

Specialist staff

The area is staffed by a team of Asian studies specialists. These librarians all have many years' experience in their particular disciplines and are responsible for developing the collections. They offer advice to researchers, both local and across Australia, assisting them to make the best use of the resources for Asian studies. They also present classes and briefings for University groups and visitors. Each staff member is fluent in one or more Asian languages.

Study facilities

The quiet study area, which overlooks a bamboo grove, accommodates researchers in individual study carrels. Library users can also select from a wide range of current Asian newspapers, journals and magazines. Access to many online newspapers and other electronic sources is provided through the ASRC's computer facilities.

Computer facilities

All computers in Monash University Library allow viewing and input of various scripts, enabling users to access the full range of electronic resources available in Asian and other languages.

Website

The Asian Studies Research Collection has an extensive website which complements and extends in-house services. The website includes detailed information about Monash University Library's Asian collections. ASRC librarians regularly monitor and evaluate developments in internet resources. Through the ASRC web pages, users are led to quality sites relating to Asian studies.

www.lib.monash.edu/matheson/asrc

Asian Studies Research Collection (ASRC)

Sir Louis Matheson Library

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Australia

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www.lib.monash.edu/matheson/asrc

Opening hours

ASRC Information Desk
Monday – Friday 9 am – 5 pm

Access to reading and study areas, computers and collection

Monday – Thursday 8 am – 9 pm (during semester)

Friday 8 am – 5.45 pm

Saturday – Sunday 1 pm – 5 pm (during semester)

Cover illustration depicts traditional Indian fabric design from *Printed cottons of Asia*, by Tamezo Osumi, Bijutsu Shuppan-sha, Tokyo 1963.

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Asian Studies Research Collection



Asian Studies Research Collection

The Asian Studies Research Collection (ASRC) of Monash University Library is a leading research facility for Asian studies in Australia.

It is a member of Asian Libraries in Melbourne (ALIM) and is also home to the Melbourne Centre for Japanese Language Education (MCJLE) Collection.

The collection consists of Asian language materials with a focus on Southeast Asia and East Asia. It contains over 100,000 volumes. It is supplemented by databases and other electronic resources, large microform and audio-visual holdings and an extensive range of English language resources relating to Asia, including substantial resources on South Asia.

Indonesia and Southeast Asia

The oldest Asian language collection at Monash is the Indonesian collection. It is also one of the most comprehensive in Australia and is the only research level Indonesian collection in Victoria. Some 25,000 books and over 1500 journal and newspaper titles are held. Areas of current collecting include history, politics, economics, society, religion, culture, performing arts, and language and literature. The collection includes significant holdings in regional Indonesian languages, including Javanese and Sundanese. Smaller collections (in Asian languages and English) are available for the study of Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Burma, Cambodia and Vietnam.

Japan

The Japanese collection, also one of the oldest at Monash, has grown to over 30,000 volumes. Of significance is an archive of Japanese traditional music, which includes scores and sound recordings. The focus of the current collection is on the history of modern Japan, and on contemporary Japanese society, economics, literature and language.

The Japanese collection also contains resource material of the Melbourne Centre for Japanese Language Education (MCJLE). This material is made available to teachers of Japanese language from across Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania and includes items such as kits, flash cards, electronic resources, readers and workbooks.

China

The main strengths of the Chinese collection are in contemporary Chinese and Taiwanese society, economics, politics, literature, history and film. The growth in these fields has been accelerated by several major donations. The collection also includes English and Chinese-language databases.

Many rare items on China have been acquired over the years, including a number of 18th and 19th century books and a collection of Chinese political posters from the 1970s.

Korea

The Korean collection was established in 1992. Since then, it has grown rapidly and is the largest academic Korean collection in Australia. The focus is on social sciences, especially economics, politics and society, and on the history, language, literature, architecture, film and music of Korea.

Special collections

The Asian Studies Research Collection houses some important special collections of old, rare, fragile, or archival material. These include the Southeast Asia Pamphlets collection (which includes rare Indonesian political pamphlets from the 1960s); the Balai Pustaka collection of early Indonesian vernacular literature; the Norodom Sihanouk Archival collection; the David Chandler Cambodia collection; the Burma Democracy Movement collection; the Malaysian Jawi Script collection; the Australia Tibet Council collection; and the Special Materials collection (old and vulnerable formats). Major special collections of books are the Suetsugu collection of 18th and 19th century books, comprising Japanese editions of Chinese classics and commentaries, and the Indonesian Historical Collection of over 5000 volumes from the Dutch colonial period. The VOC (Dutch East India Company) Archives, 1600-1800, are held on microform.

Subject specialists

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