1. Summary
The State Library of New South Wales collects and preserves material which illuminates who we are, where we are from and where we might be going. It seeks to make this material available to all who wish to use it.

This policy outlines the general principles upon which the Library’s collections continue to be developed and enriched, acknowledging the need to collect broadly and without prejudice, together with a commitment to seeing that First Nations people and diverse communities can find their records represented. The policy is intentionally general in its focus to support the development of the collection in all areas of interest to Australians.

The Collection Development Policy is central to the State Library’s international reputation as a leading institutional collector of documentary material of interest to the people of New South Wales and Australia. The Library works in collaboration with national, state, territory and regional libraries, archives, galleries and museums where collecting interests intersect.

Collecting is guided by this policy and related guidelines, and is informed by the expertise and judgement of Library staff.

2. History and development
The State Library of New South Wales traces its origins to the opening of the Australian Subscription Library in 1826. Subsequently acquired by the New South Wales Government and later endowed through the generosity of David Scott Mitchell, Sir William Dixson and other benefactors, the Library has continued to grow to form today’s extensive holdings.

The collection has been – and continues to be - developed through purchases, legal deposit and donation, bequests and transfers from other organisations, and includes unpublished materials and a major body of general published material across all subjects.

Although the Library exists primarily to serve the people of New South Wales and is supported by the New South Wales Government, the significance of its collections gives it international obligations.
3. **Principles**
   i. The Library’s collection exists for the benefit of the people of New South Wales, Australia and beyond.
   ii. The collection covers a wide range of subjects and incorporates a plurality of voices and perspectives. It will continue to do so.
   iii. The Library’s collection has a particular focus on material which documents New South Wales and Australia: its people, their voices, communities, cultures, and environment.
   iv. Collecting reflects the variety of formats which people have used to record experiences. Wherever possible and practical, the Library collects the format closest to the original on the understanding that this best represents the content and the intention of the creator. Examples of such formats include books, magazines, journals and newspapers, manuscripts, photographs, artworks, maps, objects, sheet music, ephemera, oral history and materials in digital form.

The Library, working from these principles, collects:
   i. Published and unpublished materials of interest, significance, and importance to the people of New South Wales.
   ii. Published and unpublished materials that document and form, the lives, communities and cultures of New South Wales people and their environments. Materials published in New South Wales are collected under the legal and government deposit provisions of the **Library Amendment Act 2019 (NSW)** and the **Premier’s Memorandum M2000-15 Access to Published Information - Laws, Policy and Guidelines (library deposit)** which is currently under review.
   iii. Published and unpublished materials that engage with New South Wales and the broader context of Australia and Australia’s place in the world. The Library also collects material relating to the south-west Pacific and Antarctica.

4. **Suggestions for purchase and donations**

Suggestions for purchase are welcome from staff and readers and will be pursued subject to the Library’s capacity to do so, where the recommendation is in accordance with this policy. Donations are also accepted where the donation is in accordance with this policy and agreed prior to deposit by the Library.

5. **Responsibilities**

The State Librarian is responsible for oversight of this policy including its conformity to legislative and other requirements, and for communicating the policy to the Library’s Executive Committee, managers and supervisors.

The implementation of this policy is led by the State Librarian, the Dixson Librarian and the Mitchell Librarian, supported by the Managers of Collection Strategy & Development, Collection Access & Description, Research & Discovery, and Information & Access.
Compliance and implementation

1. Approval
   This policy was approved by the Library Council of New South Wales on 29 June 2021 for immediate implementation.

2. Implementation
   This policy is implemented on 1 July 2021.

3. History
   This policy replaces the Collection Development Policy, last updated April 2013.

4. Prepared by:
   The State Librarian, the Dixson Librarian and the Mitchell Librarian.

5. Document History and Version Control

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