



NZFM – KNIT Exhibition – Reading List

This reading list can encompass publications and publicly accessible research resources which relate to all New Zealand based yarn-based fashion. From knitting, crochet, macrame, and weaving, including craft artists, fashion designers, home crafters, wearable artists. Consider stories of our history as makers of our own clothes through the knit industry development and demise, to revitalisation of the crafts, modern designs using historic techniques.

Resource Type	Reference Details	Description	Availability
Book	Liverpool, A. L. F. (1915). <i>Her Excellency's knitting book</i> (2nd ed.). Ferguson & Osborn].	appeared in August 1915. This 193-page book, produced by Lady Liverpool, was New Zealand's first locally published knitting book. It contained patterns for socks, balaclavas and gloves and was designed to fit snugly into a woman's knitting bag. There was even a rousing song, Canadian in origin but popular in New Zealand Chapters:	University of Waikato Library,

		1. Her Excellency's Patterns 2. Army and Navy Garments 3. Socks and General Hints 4. Balaclavas 5. Mittens and Gloves 6. Cardigans 7. Bed-Socks 8. Cholera Belts 9. Scarves and Comforters 10. Children's Garments 11. Women's Garments	
Web Page	NZ History: Knitting for Empire	References <i>Her Excellency's knitting book.</i>	https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/knitting-empire
Book	Hammonds, L., Lloyd-Jenkins, D., & Regnault, C. (2010). <i>The dress circle : New Zealand fashion design since 1940.</i> Godwit.	References: • 'Knit an Original' campaign (242) • Knitwear (29, 130-1, 162, 163, 185, 189, 191, 238, 246, 270, 280, 290, 297-8, 312, 323-5, 333, 355, 365) • New Zealand Knitted Wear (29, 83) • New Zealand Wool Board Awards (29, 119, 123, 124, 129) • Wool, use in fashion (123-34, 171-2, 240-2)	Published; Available @ The University of Waikato Library
Book	Svendsen, D. (1975). <i>Maori design knitwear.</i> Wilson & Horton.	A collection of family knitwear designed by Dulcie Svendsen for New Zealand Women [From New Zealand Women Magazine] • PARI (jersey and skirt) • MANGOPARE (jersey for him or her) • TIPARE (his or her jersey)	Available University of Waikato Library

		• HEI TIKI (his and her pullovers) • KOWHAIWHAI (his or her pullover) • ARAMOANA (lady's dress) • HUKAROA (girl's cardigan) • ARAMOANA (boy's jersey, girl's skirt and top) • POUTAMA (lady's cardigan) • PIU-PIU (pullover for him or her) • PATIKITIKI (girl's jumper) • TANIKO: TUKEMATA (boy's and girl's jumpers) • TAKARANGI: KIWI (his and her jumpers) • NGUTU-KAKA (v-neck jersey) • NUHAKA (lady's cardigan) • WHAKAKANAE (lady's dress)	
Visual Media	Knitting craft group et.al (1986) Fibre at: Knitting and crochet. Resources Development Division, dept of education	60 slides. Illustrates the development of knitting, from ancient Egypt to modern day, its economic importance, Charters and Guilds, patterns and yarn.	Available University of Otago Library
Book	Nargi, L. (2011). Knitting around the world : a multistranded history of a time-honored tradition. Voyageur Press.	Includes chapters on knitting techniques from across the globe, including a section about New Zealand.	Available at multiple public libraries across New Zealand,
Book	Nicholson, H. (1998). The loving stitch : a history of knitting and spinning in New Zealand. Auckland University Press.	A history of knitting with its main focus on a chronological picture of antipodean knitting. It is also a history of the domestic lives of women, of their resourcefulness, their talent and sociability.	Avail at University of Waikato Library

