3. Practices

3.6. Collections

3.6.5f. Special Collecting Areas: Newspapers

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Policy statement

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3.6.5f Special Collecting Areas: Newspapers

1. Purpose and Scope

Newspapers are a source of information on current affairs and contemporary issues at state, national and international levels. In addition to this general information role, newspapers are held to support learning and research.

The Library subscribes to selected national and international newspapers. Certain foreign newspaper subscriptions are maintained for the benefit of the larger overseas student cohorts. This allows our overseas students to keep up with the news from home.

2. Description of Existing Collection

Newspaper content is collected in the following range of formats
- Print (for current months)
- Electronic (through full text content aggregation services)
- Specialised full text newspaper databases
A wide range of newspaper and newswire content is accessible via electronic newspaper databases and aggregation services. This format is of significant use in undertaking research across a range of titles and publication dates and is more frequently a source of current information and browsing.

3. Selection

The Library prefers to select and provide access to newspapers in electronic format as per CDM 3.2.2 Serials and Electronic Databases. Selection of newspapers usually occurs at the database level rather than the individual newspaper title level.

The availability of electronic full-text versions of newspapers should be taken into account when considering purchase and retention of print formats.

4. Retention

Print copies are retained for a minimum period of one week when formatted fulltext online (e.g. Library PressDisplay) is available and 3 months when no electronic access is available. It should be noted that some key newspaper databases provide only “moving wall” access to newspapers i.e. 90 days.

5. Access

Newspaper databases and aggregator database services are available to all QUT students and staff, including off-campus. They are can be located via the search function on the Library homepage or via the “How to Find …Newspapers and news media” link. Print newspapers are not available for loan. Current issues of print newspapers are stored in designated areas in each branch library.