

Federation University Australia Historical Collection scope

Background

The Federation University Australia Historical Collection was established to develop and maintain a permanent collection of historical items that illustrate and record the history of Federation University Australia. It is one of Australia's oldest University Collections and items have local, state and national significance. Its holdings contribute to the nation's story and the nation's shared heritage collections. The Historical Collection dates from the planning for, and establishment of, the Ballarat School of Mines from 1869. The Collection's roots are with the Ballarat School of Mines Museum, established in 1872. The Collection holds a diverse range of items of enormous cultural and research importance. The Collection is used by students, staff and community members, with the Vice Chancellor's Office, Alumni and Marketing often sourcing factual information and images.

Holdings include manuscripts, primary source materials, objects, photographs, plans and artworks which demonstrate the evolution of teaching styles/programs. The Collection is extensive, containing approximately:

- 4000 Books/Booklets
- 12000 Documents
- 12000 Objects
- 4000 Photographs

An important function of the Historical Collection is to document stories and facts surrounding items in the Collection making them more relevant and accessible to users. The record about an item in the Collection delves deeply into provenance, relevant dates, associated people, and records the stories (ie the reason they are in the Collection) of each item. This detailed information is harvested by search engines, thereby increasing access and relevance for research and interpretation

Duplication of holdings of material across the Historical Collection and Library collections is avoided where possible.

Scope of the Historical Collection

The Historical Collection illustrates and records the history of Federation University Australia, and its community. It is a dispersed Collection located at both the Mt Helen and Gippsland campuses.

The Collection at Mt Helen includes material from the Ballarat School of Mines and its successor institutions including the University of Ballarat; Ballarat School of Mines; Ballarat Teachers' College; State College of Victoria, Ballarat; the Ballarat Institute of Advanced Education; Ballarat College of Advanced Education; Ballarat University College; Wimmera Institute of TAFE; and Federation University Australia.

Material relating to the history of the Gippsland campus and its successor institutions including the Yallourn Technical College, Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education and Monash University Gippsland Campus is located in the Gippsland Library.

In addition, items may be collected which focus on people with significant links to the University and the local regions and places they are associated with.

Complementary collections

The Historical Collection is complemented by the holdings of the University Record Management Services. The latter has responsibility for retention of public records generated internally within the University. However, there may be occasions when records relating to the establishment and development of the University, its courses, its buildings and places, or its community, are selected as not to be retained indefinitely. In this case, the Manager, Record Management Services will provide the Curator, Art & Historical Collections with the opportunity to examine these and justify where appropriate their retention as 'historically significant'. In these instances, appropriate retention, storage and access will be agreed between the University Dean of Students and Registrar, the Curator, Art & Historical Collections, and the Director, Library and Learning Spaces. Such records will be annotated as 'permanent retention' in the University Records Management System.

The Gippsland and Regional Studies Collection is a comprehensive collection of primary and secondary source materials, in any subject area and in any format, relating to the Gippsland region. The collection supports research and interpretation of the Gippsland region, as well as rural and regional Australia. At present there is a strong emphasis on the history, literature, Aboriginal cultures, education, land use, environment and natural resources, and social structure of Gippsland.

Some holdings of the Library Research Collection also complement the Historical Collection. Some books accessioned into the Historical Collection have been catalogued and are housed in the Library Research Collection. The latter consists of published works that are considered rare or valuable or historically significant; limited editions of fewer than 500 copies; copies signed by the author if the author has an association with the University, or is a prominent local, Victorian or Australian identity; local histories of central and western Victoria; works by or about the University or its precursor institutions; Eureka Stockade, industrial heritage, especially local, and the history or operation of mines and mining in Australia.

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