



**COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY  
2017**

## Contents

1) Introduction.....	2
2) Aims.....	2
3) Objectives.....	2
4) Users.....	3
5) Acquisitions.....	3
6) Scope: selection criteria.....	3
7) Collection.....	4
8) Fiction and Non-fiction Collections.....	5
9) Strengths of the Collection.....	9
10) Areas of the collection identified for further development.....	10
11) Access .....	10

## **1) Introduction**

The purpose of the Collection Development Policy (CDP) is to guide the Board of Jessie Street National Women's Library (JSNWL), the Reference and Acquisitions Librarians and other relevant Library staff in the selection, acquisition and retention of materials for the Library and to serve as a plan for the overall growth and maintenance of the collection.

The CDP will be revised as the need arises but at least once in every five years. Every review of the CDP will be overseen by the Reference and Acquisitions Librarians in consultation with the Library staff and Archivists. Any amendments to the CDP will then be submitted to the Board for approval.

## **2) Aims**

The aims of JSNWL are:

- a) to collect published and unpublished materials which document the lives and experiences of women of all ethnic, racial and religious backgrounds and of all socio-economic classes;
- b) to ensure that documents relating to Australian women's lives and activities are preserved and made accessible;
- c) to highlight the contribution of Australian women to this country's development;
- d) to support the field of women's history.

## **1) Objectives**

The objectives of JSNWL are:

- a) to provide for the Australian community a specialist library which collects, preserves and promotes the awareness of the cultural heritage of Australian women, facilitating learning, research and communication;
- b) to house, maintain and develop the Jessie Street National Women's Library collection which will be a professionally managed research library of works by and about women;
- c) to provide for a special collection associated with the work of Jessie Street, such as:
  - i) social justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
  - ii) international friendship;
  - iii) peace;

- d) to collect and maintain archival material relating to the objects of the Library;
- e) to do all things incidental and conducive to the attainment of all or any of the objects of the Library.

## **2) Users**

The Library's users include, but are not limited to, the following groups:

- a) scholars and academic researchers;
- b) Women's organisations;
- c) Professionals;
- d) Other libraries;
- e) Creative and professional writers;
- f) Students at all levels;
- g) General enquirers.

## **3) Acquisitions**

JSNWL's collection consists primarily of donations. All donations are assessed according to the Library's CDP by the Accessions and Acquisitions Librarians and where deemed necessary by consultation with other staff.

From time to time, the Accessions and Acquisitions Librarians will also review, in consultation with other Library staff as necessary, the contents of the collection in light of the current CDP.

Where donated material is to be included amongst the Library's Archives, the Library's Archivists will consult with relevant donors regarding appropriate steps to prepare the material.

## **4) Scope: selection criteria**

The collection contains material that is created by women, relevant to women or about women that does one or more of the following:

- a) enriches the understanding of Australian women's history regardless of place of publication;
- b) informs about the development of feminist theory and history;
- c) contains woman-centred content about Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and neighbouring Pacific Islands.

The collection also contains material that was published outside of the above countries, in particular comparative studies with content on women in Australia. This material is judged on its merits and importance to women's literary, social or political history.

Additionally, the general availability of an item from other sources, is relevant to the Accessions and Acquisitions Librarians' decision to add the item to the collection. An item's uniqueness has a bearing on whether it is included in the collection.

## **5) Collections**

The Library has four component collections.

a) The Archive collection comprises:

- i) Papers and archival materials of women and women's organisations are collected in accordance with the selection criteria
- ii) Calendars and almanacs that are specifically designed for women
- iii) Pictorial material (e.g. photographs, drawings, graphics, cartoons etc) only if they otherwise form part of an archival collection

Please note the importance of consultation with donors to assist in the preparation of material for placement in the JSNWL Archives.

b) The loan collection is available to library members and on interlibrary loan. Books in this small collection are also held in the research collection.

c) The research collection is to be held in perpetuity for the use of future generations. Many items from the research collection may be borrowed on interlibrary loan. The research collection comprises the following types of material collected in accordance with the selection criteria:

- i) audio visual material such as CDs and DVDs including recorded material from JSNWL Lunch Hour Talks;
- ii) books;
- iii) calendars;
- iv) cartoons;
- v) digital and digitised material;
- vi) ephemera;
- vii) posters;
- viii) realia;
- ix) serials;

x) theses.

d) There is a limited reference collection. Reference material offered by donors is considered on its merit, uniqueness and relevance to the overall collection.

