

## Collection and Resources Development Policy

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### Digital Resources

Digital Resources can be defined as materials that have been conceived and created digitally or by converting analogue materials to a digital format. The Library's Digital Resources collections encompass online resources that are hosted elsewhere, physical format publications, digital media files and born-digital resources. The Library also makes digital copies of its unique heritage materials available to users through its [digitising programs](#) [\[link to policy\]](#).

The Library provides access to digital information resources in preference to collecting other forms containing similar information.

#### Online resources

The Library's online resources include journal collections, newspapers, electronic books, individual electronic journals and magazines, bibliographic indexes, directories and guides. Online journal collections are a strength and there is an intention to expand the electronic book collection.

Online resources are assessed against various criteria before selection, including:

- full text subject content
- ease of use and suitability of the resource in the Library's technical environment
- access for onsite and remote registered users
- whether the acquisition will build usefully on an existing strength or address an existing weakness
- long-term archiving and access arrangements
- ownership is preferred over an annual subscription, where cost effective

#### Collection overview

By collecting online formats the Library has been able to offer advanced and research level information that addresses subjects at a greater depth than possible in print. Examples are the expansion of electronic journals for academic-level research in the arts and government subjects as well as wider coverage of international and Australian newspapers.

The library purchases and subscribes to a wide range of Australian and overseas online resources. Major strengths are multi-subject, full-text databases that incorporate scholarly, general and popular journals. Other strengths are reference works such as dictionaries and encyclopedias and full-text historical and contemporary newspapers. The Library has strengths in subject-specific databases in arts, technology, business, statistics, social sciences, health, law and government.

Material not generally collected includes non-English language materials, textbooks and similar education materials, and publications that support highly specialised and technical research in the tertiary education sector.

#### Publications in physical formats

The Library has a small collection of publications in physical formats such as CD-ROMs, DVDs, VCDs (video compact discs) and floppy disks and has collecting strengths in Australian and British [genealogical tools](#) [\[link to genealogy\]](#). Electronic materials acquired through deposit or donations are usually in one of these formats. The Library purchases physical format resources where online resources are not available.

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### **Digital media files**

The Library also has a small collection of digital media files which include video, music and other sound recordings. Some of the sound recordings in the collection have been selected from Library lectures and talks, while others have been acquired by [legal deposit](#).

### **Born-digital resources**

The Library collects websites and publications from the internet as part of its partnership, known as [PANDORA](#), with the National Library of Australia and other state and territory libraries. The collecting focus is on online resources published or originating in Victoria. Increasingly unpublished material, such as manuscripts and photographs, are produced digitally; the Library is endeavouring to collect these materials in the original digital format.