The Library has an extensive collection of manuscripts and archives comprising nearly 5000 accessions, many of which are either research workers reports and field notebooks or theses of which over 800 are held. Included in the Collections are a number of collected papers, diaries, correspondence and related material of individuals and collections on a single subject. As readers of Aboriginal History may be unaware of some of the material in this last category, the following is a list of the main collections as well as some important single items. Copies of material held elsewhere are also listed and, in the case of major collections, the archives holding the originals are noted at the end of the entry. The information noted is uneven as calendaring of collections did not commence until 1977; where detailed information is not yet available, the number of boxes is noted as a guide to the size of the collection. Access is restricted in some cases.

Abbie, Andrew Arthur, 1905-1976. Papers, manuscripts, letters, computer punch cards, offprints and related material on Aboriginal growth patterns, skinfold, dentition, blood groups and other aspects of human biology; the collection includes 332 offprints by various authors on human biology and archaeology of the Aborigines, and a large number of a general nature on similar subjects. 1615 items.

Barratt, Glyn R.V. collector. Materials relating to the early Russian visits to Port Jackson (1814-25), their ethnological significance, related material and translations from the Russian. 57 parts.

Bathurst Island Mission, NT. Genealogical data, c. 1950-67, compiled by Father J. Cosgrove. c. 400 cards.


Beagle Bay Mission. Nyol-Nyol language material, including French dictionary, Djawi vocabulary, notes on grammar kinship daily life, c. 1890 – c. 1930. 1 box.


—— Journal on HMS Rattlesnake and HMS Meander, 1849-51. (microfilm) (State Library, NSW).

Casey, Dermot Armstrong, 1897-1977. Papers, manuscripts and letters on prehistory and archaeology including excavation standards and surveying, anthropology, history, exploration, photography, offprints and related material. c. 285 items and c. 192 letters.

Church Missionary Society, Roper River Mission Station. Correspondence on establishment of mission and securing of lease, 1908-67. 97 leaves.

Davies, Arthur Oliver Cromwell. Notes and papers on the Murray Islands, Torres Strait, including correspondence with A.C. Haddon, 1924-72. 20 items.
Etheridge, Robert, 1847-1926. Manuscripts including notes on Aboriginal place names and ethnophytology, 1895-1920. 1 box.

Gardner, William. Production and resources of the northern and western districts of New South Wales, 1854. 2 vols. (microfilm) (State Library, NSW).

Gray, Frederick Harold. Material on Groote Eylandt Native Settlement and personal papers, including residence lists, financial records, health data, linguistic notes, and notes on kinship, religion and art, 1927-60. c. 184 items and 239 letters.

Gresser, John Percy. Manuscripts, notes and reminiscences on Aborigines and archaeology in the Bathurst District, personal correspondence, press clippings, photographs and related material, 1961-6. 1 box, 10 albums.

Gribble, Ernest Richard Bulmer, 1869-1957. Diaries, journals, correspondence and related material covering his work at the Yarrabah, Qld, Forrest River, WA and Palm Island, Qld, Missions, 1893-1952. c. 137 items (Australian Board of Mission Archives).

Gribble, John Brown, 1847-1893. Diaries, journals, correspondence and related material covering his work in Victoria, the Warangesda Mission, NSW, Western Australia and the Yarrabah Mission, Qld. 1873-92. c. 1062 leaves (Australian Board of Mission Archives).

Hale, Kenneth L. Alyawara, Aranda, Gunwinjgu, Gurindji, Kaititj, Lardil, Northern Pama, Walbiri, Warramunga, Yanjula linguistic field notes, 1959-60. 6451 leaves.


Herbert, Sidney Wellington. Reminiscences of life in the Northern Territory during the construction of the overland telegraph, August 1870 to November 1872. 245 p. (microfilm) (State Library, SA).


Illidge, Thomas, 1843-1927. Manuscripts including word lists (one by Tom Petrie) from the Gayndah area, Qld, 1870-1908. 1 box.


Jericho, Helen. Papers, reminiscences, correspondence and newspaper clippings of the Kopperamanna district, South Australia, early 1900s. 2 boxes.


Mathew, John, 1849-1929. Papers, correspondence, offprints and related material on linguistics and religion including correspondence with E.H. Curr and W.E. Roth, a biography by his son, R.Y. Mathew and family correspondence. 266 items.

Mitchell River Mission, Qld. Register of baptisms, marriages and deaths, 1904-62. 24 leaves.

Moravian Mission in Australia. Papers, correspondence, transactions, diaries, and related material on the emigration to Australia (1832-50), first mission at Lake Boga and its abandonment (1849-57), beginning again in Gippsland (1858-70), correspondence associated with Lacepede Bay, Yorke Peninsula, Lake Condah, Kopperamanna, Coranderrk, Brisbane, Boorhooyanna (1865-89), Ebenezer and Ramahyuck (1858-1906), and North Queensland, Weipa, Aurukun and Mapoon (1885-1916). 26 parts, including 1786 letters (microfilm, 26 reels) (Archiv der Bruder-Unitat, Herrnhut, DDR).

Murray Island, Qld. Register of births, marriages and deaths, 1891-1928. 510 pages.

[Nekes, Hermann]. Kimberley language material: D’aro, N’ol, etc., 1931-47. 7 parts.

O’Grady, Geoffrey Noel. Material on suffixing languages of Western Australia, including some comparative material from the Northern Territory and South Australia, 1957-8, and material on Njangumada, Julbaridja, Wa’man and other West Australian languages, c. 1968. 601 leaves.


Pink, Olive Muriel, 1884-1975. Papers, manuscripts, correspondence, pamphlets, circulars and press clippings on culture contact, living conditions of Aborigines and ethnographic material mainly on the Aranda and Warlpiri, with some Luridja, Arabanna and Pitjantjatjara; includes correspondence and reports on Hermannsburg, Finke River, Mt Margaret, Tennant Creek, Aurukun, Oenpelli and Bathurst Island Missions. 398 items and 780 letters.

Point Macleay and Point Pearce Reserves, SA. Register of births, marriages and deaths, 1857-1966. 120 leaves.


Rechnitz, Wilhelm. Manuscripts relating to his missionary work in the Torres Strait Islands, 1956-66. 1 box.

Richmond River Historical Society. Miscellaneous records on Aborigines, including local legends and vocabularies, correspondence and press clippings, 1842-1963. 1 reel (microfilm).


Somerset Settlement, Qld. Extracts from letter book no.1, 1871-81, includes letters to the Colonial Secretary, Brisbane from H.M. Chester, F.L. Jardine and C. Pennefather. 1 reel (microfilm) (State Library, NSW).


Warren, Hubert Ernest de Mey and Mrs E.M. Warren. Diaries, notebooks and correspondence from the Roper River Mission, 1915-34. 8 parts.


Wilson, Robert H. Diaries from Aurukun and Mornington Island, Qld, and from Kunmunya, WA, 1908-26. 6 parts.