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Kia ora koutou

At the end of last year, I was appointed to the role of National Librarian Te Pouhuaki. I have worked in libraries since the mid-1980s, my first role was as a library assistant at the Alexander Turnbull Library. I completed a post-graduate qualification at Victoria University in 1988 and my Master's in Library and Information Studies 20 years later. I have worked at the National Library of New Zealand for almost a decade and am a firm believer in the value of libraries and the positive impact they have for their communities enriching lives culturally and economically.

I am taking the opportunity in my new role to commit to regular communication about the Overseas Published Collections (OPC). I plan to email updates monthly. This is part of the library's and my ongoing commitment to transparent processes.

The project has been under way for over a year now and I want to thank you for your ongoing interest. Over this time, we have gained a better understanding of concerns and priorities and adjusted our approach as a result.

Starting in October 2019 until November last year we posted book lists from the Overseas Published Collections on our National Library website. This transparent review process has given libraries across New Zealand the opportunity to add these books to their collections. It has also given members of the public including researchers, scholars and historians the opportunity to contact our project team if they see any titles in the published lists that they believe should be retained by the National Library.

We have listed over 50% of the OPC in this way to date. Through our review process, with your input, approximately 10% of these books will be retained within library collections in New Zealand, which includes our National Library, along with public, university and specialist libraries around the country. Aside from these books and the 50,000 books donated to Lions and Rotary for a charity book sale no other books have left the ownership of the National Library.

I would also like to reiterate that the Turnbull collections are not part of this work as they are held in perpetuity.

You can find out more on our regularly updated [Overseas Published Collections webpage](#).

In the meantime, as new Te Pouhuaki/National Librarian I, along with members of my Leadership team, would love an opportunity to come and meet with you to answer questions on the OPC, receive feedback, talk through any concerns and the ways the National Library might better support research.

Please get in touch and let me know if you would like to meet. And please look out for the next update which will be early April.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Esson'.

Rachel Esson
Te Pouhuaki | National Librarian

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