



NATIONAL CENTRE for
AUSTRALIAN
CHILDREN'S
LITERATURE^{Inc}

Annual Report 2018

FOR THE YEAR 1 JULY 2017 – 30 JUNE 2018

Prepared by Dr Belle Alderman AM, Director

For members, friends and supporters of
The National Centre for Australian Children's Literature Inc



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 @NatCentAusChLit

www.ncacl.org.au



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ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018

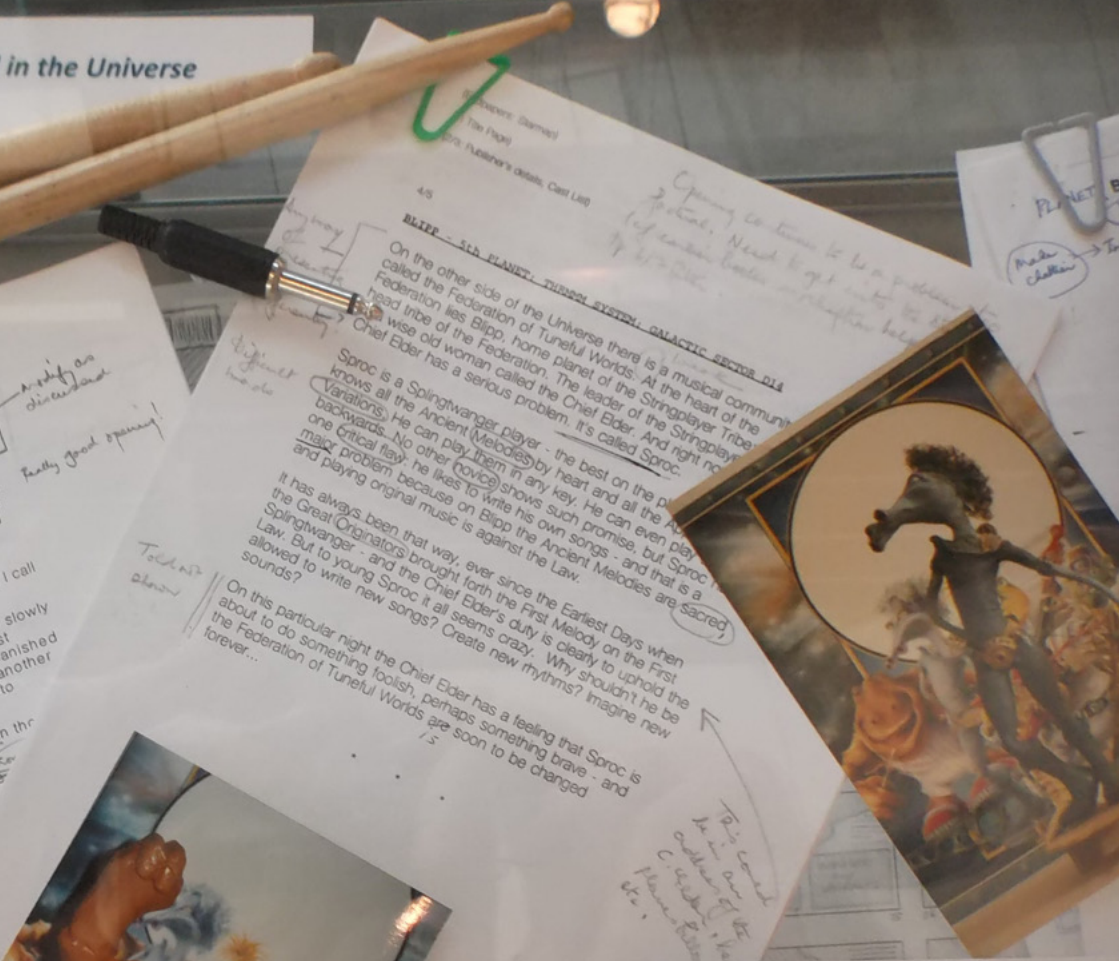


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in the Universe



Final artwork - Characters
Black ink, colour pencil,



Graeme Base *The Worst Band in the Universe* Viking, 1999, preliminary work. Reproduced by permission from Graeme Base.

Executive Summary

This year the National Centre for Australian Children's Literature Inc (NCACL) pursued a range of activities to deliver our vision —

Our literary past, present and future are preserved in the Centre, through the stories that touched our hearts and stirred our imaginations as children. It documents and shares the creative process and inspires the next generation of readers with research collections, exhibitions and outreach activities.

