Library also acted as the host to a conference in June of historians working in the early modern period.

The New Zealand-United States Educational Foundation has announced that it will award research fellowships for comparative history studies at the Turnbull in 1979 and 1980. Professor Alfred W. Crosby of the University of Texas at Austin will be the first Fulbright-Hays research fellow at Turnbull in 1979.

Progress has been made during the year on the Library's programmes for the publication of manuscripts in the collections and the provision of specialist bibliographical guides. Manuscripts being readied for publication include the journal of John Boultbee (1799–1854), the 1825–27 journals of Samuel Stutchbury, the letters of Katherine Mansfield and her Urewera notebook. Work has begun on an edition of the letters of Frances Hodgkins. A descriptive bibliography of the Library's early editions of John Milton is now in press and due for publication in 1980. A microfilm edition of Katherine Mansfield's manuscripts is almost complete and negotations have begun for a calendar of the Gideon Mantell papers.

The importance of the Maori language collections has been recognised by the creation of a new position of Subject Specialist, Maori Manuscripts, with a special responsibility for developing a programme for the microfilming of important Maori language documents both in the interests of conservation and to facilitate their wider use by scholars.

The Library has with reluctance curtailed the lending of items to other institutions for display. The staff mounted only two exhibitions, 'Aviation in New Zealand' and 'Early Music', and these were supplemented by two prepared by outside organisations, a touring von Tempsky exhibition from the Waikato Art Museum and a special display prepared by Oxford University Press to mark the quincentenary of the press.

The Friends of the Turnbull Library published two issues of the Turnbull Library Record in a new format and the Endowment Trust issued three coloured prints from paintings by Augustus Earle. The National Register of Archives and Manuscripts, a cooperative venture with the National Archives, is well under way and the first instalment of 250 entries will be published in mid 1979. Regular monthly issues of the New Zealand National Bibliography appeared during the year, as well as the 1977 cumulation. Most of the work on the first volume of the retrospective New Zealand National Bibliography (from the beginning to 1889) has been completed and the entries typeset.