



Legal deposit of government publications in Australia

One copy of everything that is published in Australia is to be given to the National Library under the legal deposit provisions of the [Copyright Act 1968](#). Since 2016, this Act has applied to both digital and print publications.

This means that

1. Australian Government departments and agencies are required to deposit copies of their publications to the National Library of Australia.
2. Australian State and Territory government departments and agencies are also required to deposit copies of their publications to the National Library of Australia.

As well as depositing with the National Library, you will need to deposit your publication with your home state or territory library. You can contact your [state or territory library](#) to find out more, or review this list of [state and territory obligations](#).

Websites

Although the National Library archives Australian websites to the [Australian Web Archive](#), the deposit of publications where they are of the types listed in the table is preferred. This ensures compliance with legal deposit obligations.

Legal deposit in Australia

Legal deposit applies to anything that is published, in print or electronically, and made available to the public for free or for sale in Australia, including government publications.

Publications not required for legal deposit include financial reports, internal publications and scanned or digitised documents.

Examples of government publications	
Standalone publications	Ongoing publications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual project reports • Policy papers and occasional papers • Published books and maps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual reports and corporate plans • Budget reports and papers • Bulletins and newsletters

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The benefits of legal deposit

By depositing you will help build the national collection. Once deposited, your work will be preserved for future generations. Your publications will help researchers, scholars, and audiences everywhere to understand the Australian experience. Legal deposit collections form a diverse and inclusive picture of the nation and capture what we are thinking, imagining, and writing about over time.

There are over 10 million items in the national collection, and we want Australia's publishers to help us continue to build a comprehensive resource for all Australians. Deposited publications reach a large national and global audience through discovery services such as [Trove](#), with electronic access conditions set by the depositor.

What and when to deposit

If your publication is made available to the public both in print and electronically, we prefer the electronic format. If your work is only available to the public in print, you should deposit the print edition with us. We only require one copy. If you send multiple copies, duplicate copies will be discarded.

New editions that have significant updates are accepted into the collection alongside previous editions and should be deposited. If a publication only has minor changes, such as new format sizes or corrections, a new copy should not be deposited.

You should deposit your publication within one month of the publication's release date.

How to deposit – National edeposit (NED)

Electronic deposit is free, easy, safe and fast, and is the preferred way to deposit. You can deposit an electronic copy of your publication through the National edeposit service (NED) ned.gov.au. Open access for government publications is recommended.

Electronic deposits through NED are discoverable in the National Library catalogue and Trove almost immediately. You will receive an automated acknowledgement of your deposit. Electronic files need to be free of Digital Rights Management restrictions (DRM) so they can be preserved and made available into the future.

By depositing electronically, you will have met your legal deposit obligations to the National Library of Australia. You will still have obligations to your state or territory library.

How to deposit – Print deposit

When depositing in print by post simply include your name and address on the package or on a slip with the publication.

Send standalone publications to:

**Legal Deposit
National Library of Australia
Canberra ACT 2600**

Send ongoing publications to:

**Australian Serials
National Library of Australia
Canberra ACT 2600**

We value print publications deposited in the collection. Due to the volume of deposits received we cannot send an acknowledgment. Your publication will appear on the National Library catalogue within 3 months.

If you have further questions about legal deposit, please refer to our frequently asked questions page by searching for Legal Deposit on library.gov.au. Alternatively, you can email the Legal Deposit team at legaldeposit@nla.gov.au.