These are our objectives which guide us in achieving this vision —

1. to collect, preserve and document developments in Australian children's literature;
2. to make the collection available to the people of Australia, including all ages and all communities, in recognition of our cultural heritage in children's literature;
3. to make the collection available to students, researchers and others interested and to assist them in their study and research;
4. to provide encouragement and inspiration for current and future authors and illustrators of children's literature; and
5. to assist in the recognition and contribution of Australian children's authors and illustrators to children's literature around the world.

In connection with these objectives the NCACL aims to:

- preserve the creators' works;
- nurture the children's literature industry;
- support future professionals in the children's literature industry;
- support the research community in Australia and particularly those engaged in researching children's literature;
- encourage reading in children; and
- celebrate children's literature.

The NCACL Annual Report outlines achievements and continuing pursuits to achieve our vision and objectives.

Our collections continue to grow through strong publisher, author, illustrator and private donor support throughout Australia and overseas. Our graphs at the conclusion of this report show record increases for the year in several areas. These

include the highest number of books (2,306) added, highest number of volunteer hours (7,256) committed, highest number of research files (33) created and the highest number of clients (913) served.

As we have expanded our social media, we have also experienced increased communication with creators and donors. We received our largest number of books and authors' papers and illustrators' artworks in a single year. We accepted the IBBY Australia Archive, an important related organisation and one valuable for researchers. Research files continue to grow, both new and existing ones. An independent assessment of NCACL's significance highlighted these research files as 'unique' and 'significant'.

Through increased donations under the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, the Centre continues to collect, preserve and document developments in Australian children's literature. Such donations strengthen the Centre's unique research capacity, potential for exhibitions and outreach programs. These collections are documented and available through our website, thus promoting the work of Australian creators of children's literature throughout the world.

Our continuing exhibitions achieve our objective to make the collection available to the people of Australia, including all ages and all communities. A significant aspect of the appeal of the *Imagine if ...* major exhibition this year was our partnership with The Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) which enabled never seen before CBCA Book Week original artwork to be showcased alongside NCACL artworks.

Imagine if I had missed this divine and beautifully presented journey into the world of children's illustrators. Thank you for showcasing the immense talent of these amazing individuals.

—Professor Peter Bodycott, Faculty of Education, Science, Technology & Maths, University of Canberra

As part of *Imagine if ...* NCACL designed and delivered a series of professional development programs for 50 adults and 501 young people from three to 18 years. Altogether 864 people attended. The exhibition *Imagine if ...* achieved a 32 per cent increase in visitors over half the time compared with last year's *Seeing Stories* exhibition which attracted 660 visitors over four months. *Imagine if ...* programs were evaluated providing NCACL with success factors and possibilities for developing new programs.

Bob Graham, one of NCACL's major supporters, created an original artwork inspired by our exhibition *Imagine if ...*. NCACL raffled this artwork through social media generating sufficient income to purchase 20 museum quality frames for both the *Imagine if ...* and future exhibitions.

NCACL initiated planning in October 2017 for *Sharing Stories*, a series of events, talks, a symposium and exhibitions to celebrate UNESCO's declaration that the world should, from 2018, annually celebrate September 30 as 'International Translation Day'. The program began in October 2018 and will be reported on in next year's Annual Report.

NCACL's strong engagement through social media positions the Centre as a valued source of information about Australian children's literature both nationally and internationally.

NCACL continues to increase its following on Facebook, Twitter, e-newsletter, e-journal and website. A database focussing on cultural diversity in Australian children's literature is under preparation and will be available in early 2019 through NCACL's website. Creation of a new NCACL website began in October 2017 with its 'soft' launch on 29 October 2018 at NCACL's AGM. Together these initiatives position NCACL as an authority on Australian children's literature.

We aim for NCACL to be one of Australia's leading organisations that collects our creative products, shares our stories and explores our cultural identity so that children and adults can study and learn from it and be inspired by it, both now and in the future.

Building the Centre as a National Institution

Continuing two broad objectives in our Strategic Plan NCACL is pursuing two broad aims:

1. to achieve financial sustainability, and
2. to grow the reputation and reach of NCACL so that a wider range of individuals and groups can access its services and products.

