



Indigenous studies

Collection development policy

1. Purpose and scope

With the reaffirmation in 2007 of the Indigenous Education Statement, a commitment to promoting, maintaining and supporting the teaching of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies, cultures and languages to all indigenous and non-indigenous students has fostered a program of embedding indigenous perspectives. The University's Strategic Plan states that all undergraduate programs will include the study of indigenous Australian cultures, histories and contemporary experiences, as appropriate to the discipline concerned.

Thus the Library's collections include items dealing directly with indigenous topics as well as materials which incorporate indigenous perspectives within the contexts of the various academic disciplines.

The Library's collection management practices are informed by the principles incorporated in the (ALIA for ATSILIRN, 2000) [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Protocols for Libraries, Archives and Information Services](#)

UniSA aims to be a pre-eminent site for indigenous research nationally. The holdings of the University of South Australia are benchmarked against the holdings of higher education institutions which have a strong indigenous focus.

2. Primary User groups

All students and staff of UniSA are primary users of indigenous materials.

3. Background to the collection

Established in 1973, the David Unaipon College of Indigenous Education and Research (DUCIER) named to honour Ngarrindjeri men David and James Unaipon is the longest established Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Education program in Australia. DUCIER enables the University of South Australia to fulfil its legislative commitment to Indigenous Education.

The Unaipon School, located within the David Unaipon College of Indigenous Education and Research of the University's Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences was established in January 1996 through the amalgamation of the Aboriginal Studies and Teacher Education Centre (est. 1968) and the School of Aboriginal and Islander Administration (est. 1988). The School of Aboriginal and Islander Administration was preceded by The Aboriginal Task Force (est. 1972).

The collection also includes the Margaret Carnegie Gift received by the Library in 1992. These books are identified by a bookplate designed by Margaret Carnegie. The Margaret Carnegie Gift contains monographs, journals and art exhibition catalogues. The monographs focus on early exploration in Australia, colonial anthropology and Aboriginal Art which supplement and enhance the existing collections.

4. Scope of current collecting

The Library's collections reflect the diversity of indigenous research and contain material collected at three levels:

- Comprehensive
 - Culture, law and society including material on the Stolen generation
 - Land rights and Native title including Acts of Parliament and reports relating to Deaths in custody
 - Aboriginal Art including historical and contemporary art and craft
 - Government policy including a collection of all government documents, Acts etc. dealing with Australian Aboriginal people, a comprehensive collection of items dealing with protection legislation, assimilation legislation, self determination and self management
 - Australian Aboriginal history including pre -contact history
 - Education including all material dealing with indigenous education both historically and contemporary, international comparative studies and curriculum documents
 - Family and health including traditional aspects.

- Representative
 - Religion and beliefs, folklore including dreamtime stories, spirituality
 - Social and economic conditions including ideologies of social structure, poverty, racism and employment
 - Children's materials on Australian indigenous themes
 - Literature by Australian and Torres Strait Islander authors
 - Indigenous music, film and sport
 - Indigenous tourism
 - Indigenous traditional law

- Limited
 - Race theory including theories of colonialism
 - First contact

➤ International indigenous theory and history

4.1 Authority for selection of resources

Academic and research staff provide recommendations for resources for the collection. Selection of resources is primarily undertaken by the Academic Library team, Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences, though cross-disciplinary resources are selected by all Academic teams

Sources consulted to assist selection include National Library Recent Australian Publication Service (RAP), Recent Australian Government publications (GOVRAP), AITSIS bibliographies, AUSTLit, and publisher catalogues from publishers of indigenous materials.

Material dealing with South Australian indigenous matters is routinely collected, as are publications of the Aboriginal Studies Press.

4.2 Multiple copies

The collection is primarily a single copy collection except where a course is offered at more than 1 location.

4.3 Language coverage

Resources collected are predominantly in English, although no material is excluded on the basis of language. The following resources are included:

- A comprehensive collection of indigenous languages dictionaries and linguistic resources
- A representative collection of literature by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors in English and indigenous languages

4.4 Geographic Coverage

The emphasis is on Australian material but no geographical areas are excluded. A limited amount of material on international indigenous perspectives is also collected

4.5 Formats Collected

Resources are print or digital. Other formats may be considered on the basis of value to the collection.

4.6 Resources excluded from the collection

No exclusions.

5. Access

Resources are generally located in the main collection. Culturally sensitive materials located in unrestricted access collections are appropriately labelled according to AITSIS protocols.

Resources that support the teaching practicum component of the University are located in the Teaching Resource Collection at either Magill or Mawson Lakes

Items in the collection that are rare, fragile, valuable, secret, sacred or offensive are housed in the Aboriginal Special collection.

6. Approval and Version History

Date	Action
05/2008	Draft developed by Ann Mather / reviewed CSG
12/2008	Version 1 - Approved by LOG