

Collection Policy For The RCTS Archive & Library

The core of the collection is appropriate for those with a general interest in all aspects of railways.

Our aim is to advance the education of the public in the subject of historic and current railway operation, including by the development and conservation of an extensive library / archival centre so as to advance the public knowledge and understanding of historic and current railway practice and railway heritage.

We acquire:

- Books and magazines which largely relates to historical aspects and present day operations and developments of railways (which will be tomorrow's 'history').
- Specialist technical material, aimed at those working in the railway industry, or associated engineering and manufacture, is collected only to the extent that it might be of general interest.

We retain, conserve and catalogue manuscript material prepared by present and former members, and others. These items are unique and may contain information not available or recorded elsewhere.

Various 'special' collections are maintained and added to as appropriate:

- Working timetables and related material.
- The Battenon Railway Act Summaries.
- Accident Reports.
- A collection of leaflets.
- Notebooks.

Material not written in the English language is considered individually, depending on its usefulness / importance / rarity.

Material on other forms of transport is not acquired, although an exception is made for some aspects of tramways and road vehicles relating to railways.

We do not acquire material about modelling railways.

We do not usually acquire books which are predominantly pictorial with little other detailed description or text.

We do not usually acquire material dealing with transport generally, unless it contains substantial parts of significant information to railways.

We do not acquire magazines not in the English language or those published by heritage railways and preservation societies. Exceptions to this policy may be made on an individual basis.

Where a significant run of non-English language, heritage railways or preservation societies magazines are in the collection, those may be kept but not added to.

Photographs are the subject of a separate collections policy.

Draft 1 - Peter King	January 2016
Draft 2 - Andy Davies	February 2024
Revision 1 – Andy Davies	15 th April 2024