

QUT Library Collection Development Manual

3. Practices

3.6. Collections

3.6.5g. Special Collecting Areas: Indigenous Studies

Identification block

QUT Library Collection Development Manual	
3.6.5g. Special Collecting Areas: Indigenous Studies	
Contact Officer	Associate Director, Library Services (Information Resources)
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Policy statement

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3.6.5g Special Collecting Areas: Indigenous Studies

1. Purpose and scope

QUT Library aligns with the University's commitment to the expansion of knowledge and understanding of Indigenous matters, and the recognition and support of Indigenous perspectives. This commitment drives the development of a wide range of resources located throughout the Library's collection.

A specific monograph fund code is allocated to the Oodgeroo Unit. In addition to this, relevant resources are also acquired from other school-based funds as the faculties work towards embedding Indigenous perspectives in their curricula.

Thus, the collection includes items dealing directly with Indigenous topics as well as materials which incorporate Indigenous perspectives within the contexts of the various academic disciplines.

Resources relating to Indigenous matters and supporting the indigenization of curricula are considered integral to student learning. They are integrated throughout the collection.

The resources also support the Library's commitment to ensuring all students meet the graduate capability, "social and ethical responsibility and an understanding of Indigenous and international perspectives".

Librarians from each of the branch libraries are assigned to the role of Liaison Librarian for the Oodgeroo Unit and the Indigenous Studies Research Network. They contribute to the expenditure of the Oodgeroo Unit library resource allocation, as well as acting as the contact for supporting the needs of Indigenous clients at their respective campus or branch libraries.

In collecting and managing material that supports the Oodgeroo Unit, the Library further aligns itself with the principles incorporated in the (ALIA for ATSI LIRN, 2000) [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Protocols for Libraries, Archives and Information Services](#).

2. Primary user groups served

Some materials dealing directly with Indigenous issues are likely to be of greatest initial interest to Indigenous students and staff.

However, all members of the QUT community are primary users of Indigenous materials, to the extent that indigenization of curricula is a University priority, creating a corresponding demand for resources in a wide range of applications.

In 2006, the University appointed a Professor of Indigenous Studies and launched the Indigenous Studies Research Network to further advance Indigenous research at QUT throughout the faculties.

3. Background to collection

The longstanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Unit became the Oodgeroo Unit in 1996, in recognition of Oodgeroo Noonuccal, who for many years worked with teacher education programs at BCAE. The first QUT Aboriginal Educational strategy was developed in 1991, and was updated subsequently. The Oodgeroo Unit provides learning and social support for Indigenous students who are enrolled throughout the university.

Materials acquired with the Oodgeroo fund reflect its origins in teacher education and the study of social/historical issues. Collecting during the era of BCAE and its predecessors focused on these areas and included a number of items contributed from Queensland Indigenous communities and schools. More recently, interest has diversified into other discipline areas, in keeping with the broader discipline interests of the University.

In consultation with the Professor of Indigenous Studies, a significant investment was made by the Oodgeroo and Education Liaison Librarians in 2006 to broaden the QUT Library collection so that it would adequately support Indigenous research Indigenous..

4. Description of existing collection

The existing collection reflects the origins and diversity of QUT's interest in Indigenous matters. Strengths include:

- Australian Aboriginal history, culture, law, society and land tenure
- Indigenous theory, race theory

- Feminist theory
- Religion and beliefs, folklore
- Social and economic conditions
- Education and health
- Government policy
- Aboriginal art
- Specific communities, with some material on Indigenous languages
- Statistical publications from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and other sources
- Works by Australian Indigenous authors

5. Scope of current collecting

The Oodgeroo Unit has a specific fund allocation from the Library Resource Allocation. However, while this is expended in consultation with staff of the Unit, and publishing sources are scanned for appropriate material, the designated fund represents only a proportion of real expenditure. Materials are also purchased from faculty funds as they relate to the various academic disciplines.

Materials dealing with Queensland Indigenous matters in particular are routinely collected, as are publications of the Aboriginal Studies Press. Informit hosts a number of databases dealing with Aboriginal subjects.

Relevant internet resources are entered in the library catalogue under the Internet Resources Program (IRP).

Appropriate television and radio broadcasts are recorded off air and added to the collection. The TV News database hosted by Informit is also well used by Oodgeroo unit teaching staff as it provides access to Indigenous programmes as well as documentaries on Indigenous issues and culture.

6. Access

Subject guides outlining key resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and Indigenous Creative Industries are provided on the library web site. These have been acknowledged by Indigenous academics as valuable as they provide a significant and visible contribution to the ongoing embedding of Indigenous perspectives across all QUT curricula.

Developments in the QUT Indigenous Studies Research Network are monitored with a view to adding value to any web presence that may be developed to support researchers.

Modification history

Date	Sections	Source	Details
[12 December 2006	Policy title changed to Indigenous	Assoc Dir (IR) via IRMG	Minor textual changes across the policy Title changed from Oodgeroo to Indigenous
9 May 2008		Liaison Librarian, Oodgeroo Unit, Kelvin	Minor textual changes and additions across the policy

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10 June 2009		Liaison Librarian, Oodgeroo Unit, Kelvin Grove	Minor textual changes and additions across the policy
27 June 2009		Approval by Library Leadership Team	General update