The Board progressed these objectives by pursuing the following activities:

- *achieving financial sustainability;*
This remains an objective but one without substantial progress this year.
- *securing income to pursue NCACL objectives;*
A successful campaign raised funds to create a guide to an author's papers and manuscripts, while the raffle of an artwork donated by Bob Graham enabled the purchase of 20 museum quality frames for continuing exhibitions.
- *promoting NCACL as a national institution;*
NCACL made a formal submission to the *Parliamentary Inquiry into Canberra's National Institutions* (May 2018) to raise our profile and declare our vision and ambition; later this submission was distributed to over 200 organisations and individuals for information and to solicit their support.
- *building relationships with individuals and organisations to 'grow' NCACL's potential as a national institution;*
Relationships with targeted groups and individuals, such as the collaborative exhibition with the National Library of Australia scheduled for August 2019-January 2020, have been pursued.
- *creating an independent website to ensure greater visibility and communicate more effectively;*
NCACL Board subgroup chose a web design group in October 2017 with the soft launch of the new website at the 29 October 2018 AGM.

Expanding the Centre's Reach

NCACL continues initiatives to form links and partnerships and to build a consortium of like-minded organisations. This consortium is designed to support further development and to secure the future of the National Centre for Australian Children's Literature. NCACL is actively pursuing its goal to be Australia's national centre for Australian children's literature with a dedicated purpose-built space to achieve its vision of documenting and sharing the creative process and inspiring the next generation of readers with research collections, exhibitions and outreach activities.

*A thoroughly delicious insight into national treasures ... may
a permanent museum of such be a reality soon!!*

—Professor Erica Hateley, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway

EXPANDING THE CENTRE'S REACH

Pursuing goal to be Australia's National Centre for Australian Children's Literature

NCACL made a submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Canberra's National Institutions on 9 May 2018 which promoted the case for NCACL to be an Australian national institution focused on Australian children's literature with recurrent funding and dedicated purpose-designed space.

[Submission number 17](#)

Pursing links, partnerships and consortia

NCACL liaised with the National Capital Authority; ACT Legislative Assembly Minister for the Arts and Cultural Events; ACT Education Directorate; Muse Literary Salon; Australia Copyright Agency; various embassies; International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) Basel, Switzerland and IBBY Australia, Primary English Teachers Association of Australia, Belconnen Arts Centre, Geelong Regional Gallery, CBCA National and CBCA Victoria.

EXPANDING THE CENTRE'S REACH

Promoting NCACL through its Ambassadors

Jackie French and Chris Cheng continue their Ambassadorship roles and advocacy for NCACL in various ways through their public voice of strong support and valuable networks.

Promoting The Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) partnership

The partnership between NCACL and the CBCA fostered the design and delivery of Imagine if ... exhibition and program of events which ran from 10 July – 30 August 2017, a total of 37 days. The CBCA Children's Book Week artwork and the Centre's artworks together showcased 40 artworks by 19 Australian illustrators. Imagine if ... attracted individuals and groups both within Canberra and externally.

[Imagine if ... Project Report](#)

Showing NCACL to Canberra's school system 5 April 2018

NCACL showcased its collection at the UC Faculty of Education Festival for educators in Canberra's school system.

Collaborating on the national exhibition with the National Library of Australia

NCACL and the National Library continue collaborative planning for a national exhibition celebrating Australian children's literature to be held at the National Library of Australia's Treasures Gallery from August 2019 – January 2020.

Every Australian literary creation for young people requires a place to call home. The NCACL is that HOME

—Christopher Cheng, author & NCACL Ambassador

Enhancing our Collection & Providing Access

We aim to:

- collect, preserve and document developments in Australian children's literature,
- make the collection available,
- enable research,
- inspire current and future creators,
- promote the recognition and contribution of Australian children's creators to the international field of children's literature, and
- recognise our cultural heritage.

Below are the strategies we have used to achieve these objectives.

ENHANCING OUR COLLECTION & PROVIDING ACCESS

Growing the book collection

NCACL added 2,306 books including 734 books from 28 publishers and their imprints. There were 214 donations from 24 authors & illustrators and 1,358 donations from 35 individuals & organisations. Donations included 378 translations in 34 languages, early and rare books as well as new works and different editions thus strengthening and/or completing the Centre's holdings for particular creators.

