

Collection and Resources Development Policy

Biological Sciences

Biological sciences cover the sciences of living organisms including humans, with the exception of human anthropology. The main areas are botany and zoology, including origin, evolution, growth and development, structure, distribution and ecology of plants and animals, plus microbiology, microscopy in biology and the collection and preservation of biological specimens.

Collection overview

Biological sciences and botany are maintained at a basic information level in all areas and at an intermediate level for birds. The historical collection strength for botany and biology emphasises 19th- to early 20th-century botanical and ornithological plate books and botanical pamphlets.

There is an overall emphasis on material related to Victorian and Australian conditions and species, with works on Victorian fauna and flora collected at a research level. Reference works are collected to maintain up-to-date information.

Relevant material that supports conservationists and naturalists in addressing public interest in wildlife and ecological issues, and material that supports the needs of small businesses are collected. Works covering domesticated animals such as dogs, cats and horses are collected, as are works on indigenous plants, land rehabilitation, zoos, whaling, stem cell research, cloning and genetically modified plants and animals. Material on botanical and zoological illustration is collected at a research level.

Material not generally collected

- specialist academic journals directed at researchers and the tertiary education sector
- textbooks covering narrow, specialised areas of biology, unless received through legal deposit
- academic and research reports, except those related to or published in Victoria.