INTRODUCTION

The British Library has collections of government publications from most of the countries of the world including those of Australia and New Zealand. For historical reasons our official publications collections are particularly strong for Commonwealth countries, and our collection development policy is to build on these existing holdings.

The main government web portal is listed first, then parliamentary publications, legislation, and then all other titles are listed alphabetically. Each entry gives details of the shelfmark and the British Library holdings, and includes a brief annotation. As many of these titles are also available on official government websites, and an increasing number of titles are now only published online, links are also included. This guide is to federal publications only. Although the British Library does have good historical collections of some Australian state official publications, these are no longer actively collected.

Most of these publications must be consulted in the Social Sciences Reading Room and cannot be delivered elsewhere.

Except for the major reference works, which are on open access in that reading room, almost all foreign official publications are housed in a remote store and must be ordered 24 to 48 hours in advance. If you have a reader’s pass you can order material in advance by contacting the Social Science Reference Service.

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AUSTRALIA


The ‘Directories’ section has an A-Z list of all government websites as well as a listing by subject or portfolio. Within that section is a ‘Contact Government’ listing with a shortcut to telephone, e-mail, and postal addresses for all government departments and agencies.

Parliament

Australia’s Parliament is bicameral, with a Senate and a House of Representatives. As well as providing online access to debates (‘Hansard’), bills, and some Parliamentary papers, the Parliament website has a wealth of background material produced by the Parliamentary Library, such as its excellent ‘Research papers’ series http://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs


There is also a list of Royal Commissions and Commissions of Enquiry appointed by the Australian government since 1902 http://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/Browse_by_Topic/law/royalcommissions, a few with links to the full text, sometimes on other websites such as Pandora, Australia’s web archive (http://pandora.nla.gov.au/), and AustLII, the Australasian Legal Information Institute (http://www.austlii.edu.au/), a free-access resource for Australian legal information.

Papers presented to Parliament and ordered to be printed
British Library shelfmark: CSG.506
Holdings: 1901-1977


Of all the documents presented to Parliament, only documents of a substantial nature are included in the Parliamentary Papers series (PPS). This consists of reports, returns and statements from departments, authorities, parliamentary committees of inquiry and royal commissions and the like. Also included in the series are any other papers of an ad hoc nature, including ministerial statements and petitions, which either House has ordered to be printed. Documents in this series bear a Parliamentary Paper number. A series of published indexes to the papers are held in the Social Sciences Reading Room at shelfmark OPL994.0043.
A Parliamentary papers series continued after 1977 but was no longer available as a bound volumes series. The British Library continued to acquire many Parliamentary papers separately, as committee reports for example, or sometimes in other series, e.g. as departmental annual reports. However in 2008 the Table Office of the Department of the House of Representatives once again made the Parliamentary papers available as a set, and so they can again be held together at one shelfmark and ordered by paper number within the session:

**Australian Parliamentary Papers series**
British Library shelfmark: OPH.9.x.44
Holdings: 2008-

Lists of the documents included in the Parliamentary Papers series by calendar year from 2002 onwards are available at:
(or http://australia.gov.au/publications/parliamentary-publications)

ParlInfo search lets you search and obtain Australian Parliamentary information including Hansards, bills, senate journals, votes and proceedings, notice papers, committee reports, the Parliamentary Handbook, newspaper clippings, etc. This links to the full text when available.
http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/search.w3p;adv=yes

An index to the documents presented to Parliament from the 38th Parliament (1996-97-98) is available on the Parliament website. It is possible to search by author, title, notes, paper number, or date tabled

**Parliamentary Debates**
British Library shelfmark: CSG.541
Holdings: 1901-1953.

Complete set of bound volumes. Also known as Hansard. From 8 September 1953 the debates of both Houses of Parliament were published separately.

**Parliamentary Debates - Senate**
British Library shelfmark: CSG.541(2)
Holdings: 1953-


**Parliamentary Debates - House of Representatives**
British Library shelfmark: CSG.541(3)
Holdings: 1953-

Mainly bound volumes but a few parts missing.

The electronic version of Hansard is available via the Parliament website back to 1901. It is possible to search Hansard using the ‘Parlinfo Search’ service, or to browse and download Hansard for a particular date. Online indexes to the Hansard bound volumes for 2004-2006 can also be downloaded.
Electronic versions of the committee Hansards date back to October 1988, with PDF files available from 1996 onwards.

