

Frequently asked questions

What is the best way to leave a gift in my will to the National Library of Australia?

The decision to leave a gift to the Library is yours and we are extremely grateful for whatever you consider to be appropriate. Regarding the type of bequest, we recommend a residual gift in your will. This type of gift looks after your family and loved ones first, pays your debts and then whatever is left over is gifted to the Library.

Can I leave my property or personal items to the National Library?

Yes. If the specific items are intended for the Library's collection then please contact us to confirm we can accept them.

If there is a specific item of personal property that you wish for us to sell to fund the work of the Library, then you need to specify in your will that you give the Library permission to sell the item to fund the work of the Library.

Are donations to the Library tax deductible?

The National Library is registered as a Deductible Gift Recipient, which means donations made during your lifetime are tax deductible. Gifts in wills are exempt from Capital Gains Tax, but the estate may not claim a tax deduction for the gift.

My gift is modest – does that matter?

The Library is honoured to have the trust and support of people like you. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference and is greatly appreciated.

Can I leave a gift for a specific purpose?

Yes. We do accept gifts for specific use. To ensure your wishes are met, we invite you to contact us to discuss your intentions. Otherwise, we prefer unspecified gifts, so that the Library can invest the gift in the area of most need at the time it is received.

Should I seek legal advice?

Yes. The Library encourages you to seek independent legal advice before including us in your will.

Do I need to discuss my decision with my family?

It is extremely important that you discuss with your family and loved ones your decision to leave a gift in your will. This will help ensure your wishes are carried out.

Can the Library be my executor?

No. The Library cannot act as an executor for your estate. You can choose your bank, solicitor, friends or relatives. You should select between one and four people who will be able to ensure that your wishes are carried out.

Do I need to tell the Library of my intended gift?

We encourage you to inform the Library of your decision, so that we can thank you and ensure that your wishes can be met.

