



Alexander  
Turnbull Library  
**Endowment  
Trust**

**ATL**  
Alexander **100**  
Turnbull Library

## Building relationships

ATLET wants to bring together those New Zealanders and their organisations who believe in the fundamental importance of knowledge and the role of research in our cultural institutions. It wants to demonstrate the value of this research at centenary events based on the legacy of Alexander Turnbull and build relationships that support the growth of knowledge-research capacity and capability.

During the centenary period, ATLET's aim is to increase public awareness of the immense value and diversity of research and analysis which is possible using the collections of the Alexander Turnbull Library and to highlight how this addresses the challenges of protecting truth in the digital era.

## Making contact

To receive invitations to centenary events, please notify [centenary@turnbulltrust.org.nz](mailto:centenary@turnbulltrust.org.nz). You will also find information about providing support, through donations to collections, or donations of funds on ATLET's website [www.turnbulltrust.org.nz](http://www.turnbulltrust.org.nz)

21 February 2019

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# Building an Endowment Fund to Enhance Knowledge for Aotearoa New Zealand in the Twenty-First Century

**Alexander Turnbull  
Library Endowment Trust**

ATLET



# Investing in the Future of Knowledge of Aotearoa New Zealand

## Investing in new knowledge

The Alexander Turnbull Library Endowment Trust (ATLET) and the Friends of the Turnbull exist to support the Alexander Turnbull Library.

ATLET was begun in 1934 with a donation to support the work of the Alexander Turnbull Library. Other bequests, most recently those by Barbara Murison and David Manley Luke, have increased the capacity of the Endowment Fund to support projects that add value to the collection of the Alexander Turnbull Library.

Amongst ATLET's objectives from its Trust Deed is:

*'the advancement of learning... through the promotion and support...of... scholarly research and publication based on the collections of the [Alexander Turnbull] Library'*

The Alexander Turnbull Library is currently celebrating a centenary period which spans the period from the death of Alexander Turnbull on 28 June 1918 through to the opening of the Turnbull Library on the same date in 1920. For ATLET, the centenary period is an opportunity to achieve a quantum leap

in resources for new knowledge creation based on New Zealand's unique heritage.

The Government has renewed its focus on the important role that public library and archive collections play in supporting informed New Zealanders.

ATLET is seeking resources from non-government sources to support research based on the collections of the Alexander Turnbull Library.

There are many kinds of research and other projects that draw upon Turnbull's collections (for example, in the sciences, social sciences, humanities, citizen research). Given its role to preserve its national collection for the public good, the Alexander Turnbull Library has little or no financial support for the work of individual discovery and research.

ATLET is particularly interested in being able to support more advanced research to enhance new knowledge creation. For research to achieve such precious outcomes, a large endowment fund is required to resource fellowships, projects and grants designed to search the collection in depth and rigorously test the results.

## Creating new knowledge about ourselves

Research in the collections of national cultural institutions like the Alexander Turnbull Library is about creating new ways of understanding ourselves better.

This is achieved by exploring the records of our past and present in this land and gaining knowledge about the cultural heritage of the peoples of Aotearoa New Zealand.

The documents archived and conserved by the Alexander Turnbull Library exist in many forms and many languages including te reo Māori. They include manuscripts, in writing and printing; oral history recordings; a Pacific collection, drawings, paintings, photographs, maps; music scores and recordings. All of the Alexander Turnbull Library collections are now being re-presented in digital media forms.

In a nutshell, these collections make up the collective memory of the nation since its foundation.

They record how our Māori and Pākehā forebears thought, their values and aims for this country, their ways of imagining other possibilities for society in the present and future. To discover continuities and differences is to help

explain our present and identify our cultural resources for managing our possible futures.

In 1912, Alexander Turnbull stated:

*"My books & MSS. [manuscripts] I hope will assist future searchers after the truth."*

Understanding ourselves and searching for the truth includes finding answers to important questions.

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What are the values and principles on which Aotearoa New Zealand as a modern nation has been built?

How do we best apply these values and principles as we seek a positive influence in the evolution of global human society?

How do we know whether knowledge is authentic or fake news?

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