Book	Chitham, K. (2019). <i>Crafting Aotearoa : a cultural history of making in New Zealand and the wider Moana Oceania</i>	A major new history of craft that spans three centuries of making and thinking in Aotearoa New Zealand and the wider Moana (Pacific).	University of Waikato Library
Book	Labrum, B. (2015). <i>Real modern : everyday New Zealand in the 1950s and 1960s</i> . Te Papa Press.	References: Knitting (27, 69, 107, 113, 118, 134, 134-35, 250, 277, 291, 317, 362, 364)	Published; Available @ The University of Waikato Library
Book	Regnault, C. (2021) <i>Dressed: Fashionable Dress in Aotearoa New Zealand 1840 to 1910</i> . Te Papa Press	References: - Knitting (51) - Knitwear (39, 353, 362, 369-370)	Available via interloan at local library from National Library of New Zealand
Web Page	Pollock, K. (2013) <i>Sewing, knitting and textile crafts, Te Ara – the Encyclopedia of New Zealand</i>	Story of the history of various textile crafts in New Zealand	Te Ara - Story: Sewing, knitting and textile crafts
Book	Jordan, K. L. (2018). <i>Onward knits : knitting patterns inspired by the Wellington Railway Station</i> . [Kate Jordan].	Geometric patterns inspired by brickwork, titling and iron gates & windows in the Wellington Railway Station are used as design templates for knitting patterns for a variety of accessories suited to the Wellington climate.	Available: National Library, Alexander Turnbull Library , Hocken Collection, Dunedin Public Library
Book	Nicholson, H. (1994). <i>Look back in stitches : a story of knitters and hand knitting in New Zealand from 1815</i> . H. Nicholson.		Available, Auckland Museum, National Library, Alexander Turnbull, Hocken,
Book	Packer, A. (2006). <i>Stitch : contemporary New Zealand textile artists</i> . Random House.	References: - Crocheting (24, 25, 33, 80-83, 116, 126, 201) - Knitting (8, 9, 12, 40, 81, 190, 201, 234, 244) - Macrame (116)	Published; Available @ The University of Waikato Library

		• Weaving (9, 40-43, 60-65, 88, 120-123, 128-131, 148, 170, 201, 234) • Wool (9, 86, 96, 138, 141, 150)	
Web Page	Phillips, J. (2012). <i>Queen's scarf</i>	Scarf knitted by Queen Victoria, four of which were presented to colonial soldiers who performed acts of gallantry.	Queen's scarf (Jock Phillips, South African War – The legacy, Te Ara)
Thesis	Day, D. M. (1991). The politics of knitting : a study of the New Zealand Women's Institutes and the Women's Division of the New Zealand Farmers' Union, 1920-1940 : a long essay submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for a Post-Graduate Diploma in History at the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand [Dissertation].		
Journal Article	Tracy Harkison (2023) Knit and natter — the hospitableness of knitting, Research in Hospitality Management, 13:1, 1-4, DOI: 10.1080/22243534.2023.2239571		https://openrepository.auckland.ac.nz/server/api/core/bitstreams/9228f02a-cc8a-4e68-a133-76670a9215f7/content
Web Page	NZ Fashion Museum: Story Manawatu Knitting Mills	Manawatu Knitting Mills, founded in 1884 in Palmerston North, grew from a hosiery cottage business into New Zealand's oldest knitwear manufacturer. Known for	https://www.nzfashionmuseum.org.nz/manawatu-knitting-mills/