Bills – Senate
British Library shelfmark: CSG.540/5(2)
Holdings: 1966-1997 (Unbound and incomplete)

Bills – House of Representatives
British Library shelfmark: CSG.540/5
Holdings: 1962-1997 (Unbound and incomplete)

Most bills are introduced through the House of Representatives. Information on current and previous bills from both Houses can be found on the Parliament website.

The Parliamentary Library produces very useful ‘Bills Digests’ which give background information, explain the purpose of the bill, and outline its main provisions.

Parliamentary Handbook of the Commonwealth of Australia
Current ed.: BL shelfmark OPL.328.94 (Social Sciences Reading Room).
Earlier eds.: BL shelfmark CSG.567
Holdings: 1984-

Began in 1915 as the Biographical handbook and record of elections for the Parliament of the Commonwealth, covering the years 1901-1915. Title varies. This and other early editions are also held at BL shelfmark CSG.567. Set lacks 16th (1968), 17th (1971) and 27th (1996) editions. A new edition is published for each parliament. Recent Handbooks are also available online, and information from earlier handbooks can be searched via Parlinfo.

Legislation

Acts of Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia
British Library shelfmark: CSG.540
Holdings: 1901-

Bound volumes of Acts. The first volume for 1901/2 was published in 1903. The volumes in our set up to 1919 are in poor condition. There is online access to current and historical legislation through COMLAW (Commonwealth of Australia Law). All Acts still in force are on COMLAW, together with any amended versions since 1973. Acts ‘as made’ are also available from 1973.

Statutory Rules Commonwealth of Australia
British Library shelfmark: CSG.557

Delegated legislation. The Statutory Rules (SRs) series ceased publication at the end of 2004 and SRs were replaced by Legislative Instruments (LIs) and Select Legislative Instruments (SLIs). These are not being published in bound volumes and the British Library is not collecting the loose printed instruments. However, by law they must be published online on COMLAW.
http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Browse/ByTitle/LegislativeInstruments/Current

Other Official Publications

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**

All Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publications from 1994 onwards are available on their website and there is a rolling programme of digitizing and adding older publications. Many series are no longer produced in hard copy. Statistics are available free of charge and can be browsed by title, subject or release date. Among the publications available are *Australian social trends*, *Australian economic indicators*, *Australian demographic statistics*, *Household expenditure survey*, *Labour force Australia*, and *Crime and safety Australia*.

**Australian Institute of Health and Welfare**

While the Australian Bureau of Statistics website is the starting point for most statistical enquiries, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare is the country’s main agency for health and welfare statistics and information. Publications available free of charge on their website include *Health expenditure Australia*, *Welfare expenditure Australia*, and *Child protection Australia*. The Institute’s two flagship publications *Australia’s health* (1988-) and *Australia’s welfare* (1993-) are all available on the website but still occasionally acquired in hard copy:

**Australia’s health**
British Library shelfmark: OPH.9.x.36
Holdings: No. 10 (2006)-

**Australia’s welfare**
British Library shelfmark: OPH.9.x.37
Holdings: No. 8 (2007)-

**Australian defence force journal**
British Library shelfmark: CSG.588/58
Holdings: No. 1 (1976)-

Published for, and later by, the Department of Defence; until no. 86 (1991) was entitled Defence force journal. All the issues are also available on the journal’s website
http://www.adfjournal.adc.edu.au/site/
Census of Population and Housing
Title varies. Catalogued separately
Holdings:
1911 – British Library shelfmark: CSG.494/2 (complete in 3 vol.)
Census bulletin nos. 1-17 are at CSG.494.
1921 – British Library shelfmark: CSG.494/4 (complete in 2 vol.)
Census bulletin nos. 1-26 are at CSG.494/3.
1933 – British Library shelfmark: CSG.494/5 (Vol. 1-2 only; v. 3 not held.)
Census bulletin nos. 1-25 not held
1947 – British Library shelfmark: CSG.494/9 (complete in 3 vol.)
Census bulletin nos. 1-25 are at CSG.494/6.
1954 – British Library shelfmark: CSG.514/50(2) (complete in 8 vol.)
Census bulletins are at CSG.494/18.
1961 – British Library shelfmark: CSG.511/23 (complete in 8 vol.)
Census bulletins are at CSG.494/25.
1966 – British Library shelfmark: CSG.544/15
Census bulletin nos. 1-13 are at CSG.494/38.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) website has a wealth of current and historical census data going back to the 1911 census.