## 6) Fiction and Non-fiction Collections

These collections are developed in accordance with the selection criteria.

a) The Library aims to hold significant published works of fiction (including novels, short stories, essays, plays and poetry) by women writers including:

- i) significant literary works by Australian women writers;
- ii) works by non-Australian women writers of earlier centuries where these form part of the historical continuum of women writers, or where books are rare or out-of-print;
- iii) self-published books by women writers, which have an historical, cultural or social significance to women;
- iv) works by women which have won Australian literary awards and have an historical, cultural or social significance to women.
- v) plays (performed or otherwise) by Australian women writers, which have an historical, cultural or social significance to women;
- vi) poetry by Australian women poets, which have an historical, cultural or social significance to women.

b) The Library is developing its non-fiction collection in accordance with the following table. Textbooks, manuals, kits and the like are not collected.

Category	Areas of focus
<b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Material about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women</li><li>• History and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women</li><li>• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women writers on all subject areas</li></ul>
<b>Anthropology/Sociology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Studies on women</li><li>• Accounts (autobiographical and other) of women's experiences in different societies</li><li>• Traditional customs as they affect women</li></ul>
<b>Arts/crafts, Visual and Performing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Feminist art history</li><li>• Feminist critiques of film and theatre</li><li>• Film makers</li><li>• Musicians, performers, composers</li><li>• Artists, sculptors and potters</li><li>• Photographers</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designers including fashion</li> </ul>
<b>Biography/Autobiography/ Published Diaries</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biographies of significant women</li> <li>• Biographies of significant non-Australian feminists who have made a contribution to raising women's social, legal and political status.</li> </ul>
<b>Cookery/Housewifery Books</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cookery/ Household books which demonstrate historical changes in women's homemaking role over time</li> <li>• Culturally significant food writers eg. Mrs Beeton, Rosemary Stanton etc</li> <li>• Recipes books by women reflecting significant social change eg. war, climate change, children's cookery</li> <li>• Cookbooks published by women's organizations eg. CWA</li> </ul>
<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education of girls/women</li> <li>• Discrimination in education</li> </ul>
<b>Employment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comparative international studies of women's work</li> <li>• Child Care</li> <li>• Discrimination in the workforce</li> <li>• Information technology and its impact on women's work</li> <li>• Sexual Harassment</li> <li>• Studies of science, engineering and women scientists and attitudes towards women</li> <li>• Unpaid work eg caring, voluntary work</li> <li>• Wages &amp; Conditions including equal pay</li> <li>• Women's changing roles in work</li> <li>• Women's role and interaction with technology and industrial processes</li> <li>• Women in non-traditional work including professions</li> <li>• Working women and family responsibility</li> </ul>
<b>Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activism by women</li> <li>• Works on the relationship between women and the environment, climate change, global warming</li> </ul>
<b>Fashion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of women's fashion</li> </ul>
<b>Feminism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of feminism</li> <li>• International feminist writers and thinkers</li> </ul>
<b>Finance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contracts/loans</li> <li>• Tax matters</li> <li>• Women in business</li> <li>• Women's economic dependence/independence</li> <li>• Historical perspectives on the finance sector &amp; its impact on women</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welfare payments</li> </ul>
<b>Government</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government reports on women's Issues</li> <li>• History of legislative change</li> <li>• Law Reform</li> </ul>
<b>Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abortion</li> <li>• Cancer, especially breast cancer and other cancers commonly experienced by women</li> <li>• Genital mutilation</li> <li>• In-vitro fertilisation (IVF)</li> <li>• General health issues affecting women, statistical differences with men</li> <li>• Menstruation, menopause &amp; hormone replacement therapy (HRT)</li> <li>• Reproduction</li> <li>• Surrogacy</li> </ul>

