



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Culture and the Arts**  
State Records Office of Western Australia

## Information Sheet

# Archives for Students

### What we are

Many school students, both primary and secondary, visit the Alexander Library Building to use the resources of the **State Records Office of Western Australia**. They may be working on their school projects which can be set on a wide range of topics, e.g., from the history of their own house to the development of the gold mining industry, etc. Or they may be following their own independent line of research.

The **State Records Office (SRO)** is the authority with responsibility for managing, preserving and providing access to the State's archives. The **SRO** delivers best practice records management services to State and Local Government agencies, and provides the community with access to the State's archives. State archives are the records of Western Australian government, including Local government, that have been selected for preservation because they have ongoing value to the community and government of the State. On display at **WA on Show** are some examples of different archives that have been selected and transferred to the **SRO** over time.

### What we hold

In addition to these records the **SRO** has records relating to schools (such as building and works files, admission registers and School Inspectors Journals) and communities (Council minutes, ratebooks and building application files). There are townsite and district plans, sewerage maps and drawings of trains, records of the Goldfields pipeline and other engineering projects, applications for poor relief in the 1870s and employee records from a number of State government agencies, as well as chemical analyses of sandalwood, records of murder trials and bankrupt companies.

### What we do

Staff from the SRO can visit your school or group to talk about primary source material in the State archives and about archives in general.

Visits to the SRO are possible for small groups of supervised students (no more than 15 at a time) and a series of activities designed to assist students at years 5 – 8 locate material in the collection can be arranged.

Visits and talks aimed at older students can be developed in consultation with teaching staff.

A number of education resources are being developed over the next few years, for which we would like recommendations and suggestions to ensure compatibility with Curriculum guidelines and teaching foci.

### Where we are

The **State Records Office** is located on the Ground floor of the Alexander Library Building, in the Perth Cultural Centre. The Search Room, the main access point for using State archives, is open Monday- Friday, 9.30 am – 4.30 pm, and can be contacted on 9427 3360 or by email at [sro@sro.wa.gov.au](mailto:sro@sro.wa.gov.au). Our website, [www.sro.wa.gov.au](http://www.sro.wa.gov.au), includes detailed information about the **SRO**, and some more examples of the wealth of primary source material located in the State archives.