

accommodation within the Library of the research collections assembled by the Centre over the last ten years.

The collection, to be known as 'The Lesbian and Gay Archives of New Zealand' (LAGANZ), comprises manuscripts, personal papers, organisational archives and printed materials—books, pamphlets, serials, maps, ephemera—as well as photographs, sound recordings and memorabilia. The inclusion of the archives of both the movement for sexual law reform and the gay rights movement makes it a comprehensive research level collection.

Announcing the agreement, Sharon Dell, the Library's Keeper of Collections, said, 'These collections form a unique and valuable range of research materials on the lesbian and gay movement and we are pleased to be able to help a significant social movement to preserve its records under conditions of access which protect the often sensitive personal information such records contain.'

Concern for the future of the collections had been felt for some time. In September 1986, shortly after the passage of the Homosexual Law Reform Act, the Lesbian and Gay Rights Resource Centre was attacked by arsonists. The Turnbull Library provided assistance and shelter for the evacuation and salvage of the collections, most of which survived. The collections were then put into storage while new premises were sought. However, the cost of secure premises in the city was prohibitive for the Centre, which has been almost entirely community funded.

The sensitive content of much of the collection means special arrangements to protect confidential information are needed. Ownership and control over access to the collection remains with the trustees of the Centre, acting on behalf of the lesbian and gay community, through two honorary curators appointed by them. The curators are Sara Knox and Phil Parkinson, both currently members of the Alexander Turnbull Library staff. They have the discretion to refuse unreasonable access in accordance with donor requirements and the ethical obligations of archival custodians.

The collections have been under the control of professional librarians since they were established, and are comparatively well-controlled and organised. The printed collections are fully catalogued and a subject thesaurus provides detailed subject access to the printed books, pamphlets and serials. Topics include sexual law reform, civil rights issues, health concerns, censorship, lesbian/gay studies, the history of gay people and lesbian/gay creative writing, the gay movement, feminism, the men's movement and other social and radical movements. A particular strength is the documentation of the AIDS pandemic. Some subject access to the collections of archival papers is also provided, and inventories are in preparation.

The collections are open to all bona fide researchers, not just to lesbians and gay men, subject to donor and curatorial restrictions. Enquiries should be directed to the Curators, either at the Library or to Lesbian and Gay Archives of New Zealand, P.O. Box 11-695, Wellington.

New Zealand Federation of Labour 1937-88

In July 1988 the Library received approximately forty-five metres of the New Zealand Federation of Labour archives. The FOL was the major national