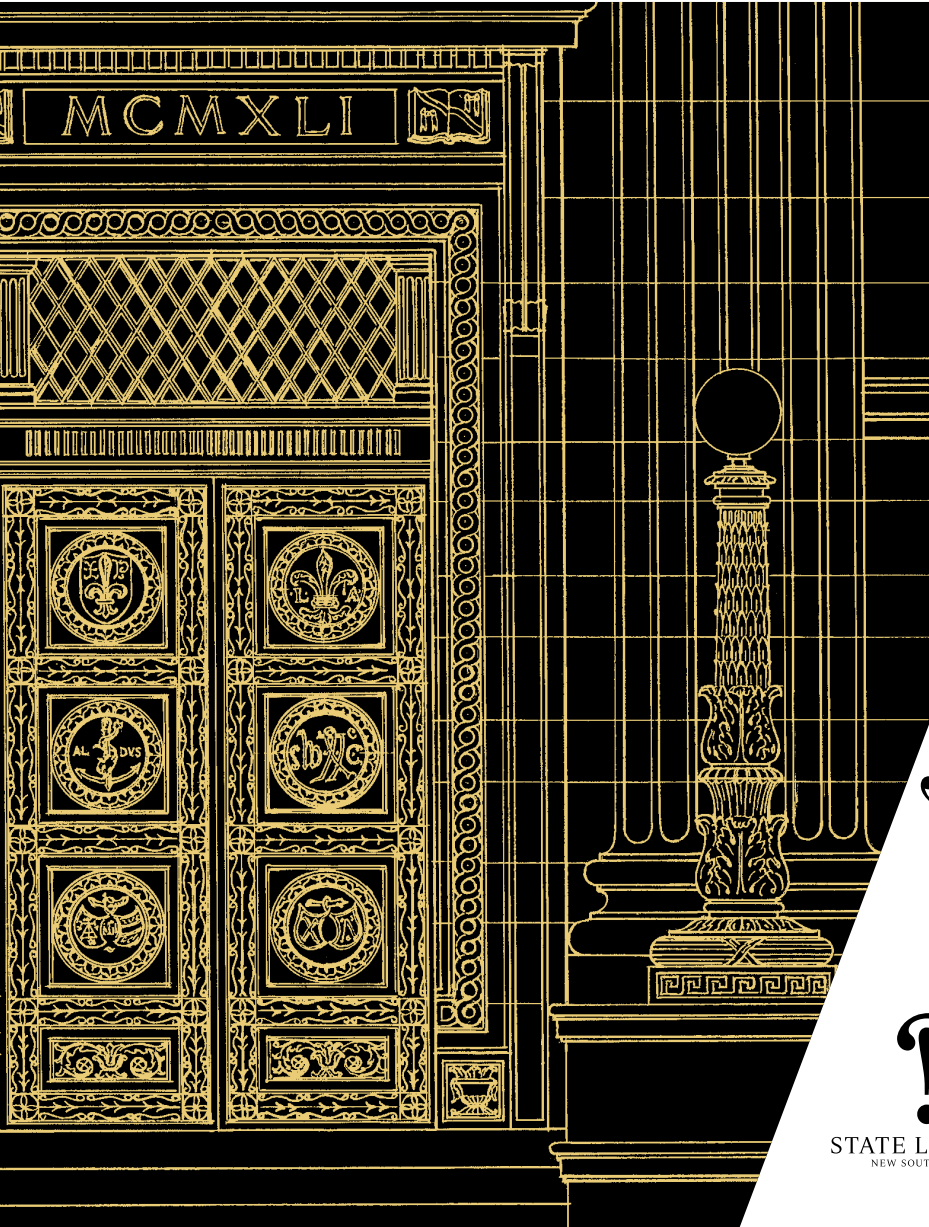


About the Library



About the State Library of NSW

HISTORY

- 1826 – Australian Subscription Library opens
- 1869 – NSW Government assumes responsibility for the Library, which becomes the Sydney Free Public Library, the first truly public library for the people of NSW
- 1910 – Mitchell Library opens, housing David Scott Mitchell's collection donated to the NSW Government
- 1929 – Dixon Wing is opened, displaying the collection of Sir William Dixon
- 1942 – Public Library extensions to the Mitchell Library, including the Reading Room, are opened
- 1975 – Library name changes to the State Library of New South Wales
- 1987 – State Library of NSW Foundation established
- 1988 – New State Library building, including the State Reference Library Reading Room, opens on Macquarie Street
- 2010 – State Library celebrates the Mitchell Library centenary



COVER: NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT ARCHITECT – SELECTION OF ARCHITECTURAL PLANS AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE STATE LIBRARY OF NEW SOUTH WALES, 1905-1959, NO. 175A (DETAIL)