For information from the 1996, 2001, and 2006 censuses see

For the 1911-1991 censuses see

The website also hosts the regularly updated Australian Historical Population Statistics with data back to the beginning of European settlement in spreadsheet format.
http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/mf/3105.0.65.001

Commonwealth of Australia gazette. Government notices
British Library shelfmark: OPH.9.x.38
Holdings: 2008-

Published weekly and contains a range of legislation, including proclamations, information about legislation, notices of Australian government departments, courts notices, and other notices required under Commonwealth law.

The Commonwealth of Australia gazette is now published as several separate publications and the British Library only acquires the Government notices gazette in hard copy. For information on other gazettes and to download online issues see

Commonwealth of Australia gazette
British Library shelfmark: OGA.160
Some loose issues for 1982-1987 are held for the Commonwealth of Australia gazette.
General and Commonwealth of Australia gazette. Public service at the same British Library shelfmark.

Documents on Australian foreign policy
British Library shelfmark: CSG.588/729
Later volumes in the series are thematic and unnumbered. Please search Primo for individual volumes. For information on these publications and online access to historical documents see the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website

Year book Australia
Current ed.: BL shelfmark OPL.994.0025 (Social Sciences Reading Room).
Earlier eds.: BL shelfmark: CSG.544/5

Published under various titles since 1908, initially as the Official year book of the Commonwealth of Australia, this is the main published general source of official statistical information. Earlier holdings are also at shelfmark CSG.544/5. Our set lacks nos. 63 (1979), 65 (1981), 67 (1983), 72 (1989), 74 (1991) and 77 (1995). All editions are now available from the Year Books pages on the Australian Bureau of Statistics website.

Annual report – Reserve Bank of Australia
British Library shelfmark: CSG.562/3
Holdings: 2007-

Previously published as Report and financial statements, reports for 1960-1990 are also held at shelfmark CSG.562/3. Reports from 1998 onwards, together with the Reserve Bank Bulletin and other publications, are available on the Bank’s website.

Taxation statistics – Australian Taxation Office
British Library shelfmark: CSG.588/909
Holdings: 1981/82-
Also available from 1999/2000 on the Australian Tax Office statistics centre website.

Finally, the National Library of Australia (NLA) has a useful online guide to Australian government publications called GovPubs: the Australian Government Publications Guide. Although it is primarily a guide to holdings of government publications in the NLA and Australian state libraries, it is also a useful tool for locating government publications online
NEW ZEALAND

Government of New Zealand web portals:
http://newzealand.govt.nz/
http://www.beehive.govt.nz/

Gateways to all government websites, they both include an A-Z of government agencies and ministries, contact details, and quick links to government agencies by subject.

Parliament
http://www.parliament.govt.nz/

New Zealand’s Parliament is unicameral, the one chamber being the House of Representatives. There was an Upper House, the Legislative Council, which was abolished on 1 January 1951. The Parliament website provides online access to the full text of debates, bills, and many parliamentary papers and petitions presented to the House. The Parliamentary support section includes the useful ‘Research Papers’ series which cover a wide variety of topics deemed ‘of relevance to Parliament’

Journals of the House of Representatives of New Zealand and Appendices to the Journals of the House of Representatives (AJHR)
British Library shelfmark: CSG.637
Holdings: 1858-

Bound volumes. The Journals are the official record of the proceedings of the House of Representatives and list accounts and papers presented to the House, Bills and their progress, members of select committees, and petitions presented. The Appendices, also known as the ‘A to the Js’, contain parliamentary papers and reports published by order of the House and are kept at the same BL shelfmark. These include annual reports, budget documents, international treaties, commission of enquiry reports, etc. Each parliamentary paper is assigned a shoulder number

A Legislative and foreign affairs
B Finance, revenue, etc
C Land, agriculture and environment
D Resources and Energy
E Welfare and justice
F Communications
G General (Includes annual reports of Departments)
H Royal Commissions
I Select Committee Reports  (Not all Select Committee Reports are tabled in Parliament)

From 1999/2002 bound volumes of the AJHR contain only the last category, the Select Committee Reports and a new category J (described as ‘papers relating to the business of the House’). The other papers, now bound annually and still with ‘shoulder numbers’ A to H, are published under the title Parliamentary papers. We do not acquire this new series in hard copy but they are available on the Parliament website.
http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/PB/Presented/

The National Library of New Zealand is coordinating a digitisation project to make the AJHR available online. Selected volumes are on the AtoJsOnline site
http://www.atojs.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/atojs. For information about the project see
Journals and Appendix to the Journals of the Legislative Council of New Zealand
British Library shelfmark: CSG.636

Volumes for 1860/66 and 1915-1950 are for just the Journals, and from 1867-1914 for the ‘Journals and Appendix …’
The Legislative Council was the upper house of the New Zealand Parliament from 1853 until it was abolished in 1951.

