Collection and Resources
Development Policy

**Victorian publications**

A major strength of the Library’s collections is Victorian publications. Collected in many formats, the aim is to collect Victorian material comprehensively. It is assisted in this task by a number of mechanisms:

- legal deposit legislation
- premier’s circular instructions to government departments
- PANDORA, Australia’s web archive.

**Legal deposit**

The provisions of legal deposit, as set out in the *Libraries Act 1988*, require all Victorian publishers to lodge one copy of each of their publications with the State Library of Victoria. The Act defines a publication as:

- any printed book, periodical, newspaper, pamphlet, musical score, map, chart, plan, picture, photograph, print and any other printed matter; and any film (including a microfilm and a microfiche), negative, tape, disc, sound track and any other device in which one or more visual images, sounds or other data are embodied so as to be capable (with or without the aid of some other equipment) of being reproduced from it.

The intention of legal deposit is to develop a lasting record of the state’s publishing history. A further consequence of legal deposit is that it has enabled the Library to collect many Victorian publications not held in other libraries, thus providing valuable material for researchers. Examples include extensive holdings of school magazines, of newsletters of many Victorian societies, clubs and associations with state-wide significance, and of newsletters of national organisations based in Victoria.

While the Library aims to collect legal deposit publications comprehensively, some categories of material are not generally collected. These include ephemeral serials, calendars, school textbooks, tertiary course books, theses, games and company training products.

**Premier’s circular**

The legal deposit provisions of the *Libraries Act 1988* do not cover Victorian Government publications. Instead, a circular from the Department of Premier and Cabinet, updated and re-released most recently in 2005, requests that all Victorian state government agencies lodge copies of their publications with the Library. To assist the Library in building a comprehensive record of state government publishing, the circular also requests that government agencies give permission to the Library to archive their publications and websites from the internet.

**PANDORA**

The Library is in partnership with the National Library of Australia and other Australian state libraries to preserve digital publications (websites and other material). The partnership, known as PANDORA, places copies of internet resources in an archive.

The Library collects Victorian internet publishing for PANDORA as well as significant publishing about Victoria that is published elsewhere. A selective approach is taken, with preference given to material with historical or research value.
**Collection strengths**

The focus is on Victorian government publications that reflect policy, administration and public information at state and local levels. Individual publications, such as reports or maps, are preferred over larger departmental websites for enhanced access. Areas of significant strength are environment, agricultural information and health issues. Examples of publications are:

- Environmental Protection Authority publications only available online
- Department of Primary Industries Information Notes series
- Geological Survey Reports
- Better Health Channel medicines information.

Collecting of non-government publications focuses on culture and the community. From major sporting and arts organisations to personal blogs and local groups, PANDORA seeks to collect a record of Victorian life as expressed through the digital domain. Examples of these digital publications are:

- The Melbourne Cricket Ground
- Victorian Council of Churches
- The Melbourne Fringe Festival
- Diary of an Average Australian.

The Library is currently extending the collection by including commercial online publications published in Victoria.

While most collecting is at the title level, PANDORA responds to events and issues of significance by gathering a range of titles into dedicated collections. Examples of these are federal and state election campaigns and the 2009 Victorian Bushfires, incorporating the CFA YouTube video collection and the Royal Commission.

**Material not generally collected**

- promotional sites
- sites that provide selected features or stories drawn from print newspapers or other electronic publications.