SEE [Graph 1 Donations](#) | [Graph 2 Translations](#) | [Donations](#) | [National Centre for Australian Children's Literature Translations 1979 – 2018](#)

ENHANCING OUR COLLECTION & PROVIDING ACCESS

Adding formed book collections

NCACL continues to benefit from the efforts of Angela Brown, a volunteer with the Canberra Lifeline Book Fair. Over seven years she has found over 5,000 books which NCACL did not hold. The Centre proudly accepted several private individuals' donations this year. Special thanks to the Kathy Rossiter and Rob Lundy family who donated their collection of 33 Ethel Turner books, many of these rare. NCACL's Ethel Turner collection now numbers over 200 books making this collection one of Australia's strongest. Tania McCartney, herself an author and illustrator, donated a very large collection of her children's books. Jeanie Adams donated a large collection of books, many of these by Aboriginal creators. Books Illustrated donated a substantial collection of picture books, many personally inscribed by the creators. Margaret Connolly, Literary Agent, donated a large collection of translations by authors she represents. Caroline Fewtrell made valuable donations. Volunteers continue to add books through second hand sources. These contributions are gratefully received and add to the depth and scope of NCACL's collection.

SEE [Donations under donors' names](#)

Receiving donations to wish lists

NCACL's wish lists for Colin Thiele, Hesba Brinsmead and Noela Young continue to attract books from private and institutional donors. These creators are deemed significant in the development of Australian children's literature.

SEE [Wishlists](#)

Enhancing collection of translations

Translations demonstrate that stories have universal appeal around the world. Australian children's literature has a strong record of translations. NCACL began collecting translations to mark the International Year of the Child in 1979 and now holds 4,120 books in 59 languages or country of origin. This year 378 translations in 34 different languages were added to the collection. The largest number of translations or country of origin, include, in order of numbers, American, British, German, French, Japanese, Chinese, Swedish, Portuguese, Danish and Spanish.

SEE [Translations of Australian children's books 1979-2018 held in NCACL](#)

ENHANCING OUR COLLECTION & PROVIDING ACCESS

Enhancing research files

NCACL completed a comprehensive review of pending research files. Altogether 4.96 linear metres of pending research material were examined. Criteria for developing new research files and a suggested priority list of creators for development as new research files were completed. Access and use of the unique research files continues to be of value to all interested in Australian children's literature.

SEE [Research Files](#)

Attracting donations of artwork and authors' papers and manuscripts

Large collections of artworks and authors' papers and manuscripts were received this year. These collections are in various stages of documentation, valuation by valuers and consideration by the Cultural Gifts Program. These donations include works from creators Narelle Oliver, Peter Gouldthorpe, Alison Lester, Deborah Niland, Emily Rodda (aka Jennifer Rowe), Wendy Orr, Libby Hathorn, Elizabeth Honey and Shaun Tan. Some collections are outright donations such as those by creators Mary Small, Lilith Norman (through her family) and Jane Carroll. Other donations come from individuals' personal collections. Descriptions of these are available through the Donations list for the year, through Artwork Frameworks or Finding Aids available from the NCACL website.

SEE [Donations](#) | [Jane Carroll](#) | [Peter Gouldthorpe](#) [The White Mouse](#) | [Elizabeth Honey](#) | [Alison Lester](#) | [Narelle Oliver](#) | [Shaun Tan](#)

Cataloguing and providing access to NCACL's resources

There were 1,330 items catalogued by NCACL volunteers, with support from the Library. Expert cataloguing provides freely available, worldwide online access to the Centre's book collection. From 2018, NCACL has a specific code in Libraries Australia, the major collective record of holdings in major Australian libraries. This enables NCACL's collection to be easily identified.



Rowan Simpkin shares art and stories with children at *Imagine if ...* exhibition

Promoting Engagement and Attracting Wider Audiences

We aim to:

- make the collection available to the people of Australia, including all ages and all communities, in recognition of our cultural heritage in children's literature,
- make the collection available to students, researchers and others interested and to assist them in their study and research, and
- engage a wider range of individuals and groups and enable access to the Centre's services and products.

PROMOTING ENGAGEMENT AND ATTRACTING WIDER AUDIENCES

Engaging with children through picture books 9 May 2018 ALIA House

Julie Long, NCACL Board member and experienced teacher, presented an interactive session for the public aimed at those seeking knowledge about children's books and book-related activities that engage children. Harry Hartog Bookseller offered related children's books for sale.