Parliamentary debates (Hansard)
British Library shelfmark: CSG.670(1)
Holdings: 1854-1866 (published in 5 bound vols. 1885-1887)

British Library shelfmark: CSG.670(2)
Holdings: 1867-

Nearly all bound volumes. Debates from February 2003 onwards are available on the Parliament website.

There is an unofficial database of debates from September 1987 – June 2007 at http://www.vdig.net/hansard/index.jsp

Bills before Parliament
British Library shelfmark: CSG.638/2

Bound volumes are held for 1935-1974, then unbound and incomplete holdings for 1975-1994.

Legislation

The Parliamentary Counsel Office (PCO) is New Zealand’s law drafting office. The PCO provides free access to up to date versions of current statutes, bills, and regulations via its New Zealand Legislation website http://www.legislation.govt.nz/default.aspx


This is hosted on the New Zealand Legal Information Institute (NZLII) website which has other useful legal databases such as the 1908 Consolidation, a collection of some 208 Acts made via the Consolidated Statutes Enactment Act 1908 to revise, re-enact, and replace 806 earlier Acts. http://www.nzlii.org/nz/legis/hist_act_1908/
New Zealand statutes
British Library shelfmark: CSG.638
Holdings: 2005-

Bound volumes. Formerly Statutes of New Zealand which are also held at BL shelfmark CSG.638 from 1854-2004. (Set lacks: 1857, 1859.)

Printed Acts with all the amendments made to them are called reprints. A 16 volume Reprint of the Statutes of New Zealand, 1908-1957 (Wellington, 1958-61) is held at BL shelfmark CSG.638/5, and annual volumes of Reprinted Statutes of New Zealand for 1965-2000 are held at BL shelfmarks CSG.700/452 (bound vols. 1-18 published 1979-87) and CSG.638/6 (fuller set but only bound from vol. 28, published 1992, onwards.)

Other Official Publications

New Zealand gazette
British Library shelfmark: OGN.150
Holdings: 12 Jan 1859; 31 May 1869; 1878-1880; 1883; unbound parts for 1912-18; 1920-21; 1923-25; bound vols. from 1934-73; then unbound parts for 1974 onwards. A microfilm of the Gazette (together with other government publications) from 1841-1860 is held at British Library shelfmark SPR.Mic.A.74. There is a contents list at the beginning of each of the four reels.

Includes official notices, proclamations, summaries of parliamentary business, appointments to official bodies, etc. For information on the Gazette see the Department of Internal Affairs website, which hosts a searchable database of all Gazette notices from September 1993 and PDFs of all issues from 2000 http://www.gazette.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/Services-New-Zealand-Gazette-New-Zealand-Gazette-On-Line?OpenDocument

New Zealand official yearbook
Current ed.: BL shelfmark OPL.993.10025 (Social Sciences Reading Room). Earlier eds.: BL shelfmark: CSG.646/23

First published in 1893. In spite of its name the official yearbook, the longest-running New Zealand publication, has since 2000 been published biennially. It is published by Statistics New Zealand and includes statistical data and documents recent social, business and government developments. Statistics New Zealand has announced that the 2010 edition will be the last printed and are looking at ways of making the kind of information previously found in the Yearbook available online. Digital versions of all of the yearbooks are available on the Statistics New Zealand website http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/snapshots-of-nz/digital-yearbook-collection.aspx

Statistics New Zealand
http://www.stats.govt.nz/
The national statistical office, most of its publications are freely available on its website. Among these are *Consumers price index*, *Gross domestic product*, *Household economic survey*, *Marriages civil unions and divorces*, *National accounts*, *New Zealand income survey*, and *Productivity statistics*.


**Key statistics**

British Library shelfmark: CSG.680  
Holdings: Feb. 1989-2010  

As the information is freely available on the Statistics New Zealand website *Key statistics* is no longer printed. For data previously published there, see [http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/snapshots-of-nz/index-key-statistics.aspx](http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/snapshots-of-nz/index-key-statistics.aspx)

**New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings**

Title varies. Catalogued separately; please consult the Explore the British Library for shelfmarks.