<b>Immigration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Autobiographies and accounts of women's experiences</li> <li>• Refugee experiences from women's perspective</li> </ul>
<b>Language</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feminism and linguistic theory</li> <li>• Feminist language critiques</li> <li>• Classics of feminism and feminist linguistic theory</li> <li>• Feminist critiques of women's writings</li> </ul>
<b>Law</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Divorce</li> <li>• Property rights</li> <li>• Equal Employment Opportunity</li> <li>• Affirmative action</li> <li>• Anti-discrimination</li> <li>• Gender equity under the law</li> <li>• Justice system</li> </ul>
<b>Marriage &amp; Family</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oppression in marriage</li> <li>• Marriage and the law</li> <li>• Marriage throughout history</li> <li>• Marriage customs in different countries</li> <li>• Same sex marriage</li> <li>• Single parents</li> </ul>
<b>Media</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representation/exploitation of women in the electronic and print media</li> </ul>
<b>Politics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of women in politics</li> <li>• Women's suffrage</li> <li>• Representation of women in all levels of politics</li> </ul>
<b>Psychology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General psychology of women</li> </ul>
<b>Religion and Spirituality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of women within different religious groups</li> <li>• Women's critiques of religion and holy books</li> <li>• Interfaith studies</li> <li>• Women preachers</li> </ul>
<b>Rural Women</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women's rural organisations</li> <li>• Women and work in rural areas</li> </ul>
<b>Sexism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Works dealing with sexism in different arenas of life and work</li> </ul>
<b>Sexuality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lesbianism</li> <li>• History of discrimination against lesbians, transgender and bisexuals</li> <li>• Pornography</li> <li>• Prostitution and sex work, exploitation</li> <li>• Trafficking and sexual slavery</li> <li>• Sex workers activism and the law</li> </ul>
<b>Social Issues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing</li> <li>• Poverty</li> <li>• Domestic violence, emotional and other forms of abuse</li> <li>• Incest</li> <li>• Rape</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexual harassment</li> <li>• Women's refuge and shelter movements</li> </ul>
<b>Travel</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women's writing of travel experiences of historical, cultural or sociological significance</li> </ul>
<b>War and Peace</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of women in war</li> <li>• Rape in war</li> <li>• Women as warriors</li> <li>• War correspondence and reporting</li> <li>• Women's changed circumstances at home during &amp; after war</li> <li>• Women's pacifist activism, peace movements and their history</li> </ul>

## 7) Strengths of the Collection

The strengths of the collection include:

- a) the second wave of feminism in the 1970s;
- b) nineteenth century Australian fiction;
- c) biographies of Australian women;
- d) Aboriginal women's history;
- e) self-published poetry and plays by Australian women;
- f) feminist theory;
- g) Australian women in education.

## 8) Areas of the collection identified for further development

As at July 2017, areas identified for development include:

- a) current material, 2000 to date;
- b) Australian women in non-traditional roles;
- c) Australian rural women;
- d) material from New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and neighbouring Pacific Islands.

## 9) Access

JSNWL is committed to making its collections accessible to the public. Information about the collection is available on the internet at JSNWL's website

[www.nationalwomenslibrary.org.au](http://www.nationalwomenslibrary.org.au) and on-line catalogue  
[www.catalogue.nationalwomenslibrary.org.au](http://www.catalogue.nationalwomenslibrary.org.au).

Digitised reproductions of the poster and badge collections can be viewed from the catalogue. In addition to these collections, JSNWL digitises ephemera, sound and audio-visual materials.

JSNWL makes material available for viewing in the library. Restrictions on viewing and copying may apply to rare and fragile materials and donated original material where the creator or donor has specified certain restrictions.

Selected materials are available by inter-library loan (ILL). Monographs are available for use only within the borrowing library. Items considered rare or fragile are not available for ILL. Copies of articles from serials, bound or unbound, and reference material are available by ILL provided that the item is not considered fragile.

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