

# How to Find Historical Census Information



[www.library.uow.edu.au](http://www.library.uow.edu.au)

This guide will help you find older Australian census information. For details of more recent census resources consult the related *How to Find Census Information* guide. Due to their age/format not all the resources mentioned here are listed individually on the Library Catalogue. For further help please contact Research Help Desk staff (02 4221 3548).

To access the ABS web site mentioned below:

- UOW students/staff use the (quota exempt) link from the Library home page → Databases → by Title → A → ABS Website and login in using your UOW student/staff login and password
- Non UOW users go directly to [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

Where can I find	Answer
Quick facts from an earlier census?	<p><i>Note: First Commonwealth census was held in 1911. Subsequent censuses were held in 1921, 1933, 1947, 1954, 1961 and every five years after that.</i></p> <p><b>Web Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ABS website. Select <i>Statistics</i> → <i>By Catalogue number</i> → <i>3.Demography</i> → <i>31.Demography-general</i> → <i>3105.0.65.001 Australian Historical Population Statistics</i> → <i>Details</i> (selected tables include data cited from earlier census sources)</li> </ul> <p><b>Print Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Australians a Historical Library: Historical Statistics</i> volume in Main Collection (1st floor) at 994/150</li> <li>• <i>Australians a Historical Library: Historical Atlas</i> volume also at 994/150</li> <li>• <i>Year Book Australia</i> (editions from 1901+) in Serials Collection (2nd floor) at S 319.406/2 (2001 centenary edition especially useful)</li> <li>• <i>NSW Year Book</i> (editions from 1904+) at S 319.4405/3</li> <li>• Year Books for other states at S 319.4... (for details of years held for each state check Library Catalogue)</li> </ul>
Detailed data from an earlier census?	<p><i>Note: Range &amp; level of data collected at each census varies. For details refer to ABS Year Book Australia 2005 feature article 'Population Census a Brief History' (on ABS web site) and 'Census of Population &amp; Housing Forms 1911-1991' guide in ABS Collection (2nd floor Compactus) at call number 2911.0</i></p> <p><b>Print Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1996, 1991, 1986, 1981 &amp; 1976 Census publications in ABS Collection (2nd floor Compactus) at call numbers 2015.0 to 2940.0 (for more details check ABS Catalogues for relevant years at 1101.0)</li> <li>• Census volumes from 1911 to 1971 in ABS Collection (2nd floor Compactus) at 2000.0+ (for more details check <i>List of Historical Census Publications held in the Library</i> guide)</li> <li>• Social Atlases for various capital cities for 1996, 1991, 1986, 1981 &amp; 1976 in Special Collections Maps (ground floor) at MP 312.0994/10</li> <li>• Use a keyword search on Library Catalogue to locate other relevant titles e.g. <i>census and 1991</i>, <i>census and 1966</i></li> </ul> <p><b>CD ROM Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CLIB96 &amp; CLB91 (for 1996, 1991, 1986 &amp; 1981 census time series tables at national &amp; state level) - for access ask at Research Help Desk</li> </ul>

Where can I find	Answer
<p>Detailed data from an earlier census? <i>Continued</i></p>	<p><b>Microfiche Resources</b> Items below are all shelved in ABS Collection (2nd floor Compactus):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ABS Historical Microfiche Series (1901-1993) - includes copies of all census print publications from 1911 to 1991</li> <li>• 1986, 1981 &amp; 1976 Census Final Data (for tables down to collection district level) (for details check relevant ABS Census Catalogues &amp; User Guides filed in nearby pamphlet box)</li> </ul>
<p>Quick facts from a colonial census?</p>	<p><i>Note: Between 1804 and 1901 separate censuses (originally called musters) were undertaken for each colony within Australia</i></p> <p><b>Web Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ABS website. Select <i>Statistics</i> → <i>By Catalogue number</i> → <i>3.Demography</i> → <i>31.Demography-general</i> → <i>3105.0.65.001 Australian Historical Population Statistics</i> → <i>Details</i> (selected tables include data cited from pre-1901 census sources)</li> </ul> <p><b>Print Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Australians a Historical Library: Historical Statistics</i> volume in Main Collection (1st floor) at 994/150</li> <li>• <i>Australians a Historical Library: Historical Atlas</i> volume also at 994/150</li> <li>• <i>Statistical Account of the Seven Colonies of Australasia</i> (editions from 1890 to 1903) in Rare Book Collection (ground floor) at V 319.405/2</li> <li>• <i>Wealth and Progress of NSW</i> (pre-dates NSW Year Book) (editions from 1885 to 1903) in Archives Collection (ground floor) at ARC 319.4405/3</li> </ul>
<p>Detailed data from a colonial census?</p>	<p><i>Note: Range &amp; level of data collected at each census/muster varies. For details refer to ABS Year Book Australia 1988 feature article 'Australian statisticians and the development of official statistics' (on ABS web site)</i></p> <p><b>Print Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Census volumes from 1828 to 1901 in ABS Collection (2nd floor Compactus) at 2000.0+ (for more details check <i>List of Historical Census Publications held in the Library</i> guide)</li> <li>• Census reports published in British and NSW Parliamentary Papers series (consult <i>Indexes to Historical Parliamentary Papers</i> guide)</li> <li>• Census data published in colonial Blue Book and Statistical Register publications series</li> <li>• Use a keyword search on Library Catalogue to locate relevant titles e.g. <i>census and 18*</i>, <i>muster*</i> and <i>new south wales, blue book*</i>, <i>statistical register*</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Microfiche Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ABS Colonial Microfiche Series (1804-1901) in ABS Collection (2nd floor Compactus) - includes copies of all census/muster/blue book/statistical register publications from 1822 to 1901</li> </ul>
<p>More information on finding Australian historical census data?</p>	<p><b>Library staff can assist you with consulting the following more comprehensive guides held at the Research Help Desk:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Historical Statistics of Australia: A Select List of Official Sources</i> (1820-1970) (016.3194/1)</li> <li>• <i>Checklist of Nineteenth Century Australian Colonial Statistical Sources: Censuses, Blue Books and Statistical Registers</i> (016.3194/3)</li> <li>• <i>Index to the Historical Microfiche Series</i> (1901-1993) (ABS 1123.0) Also available on ABS web site as <i>Historical Publications Index</i></li> <li>• <i>Catalogue of Australian Statistical Publications</i> (1804-1901) (index to the Colonial Microfiche Series) (ABS 1115.0)</li> </ul>