ABOVE: THE MITCHELL LIBRARY

FULL OF SURPRISES

SURPRISING FACTS ABOUT THE LIBRARY

With a remarkable breadth and diversity of collection items, the State Library is a powerful storyteller, revealing the treasures that speak to the history of our state and nation. It continues to surprise, and awaits further discovery.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Library has over five million print and online items in its collection, including 1.1 million photographs; 11.2 linear km of manuscripts; 234,000 prints, drawings, paintings and maps; 114,000 architectural plans plus talking books, postage stamps, coins and books. The Library's collection is valued at approximately \$1.88 billion.
- David Scott Mitchell's Australiana collection, bequeathed to the Library, amounted to 40,000 books together with a bequest of £70,000 (about \$3.5 million in today's terms!).
- The State Library holds items that are significant to Australia's history, including nine of the 11 First Fleet journals known to exist and Joseph Banks' *Endeavour* journal.
- The first book ever printed in Australia (*NSW General Standing Orders*, 1802) and the first Australian newspaper printed (*Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 1803) are both held by the State Library.
- Surprising items in our collection include a lump of soil removed from the Sydney Cricket Ground pitch during the Bodyline series (1932–1933); a death mask of Henry Lawson, as well as his hat, pipe and pen; and one of the country's largest collections of hair: from Mary Shelley, to Matthew Flinders, through to Lachlan Macquarie.
- We provide services to a vast NSW public library network comprising 368 public libraries and 22 mobile libraries. In the last five years, the State Library has distributed over \$110 million in grants and subsidies to public libraries throughout NSW.
- For every dollar invested in the State Library, the community receives \$3.90 in return through the free use of the Library's collections and services.

What we do

ONSITE

The State Library offers much more than a traditional library. As a 21st century reference library, we provide you with innovative, adaptive solutions to information and service delivery.

As a significant national cultural institution, we encourage you to participate in our cultural activities and provide you with access to our community learning programs.

As a tourist destination, we invite you to explore our heritage-listed Mitchell Library building and to continually discover something new about the State Library's assets and collections.

Should you need any assistance during your visit to the State Library, ask our information officers (located at information desks in the Macquarie Street building and the Mitchell Library). For clients with a disability, we offer Companion Card access to fee-based events, adaptive technologies, facilities including courtesy wheelchairs, hearing loops, wheelchair access and limited reserved parking.

LIBRARY SERVICES

The State Library provides two reading rooms for you to:

- ask staff to help you find information or guide your research
- read current newspapers, the latest journals and new books on display
- search past issues of newspapers on microfilm and online
- use the books on our browsing shelves
- access books and other material in our storage areas
- use an 'Express' computer for email and the internet
- book a computer to search our electronic resources
- use your laptop to access free wireless internet
- search our catalogues.

The State Reference Library contains a comprehensive range of Australian and international research material. Its collection includes printed books, journals, government reports, statistics, audio-visual material and electronic resources.

The Mitchell Library holds the greatest documentary record of Australia's cultural heritage and the world's most significant collections of Australian and Pacific material (including the original journals of Abel Tasman, James Cook and Matthew Flinders).

DID YOU KNOW?

There were over 540,000 visits to the State Library reading rooms in 2008/09.



The State Library provides specialist information services that emphasise our commitment to being client-focused.

- **Multicultural** services include books and audio books in over 40 community languages (on loan through local public libraries), providing information access to the diverse cultural and linguistic population of NSW.
- **Family history** service helps people to discover their own history and the power of their own stories.
- **Australian Indigenous** information services provide advice on researching Indigenous family history as well as a range of information and collections related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.
- **Legal Information Access Centre** provides a wide range of legal information, from plain language guides and pamphlets through to legal texts and more complex primary materials.
- **Specialist information** for significant target audiences include HSC resources and business information.

EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS

The Library's events and exhibitions provide the public with opportunities to engage with its rich and diverse collections onsite, online and on tour, primarily highlighting the special collections in the Mitchell and Dixon libraries.

Free **exhibition gallery guides** provide curatorial expertise and context to the Library collections on display.

COMMUNITY LEARNING

The State Library serves the community through developing high-quality responsive learning programs. We serve lifelong learners, students and teachers, children and families and library professionals.

- **Where do I start?** acquaints people with the range of services and resources that we offer.
- **Begin research on the internet** introduces first-time users to the basics of online use.
- The **Kids @ the Library** program includes workshops, storytelling, creative writing and other activities for toddlers and school-aged children.
- **Infocus** links NSW Higher School Certificate (HSC) students with information and resources from the Library's collections.