SEE [Sydney Morning Herald article](#)

Engaging educators on literacy and early learning experiences 19 January 2018

Rowan Simpkin, NCACL experienced teacher, designed and delivered a professional development program for Kirinari Early Childhood Centre staff, University of Canberra

PROMOTING ENGAGEMENT AND ATTRACTING WIDER AUDIENCES

Curating & promoting Imagine if ... exhibition January – June 2017

NCACL partnered with The Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) in exhibiting 40 framed artworks including 16 from The CBCA Children's Book Week Artwork Collection (housed at NCACL) and another 24 works from the Centre's collection. Three display cabinets showed the creative process and another showed the CBCA Book Week merchandise from 1987-2017. The exhibition planning began in January 2017, with the exhibition running from 10 July – 30 August. There were 874 visitors to Imagine if... Professional development programs were offered to 50 educators, and 501 children from schools and a home schooling group experienced programs designed for them.

SEE [The Children's Book Council of Australia promotion](#) | [Interview with Dan Bouchier, ABC radio promotion](#)

Imagine if ... offering work-integrated learning

Imagine if ... was managed by the Director with University of Canberra participation of students from Cultural Heritage and Public Relations; Dr Alison Wain, Lecturer-Heritage Conservation; Alex Stalker-Booth, UC Project Administrator; and NCACL volunteers. Students gained opportunities in planning, mounting, installing, marketing and promotion, designing an opening event and deinstalling the exhibition.

Providing services & programs for study, research & professional development

University of Canberra students, researchers, academics and members of the external community continued to use the Centre's resources.

SEE [Client Services](#)



Creators of the *Imagine if ...* exhibition

PROMOTING ENGAGEMENT AND ATTRACTING WIDER AUDIENCES

Curating & categorising research material about authors' & illustrators' works

NCACL created 33 new & updated two existing research files, which now total 518 and extend over 34 linear metres. An independent assessor describes these as 'unique' and 'invaluable' material for research into Australian children's literature.

Created: Sarah Acton, Alexandra Adornetto, Liz Anelli, Kathryn Appel, Asphysia, Shirley Barber, Davina Bell, Karen Blair, Lorette Broekstra, Matt Cosgrove, Mary and Elizabeth Durack, Pamela Freeman, Lucinda Gifford, Wendy Harmer, Anita Heiss, Kylie Howarth, Ian Irvine, Amie Kaufman, Melissa Keil, Will Kostakis, Gina Newton, Katrina Nannestad, May O'Brien, Debra Oswald, Ted Ottley, Michael Panckridge, James Phelan, Allan Tucker, Coral Tulloch, Cheryl Westenberg, Sue Whiting and Lili Wilkinson. **Updated:** Christopher Cheng and Caroline Magerl

SEE [Author and Illustrator Research Files](#)



Family donation of Ethel Turner books to NCACL

PROMOTING ENGAGEMENT AND ATTRACTING WIDER AUDIENCES

Promoting NCACL through websites, social media & published articles

NCACL published two articles in Reading Time Online to profile Imagine if ... Authors, illustrators, publishers and reviewers visited and promoted the Centre on their social media. Items about the Centre's activities were published in newspapers, journals, blogs and radio.

SEE [Reading Time Online articles](#) | [The Canberra Times article](#) | [Kids Book Review](#)

Reaching our audience through the Centre e-newsletter

The Centre published four e-newsletters over the last year. These promoted events and provided news about the Centre's activities to over 800 people receiving these.

Publishing the Centre's online journal, Behind the Imagined

The second issue of NCACL's e-journal, *Behind the Imagined*, was published and contained four articles. The Centre's former print journal, *The Lu Rees Archives: Notes, Books and Authors*, began in 1981 as a paper copy which continued through issue 35 dated 2013, followed by e-journals. The journal showcases and promotes NCACL and its activities and provides informative articles about Australian children's literature.

SEE [Behind the Imagined journal](#)



Max Brown curates Shaun Tan's donation of his art for *Rules of Summer*, Hachette Australia, 2013, preliminary artwork. Reproduced by permission from Shaun Tan.

Building Our Workforce

Our goal is to achieve a mix of paid staff, professional experts and volunteers, which is coordinated, skilled and adaptable over time.

Presently NCACL relies on well-qualified, skilled and committed volunteers. From its establishment in 1974, volunteers have contributed to our growth and development. Their contribution has increased yearly, bringing to NCACL high-level skills and knowledge. We gain our volunteers through direct recruitment for specific tasks, through NCACL's [website form](#), through word of mouth and through promotions in selected publications. The Centre acquires additional expertise upon request to targeted organisations or where grants provide funds for specific purposes.

