

Librarian's Report for FDNW Annual General Meeting,

May 2025 to April 2026

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Donations, Collection Usage and Research Enquiries, May 2025-April 2026:

	2025-2026	2024-2025
Donations accepted- DNW	12 books 4 periodicals	8 books 2 periodicals
Donations accepted- NCC	4 books	10 books
Purchases for NCC (FY July '25-Jun '26)	540 books	
DNW items requested to reading room	64 items	28 items
NCC loans (both onsite and offsite)	295 items	305 items
DNW & NCC items used in displays, exhibitions and research visits	<p><u>GRR display cabinet:</u> No new displays last year, see note below.</p> <p><u>Collection viewings for special events:</u></p> <p>Children's literature timeline for National Library's 60th birthday (Oct '25): DNW: 11 NCC: 19</p> <p>Anzac Stories website launch event (April '26): DNW: 5</p> <p><u>Research Visits:</u> Dunedin Public Library (Sept '25): DNW: 9 NCC: 3</p> <p>University of Washington (Seattle), (Jan '26): DNW: 9</p>	<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 (totals: 21 DNW ; 139 NCC)</p>

	<p>NCC: 15</p> <p>St Oran's student librarians (Feb '26): DNW: 14</p> <p><u>General Reading Room displays:</u> NCC display shelves: 37</p> <p>NCC Hans Christian Andersen Award Winners display, August 2025: 30</p> <p>(totals: 48 DNW; 104 NCC)</p>	
<p>Children's literature research questions</p> <p>Answered by Research Librarian (online and in person)</p>	76	34

Collection use and collection development

During the past year the children's collections have been well used by researchers. Visitors have also been able to connect with the collections through displays, special events and research visits. The DNW collection continues to be steadily added to by incoming donations, although at a slower rate than in previous years.

This year's purchasing budget for the NCC was boosted by some additional funding towards the end of the financial year. In total, 540 titles have been purchased for the NCC during the financial year ending in June 2026. As usual, this is in addition to the several hundred locally published items that are received via Legal Deposit each year.

Research support for the collections

There was a question at last year's AGM about any trends in research questions. I have not identified any particular trends by topic, but there are some general categories of questions that dominate. These fall into three groups:

- Researchers who have found our online catalogue entry for a book (often via Google) and want to know if we can sell it to them, or, where they can buy it, or, how they can borrow it.
- Researchers who want to track down a book, story or poem that they remember, often from childhood. Sometimes they remember title or author details, often they can only remember plot, character or setting details.
- Researchers looking for material to support their research. This might be a request for sources or for information about a particular topic or theme, or a question about a specific collection item (such as edition details, publication date, contents or illustrations).

It is important to remember that researchers also work independently of the research librarian.

Displays, Collection Viewings and Research Visits

Display cabinet:

The display cabinet, which draws on both the DNWC and NCC, is usually located in the General Reading Room. One display rolled over from the previous year, before the cabinet was temporarily removed:

- **Antarctic Adventures** (on display from 13 Mar 2025 – 30 August 2025)

Conservation staff were busy for much of the past year setting up the new conservation lab in Te Rua. There has also been some uncertainty around the dates for the rebuild of the reading rooms on level 1, which is now not scheduled until 2027. Because of these factors, there was no display in the cabinet from September 2025 onwards. (N.B. The display cabinet was reinstated in May 2026)

National Library 60th Birthday Open Day, 18 October 2025:

As part of the many and varied collection viewings that were offered to visitors on our open day, I developed a children's literature timeline using books from the DNWC and NCC. Dates ran from 1801 to 2024, and the display included additional information about changing bookmaking technology, publishing milestones, individual authors, and the history of the National Library.

Anzac Stories Website Launch, 22 April 2026:

The ANZAC Stories site is aimed at students aged 9-13 and introduces the history of Anzac (WWI and WWII) using material from National Library and Archives New Zealand. Guests at this event included the Minister of Internal Affairs, and students from Adventure School and Belmont School who helped to develop the website. You can see Anzac stories here:

<https://natlib.govt.nz/history-explorer/anzac-stories>

Five books from the DNWC Collection were among the items that a small group of staff selected for the collection viewing component of the event. Most of the material we used came from the Archives New Zealand collections, and the unpublished collections of the Alexander Turnbull Library.

University of Washington Research Visit, 23 January 2026:

A group of 23 students and staff from the University of Washington, in Seattle, spent an enjoyable day at the library as part of their Study Abroad visit to New Zealand. This is the third time they have visited us.

They spent the afternoon with staff in Te Kupenga learning about different aspects of our children's literature collections and seeing items up close. Lindsay Bilodeau (Assistant Curator), talked about the acquisition of some of Joy Cowley's personal papers, and Trish Beamsley introduced indigenous young adult literature. My topic was *Children's literature in Aotearoa New Zealand: Dorothy Neal White, Avis Acres and Elsie Locke*. I looked at how the unpublished and published collections we hold in relation to these three notable women interconnect with and support each other.

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 by Hans Christian Andersen Award winners:

This August 2025 display of 30 books from the NCC was planned to mark 150 years since the death of Danish author Hans Christian Andersen.

The Hans Christian Andersen Award is an international lifetime achievement award that is presented to an author and an illustrator whose body of work has made an important, lasting contribution to children's literature.

On display was a selection of titles by some of the authors and illustrators who have been honoured for their achievements.

FDNW Research Grant:

We sought applications for the grant again last year (2025) and the committee is very pleased to have awarded a grant to Wellington author and illustrator, Story Hemi-Morehouse (Ngāti Koata, Ngāti Kuia, Ngāti Toa Rangatira). Story is working on a project for her Master of Design at Toi Rauwhārangī, College of Creative Arts, Massey University.