

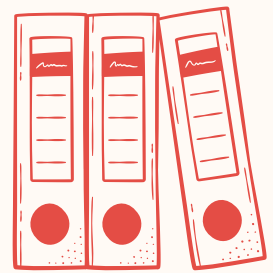
Local history in the classroom and beyond

This resource is designed for educators wishing to embed local history in their curriculum and increase student engagement with their communities. Please click on the headings and red words to be taken to library resources and contact us at our email for any further information or assistance: library@pmi.net.au.

Established in 1854, the Prahran Mechanics' Institute is a community owned and run library specialising in the history of Victoria, Australia; the only specialist, curated and loanable collection of this type. With more than 30,000 items, it provides a central resource for research into the history of Victoria, and has become a destination point for researchers, attracting visitors and inquiries nationally and internationally. In addition to the extensive lending and reference library collection specialising in works about Victorian history, the PMI also presents educational activities including events, lectures, competitions to encourage and facilitate the study of history and hosts a thriving volunteer program. Joining is easy, affordable, and open to all. All material can be searched on the PMI Library Catalogue via the library website: www.pmi.net.au.

Local History

The local histories of Victoria are at the core of the PMI Library collection. Information can be found on nearly every place in Victoria, making the PMI Library collection an incredibly useful resource for educators and students researching their local area. Much of the information contained at the PMI can't be found anywhere else, or if it can be found, can't be loaned. This unique collection provides educators and students with the opportunity to add extra layers of depth and engagement when researching.



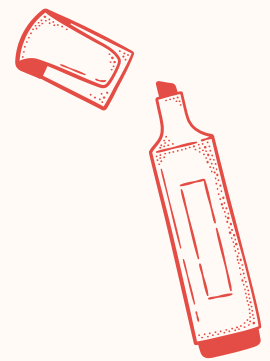
Biographies & Family History

There are a wide range of biographies and family histories available, including books by dedicated family historians that encapsulate years of research. You can search for specific people or families within the PMI Library collection using the catalogue search bar on their website. Family histories can also make a fascinating individual topic of study.



Arts & Entertainment

The PMI has a diverse collection of resources about Australian art and artists, of particular interest, are many items about Australian artists who identify as women. The arts and entertainment are well represented with books and ephemera on: Architecture; Fashion, textiles, and design; Theatre and performance history. One of the Associated Groups that operate out of the PMI Victorian History Library are the Cinema and Theatre History Society (CATHS), who hold a rich collection of their own. Melbourne is internationally renowned for its street art and there are numerous incredible tomes capturing the most memorable pieces of this fleeting artform, creating an ongoing record of the city's street art culture.



Nature, Sport & Transport

These collections can enhance student investigation and research into the local natural environment and the rich sporting culture of Victoria. One of the Associated Groups that operates out of the PMI Victorian History Library are the Victorian Railway History Library, who hold a rich collection of their own.



Hidden Voices

The PMI Library is committed to keeping and telling stories of people whose voices were once hidden. This includes works in **Indigenous languages**, books and ephemera that tell the stories of **queer Victorians** & the vast **immigration collection**. This is perfect for young people who are keen to investigate the true history of their local area and beyond, especially when it comes to primary sources.



Project-based Learning

The PMI Victorian History Library is the perfect starting point for students embarking on personal research and project-based learning. The collection is dedicated to preserving and protecting the history of Victoria; ensuring that even the small stories have a voice within the collection. The PMI collection holds: Books; Physical ephemera items, including theatre and music programs; Local brochures and photographs; Periodicals from every historical society in Victoria; Electronic resources, including heritage studies and the Sands and McDougall Directory of Victoria (which predate the Yellow Pages). The onsite collection is loanable to members, educators and their students will find everything they need, and probably much more than they expected, too!