Over this year 41 volunteers donated 7,256 hours, the equivalent of 1,036 days or 4.1 full-time staff. The [Volunteers' Contribution](#) outlines the roles, responsibilities and tasks performed by NCACL volunteers.

We were pleased this year to provide educational opportunities for students in the areas of Heritage Conservation and Public Relations in relation to curating, installing, deinstalling exhibitions, planning and promoting events. NCACL is committed to providing work integrated learning for students where there are also benefits for NCACL.

Conclusion

NCACL has widely promoted its vision to be Australia's national centre for Australian children's literature as detailed in its submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Canberra's National Institutions. Our collections have enhanced in value while our events and exhibitions have become increasingly sophisticated and appreciated by growing numbers reaching a much wider audience. We recognise that achieving our vision of a home for Australian children's literature requires significant individual and organisations' support along with financial backing. This is the challenge for the NCACL Board.

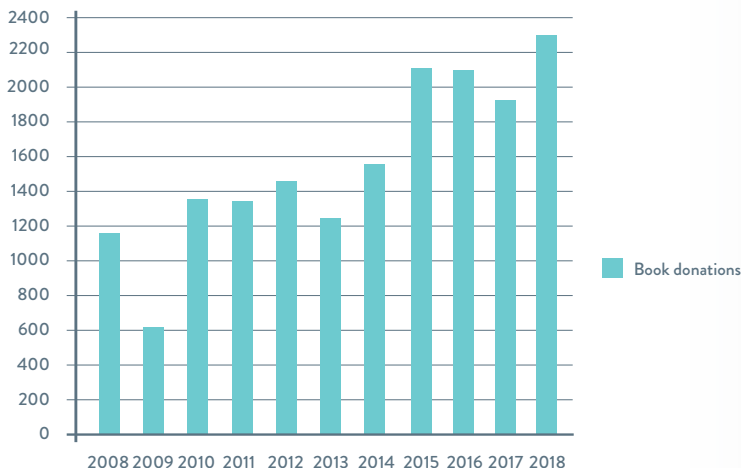
This is a Centre that preserves the past, enriches the present and helps create the future of Australian children's literature

— Jackie French, author & NCACL Ambassador

Graphs

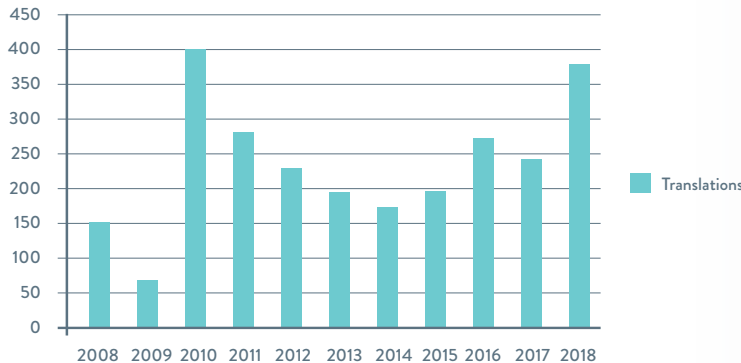
Graph 1 Book donations

Book donations reflect Cultural Gifts, Australian publishing output, efforts to fill collection gaps, and solicited and unsolicited material.



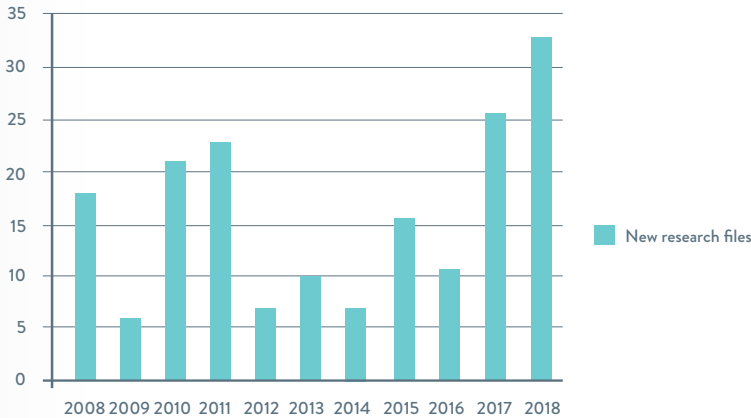
Graph 2 Translations

Translations reflect donations by publishers, authors and illustrators with Cultural Gifts in particular years producing large numbers of translations.



