Copyright Act a comprehensive range of materials published in New Zealand and to purchase materials overseas relating to New Zealand. Financial and staffing constraints have affected other areas of collecting. Funds available for purchases have not kept pace with increased costs and fewer purchases have been made of New Zealand paintings and drawings and of materials for the Pacific, history of printing, fine printing and English literature collections. The growth of the New Zealand manuscript collections has been affected by staffing constraints and the number of collections added declined during the year. Donations increased from 639 in the previous year to 672 but a high proportion of the donations of manuscripts were in the well-established collecting areas developed in the previous few years, such as war history, the music archive, women's history, political papers and business and church archives. Several proposals developed by the staff for strengthening subject areas by mounting major campaigns to attract donations and loans for copying are being held over until adequate staffing and accommodation become available. Additions to the manuscript collections continue to be announced to research workers through the Turnbull Library Record and Archifacts.

Two major purchases were made to strengthen the map collections; the first of George Augustus Selwyn's copy of the James Wyld map of New Zealand (ca. 1846) with illustrations and annotations in the Bishop's hand, and the second of eight rare maps of the Pacific from the Tooley Collection purchased from the National Library of Australia. The art collection benefited from several major gifts and loans. From the estate of Cranleigh Barton of Christchurch the Library received a bequest of 357 watercolours and from the estate of Frances Mary Hodgkins several sketchbooks and 209 watercolours by William Matthew Hodgkins. A collection of watercolours by Sir Frederick Weld was placed in the Library on long-term loan by the Scrope family of Blenheim. The Library has been developing an archival collection (papers, letters, newspaper clippings, sketchbooks, drawings, exhibition catalogues, and the records of art societies and galleries) on New Zealand art and artists to satisfy the growing demand from art historians for such material. During the year this collection was significantly strengthened by the deposit of the papers and sketchbooks of Rita Angus, a donation of drawings by Robert Field, a collection of drawings, clippings, catalogues and letters from the estate of Sam Cairneross and the long-term loan of several sketchbooks of Frances and Isobel Hodgkins. The photograph collections have been enriched by several major donations and the purchase of a collection from Charles Fearnley and a portfolio by Paul Hewson have strengthened the Library's collection of contemporary photography.