PUBLICATIONS

What's On, published quarterly, is our comprehensive guide featuring information on upcoming events, exhibitions, displays, talks, tours and courses at the Library. Pick up your copy of *What's On* at our information desks, or contact (02) 9273 1770 or bookings@sl.nsw.gov.au.

Our **SL** magazine is available exclusively to Foundation members, Friends of the Library and Library volunteers. Published quarterly, *SL* magazine features original articles, news and insights into the Library's collection, including new acquisitions, research discoveries and exhibitions. To become a Friend of the Library and receive your subscription to *SL*, contact (02) 9273 1488 or friends@sl.nsw.gov.au.

and worry you; you are stronger and deeper character than I and too long you will, perhaps, only unconsciously anyway - at
"No one can advise you as to what I should not write - to good work" -
I - except in the way of business which I should have used myself but did the good and a lot of harm, for at times, and talk according to

Please tell Miss Scott that I am with me today - I would have liked but I must work very hard and the next week or two. I find it most for sending in two of my st... the half of it...
w. Be...
w se



WHILE YOU ARE AT THE LIBRARY ...

- Discover the Library Shop's comprehensive range of Australian titles and quality selection of gifts, souvenirs, and archival fine art prints reproduced from the Library's pictorial collections, along with merchandise featuring Mitchell Library architectural features and icons from the collection.
- Discover the Library's Cafe Trim and stop by for lunch, dessert or coffee.
- Discover the riches of the Library's building by taking a tour, including a visit to the richly embellished Shakespeare Room (open on Tuesdays 10 am – 4 pm).
- Discover the facilities available for hire for your next seminar, presentation, corporate event, photo shoot or wedding reception (contact Venue Hire on (02) 9273 1744 or venuehire@sl.nsw.gov.au).



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ONLINE

The Library's offerings extend well beyond its onsite services. Our aim is to make our services available throughout the entire state, providing equitable access via our online portal.

Online research guides (www.sl.nsw.gov.au/research_guides/index.html) are designed to provide the same end-to-end services that you would receive in the reading room in an online environment. The online guides draw on the research expertise of our librarians and offer a great starting point for researching specific topics.

If you have a more specific inquiry, our **'Ask a Librarian'** service responds to information requests from clients across NSW online, or by telephone, fax or post.

Our specialist information services **Legal Information Access Centre** (LIAC) and **drug info @ your library** are available online. To access LIAC, go to www.legalanswers.sl.nsw.gov.au. For drug info @ your library, go to www.druginfo.sl.nsw.gov.au.

LIBRARY 2.0

The nature of library and information services is transforming at a rapid pace through social media. From blogs, podcasts, videos, ShareThis content, RSS feeds, and images of the Library's collection on our Flickr webpages, we utilise modern technologies to present our historic material.

E-RESOURCES

A selection of key electronic resources (databases) is available to residents of NSW who have a State Library of NSW Readers Card. These databases give you access to articles in journals and newspapers on a wide range of subjects. To obtain a Readers Card, register as a State Library client at: www.sl.nsw.gov.au/system/forms/selfreg.html.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2008/09, there were over 500,000 full text document requests.

NSW.NET

NSW.net, a service managed by the State Library, is a gateway to quality internet connectivity services and online information resources for local government organisations and public libraries. We provide cost-effective and flexible options to enable faster and more reliable internet connections.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2008/09, over 3.8 million internet hours were used by clients in NSW public libraries.

DIGITISATION

Through digitising the Library's uniquely and historically significant treasures, we break down the time and distance barriers for people from rural and regional NSW communities to access our collections.

With the help of generous benefactors, **Discover Collections** takes you on an online exploration, sampling some of the Library's rich historical and contemporary collections. From intriguing collections that comment on the *History of Our Nation* and *Our Natural World* to the printed materials depicting our *Society, Art and Culture* and the personal stories and records of *People and Places*, these online collections emphasise our role as a cultural destination and a partner in knowledge creation.

www.sl.nsw.gov.au/discover_collections/



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PUBLIC LIBRARY NETWORK

We provide support, advice and research and professional development to the public libraries of NSW, including onsite consultations and service reviews, as well as administering the annual public library grants and subsidies program.

Our **Find Legal Answers** and **drug info @ your library** services operate across the NSW public library network.

DID YOU KNOW?

- As at 2008, there were 3.2 million library members throughout NSW.
- Public libraries across NSW are open more than 14,600 hours per week.



/02

ON TOUR

As part of the Library's ongoing commitment to share the rare and unique collections of the State Library with clients across the state, we take our exhibitions and displays on tour to public institutions throughout NSW.

Our role in supporting and advocating for the NSW public library network takes us on tour of libraries across rural and metropolitan NSW.