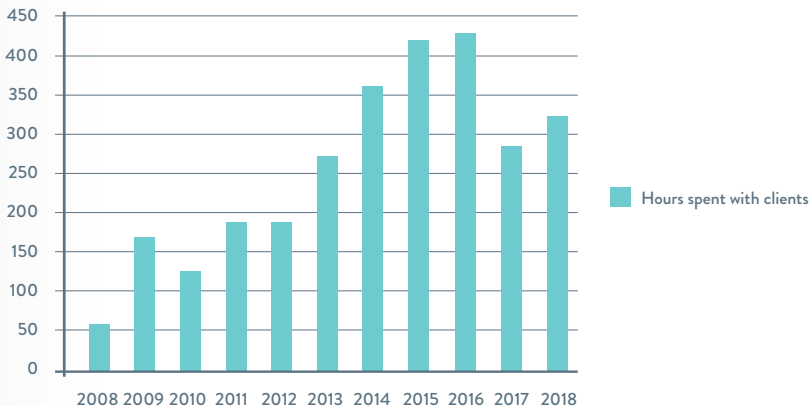
Graph 3 New research files

File growth reflects priorities set by the Centre, demands from staff, students and researchers.



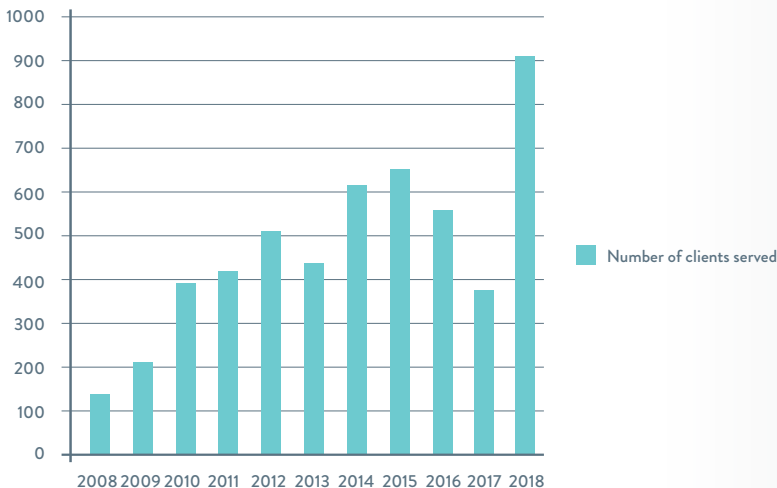
Graph 4 Hours spent with clients

Hours spent with clients reflect enhanced access to Centre's resources, greater diversity of resources and more sophisticated queries.



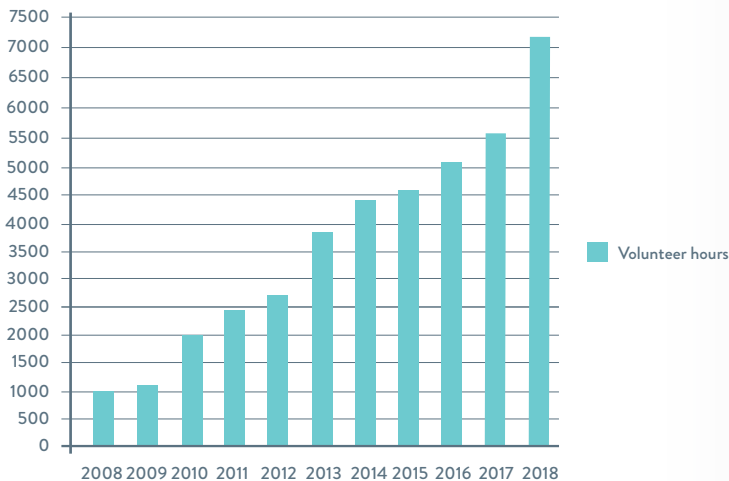
Graph 5 Number of clients served

Numbers of clients served reflect academic programs and external engagement. Access is provided through face-to-face and electronic means.



Graph 6 Volunteer hours

Volunteer hours reflect recurring activities as well as specific projects and tasks which vary from year to year.



The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of small, light gray speech bubbles. Each bubble contains a stylized profile of a person's head facing right. In the center of the page is a large, solid teal circle. Inside this circle, the text "Sharing Our Nation's Heritage" is written in a dark teal, italicized serif font.

Sharing Our Nation's Heritage

