

# State Library of New South Wales

1827 –

**Other Names:**

- State Reference Library
- Australian Subscription Library
- Sydney Free Public Library
- Public Library of New South Wales

**URL:** <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au>

## Details

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The State Library of New South Wales is the most important collecting institution in New South Wales. It is a deposit library, meaning copies of works published in New South Wales, including government publications, must be lodged with it. It holds a huge collection of manuscript items, journals, photographs and printed materials. A number of institutions that cared for children have placed their records with the State Library of New South Wales. These are generally kept in the Mitchell Wing. It has an excellent family history research centre with librarians who specialise in family history research, including in Aboriginal communities. The Library holds a number of record collections related to missions and children's homes in the Northern Territory.

The entrance to the State Library is on Macquarie Street, near Parliament House. The nearest station is Martin Place, Circular Quay and St James Station are close.

Users need a borrowers' card, which is free and can be ordered online. The library does not loan materials out but books and manuscripts can be ordered up to a week in advance, using the website or telephone. This saves time, especially if items are in offsite storage and must be ordered in. The State Library catalogue is available online.

The Australian Subscription Library was established in 1827 and moved between rental premises, before acquiring a building in Macquarie Street in 1845. In 1869 the New South Wales Government bought the library and it was reopened as the Sydney Free Public Library. This was renamed the Public Library of New South Wales in 1895.

A completely new 'national' library was planned, on a new site nearby, from 1900, after David Scott Mitchell offered his immense and unrivalled collection of Australiana to the people of New South Wales. Work on the Mitchell Wing started in 1906 and was completed in 1910. It houses the Mitchell Library reading rooms, work areas and galleries. The Mitchell Library has one of Australia's finest collections of manuscript items, journals and newspapers and printed books in Australia. It also holds the records of a number of children's homes and charitable institutions, parliamentary papers and government reports.

The Dixon Wing, completed in 1929, was added to the south side of the Mitchell Wing to provide storage and gallery space for the extensive collection of historical paintings presented by Sir William Dixon. In 1939 work began on the ornate central portion of the building and was completed in 1942. A further sandstone wing was added in 1964.

Work began on the Macquarie Street Wing in 1983 and it was opened in 1988 (Australia's bicentenary) by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in company with Prince Philip. The new building fronts Macquarie Street and links up

with the Mitchell Wing above ground by an unobtrusive first-floor bridge and below ground at a number of points.

## Gallery

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### State Library of New South Wales

**Description:** The Mitchell Wing of the State Library of New South Wales, Sydney

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## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Holds

- [Church Missionary Society \(New South Wales\) - Records \(1893 - 2003\)](#)
- [Collection of negatives concerned with the activities of the Scheme, most negatives show the members, and children assisted by the Scheme, ca. 1930 / Royal Far West Children's Health Scheme \(c. 1930\)](#)
- [Collection of photographs concerned with the activities of the Scheme, most photographs show the members, and children assisted by the Scheme, ca. 1930 / Royal Far West Children's Health Scheme \(c. 1930\)](#)
- [Collection of negatives concerned with the activities of the Scheme, most negatives show the members, and children assisted by the Scheme, ca. 1930 / Royal Far West Children's Health Scheme \(c. 1930\)](#)
- [Photographs and negatives related to the Royal Far West Children's Health Scheme, ca. 1950-1975 \(1950 - 1975\)](#)
- [St. Margaret's Hospital \(Darlinghurst, N.S.W.\) Records 1894-1998 \(1894 - 1998\)](#)
- [Sydney City Mission records, 1862-1983, including minute books and historical papers \(1862 - 1983\)](#)
- [Bartrop family slides relating to the Aborigines Inland Mission, 1909-1930s, 1945-1950, 1971 \(1909 - 1971\)](#)
- [The Infants' Home, Ashfield, Records \(1874 - 2002\)](#)
- [Dr. Dill Macky Memorial Home for Children records and pictorial material, 1910-1983 \(1910 - 1983\)](#)
- [Australian Indigenous Ministries Aggregated Collection of Records and Pictorial Material, 1903-2003 \(1903 - 2003\)](#)
- [Anglican Board of Mission \(Australia\) - further records \(1887 - 1996\)](#)
- [Methodist Church of Australasia. Dept. of Overseas Missions collection, 1830-1971, 1980, State Library of New South Wales \(1830 - 1980\)](#)
- [Collection 01: Australian Indigenous Ministries papers and pictorial material, 1903-1998 \(1903 - 1998\)](#)
- [Records of the Methodist Church of Australasia, Department of Overseas Missions \(1830 - 1980\)](#)
- [Alma Smith and Alva Atkins \(nee Smith\) papers and photographs relating to missionary work in New South Wales and Western Australia, 1909-2006](#)
- [Archives of the Australian Red Cross Society, New South Wales Division, 1914-2014 \(1914 - 2014\)](#)
- [Dreadnought Association - records, 1890-1997 \(1890 - 1997\)](#)
- [Sydney City Mission photographs and a drawing, ca. 1892-1986](#)
- [Benevolent Society of New South Wales Collection, 1813-1996 \(1813 - 1996\)](#)
- [Royal Far West Children's Health Scheme \(N.S.W.\) aggregated collection of records \(1936 - 1995\)](#)
- [Big Brother Movement Records \(1925 - 2015\)](#)
- [Home of Hope for Friendless and Fallen Women Admissions Registers \(1903 - 1905\)](#)
- [Annual Report of the Sydney Female Mission Home \(1873 - 1908\)](#)
- [Male Orphan School Roll book \(1 January 1819 - 18 September 1848\)](#)

### Resources

- Scifleet, Paul, [Guide to the Records of the Benevolent Society of New South Wales in the Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW](#), 1996

- Anglican Homes for Children Association (N.S.W.): D.S. Ford, [\*Annual report of the Anglican Homes for Children including Milleewa Home for Boys Ashfield and the Windsor Farm Home for Boys Freeman's Reach, Windsor / Anglican Homes for Children Association.\*](#), 1925 - 1940
- Child Welfare Department, [\*Challenge \(also known as The Challenge\)\*](#), 1949 - 1975
- Bluett, Ros, [\*Charity and Justice: The early days of the Benevolent Society in Sydney\*](#), 24 March 2013
- Rathbone, Ron, *A Very Present Help: Caring for Australians Since 1813*, 1994

## Records

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### Records held by other organisations

- [Dependent Children Registers \(1883 - 1923\)](#)  
Copies of the Dependent Children Registers are held in the Family History room at the State Reference Library, State Library of New South Wales.

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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/state-library-of-new-south-wales-2/>