Holdings:  
1851 – Results appeared in *Auckland government gazette*, vol. 1, no. 5 (31 May 1853). British Library shelfmark: SPR.Mic.A.74 (Reel 2)  
1858 – British Library shelfmark: CSG.646 (in 1859 *Statistics of New Zealand*)  
1861 – British Library shelfmark: CSG.646 (in 1861 *Statistics of New Zealand*)  
1864 – British Library shelfmark: CSG.646 (in 1864 *Statistics of New Zealand*)  
1871 – British Library shelfmark: CSG.624/2. (Another copy at CSG.624/6)  
1874 – British Library shelfmark: CSG.624/3  
1878 – British Library shelfmark: CSG.624/4  
1881 – British Library shelfmark: CSG.625/26(1)  
1886 – British Library shelfmark: CSG.625/26(2)  
1891 – British Library shelfmark: CSG.626/2  
1896 – British Library shelfmark: CSG.626/2 (2 vol.)  
1901 – British Library shelfmark: CSG.627/17 (Report) & CSG.627/18 (Results) (2 vols.)  
1906 – British Library shelfmark: CSG.627/19 (Report) & CSG.627/20 (Results) (2 vols.)  
1911 – British Library shelfmark: CSG.627/21 (Report) & CSG.627/22 (Results) (2 vols.)  
1916 – British Library shelfmark: CSG.627/24 (Report), CSG.627/23(1) & CSG.624/23(2) (Results) (14 pts.)  
1921 – British Library shelfmark: CSG.627/25 (Report), CSG.627/26(3) & CSG.627/26(4) (Results) (17 pts.)  
Interim returns at shelfmarks CSG.627/26(1) & CSG.627/26(2)  
1926 – British Library shelfmark: CSG.627/11 (17 vol.)  
1971 – British Library shelfmark: CSG.646/105 (Incomplete holdings. Check Explore the British Library for parts held.)
1976 – Incomplete holdings. Check Explore the British Library for parts held.

The Statistics New Zealand website has data and tables from the 1996 census onwards

Research report. Statistics New Zealand
British Library shelfmark: CSG.700/1930

All of the research reports are available on the Statistics New Zealand website

Demographic trends. Statistics New Zealand
British Library shelfmark: CSG.700/1372
Holdings: 1987-2007

Annual. Statistics New Zealand’s main reference volume on population and related statistics. It includes information on population change and structure, fertility, marriage, divorce, mortality, external migration, sub national populations, induced abortions, and national and sub national demographic projections of the New Zealand population. Now only published online. Recent editions are available on the Statistics New Zealand website

Labour market statistics
British Library shelfmark: CSG.700/1726
Holdings: 1991-2008

Annual. This was Statistics New Zealand’s main reference publication on labour market-related statistics, bringing together a comprehensive range of up-to-date statistics about New Zealand's labour market and employment situation. It included statistics on the working-age population and the labour force; people employed, unemployed and not in the labour force; income; hours of work and earnings; industrial relations; knowledge and skills. Many of the statistics are presented by ethnicity. International comparisons of a selection of labour market statistics are also provided. Statistics in this field are now available in a number of different sources on the Statistics New Zealand website http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/income-and-work.aspx and the Dept. of Labour website http://www.dol.govt.nz/lmr/

Screen Industry of New Zealand
British Library shelfmark: OPH.9.x.46
Holdings: 2005-

Report of the New Zealand Defence Force
British Library shelfmark: CSG.700/1746
Holdings: 1990; 1992-

Reports from 2003 onwards, along with other publications such as the Statement of intent, are also available on the NZDF website http://www.nzdf.mil.nz/corporate-documents/default.htm

Statement of intent of the New Zealand Defence Force
British Library shelfmark: CSG.700/1823
Holdings: 2004-

Continues the Departmental forecast report held at the same shelfmark for 1996/97-2003/04.

Bulletin – Reserve Bank of New Zealand
British Library shelfmark: CSG.622/3
Holdings: 1991- (Incomplete.)

Quarterly. Bulletins from 1980 onwards are available on the Bank’s website http://www.rbnz.govt.nz/research/bulletin/

Research paper – Reserve Bank of New Zealand

Annual report – Reserve Bank of New Zealand
British Library shelfmark: CSG.622/2
Holdings: 1939-1955; 1957-1995; 2004/05-
Annual reports from 1997 onwards are available on the Bank’s website http://www.rbnz.govt.nz/about/whatwedo/0094054.html

Annual report – Antarctica New Zealand
British Library shelfmark: OPH.9.30
Holdings: 2004/05-
Annual reports from 2000/01 onwards can be downloaded from the Antarctica NZ website.