

Collection and Resources Development Policy

Government Publications

Governments publish all legislation and most cartographic materials and statistical data. Effectively any official publication produced by an official or governmental body, whether legislative, judicial or executive, is a government publication, whether in print or online.

Collection overview

- The Library's collection of government publications include:
- parliamentary debates
- parliamentary papers or equivalent
- committee papers
- budgets
- major departmental and semi-government annual reports
- major departmental and semi-government occasional reports, government gazettes, • statutes, regulations
- constitutions
- treaties
- statistical publications
- other legislative materials including:
 - indexes
 - tables and bills
 - government directories and reports from intergovernmental bodies.

Collecting has shifted from print to providing access to electronic resources in response to the change in provision of information by governments. Government publishing has moved online in response to demand from users for immediate online access to information.

The Library collects Australian and Victorian government publications, plus selected interstate government publications and selected publications from other countries and international bodies. The collections include historical sets of parliamentary papers, legislative materials and Hansards for Victorian and all Australian states and the Commonwealth, dating from the inauguration of these governments, which form a significant research collection for Victorian users.

Government publications dating from the early 19th century are held from Britain, the United States, Canada and other countries; collecting has refocused on providing electronic access to government publications of these countries. Publications of the United Nations, the European Communities, the former League of Nations and other international organisations have historically been collected, which date from the inauguration of these bodies. The scope and diverse nature of such government publications are important in supplementing and enriching all collecting areas.

Collection strengths

Victoria

The Library has a responsibility for collecting and preserving all Victorian Government publications, including those of government departments, agencies and local councils. This extends to collecting and preserving online publications by identifying sites for [PANDORA](#).

Australian and state governments

For other Australian states, territories and the Commonwealth of Australia, the Library builds on its historical holdings and maintains research-level collecting for Australia and linking to relevant government sites.

Treaty material and publications of intra-Australian organisations where relevant to Victoria are collected. Government publishing on the internet is now the norm; however, where possible, the Library collects a printed copy of government publications as well as linking to PANDORA copies and the government sites. Where possible the Library collects government-commissioned reports.

Overseas governments

The Library has research collections based on historical holdings exist for the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. Currently collecting is at a basic level, supplemented by provision of access to electronic resources.

Intergovernmental organisations and international bodies

Historically significant research collections exist for intergovernmental bodies, notably the United Nations and the former League of Nations. European and Asian organisations are well represented, including the European Communities, International Labour Organization and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Access to internet resources is replacing these collections. Intermediate collecting is maintained for the United Nations and the OECD.

The Library provides access to a selected number of intergovernmental and international non-government organisations.

Material not generally collected

- local council by-laws
- ephemeral serials.