

Northern Territory Archives Service

Images in the Northern Territory Archives Service collections

The Northern Territory Archives Service (NTAS) has a large number of images, both within government records and in collections donated by community members and organisations.

NTAS holds Northern Territory Government archives which have been created since the government's establishment in 1978. NTAS has also inherited archives from the periods of administration by the South Australian Government (1863-1910) and the Commonwealth Government (1911-1978) which relate to the functions transferred to the Northern Territory Government with the granting of self-government.

Community archives include records which have been donated to the NTAS by individuals and organisations, and are relevant to the social, political, and cultural history of the Northern Territory.

Distribution of images within the Northern Territory Archives Service collections

Images can include photograph albums, individual photographs, slides, negatives and glass plates. Many collections are made up of these specific photographic formats, but occasionally a collection of files or papers may include images in their contents.

It is not always obvious which collections include images. If you are looking for something specific staff can assist you with your search.

The NTAS also holds many copyprints, where photographic copies have been made of images for preservation purposes, or to allow the depositor to keep the original collection.

Collections of images can be as little as one photograph or may contain thousands of images.

Finding images within the collections

To locate images within the collections you should consult Archives Navigator and the List of Holdings which are available on the NTAS website: <https://dtsc.nt.gov.au/arts-and-museums/northern-territory-archives-service/about-ntas>.

Alternatively NTAS can provide you with a list of photographic collections within NTAS holdings. Please note that this list only includes collections specifically identified as containing images.

Archives are organised in groups called record series. There may be more than one record series in a collection. Once you have identified record series of interest, the Reference staff can provide you with series lists. These series lists give details about the items included the record series (for example captions to the images) which will help you to identify particular images relevant to your research.

Some series lists do not include specific details of the subject in the images, such as the names of people or places featured in the images. This is often the case with collections relating to the Second World War and early collections including photographs of Aboriginal people.

Access to Images

Generally, Northern Territory Government records over 30 years old are available for research access and copying at the NTAS. For Northern Territory Government records that were created less than 30 years ago, NTAS staff will help you apply for access through the relevant government agency.

Access to community collections is as per the access agreement signed by the individual or organisation representative donating the records to the NTAS. Reference staff can provide advice on this.

Obtaining copies of images from the collections

Once images have been located and permission to access them has been confirmed, the images can be viewed in our reading room and photocopies or digital copies may be ordered by researchers.

For reproduction costs please see our *Reproduction Fees* leaflet.

It is important that researchers take note of the agreement signed by them for ordering photocopies or digital copies of images. This agreement documents the conditions researchers must adhere to for the use of the reproductions which they have purchased.

If publication of images is intended, permission to publish must be sought from NTAS.

Although the use of digital cameras is permitted in the NTAS reading room, taking photographs of images is not allowed.

Contacts

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