

The Geoscience Societies has undertaken correspondence with Geoscience Australia in regards to the N.H. “Doc” Fisher Library that is the largest of the geological survey libraries in Australia and, apart from the National Library, one of the largest libraries in the Australia Public Service. Geoscience Australia (GA) receive a number of donations every year and always welcome the opportunity to review lists of material to check for items that they do not already hold. GA generally cannot accept “named collections” or bulk lots of unlisted material, as (1) GA often have a fair proportion of what is offered already and (2) have had to reduce the “footprint” of the library several times over the years. Also, GA generally do not always have the funds to do so to pay for courier costs. The library is in the GA building in Symonston, a suburb of Canberra. GA participate in the Libraries Australia Document Delivery (LADD) inter-library loans service and are a major supplier of document scans and loans to other libraries.

When communicating with GA on book donations, it is suggested to first look at their public catalogue [ <https://geoscienceaustralia.intersearch.com.au/> ]. GA prefer to collect books not already on their list. Donator’s may list their book references with bibliographic title, publisher, year & edition. GA do not mind if donations come with bookplates (“donated by...”) or similar regarding this, but unfortunately do not have the budget to attach same or acknowledge separately every item donated.

The focus of the GA collection development policy is the earth sciences; GA does not have a mandated role in mine development, safety or rehabilitation. GA also collect works from outside Australia, and have done so in other languages in the past, but less so at present due to physical space restrictions. Old reference texts are considered but not comprehensively collected.

GA do not on-sell any material received, but if they are not required in the GA collection, they may offer items to the state and territory survey libraries, place them on a trolley for GA staff or visitors to take freely, or offer them to Lifeline, a local charity that has regular book sales to raise funds for their emergency hotline. GA rarely take material with any restrictions, ongoing reporting requirements or adherence to specific instructions, as GA’s policy is to integrate all items into GA’s stacks.

Several teams within GA have a role in curating photographic materials. The great majority of these are of GA’s own activities and those of our historical predecessors, for which GA have a substantial backlog of material yet to be processed. That is the focus of a joint project of the Library and Records Management teams. GA’s Collections team (meaning the curators of our mineral and fossil specimens) may have an interest in digital photos of old mines.

In terms of samples there is more focus on museum grade minerals, meteorite, gemstones, and fossils. Rarely do GA take rock samples, if they are of scientific importance and can be stored. GA would also need significant metadata for the specimens similar to the images. Donation enquiries should be directed to [clientservices@ga.gov.au](mailto:clientservices@ga.gov.au).

Initial contact with Geoscience Australia may be with Chris Nelson, Manager, Research support & Library, Discovery & Engagement. Office of the Chief Scientist. Geoscience Australia. Email; [Chris.Nelson@ga.gov.au](mailto:Chris.Nelson@ga.gov.au)

The Geoscience Society committee would like to hear from members on any other parties that may be receptive of receiving donations of geoscience books, papers, and magazines along with photos or rock collections. Please send feedback to [ianwolff@gmail.com](mailto:ianwolff@gmail.com)