

Librarian's Report for FDNW Annual General Meeting,

May 2024 to April 2025

Prepared by Mary Skarott, Research Librarian, Children's Literature

Donations, Collection Usage and Research Enquiries, May 2024-April 2025:

	2024-2025	2023-2024
Donations accepted- DNW	8 books 2 periodicals	62 books
Donations accepted- NCC	10 books	11 books
DNW items requested to reading room by researchers	28 items	53 items
NCC loans (both onsite and offsite)	305 items	
DNW & NCC items used in displays, exhibitions and tours	<p><u>GRR display cabinet:</u> DNW 8 NCC 27</p> <p><u>2 Cabinets for Picture Me children's book illustration festival event in August:</u> DNW: 13</p> <p><u>General Reading Room displays:</u> NCC display shelves: 75</p> <p>NCC books in translation display, September 2024: 37</p>	<p><u>Foyer display cabinet:</u> DNW 2 NCC 6</p> <p><u>General Reading Room displays:</u> NCC 12</p> <p><i>Low number due to suspension of displays during building work</i></p>
Children's literature research questions		
Answered by Research Librarian (online and in person)	34	82

During the past year the collections have been well used by researchers. The DNW collection continues to be steadily added to by incoming donations, although at a slower rate than in previous years.

The yearly purchasing budget for the NCC initially remained unchanged, but towards the end of the financial year some additional funding was made available. In total, 474 titles have been purchased for the NCC during the financial year ending in June 2025. This is in addition to the several hundred locally published items that are received via Legal Deposit each year.

Display cabinet:

The display cabinet, which draws on both the DNWC and NCC, is now located in the General Reading Room. It is a popular stopping point for visitors to the reading room, and the captions and some photographs of each display are posted on the National Library's Facebook page. The Facebook post for the Elsie Locke display was particularly popular; as of early July 2024 it had reached 3,000 people and had 218 reactions, comments, shares and clicks. The full list of displays shown during the past year is:

- **Elsie Locke, 1912-2001** (on display from 27 June 2024 - 24 Sept 2024)
- **Charles Keeping, 1924-1988** (on display from 25 Sept 2024 – 17 Dec 2024)
- **Down the Rabbit Hole: 100 years of portal fiction for children** (on display from 18 Dec 2024 – 12 Mar 2025)
- **Antarctic Adventures** (on display from 13 Mar 2025 –

I am currently working with Collection care to consider how the cabinet displays might continue after 1 July 2025, following our restructure.

NCC Open Display in General Reading Room:

A small selection of books from the NCC (around 12) continues to be available on the wooden display shelves in the General Reading Room. The books are refreshed every two to three months, and they are a mixture of older and newer titles across a selection of genres. The display is intended to provide on the spot reading for visiting children and their caregivers, as well as raising the profile of the NCC.

General Reading Room display of Children's Books in Translation:

This display of 37 books from the NCC was up for the whole month of September 2024 to mark International Translation Day (which is celebrated on 30 September each year.) I selected the books to show a broad range of genres, countries of origin and dates.

DNW display as part of the Picture Me children's book illustration festival:

This was arranged in collaboration with Public Programmes as part of the Art Day which was held at the National Library on 14 September 2024. I selected two cases of books with interesting cover art (in the form of book jackets and printed cloth covers) to help provide inspiration to artists participating on the day. The cabinets stayed in situ for a few weeks after the event.

FDNW Research Grant:

We sought applications for the grant again last year (2024) and it will be promoted again in 2025. We have amended our application information to allow for applications every year, with a closing date of the end of October.