of Queensland memory.

Stewardship

Original materials are highly valuable as irreplaceable records of the lives of Queenslanders. Original materials are our greatest priority in terms of preservation and access.

A high level of stewardship is allocated to the John Oxley Library collection to preserve and manage the material for current and future generations. The level of preservation for this content is outlined in the *State Library of Queensland Preservation Policy*.

Donations

Donations are subject to the same selection principles as items that are purchased. It is not possible to accept all materials offered by donors. The long term costs of storage, preservation, indexing and access are considered in relation to the historical, information and research value inherent in the prospective donation. It is important to contact the State Library to discuss potential donations. If the donation is not considered suitable for the State Library, staff are able to suggest other collecting institutions.

SLQ is eligible to participate in the Cultural Gifts Program. The Cultural Gifts Program encourages Australians to donate items of cultural significance from private collections to public art galleries, museums, libraries and archives. For more information on the Cultural Gifts Program refer to www.arts.gov.au/funding/tax/cgp

Collection Scope – John Oxley Library

Materials collected

Published and original works are collected in any format within the following criteria:

- written or created by a Queensland person or persons
- published in Queensland (received as legal deposit)
- written or created by a corporate body identified as primarily Queensland-based
- illustrated by Queensland illustrator or artist
- on a subject of social, political, cultural, religious, scientific or economic relevance to Queensland
- where a significant proportion of the material relates to Queensland
- about the areas contiguous to Queensland that are relevant to Queensland's development:
 - o British New Guinea (1884 to 1905)
 - o German New Guinea (1885 to 1914)
 - o Papua New Guinea, West Papua, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu (formerly New Hebrides), New Caledonia (particularly Noumea)
 - o Far northern parts of New South Wales from the present Queensland border to Tweeds Heads/Murwillumbah
 - o Cross border areas of South Australian and the Northern Territory
- of historical association leading up to or after the creation of the colony on 10 December 1859

Content is collected for the informational value it contributes to the building of a collection that reflects the Queensland experience. It is intended that the John Oxley Library collection is developed comprehensively by scope and depth not as a quantity measure. It is important that the collection reflects the many voices and experiences of Queensland.

Queensland State Archives is established under section 21 the *Public Records Act 2002* (the Act) as the State's archives and records management authority. Queensland State Archives is the lead agency for State and local government recordkeeping in Queensland.

Material not generally collected for the published materials collection

- Material that duplicates items already held in the collection is not generally collected. Some exceptions to this are titles in high demand, ready reference material, maps, newspapers and fragile or rare material.

Further categories not generally collected are:

- Highly parochial or specialised serials (e.g. herd books). These are sought only on a selective basis.
- Copies, particularly photocopies, reprints and editions without change
- Exact duplicates of material held in the Australian Library of Art unless:
 - It qualifies as legal deposit
 - The offered copy is in excellent condition compared to the duplicate already held
- Curriculum materials, unless published in Queensland
- Promotional and advertising materials, except for samples collected to illustrate cultural or political ephemera
- Family Bibles, unless the provenance is exceptional and the work includes extensive and relevant marginalia other than genealogical information
- Blank diaries or calendars, except for samples collected to illustrate publishing within Queensland
- Conference papers for conferences held in Queensland, unless there is relevant Queensland content
- Film held by other collecting institutions.

Material not generally collected for the original materials collection

- Reproductions of original materials
- Duplicate copies of original materials
- Materials created by government departments, agencies or other public entities and their predecessor agencies. This is the role of the Queensland State Archives.
- Research notes, except those with significant original content relating to Queensland and Queensland authors
- Original materials (including images and works of art) with significant copyright encumbrances or unreasonable restrictions on access
- Theses (as they are subject to specific access conditions and are usually archived by the relevant universities)
- Trade Union records (collected nationally by Noel Butlin Archives, ANU, Canberra)

Collection Statement AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY OF ART

The Australian Library of Art documents Australian art and the history and art of the book. The Australian Library of Art is developed in conjunction with the John Oxley Library and Information Collection to create an extensive art research collection.

The Australian Library of Art comprises:

Australian Art Research Collection — the James Hardie Library of Australian Fine Arts was donated as a collection to State Library in 1988. This collection continues to be developed and aims to be a comprehensive art research collection containing books, including variant editions, exhibition catalogues, ephemera, posters, manuscripts and private press publications.

Artists' Books — a nationally recognised collection of artworks that use the form or concept of a book. State Library has the largest publicly available collection of artists' books in Australia. This collection continues to be developed through selective acquisition.

