

Print collections during COVID

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The COVID-19 pandemic has forced academic libraries to re-think about their print collections. This has created a real challenge since most Asian collections at various academic libraries in Australia rely heavily on print, including serials and monographs. Some libraries, such as Monash Library, have suspended receiving of print collections from Indonesia, China, and Korea, but hopefully this will be resumed in early 2021. Nevertheless, the push to obtain digital access has remained. There have been some attempts to provide access to some archival materials, such as those initiated by the [Internet Archive](#) and [Hathi Trust](#). While these attempts have been well-received, most Asian collection libraries still face the difficulties in providing access to their print collections. Some efforts to overcome this issue include providing home delivery to print books to library users and digitation plan. More importantly, libraries need to continue to negotiate better deals with publishers and lobby for greater access to electronic resources.