

Macmillan Brown Collections Development Plan 2024-2028

Scope and purpose

This plan is for the ongoing development of the Macmillan Brown Collections, which are managed by Macmillan Brown Library alongside the University of Canterbury's other permanent collections (the UC Library Special Collections, the UC Library Archives, and the UC Art Collection). Developed from the original library of John Macmillan Brown, the collection includes mainly published monographs and serials, but also some unpublished materials such as ephemera, reports, and maps, with a focus on the Pacific, including Aotearoa New Zealand and te ao Māori.

The purpose of the Macmillan Brown Collections is to support learning, teaching, and research at UC. The collections support *Te Rautaki Māori Strategy of Māori Development 2020-2030* in contributing to indigenous knowledge economies and supporting cultural competency for staff and students. The collections are also vital in supporting Pacific success and contributing to the *UC Pacific Strategy*. The Macmillan Brown Collections are widely recognised as having significant value for local, national, and international research communities, being part of a global network of cultural heritage collections retained permanently by their institutions.

As stated in the [Information Resources Policy](#), UC Library respects the rights of indigenous peoples to retain control and intellectual property over cultural heritage collections such as the Macmillan Brown Library Collections in alignment with Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.

Note on naming: *'The Macmillan Brown Library' is the term used for the library that manages the Macmillan Brown collection and now other associated collections. In the past the terms have been used interchangeably to describe the collection covered by this plan and the library itself.*

Background and legal status

The Macmillan Brown Library was established as a separate collection within the University of Canterbury Library in 1935, when it was received as a bequest from John Macmillan Brown (1845-1935), who was one of the University's foundation professors (1874-1895). He also bequeathed an endowment to the University of Canterbury to fund the Macmillan Brown Library and the Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies.

The terms of the will authorised the development of his library as a permanent research collection for "the sympathetic investigation and research of the history, traditions, customs, laws and ideas of the peoples of the Pacific generally."¹ In subsequent development of the collection, UC Library has regarded the Pacific as including Aotearoa, as approved by the endowment trustees. Empowered by the Local Legislation Act, 1941, no.47, UC Library transferred materials covering non-Pacific subjects into general collections; such materials are

¹ "The will of Professor J. Macmillan Brown." (1935). [BROWN John Macmillan - Christchurch - Retired University Professor \(natlib.govt.nz\)](#). Accessed 9/7/2024.

now gradually being transferred back to the Macmillan Brown Library in response to changes within the borrowable collections.

General criteria

The collections should support research on Aotearoa and the Pacific to postdoctoral level and therefore should meet the criteria of the Research Library Group Conspectus Level 4 (Library of Congress). This level is defined as:

“A collection that includes the major published source materials required for dissertations and independent research, including materials containing research reporting, new findings, scientific experimental results, and other information useful to researchers. It is intended to include all important reference works and a wide selection of specialized monographs, as well as a very extensive collection of journals and major indexing and abstracting services in the field. Older material is retained for historical research.”²

To fulfil these research criteria and support teaching and learning, two types of collections are maintained: permanent and provisory collections.

Permanent collections

The Macmillan Brown permanent collections have lower frequency of use over a longer period than the provisory collections. These collections are more comprehensive to meet the requirements of a research collection. This level of collecting takes a long-term view in supporting current and future teaching and research needs at UC, including print and born digital materials. Items are permanently retained and stored in closed access stacks and/or digital storage, being of appreciating value and difficult, if not impossible, to replace if lost or damaged.

Provisory collections

The Macmillan Brown provisory collections primarily consist of publications that support current undergraduate teaching needs. It also includes some core materials which have enduring high frequency of use. Material is held on open access shelves within the library or, where digital, accessed via the library’s discovery system. Resources in the provisory collections are regularly assessed for transfer to permanent collections. Duplicate reference and borrowing copies may be acquired to meet teaching needs.

Geographical definition of the Pacific

The geographical definition of the Pacific for the purpose of the Macmillan Brown Library collection includes the following islands:

American Samoa	Niue
Cook Islands	Northern Mariana Islands
Easter Island	Palau
Federated States of Micronesia	Papua New Guinea
Fiji	Samoa

² Library of Congress. (n.d.). Collecting levels. [Collecting Levels - Acquisitions \(Library of Congress\) \(loc.gov\)](https://www.loc.gov/about/collecting-levels). Accessed 5/4/2024.