History and Art of the Book — a collection that showcases and preserves the art, craft, history and impact of the printed book. This collection continues to be developed through selective acquisition.

Lindsay Collection of Pat Corrigan — a collection of published books and manuscripts relating to the Lindsay family of Australian artists and writers. This legacy collection was donated by Mr Patrick Corrigan AM in 1992 and 1997 and continues to be developed as a research collection relating to the Lindsay family.



Focus

The focus for these collections is to continue to build on the strengths of the specialist Australian fine art collection to meet information and research needs. The Australian Library of Art respects the place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art in the national and international context. We will prioritise the acquisition and preservation of original content relating to Queensland artists and Queensland art organisations. We will collect and showcase material which interprets the physicality and format of the printed book as well as reflecting its art, craft, history and impact. We will celebrate the lasting legacy of valued donations.

Engagement

Specialist staff develop and interpret these collections. We will strengthen our connection with communities of interest and showcase these collections to a wide audience including the education sector.

The variety of materials within the Australian Library of Art provide a rich pool of resources which will appeal to specialist researchers and delight people wishing to explore Australian art and the concept of the book.

The Australian Library of Art engages in the development of relationships with artists and the art community through the provision of access to content and inspiring the development of new research in this area.

Access

We consider usage as a goal in celebrating these collections. We are committed to enhancing access through exposure via external loans, tours, exhibitions, events, online access and interpretation.

Specialist staff select and provide access to this material for the specific communities of interest who research and interpret in this area. This collection is a valuable resource for all who wish to explore and discover these materials of national and international significance.

At State Library of Queensland there is a dedicated showcase space for the Australian Library of Art collections.

Cooperation

The Australian Library of Art has a national focus as a specialist art resource collection. The Australian Library of Art acknowledges that there are other specialist art resource collections in Australia. We cooperate with public collecting institutions and private collectors through the sharing of knowledge and interpretation of these art resources.

These collections are built on the generous philanthropy of both individuals and business. The Queensland Library Foundation provides vital support to the Australian Library of Art through funding specific acquisitions and projects that contribute to the collection. We continue to work with the Queensland Library Foundation to develop and promote these collections.

Stewardship

The Australian Library of Art Collections are specific in their collection intentions.

We value the content and form of materials in these collections and the preservation and access challenges they may present. We will manage the stewardship of materials in these collections through appropriate housing, handling and storage practices. We will balance the goal of usage with our stewardship obligations to ensure these materials are accessed, celebrated and protected.

We acknowledge that level of Queensland content, rarity and fragility all determine the prioritisation for preservation and access.

The level of preservation for this content is outlined in the *State Library of Queensland Preservation Policy*.

Donations

Donations are subject to the same selection principles as items that are purchased. It is not possible to accept all materials offered by donors. The long term costs of storage, preservation, indexing and access are considered in relation to the historical, information and research value inherent in the prospective donation. It is important to contact the State Library to discuss potential donations. If the donation is not considered suitable for the State Library, staff are able to suggest other collecting institutions.

State Library of Queensland is eligible to participate in the Cultural Gifts Program. The Cultural Gifts Program encourages Australians to donate items of cultural significance from private collections to public art galleries, museums, libraries and archives. For more information on the Cultural Gifts Program refer to www.arts.gov.au/funding/tax/cgp

Collection Scope – Australian Library of Art

Material collected

Art Research Collection

The Art Research collection includes:

- Australian art monographs
- Limited edition, deluxe and other variant edition Australian art books
- Australian private press publications
- Exhibition catalogues and Australian art ephemera dating from the 19th century to the present
- Examples of botanical illustration by Australian artists
- Original artworks, blocks and plates used to produce illustrations in Australian art books
- Printers mock ups and publishers dummies
- Designer bindings
- Australian art serials
- Posters

The Australian Art Research Collection also incorporates original materials which include:

- Records and manuscripts relating to Australian artists, galleries and Private Presses
- Archival pictorial resources documenting Australian art and artists
- Digital resources including websites and digital stories
- Australian bookplates

Artists' Books Collection

Artists' books are artworks that use the form or the concept of a book. They can be handcrafted or commercially printed; unique; or in limited or unlimited editions. Forms range from the traditional codex to sculptural works, or they may have audio, video, installation, online and performance components. The collection includes works using a diversity of materials and methods of printmaking, binding, papermaking and other bookmaking technologies and wide ranging conceptual frameworks. The emphasis is on Australian works with a section of international works to provide a context.

