



AIATSIS
AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER STUDIES

AIATSIS COLLECTIONS ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER (ABI) INDEXING POLICY

2013-2016

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1. INTRODUCTION

This policy document is for AIATSIS Collections staff and other information and library professionals. The policy will be monitored and reviewed by AIATSIS Collections staff to ensure that it reflects changes in AIATSIS policy and takes account of developments in international and national standards. Detailed guidelines for indexing are available separately.

2. ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER RESOURCE & INFORMATION NETWORK (ATSILRN) PROTOCOLS

AIATSIS endorses the [ATSILRN protocols](#). AIATSIS Collections pays particular attention to issues of sensitivity as an integral part of our indexing practices. Use of the AIATSIS Language and Peoples and Placenames thesauri in ABI records maximises access to materials.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE ABI AT AIATSIS

The index began in the late 1970s as a register of names to published materials in the print collection. As people and place is the focus of the index, the ABI is a primary tool for family history research and forms part of Mura® the AIATSIS Collections Catalogue.

Each ABI record contains a sensitivity message. Many ABI records refer to deceased people which may cause sadness or distress to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. ABI records can contain words or descriptions reflecting the author's attitude or that of the period when the item was written and may be considered inappropriate today in some circumstances.

Following the Inquiry into the Stolen Generations in 1997 the focus of the ABI changed. Priority is given to indexing works relating to members of the Stolen Generations.

4. SCOPE

One of the goals of AIATSIS Statement of Strategic Intent is: *To ensure collections are safe, accessible, valued and growing*¹. Material is selected for indexing according to the ABI Selection Policy which is available separately. Historically, journals indexed included: Dawn and New Dawn magazines; Australian Evangel; Identity and Government Protector's reports. Currently, the focus of the ABI is life stories of Stolen Generations individuals and people with relationships to members of the Stolen Generations.

1. *Statement of Strategic Intent, AIATSIS, 2013-2016*

Items not indexed include works:

- with a high quality index including personal names;
- indexed somewhere else; or
- available in full text online

5. AIMS OF THE INDEX

The aim of the index is to provide a brief biographical entry of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people referred to or depicted in published material held in the print collection. The ABI's geographical coverage is Australia wide, as past removal policies meant that family members may have been moved between states and territories. Records in the ABI enhance access to AIATSIS collections by members of the Stolen Generations and other Indigenous Australians.

6. FORMATS

Previously, the following formats were included in the ABI:

- Books
- Pamphlets
- Kits
- Microforms
- Journals
- Annual reports
- Newsletters
- Newspapers
- Government publications

Presently, books and pamphlets are included in the ABI.

7. STANDARDS

7.1 Cataloguing standards followed

- Resource description and access (RDA)
- USMARC 21
- AIATSIS Collections Cataloguing policy 2013-2016

7.2 Authority standards followed

- Library of Congress Name Authorities
- Libraries Australia Authorities

Authority work is performed in accordance with the AIATSIS Collections authority control guidelines.

7.3 Minimum AIATSIS standard

Mandatory fields:

- 099 Call number
- 600 Personal name
- 691 Place
- 773 Source

8. CONTACT

For further information contact library@aiatsis.gov.au

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies. Statement of Strategic Intent 2013-2016, AIATSIS, [Canberra 2013]

10. WEBSITES

ATSILRN protocols: <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/atsilrn/protocols.php>