		innovation and resilience, it produced Originals All Blacks jerseys, iconic shearer's singlets, and luxury fibre garments, surviving economic challenges while remaining locally owned and committed to quality craftsmanship.	
Book	Wolfe, R. (2001). <i>The way we wore : the clothes New Zealanders have loved</i> . Penguin.	References: Knitting (75, 77)	Published; Available @ The University of Waikato Library
Book	Schamroth, H. (1998) <i>100 New Zealand Craft Artists</i> . Godwit: Random House	Ruth Baird – crochet wire jewellery (5) Margaret Stove – knitted lace (79)	Available via interloan at local library from National Library of New Zealand
Newspaper	Crochet as remedial exercise	Article from 1949 crochet being prescribed as physical therapy	https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/BOPT19490526.2.29
Web Page	Wool and Knitwear in New Zealand: A Brief History	"Sheep farming has been one of our most important agricultural industries for nearly 200 years, and New Zealand is renowned for its world-leading fibre and beautiful knitwear. Today, we delve into the rich history of wool in New Zealand."	https://www.untouchedworld.com/blogs/journal/wool-and-knitwear-in-new-zealand-a-brief-history?srsId=AfmBOorm3j6drtQ93u7SCouG9JGsocjQPdzo-9K9qmVUiJdBA27pzsNN
Article	The Topp Twins and the dolls	RNZ article about knitted dolls of the Topp Twins characters, which are now part of an exhibit at Te Papa	RNZ - The Topp Twins and the dolls
Web Page	Origin of the term Peggy square	An oral history account of the origin of Peggy Square in 1930s nz	https://www.montessorihandwork.com/post/the-story-of-peggy-squares

Web Page	Borden, M. (2023, March 29) Why is the granny square called a granny square?	Exploring initial publications of patterns and exploration of linguistic origins	Why Is the Granny Square Called a Granny Square? PieceWork
Web Page	Tairawhiti museum: WW2 memories, patriotic knitting and sewing	Web page discussing the patriotic efforts in the second world war to supply socks to soldiers	https://tairawhitimuseum.org.nz/2020/05/07/tairawhiti-ww2-memories-patriotic-knitting-and-sewing/
Thesis	Webb, T.J. (2015) Unravelling yarns : how might knitting narratives inform critical pedagogical practice? [Master thesis, Massey University]	Literature review and narrative inquiry to engage in the values inherent in the act of knitting.	Unravelling yarns: how might knitting narratives inform critical pedagogical practice?
Book	Cook, J., & Robinson, S. (2005). <i>Crafted by design : inside New Zealand craft artists' studios</i> . Random House N.Z.	References: • Margaret Stove, lace-knitter, pp. 156-58.	Published; Available @ The University of Waikato Library
Thesis	Hellstrom, M (2013) Knitting Ourselves Into Being: the Case of Labour and Hip Domesticity on the Social Network Ravelry.com [Master dissertation, Victoria University of Wellington]	Ravelry.com exists as a space where domestic craft is deeply tied to identity and social value. Social media posting reflects a long tradition of care and creativity often associated with women's labour, expressing nurturing and community through craft and blending personal effort with the culture of consumption	Knitting Ourselves Into Being: the Case of Labour and Hip Domesticity on the Social Network Ravelry.com
Book	Duncan, M. (1971). <i>Creative crafts with wool and flax</i> . A. H. & A. W. Reed.	References: • Chapter 2: Knitting with Homespun Wool • Chapter 3: Weaving with Wool Yarns	Published; Available @ The University of Waikato Library