French Polynesia
Guam
Hawaiian Islands
Kiribati
Marshall Islands
Nauru
New Caledonia
New Zealand/Aotearoa

Solomon Islands
Tokelau
Tonga
Tuvalu
Vanuatu
Wallis and Futuna
West Papua

In addition, the collection will 'follow the cultural footsteps' of Pacific Islander people, including material on Pacific Islander people in other countries, and on the influence of other states and organisations on the Pacific Islands and their people.

Geographical areas excluded from Macmillan Brown Library's permanent collecting policy include:

- Asia on the Pacific rim
- North and South America on the Pacific rim
- Australia
- Indonesia (except those Melanesian portions absorbed illegally into Indonesia namely West Papua/Irian Jaya, and East Timor)
- The Philippines
- Taiwan
- Japan

Material from excluded areas may be purchased to support research in the Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies but will not be permanently retained. Non-permanent research material for those areas can be acquired for the general library collections when required.

Subject criteria

Items collected for the permanent and provisory collections range across all the subject areas listed below, with the provisory collections focussing on currently taught subjects at undergraduate level, or enduring high use items.

The first priority in each subject area will be the acquisition of publications which have a predominantly Māori or Pacific Islands focus and those which are written in the indigenous languages of the region and/or by indigenous authors. The second priority is New Zealand material, with a particular focus on Christchurch and Canterbury.

Mātauranga tikanga tangata | Anthropology

Mahi toi | Arts

Tuakiri | Culture & Identity

Ohaoha | Economics

Ako | Education (excluding historical textbooks and non-current serial runs)

Mātauranga momo tangata | Ethnology, Ethnography

Kōrero nehe | History

Papa whenua | Geography (non-technical)

Hononga tāwāhi (Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa | International relations (Pacific Islands)

Reo | Language
Ture | Law
Tuhinga kōrero | Literature, fiction & poetry
Puoro | Music
Pūrākau | Traditional Stories
Tōrangapū | Politics
Hāhi | Religion
Pūtaiao | Sciences (non-technical)
Mātauranga hāpori | Sociology
Te Tiriti o Waitangi | Treaty of Waitangi³

*Materials to support Māori and teacher education programmes, including multiple copies of readers in te reo Māori, are held in the Central Library collections. Readers are retained in the Macmillan Brown Library as part of the permanent collection if they have Māori or Pacific content. Textbooks are retained and administered as part of the Education Historical Collection.

**Selected poetry and fiction are acquired, primarily that by Māori and Pacific authors, with most current New Zealand poetry and fiction held in the Central Library collections.

Ephemera

Selective (Canterbury) ephemera is acquired to enhance existing collections (e.g. Artist files).

Local and family history

Selected local history resources with an academic focus, relating to UC's teaching and research needs, are collected. Selected material will fall within the listed subject areas, with a focus on Christchurch and Canterbury, to enable the teaching of global ideas in a local context.

Christchurch City Libraries has regional responsibility for collecting genealogical and family history resources for general community use under a memorandum of understanding. Christchurch and New Zealand local histories, institutional histories and family histories will be collected as a lower priority as funds allow. Whakapapa information is collected where it relates to academic research needs. Information relating to the history of the University of Canterbury is collected.

Compilations of obituaries, birth and death notices, cemetery records, passenger lists, street directories and other demographic research materials of that kind are not collected.

Funding

Each year UC Library receives endowment funding from the Macmillan Brown Estate which is managed by Perpetual Guardian Trustees. This is deposited into UC Library's operational budget and used to fund Pacific Island and general New Zealand materials for the Macmillan Brown Collection. Māori material are purchased using UC Library's collection budget.

³ Māori subject headings sourced from [Ngā Upoko Tukutuku](#) and [Paekupu](#).

Donations

Gifts or donations of material are accepted, provided they fall within the collection priorities detailed in this plan. Therefore, subject specialists are consulted prior to acceptance of donations for Macmillan Brown Library collections. Availability of storage space and cost of processing will be factored into decisions to accept or decline items.

Duplication

The Macmillan Brown Library assumes primary responsibility for the selection and purchase of New Zealand, Māori, and Pacific Islands materials for permanent retention. Duplicate copies may also be purchased for provisory collections to meet demand for information across these subject areas due to the requirements of the Graduate Profile.

Transferring materials

New Zealand, Māori and/or Pacific material no longer required for general UC Library collections will be evaluated by subject specialists for possible relocation to Macmillan Brown Library before being disposed of or relocated.