

Annual Report of the Chief Librarian, Alexander Turnbull Library, July 2008 to June 2009

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Introduction

This year was a difficult one for the Turnbull Library as it endeavoured to meet the demands associated with the redevelopment of the National Library's Wellington building. It was also a year of transition, as several key staff left the Library, new staff came on board, and leadership roles were changed. In the face of these challenges there were, nevertheless, some favourable business results. There were many notable new acquisitions; the numbers of new records added to online catalogues exceeded targets; and there was a significant increase in the amount of material preserved, digitised and made available online. Public programmes, particularly in the first half of the year, provided other highlights.

This report describes some of the challenges and issues faced by the Turnbull Library between July 2008 and June 2009, and gives an overview of core activities during this time.

Making the Collections Accessible

Providing access to the collections is central to the Turnbull's purpose. This is done in numerous ways, for example, through direct services to on-site and distant researchers, online through digitised collections and electronic finding aids, and through exhibitions and public programmes.

Services to Researchers

Approximately 24,500 researchers were assisted by the Alexander Turnbull Research Centre during the year. This is lower than last year's figure of 26,000. Reference enquiries and independent on-site use of the National Library's general collections also decreased slightly. Conversely, visits to the National Library website