Book	Abbott, J., Bourke, S., & New Zealand Spinning, W. & W. S. (1994). <i>Spin a yarn, weave a dream : a history of the New Zealand Spinning, Weaving and Woolcrafts Society Inc., 1969-1994</i> . The Society.	References: • History of New Zealand Weaving (pp. 12-17) • Re-awakening an Ancient Craft (pp. 44 – 73)	Published; Available @ The University of Waikato Library
Book	New Zealand Spinning, W. & W. S. (1980). <i>Spindles and shafts : a fibre crafts anthology</i> . New Zealand Spinning, Weaving & Woolcrafts Society.	References: • Kiwicraft, Joyce Fraser (pp. 50,-55) • Weaving for Wearing, Pam Cullen (pp. 86-91)	Published; Available @ The University of Waikato Library
Book	Horne, B. (1975). <i>Fleece in your hands</i> . N.Z. Spinning, Weaving and Woolcrafts Society.	References: • Knitted Shawl (p.10) • Crochet Stole (p.13) • Loom Designed Jacket (p.19) • Knitted Cap (p.26) • Poncho (p.33) • Crochet Shawl; Knitted Beret (p.36) • Broadwoven Cape (p.41) • Knitted Lace Jumper (p.46)	Published; Available @ The University of Waikato Library
Web Page	Nicholson, H. (1998). <i>The loving stitch : a history of knitting and spinning in New Zealand</i>	A history of knitting with its main focus on a chronological picture of antipodean knitting. It is also a history of the domestic lives of women, of their resourcefulness, their talent and sociability.	The loving stitch : a history of knitting and spinning in New Zealand
Book	Robson, J (2016) <i>Radical Reformers and Respectable Rebels: How the Two Lives</i>	Chapter 13: The Politics of Knitting <i>The outbreak of the First World War initially unites the local community in Gisborne. Walter and Joan immediately</i>	Full text available through the University of Waikato Library

	of Grace Oakeshott Defined an Era. Palgrave MacMillan	<i>commit themselves to the patriotic cause. Walter provides medical training to the National Reserve and Joan leads groups of women making clothing and equipment for soldiers.</i>	
Visual Media	Vogue Knit Series no.34 - Hand Knits for Service Women	Knitting pattern book containing 16 patterns called "Hand Knits for Service Women"	Vogue Knit Series no.34 - Hand Knits for Service Women
Newspaper	Smith, S. (2022). History – Love and marriage	Article about crocheted wedding dress featured in Warkworth & Districts Museum museum “Made In Our Back Yard” exhibition	History – Love and marriage
Web Page	BONZ Group New Zealand Story	BONZ Group specializes in offering high-quality, handcrafted, New Zealand made apparel, accessories and home furnishings that are constructed using premium locally sourced natural materials including sheepskin, leather, wool and possum fur. We are family owned and operated from Queenstown, New Zealand.	https://bonz.com/en/our-story/history?srsId=AfmBOopSeeYtodi46J0t9Cs wd8TPfHHK7FgkCdqny xy-yEb21RgKdSCN
Web Page	Wartime Knitting Revived	Air Force Museum, World War Two ‘comforts’ patterns.	https://airforcemuseum.co.nz/blog/wartime-knitting-revived/
Article	Sharpe, M. (2020). <i>Coronavirus: Knitting and yarning 'essential for mental wellbeing'</i>	Article about MBIE reassessing if the selling of knitting supplies was an essential service during COVID lockdowns	Coronavirus: Knitting and yarning 'essential for mental wellbeing'
Article	Montgomery, D. (2021). <i>So we're in lockdown again: pick up those needles</i>	Article from University of Auckland News about students and staff encouraging each other to knit during COVID lockdowns	So we're in lockdown again: pick up those needles
Visual Media	Creative Fibre Tauranga. (2020). <i>Covid-19 blanket</i>	Quilt made by members of Creative Fibre Tauranga during the 2020 national lockdown during the Covid-19 pandemic. Made of knit or crochet granny squares and felted COVID viruses during the lockdown, which were later joined together after lockdown was over.	Covid-19 blanket

Article	Nautiyal, M. & Joseph, F. & Hunting, A. & Cleveland, D. (2024). <i>An Investigation on the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on New Zealand's Knitwear Manufacturing Sector</i>	An Investigation on the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on New Zealand's Knitwear Manufacturing Sector	An Investigation on the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on New Zealand's Knitwear Manufacturing Sector
Journal article	Chen, Y., & Buckingham, L. (2025). Creative engagement and well-being: Older Chinese migrants in New Zealand. <i>Australasian Journal on Ageing</i> , 44(2), Article e70043.	Discusses older Chinese migrants' creative engagement in knitting and other pursuits (open access article)	https://doi.org/10.1111/ajag.70043