

The Commonwealth studies collection covers the history, politics, and social sciences of the Commonwealth as an organisation and among individual member countries. The Commonwealth is defined broadly to include non-independent territories and members currently not in membership due to withdrawal or suspension.

The collection contains material spanning c. 1800 to date with a strong emphasis on the twentieth century. There is a wide range of materials, including pamphlets, working papers and reports. The pamphlets and ephemera, relating to political activity, struggles for independence, and the business of government across the Commonwealth, form a substantial strength of the collection. The collection includes topics such as statistics and general reference material, history and geography, population, settlement, migration, race, women's empowerment, economics, agriculture and industry, resources, the environment, international economic relations, globalisation and regionalisation, international relations, security, government, politics, participation and human rights. The collection is strong overall but has a particular reputation for coverage of the Caribbean, Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific, and Southern Africa. Although a small part of the collection, coverage of modern Cyprus is strong. The collections of national and international statistical annuals as well as census reports and the colonial Blue Books, and of official and government publications form part of the collection. Literature, music and cultural studies are not part of the collection, except where the work takes a political approach.

There is much related material elsewhere in the Library, of particular interest being the Apartheid archives, the Commonwealth archives on education, and archives related to British slavery.

Digital Humanities

The Library collects materials on the field of digital humanities both as a methodological approach and as a field of study. The subject is transdisciplinary and concerns the use of digital and computational tools in humanities research, investigating digitised and born-digital text, images, archives and data, and the digital in culture, history and society. New works are collected in the following areas: general works such as introductions and companions, theory and criticism on practice and principles, studies and results of projects, teaching and learning using digital humanities, digital and online research methods, digital cultural heritage and select practical and technical guides, particularly to support the need of students, researchers and staff of the School of Advanced Study.

Subject-specific material is also acquired across the Library's collections. In English literature works explore how various digital tools and methods are used to analyse and interpret literature, either across a broad range of texts or focussed on single authors. When related to literature, computational analysis can include stylometry (statistical analysis of literary style), 'distant' reading of texts, spatial interpretation and visualisation (including mapping). In languages digital research encompasses corpus linguistics, digital discourse analysis, digital cultural studies, translation studies and other approaches to language study, written or verbal. In history, digital history is an established subdiscipline of history research as well as digital humanities. It includes historical studies which use digital methods to study and present the outputs of their chosen subject area as well as research into the history of digital technologies and their impact on society in the 20th and 21st centuries. In philosophy the emerging field of digital empirical philosophy of science extracts novel insights from large electronic resources and data to draw generalisation about how science is done. A similar approach is also used to interpret whole periods within the history of philosophy. In psychology, there is a growing application of text analysis methods for personality recognition, allowing for accurately extracting information about people and groups, including personalities, individual differences, social processes and mental health through the words that people write and speak. In the social sciences large-scale analysis of digitised

Germanic

The Library's Germanic collections are broad ranging and transdisciplinary and cover the languages, literature and culture of the Germanic speaking peoples. While they span the Northern and Eastern Germanic languages, they retain a strong focus on the Western Germanic languages.

given to works with interdisciplinary approaches, particularly where the study of science intersects with humanities research. The collections cover late antiquity to the present day, chiefly but not exclusively focused on Britain and Europe. Areas collected cover the history of mathematics,

The subject covers the extensive list of topics detailed in the short title catalogue of Harry Price's library (1929), which includes psychical research, spiritualism, occultism, mysticism, ghosts and hauntings, mediums, miracles, telepathy and extrasensory abilities, hypnotism, mesmerism, alleged abnormal photography, fortune telling and divination, esotericism, legerdemain, illusions, stage magic and card tricks, astrology, witchcraft, faith healing, all aspects of magic, satanism and demonology, "quacks", confidence tricksters and fakery. Coverage has also expanded to include developing subjects of research and academic interest including conspiracy theories, parapsychology, counterculture, psychedelia and mind-altering substances, contemporary practices in magic and paganism, scepticism, UFOs and cryptozoology. Several academic series in the subject are acquired, for example Oxford Studies in Western Esotericism and Palgrave Historical Studies in Witchcraft and Magic. Material is collected from a range of viewpoints.

Collecting in this area complements holdings in psychology, arts and culture, anthropology, folklore and supernatural and gothic literature.

Manuscript Studies and Palaeography

