



J S Battye Library of West Australian History
Archive Collection Policy
for
‘Vite Italiane’ Italian Lives in Western Australia

One of the major goals of the ‘*Vite Italiane*’ project is the creation of a permanent archive of oral histories, images and documents relating to the history of Italian migrants in Western Australia. The Battye Library recognises the importance of migrants and migration to Western Australian history and is committed to preserving the stories and records of Italian migrant communities before they become lost or damaged. The creation of an archive of Italian migrants and migration at the Battye Library will help safeguard the history of Italians in Western Australia for the benefit of future generations.

The Battye Library is particularly interested in preserving:

- Records of Italian organisations including social, cultural and welfare clubs, regional associations, religious groups, sporting clubs and Italian businesses
- Photographs and documents belonging to individuals and families such as letters, diaries, journals, manuscripts and photographs which detail historically significant events as well as the day to day lives of Italians in WA.
- Oral histories of Italians in Western Australia, particularly first generation migrants.

1. Background

The J. S. Battye Library of West Australian History (Battye Library) is the main repository for Western Australia’s documentary heritage. Its purpose is to hold materials which provide a wide, representative sample of Western Australia’s historical, developmental, cultural, economic and political life. The collections of original materials, published and unpublished works are of enduring cultural, informational and historical significance add to the documentary heritage of the state and provide an enduring resource for researchers into Western Australia history and society. The Battye Library has specific responsibilities for the preservation of, and access to, these collections as part of the nation's heritage.

The collection is made up of:

1.1 Published materials relating to Western Australia

This includes:

- a) Monographs - printed works, microforms, sound recordings, videotapes and online electronic publications
- b) Serials and newspapers - newsletters, annual reports, magazines and other publications usually produced at regular intervals
- c) Ephemera - everyday items produced for specific, usually one-off or short-term purpose such as theatre programs, exhibition catalogues, election materials, advertising leaflets
- d) Maps - printed and published maps, atlases and cartographic materials relevant to Western Australia.
- e) Electronic publications

1.2 Original materials relating to Western Australia

This includes:

- a) Private archives - original papers, letters, diaries, journals and manuscripts of individuals and families as well as records of political and social movements, non-government agencies, businesses and community organisations.
- b) Pictorial collection - images dealing with a wide range of subjects with an emphasis on everyday life that provide a visual history of Western Australia.
- c) Oral history – tapes and transcripts of interviews with WA residents and former residents
- d) State film archives – historical and contemporary films, footage and video recordings reflecting Western Australia’s cultural heritage.

2. Collection Policy

Qualified staff at the Battye Library are responsible for the selection, acquisition, appraisal and transfer of materials into the Library’s collections. The criteria for selecting material is set out in detail in the Battye Library’s Collection Development Policy. <http://www.liswa.wa.gov.au/pdf/batinfcollddevp01.pdf>.

A summary of the criteria for selection of published and original materials are:

2.1 Items collected

- a) Material that is written, created or published by a Western Australian person or persons or corporate body identified primarily as Western Australian
- b) Material which is mainly about Western Australia or on a subject of social, political, cultural, religious, scientific or economic significance and relevance to Western Australia.

2.2. Items not collected

- a) Material that does not relate primarily to Western Australia
- b) Material which already exists in the collection
- c) As a general rule, realia or objects will not be collected but will be offered to more appropriate institutions such as the West Australian Museum. Items of realia will only be accepted with a collection if they are portable and highly integral to it.