History and Art of the Book Collection

This collection showcases and preserves rare and fine books that reflect the art, craft, history and impact of the printed book.

The two aims of this collection are:

1. to provide examples of the changes and trends in book production over time, and
2. to preserve and protect rare books

The History and Art of the Book Collection was renamed in the early 1990s to reflect the history of printing and book making. The collection has an international scope relating to the history and art of the book, covering overseas private presses, fine bindings, works exhibiting various examples of typography, paper-making, printing, binding, marbling and other book-making technologies. Examples of these technologies and reference works regarding them are included.

Lindsay Collection of Pat Corrigan

This collection of printed books and manuscripts relating to the Lindsay family of Australian artists and writers was donated by Mr. Patrick Corrigan AM in 1992 and 1997 as a Cultural Gift. Many of the books contain annotations and additional material such as letters, photographs and press clippings about one of Australia's best-known arts families. A collection of over 3000 family letters is also included.

Material not generally collected

- Portfolios of art prints
- Commercially produced postcards and greeting cards
- Illustrated Australian children's books or generally books about Australian children's illustrators
- Duplicates of John Oxley Library material
- Out-of-print books not deemed to be rare
- Family bibles

Original artworks are collected only when they are contained in or accompany a monograph or exhibition catalogue or have been used to create illustrations for a book in the collection.



Collection Statement

INFORMATION COLLECTION

The Information Collection is developed and maintained as a collection of resources to address the information needs of Queenslanders. We acknowledge that State Library of Queensland is one of many sources of information for people. The Information Collection consists of books, newspapers, maps, audiovisual material, music and online resources.

The Information Collection has been shaped over the past 100 years in response to changing information needs. This has resulted in a repository of great breadth for current and future users.

As the information environment has changed the State Library has realigned collection management strategies to address the continuing growth of content created digitally and the ways users are engaging with information. The collecting focus for the Information Collection has shifted from collection building to a responsive approach to acquisition being informed by collection usage.

Access to the Information Collection is available through the library catalogue, your public library or the skilled library staff who are able to link you with resources to meet your information needs.

Focus

The collecting focus for the Information Collection is based on the continuing development of a general knowledge collection for research purposes. It is responsive to the changing information needs of our community.

The value of the Information Collection is in its use. State Library is committed to providing people throughout the State with access to information and assistance in addressing their information needs through unmediated content and access to skilled library staff. As experts in information — our capacity is how we connect people with the information resources of the world.

Engagement

The resources of the Information Collection are utilised by clients independently and through our information service. Changes in technology and publishing models enable us to engage with the community to ensure relevant content is selected.

We will be responsive to the use of our content and support communities of interest around usage of our resources.

Changes in technology and publishing models enable us to engage with the community to ensure relevant content is selected.

Access

The Information Collection includes what we own, and what we have access to via the network of libraries around the world. The continuing growth of digital materials provides great opportunity for users to access information resources how and when they require them. State Library is committed to opening up access to content.

Cooperation

State Library exists in a dynamic network of libraries that cooperate in the delivery of information. The network includes universities, public libraries, government departments and the National and State Libraries of Australasia.

We acknowledge that a range of other services and institutions including museums, archives, non Government organisations, community groups, social networks also meet the information needs of our community.

Stewardship

The management of material in the Information Collection will be based on usage. This collection forms part of the National and State Libraries Australasia Collaborative Collecting initiative and will be managed as a finite and replaceable collection.

The level of preservation for this content is outlined in the *State Library of Queensland Preservation Policy*.

Donations

Donations are generally not accepted for the Information Collection and are subject to the same selection principles as items that are purchased. It is not possible to accept all materials offered by donors. The long terms costs of storage, preservation, indexing and access are considered to relation to the historical, information and research value inherent in the prospective donation. It is important to contact State Library to discuss potential donations. If the donation is not considered suitable for State Library, staff are able to suggest other collecting institutions.

Collection Scope – Information Collection

Material collected

Content for the information collection is collected within the following criteria:

Geographic collecting levels

The State Library collects material from different geographical regions at different levels, depending on their level of relevance to the Queensland community. Information from Australia and the Asia-Pacific is a focus. Material from other regions such as Europe and the United States is made available selectively.

Language

English is the preferred language for most material. There are exceptions in the case of music, and the arts where only non-English editions are available or the work is made available primarily for its pictorial content.

Format

There is a focus on digital formats, except where the print provides added value. Examples include material which is heavily image based or music materials with multiple parts which are loaned to the public.

all yours

slq.qld.gov.au



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