- 01 *CHILDREN IN SYDNEY SLUMS, MAINLY SURRY HILLS, WOOLLOOMOLOO, REDFERN (DETAIL), 1949, TED HOOD, PXA 584/13*
- 02 *ACTIVITIES AT BERRIGAN LIBRARY*
- 03 *PLAN AND ELEVATION OF A SCHOOL HOUSE, ARTIST UNKNOWN, C. 1815, D 337. ON DISPLAY IN TOURING PANELS FOR THE GOVERNOR : LACHLAN MACQUARIE 1810 TO 1821*



STATE LIBRARY OF NSW FOUNDATION

The State Library of NSW Foundation was established in 1987. Its role is to support the State Library by:

- raising funds for the acquisition and preservation of objects of historical, educational and social interest
- assisting the Library to maintain and develop its collection of literary and historical treasures
- capturing the continuing interest of the community in the Library's endeavours which includes an innovative Volunteers Program.

Thanks to the generous support of individuals, corporations and private foundations passionate and knowledgeable about the Library's mission, the Foundation has supported the continued digitisation of the Library's historical treasures and resources.

DID YOU KNOW?

Since its establishment, the Foundation has contributed almost \$8 million in cash and in-kind donations to various programs and projects throughout the State Library of NSW.

FOUNDATION ENQUIRIES:

State Library of NSW Foundation
 Macquarie Street Sydney NSW 2000
 Telephone Susan Hunt: (02) 9273 1529
 Fax: (02) 9273 1270
 Email: foundation@sl.nsw.gov.au
www.sl.nsw.gov.au/support



SHOWCASING COLLECTION TREASURES



PRESERVING THE HOLTERMANN COLLECTION



THE LARGE FORMAT GLASS PLATE SCANNER WAS PURCHASED WITH FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTIONS TO DIGITISE THE HOLTERMANN COLLECTION



Our organisation

MISSION

To strengthen the community by being the trusted provider of quality information services by:

- providing equitable access to contemporary and historical knowledge
- collecting and preserving Australia's heritage
- promoting our role as a cultural destination
- collaborating with the NSW public library network.

VISION

For the community, we aspire to be a Library that is:

- a pre-eminent and welcoming cultural destination
- acknowledged for excellent client service and staff expertise
- an innovative gateway to information and cultural enrichment
- recognised for a unique and accessible collection
- an active advocate for the NSW public library network
- a proactive partner in knowledge creation.

VALUES

Our core values and beliefs are:

- Equity of access
- Innovative and engaged
- Valuing people
- Honour and integrity
- Energy and teamwork.

STRATEGY

Our strategic goal is to expand the value of our collection and services to maximise access by current and future generations.

We achieve our strategy through our four strategic priorities:

- Client-focused Library
- Values-based culture
- Revenue growth
- Sustainability.

LIBRARY COUNCIL

The *Library Act 1939* provides that the Library Council of NSW shall be the governing body of the State Library of NSW. The nine members of Library Council are members of the public nominated by the Minister and appointed by the Governor of NSW, with at least one member having knowledge of, or experience in, education, and at least one member with knowledge of, or experience in, local government.

The Library Council's responsibilities relate to the promotion, provision and maintenance of library and information services for the people of NSW, advising the Minister and local authorities on matters of policy and administration relating to library services, and advising the Minister on the provision of assistance to local libraries or other libraries.

Opening hours

STATE REFERENCE LIBRARY, MITCHELL LIBRARY READING ROOM & EXHIBITION GALLERIES:

Mon to Thu: 9 am to 8 pm

Fri: 9 am to 5 pm

Weekends: 10 am to 5 pm

The Mitchell Library Reading Room is closed on Sundays.

To discuss your research needs please call the Telephone Inquiry Service (02) 9273 1414 (Monday to Friday).

THE LIBRARY SHOP:

Mon to Fri: 9 am to 5 pm

Weekends: 11 am to 5 pm

CAFE TRIM:

Mon to Fri: 7.30 am to 5 pm

Weekends: 10.30 am to 4.30 pm



THE LIBRARY SHOP

‘All great stories lead back to us’



Communities

STATE LIBRARY OF NSW

Macquarie Street Sydney NSW 2000 Australia

Phone: +61 2 9273 1414 Fax: +61 2 9273 1255

Email: library@sl.nsw.gov.au

www.sl.nsw.gov.au

Paper by Raleigh Paper, ecoStar 200 gsm (cover) and 120 gsm (text) is an environmentally responsible paper made carbon neutral (CN) and the fibre source has been certified by an independent forestry scheme. ecoStar is manufactured from 100% post consumer recycled paper in a process chlorine free environment under the ISO 14001 environmental management system.



STATE LIBRARY™
NEW SOUTH WALES