

Collection and Resources Development Policy

Earth Sciences

Earth sciences cover geology, hydrology, meteorology, geomorphology, oceanography, petrology and geochemistry, as well as palaeontology.

Collection overview

Collecting is at a basic information level and focuses on topics of public interest, earthquakes and environmental issues. A similar collecting level is maintained for palaeontology and speleology, due to a significant contribution by amateurs in the field.

Historic collection strengths include 19th- and 20th-century holdings of geological surveys of Australia, Britain and North America, and an extensive pamphlet collection containing many unique items.

Economic geology material is acquired with a strong emphasis on Australian works. This is used by amateur seekers of precious metals, gemstones or fossils.

Major reference works are collected, and non-specialist journals provide access to current developments in the field.

In earth sciences Victorian material is collected comprehensively and supplemented by government publications in the form of geological surveys, meteorology reports and collections of Victorian and other Australian geological maps.

Material not generally collected

- coverage of regional earth sciences for areas other than Australia
- journals directed at the academic researcher or specialist
- school textbooks and books for children, unless received through legal deposit.