

No-one was happier than Andersen when the National Economy Committee decided in February 1931 to claw back Scholefield's bonuses. Scholefield's relationship with the Library ceased at that point.⁶

In 1933, Andersen turned 60; a deputy, C. R. H. Taylor, was appointed. Four years later, Taylor took over from Andersen as Chief Librarian, holding the post until 1963. In 1934, the Alexander Turnbull Library Endowment Trust was established, and within a few years the Labour Government had commissioned the writing of a number of centennial surveys, which increased the Library's number of researchers. The Annual Report of the Department of Internal Affairs in 1938 spoke of a 'decided increase' in the number of Library users, the figure reaching 3000 per annum.⁷ In 1939, The Friends of the Turnbull Library held their first meeting. Alice Woodhouse, who was one of the category of 'permanent temporary' women employed in the Public Service in those days, recalled a new mood of optimism sweeping the Library.

The Library's growth continued. By 1946, it contained more than 100,000 books and had a staff of 14, which had grown to 30 by 1966. Some reconstruction of the building took place in the mid-1950s, but it was inadequate. By 1959, space in the Reading Room, according to the Annual Report, was 'strained to the limit'. While the total number of users had risen only to 3525, the Chief Librarian noted, not altogether approvingly, that the introduction of stand-alone courses in New Zealand literature and history at Victoria University had greatly increased visits from senior university students. So crowded was the Library that more than half its collection was now stored in Ford's Building in Courtenay Place. Shuffling backwards and forwards to Bowen St with books for eager readers was time-consuming.⁸ This predicament forced the Library to vacate Turnbull's old home for the Free Lance building in The Terrace in 1973. It, however, was threatened with destruction by 1985, before the long-promised joint building with the National Library was ready to open its doors. By 1987, a library that had 55,000 items in 1918 had grown to 800,000 items with a staff of 53. There were now more than 14,000 readers per annum.⁹

After 75 years, we can reflect on Turnbull's 'fascinating folly', as McCormick once called it. Since Turnbull's death, his legacy has appreciated like a well-managed investment. While there will always be debate about whether all Trevor Williams's 'raw edges' have been planed off, the Library has survived, grown, and without question become the principal national repository for New Zealand's cultural heritage. It may not be the first port of call for those with an interest in the humanities, but a visit must be made if the project is serious. Physical locations have changed; librarians — some very distinguished — have come and gone. Political responsibility shifted from Internal Affairs to Education in 1965, and the Library now enjoys stand-alone status. Linkages between the Turnbull and the National Library are now more intimate. Some did not like this, and fought the growing courtship. When the