

Women in New Zealand

As part of the Library's contribution to International Women's Year an exhibition was mounted using material from the manuscript, book and periodical, ephemera, art and photograph collections.

The main aim of the exhibition was to present the type of records made by women and which have been preserved. A *New Zealand Women's History Research Collection* has been sponsored by the Library and it is hoped to attract more original material of local and national interest including diaries and letters of individuals, correspondence and minutes of organisations, photographs, reminiscences, paintings, scrap-books or any other material of historical significance. This would help to meet the growing demand for research material on women.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AT THE ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY

Collecting primary research material on a particular subject has presented problems for archivists and libraries throughout the world. The problems are accentuated when the material is very recent or owned and created by a large cross section of the population. In an attempt to overcome some of these problems the Alexander Turnbull Library is starting a number of named special subject collections and concentrating publicity around them. The first was the Archive of New Zealand Music and more recently the War History Documentation Centre (WARDOCUMENT) and the Women's History Research Centre have been created.

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The War History Documentation Centre came into existence early in 1975 because of a demand by scholars for material on New Zealand's war activities. While the National Archives holds the official records of New Zealand participation in wars during the past century and the Library holds an extensive collection of diaries, letters, books, newspapers and photographs it was apparent that much material was still in private hands. For this reason the National Archives of New Zealand and the Alexander Turnbull Library have combined to form WARDOCUMENT.

Efforts to publicize this effort have come through press releases during Anzac Weekend, an article in the *RSA Review* and two appearances by the Chief Librarian on Radio New Zealand. This publicity has brought forth many new collections covering New Zealand participation in the Boer War, World War I, World War II and the Korean War. Material is still coming into the Library and we would appreciate the help and cooperation of the Friends in this project.