

Federation

State Library of Queensland holds a wide range of material relating to the origins of the Federation movement, the process of Federation, its impact and personalities involved, and related movements. Material includes published works, government publications, newspaper articles, illuminated addresses, artworks, medals, photographs and manuscripts.

This guide is not exhaustive but provides examples of the kinds of relevant material held. Find more resources by searching our online [One Search catalogue](#).

State Library resources

[State Library's One Search catalogue](#) is the gateway to an array of national and international books, journals, databases, eBooks, encyclopedias, newspaper archives, and collections of historical images, letters, artworks, diaries and artefacts.

Search the catalogue

Search for resources on Federation using subject links such as these in the catalogue:

- [Australia –History – 1851-1901](#)
- [Australia – Politics and government – 1851-1901](#)
- [Australia – Politics and government – 1891-1901](#)
- [Federal government – Australia -- History](#)
- [Statesmen – Australia -- History](#)
- [Studies in Australian federation](#)
- [Australia -- Politics and government -- 1891-1901 -- Archival resources](#)
- [Queensland -- History -- Bibliography](#)
- [Griffith, Samuel, Sir, 1845-1920 -- Archives](#)

Refine your results using the facets on the right-hand side of the results page. See our [Catalogue Help](#) page for further tips on searching.

Some examples of different types of resources are listed below.

Books

- [A nation of our own: citizenship and nation-building in federation Australia](#) by Robert Birrell, 1995. **Request to access from level 3 or level 4**
- [The making of the Australian constitution](#) by J. A. La Nauze, 1972. **Request to access from level 3 or level 4**
- [The emergent Commonwealth : Australian federation, expectations and fulfilment 1889-1910](#) by R. Norris, 1975. **Open Access, level 4 J 994.032 NOR**
- [The struggle for unity : a story of the federation of Australia](#) by Graham Wilcox, 2014. **Open Access, level 3 923.4943 2014**
- [The Centenary companion to Australian federation](#) edited by Helen Irving, 1999. **Open Access, level 3 G 994.03 1999**

Rare books / Primary sources

- [Australian federation and the draft Commonwealth bill : a paper](#) by Sir Samuel Walker Griffith, 1899. **Request to access from level 4**
- [Advanced Australia : a short account of Australia on the eve of federation](#) by William Johnson Galloway, 1899. **Request to access from level 3 or level 4**
- [Official record of the proceedings and debates of the National Australasian Convention held in the parliament house, Sydney, New South Wales, in the months of March and April 1891](#) National Australasian Convention, 1891. **Request to access from level 4**
- [Debates of the Australasian Federation Conference 1890 : together with extracts from the British press concerning federation and, 'The Australasian Federation Conference of 1890'](#) by Robin Sharwood, 1990. **Request to access from level 4**
- [The early federation movement of Australia](#) by C.D. Allin, 1907. **Request to access from level 4**

Government publications / Primary sources

- Queensland Parliamentary Papers ([Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly, 1860-1901](#)). Search the [index to online tabled papers](#). The papers include:
 - Statement by returning officer showing result of poll under the Australasian Federation Enabling Act (Queensland) 1899 (1899, Vol 1, 753)
 - Proclamation by Her Majesty the Queen establishing the Commonwealth of Australia (1900, Vol 1, p 1199)
 - Despatch, dated 27 July 1900, transmitting the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act (1900, Vol 1, 1189)
- [Queensland Parliamentary Debates](#) (Hansard) includes information about the arguments for and against Federation. Each year includes a subject index. The 1899 debates are particularly relevant.
- *Australasian Federation Enabling Act* (Queensland) 1899 in [The Acts of the Parliament of Queensland](#)

Archival material

Items in the collections include correspondence, speeches, diaries, invitations and legal documents. Examples of archival material related to the Federation era are listed below.

- [Sir James Robert Dickson papers 1886-1900](#)
- [James George Drake Papers 1879-1913](#)
- [Sir Samuel Walker Griffith Papers 1861-1862; ca.1891](#)
- [Littleton Ernest Groom papers](#)
- [R Jay Papers Undated](#)
- [Sir Thomas McIlwraith papers](#)
- [Sir Robert Philp Papers ca. 1875 - ca. 1920](#)

Databases

- [Oxford Companion to Australian History](#)
- [JSTOR](#)

Images

State Library has a collection of [digitised images from Australia between 1851 and 1901](#)

Newspapers

State Library provides access to archives of Australian and international historical newspapers covering events that made and transformed the Australian nation.

Australia

- [Trove Newspapers \(1803-1954\)](#)

Britain

- [The Times Digital Archive \(1785-2014\)](#)
- [British Library newspapers \(1732-1950\)](#)
- [The Illustrated London News Historical Archive, 1842-2003](#)

Other useful websites

- Parliamentary Education Office, [The Federation of Australia](#)
- National Archives of Australia, [The Federation of Australia](#)
- National Museum of Australia, [Federation](#)
- National Library of Australia, [Federation research guide](#)
- Museum of Australian Democracy At Old Parliament House, [Australia's Federation – Learning Activities and Resources](#)
- Parliament of Australia, [Parliament Explained: Federation](#)

Need further information?

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