Accessibility

The State Library of NSW is committed to providing physical and remote access to our collections and exhibitions for all audiences, including people with a disability. If you need assistance to access the building, please call (02) 9273 1414.

VIEW FROM ABOVE

ACCESS TO THE MITCHELL LIBRARY

If you need assistance to access the Mitchell Library, please ask at the Information Desk in the Macquarie Street building.
Public transport
The closest train stations are Martin Place and St James. An Easy Access upgrade is currently underway at both stations with completion due in 2011. Circular Quay and Wynyard are wheelchair accessible stations but require a hill walk to the Library. Town Hall station is accessible while Museum station is not wheelchair accessible. Both require a longer, but reasonably level walk. The Sydney Explorer buses are accessible and stop outside the Library on Macquarie Street.

Parking
There are four free accessible parking spaces in Shakespeare Place.

The Library also has accessible parking in its underground car park. Booking is required and may be arranged by calling the Security Office on (02) 9273 1600. Access to the car park is via the rear of the Macquarie Street building on Hospital Road.

The nearest paid parking is in Hospital Road behind the Library. The nearest parking station, at Sydney Hospital, has its entrance on Hospital Road.
Getting into the building
The Library buildings can be accessed via a combination of ramps, stairs and elevators.

The main entrance to the State Reference Library is via an access ramp from Macquarie Street. The State Reference Library is located on lower ground floor 1 (LG1) and accessed via stairs or an elevator from the ground floor foyer of the Macquarie Street building.

External access to the Mitchell Library is via the stone steps (13 to 16 steps, depending upon the direction of approach) in Shakespeare Place. The Mitchell Library contains the Mitchell Library Reading Room, Sir William Dixson Research Library, Shakespeare Room, the Dixson Room, Friends Room and the Mitchell and Dixson exhibition galleries.

Moving around and assisted entry
If you require assistance entering the building or moving around via stairs or lifts, please ask staff.

The wheelchair entrance is via Macquarie Street. Wheelchair access is also available from Hospital Road via the loading dock on the eastern side of the building.

For people with wheelchairs or walking aids, to move from the Macquarie Street building to the Mitchell Library or vice versa, please take the ground floor lift to the first floor, cross to the other building via the galleries and take the lift down to the ground floor. Please ask staff in either building if assistance is required.

The Metcalfe Auditorium, located in the Macquarie Street building, has spaces available for wheelchairs.

The Library has a number of wheelchairs which can be booked ahead. They are available free of charge in the Macquarie Street foyer and the loading dock for use within the Library.

For those requiring assisted entry, accessible parking, entrance at the rear of the buildings, or to book a wheelchair, please contact the Security Office before arrival on (02) 9273 1600.

ACCESSIBLE TOILET

Wheelchair-accessible toilets are located on the ground floors of the Macquarie Street building and the Mitchell Library.
**Lifts and phones**

The Library’s lifts have control panels that are at a convenient height for people in wheelchairs.

Lifts also have Braille control panels. On the ground floor of each building is a public telephone that is wheelchair accessible, accepting both coins and phone cards.

**Hearing loops (without handsets) are located in the:**

- Metcalfe Auditorium, ground floor, Macquarie Street building, loop located around the perimeter under the carpet; clients are advised to sit in the first four rows
- Dixson Room, ground floor, Mitchell Library, a loop is located around the perimeter under the carpet and around the doorframe
- Mitchell Gallery 1 & Dixson Gallery 1, first floor, Mitchell Library.

In order to receive good clear sound via a hearing loop, visitors with hearing aids should use their ‘T’ switch.

Groups of visitors who are deaf, and who make a booking at least two weeks before their visit, can be provided with Auslan interpreters free of charge. For bookings, please call (02) 9273 1414.

**National Relay Service**

Visitors who are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, may wish to contact the Library through the National Relay Service:

- TTY users call 133 677 then ask for (02) 9273 1414 for the Switchboard
- Speak and Listen (speech-to-speech relay) users call 1300 555 727 then ask for (02) 9273 1414 for the Switchboard
- Internet relay users connect to the NRS and then ask for (02) 9273 1414 to get to the Switchboard.
Adaptive technology
Adaptive technology is available for clients with a disability so that they can use the Library’s resources.

Available adaptive technology includes:

- **Clearview**: a video magnifier for people with low vision, it magnifies books, magazines and newspapers.
- **JAWS**: screen reading software for people who have a reading disability. It is used to access websites, databases and the computer catalogue. Due to the complexity of JAWS, prior knowledge is expected. Training courses are available at Vision Australia.
- **Kurzweil 3000**: a computer-based scanning system for people who are blind or have a reading disability. It scans and reads books, magazines and newspapers and it is suitable for people who have some computer literacy.
- **Microspeed Trackball Mouse**: an alternative mouse for people who have problems with hand control.
- **Poet Compact**: a stand-alone scanner for people who are blind or have a reading disability. It scans and reads books, magazines and newspapers, and it is suitable for people with no computer skills.
- **Zoomtext**: image magnification software for people with low vision, it magnifies websites, databases and the computer catalogue.

Staff at the State Reference Library Information Desk can assist with these facilities. If you need specialist assistance or information, we can refer you to agencies who can help.

To discuss your needs, book resources or arrange assistance for your visit, please phone (02) 9273 1414.
Companions and carers
Entry to the Library is free to all visitors. However, where entry fees are charged for events, carers accompanying visitors with disabilities can be admitted free of charge.

The State Library of NSW is an affiliate of the NSW Government’s Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care’s Companion Card program. Carers who accompany a person with a disability to paid events will be eligible for free entry on presentation of their Companion Card. For more information visit <www.companioncard.com.au>.

Resources for people with a disability
The Library has resources that may assist people with a disability. These include:
- talking books
- large print books
- e-books
- full-text electronic newspapers and journals.

The State Library of NSW is not a lending library. However, large print books and talking books are available for loan by contacting your local public library and asking them to organise an interlibrary loan. If you are interested in Braille books, contact Vision Australia (previously known as the Royal Blind Society).

Disability Action Plan
The State Library of NSW Disability Action Plan 2010–2014 outlines the Library’s plans to eliminate or minimise barriers to services and facilities. A printed copy of the action plan will be supplied upon request or can be viewed or downloaded from the State Library’s website.
The State Library of NSW comprises the State Reference Library and the Mitchell Library. The State Reference Library in the Macquarie Street building has an extensive range of Australian and international books, journals, magazines and other research material. The Mitchell Library in the historic sandstone building holds an internationally renowned research collection relating to Australia, with special emphasis on NSW, Antarctica and the south-west Pacific, and houses the Dixson collections. You need to use this Library to access original material such as manuscripts and pictures.

FOR HELP WITH YOUR RESEARCH
To see the different ways you can contact us for help with your research, click on the ‘ASK A LIBRARIAN’ link on our website.