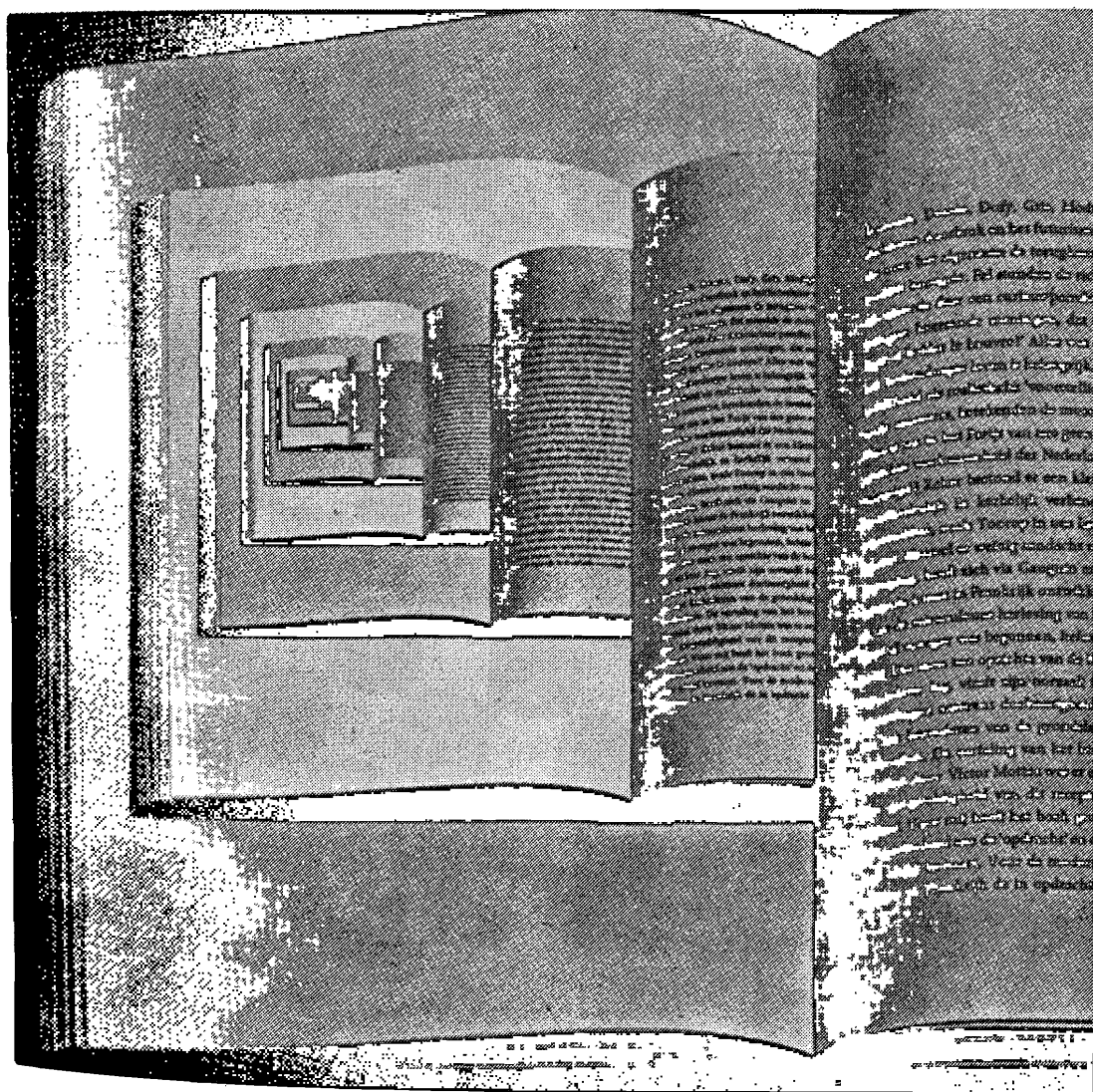


# University of Adelaide LIBRARY NEWS



UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE LIBRARY NEWS

Volume 1 Number 2  
Term III September 1979

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UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE LIBRARY NEWS is issued each term, three times a year, and is obtainable from

University of Adelaide Library News,  
Barr Smith Library,  
University of Adelaide,  
Adelaide,  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5001.

ISSN 0157-3314

THE BARR SMITH LIBRARY TO THE NEXT MILLENNIUM

The Barr Smith Library is just half way between the beginning of its period of great expansion in the nineteen sixties and the end of the twentieth century. A Select Committee of the Education Committee has been preparing a report which will make recommendations on the form in which the Library will develop in the future, with particular emphasis on the scale of acquisition and storage of material in the Library. The Select Committee held its first meeting on 1 May 1979 and delivered its report at the end of August, after almost twenty meetings.

Ideally the Committee and the University would like to be able to increase library accommodation to cope with accessions for the next twenty years by adding extra floors to the main library building, but this will probably prove impossible under present funding. The Committee has examined in detail two main alternatives to continued growth of an open-access collection: the storage of part of the collection at a higher density of books per square metre in a storage area to which only library staff have direct access, and the use of microform material. It has also considered more advanced technological alternatives such as machine-readable data bases.

Microforms are frequently suggested as one solution to library storage problems, but the amount of material published in microform is still small, and is confined mainly to reprint and periodical publications. To be able to make significant savings in storage space, with the Library's present accession rate of about thirty-five thousand hard-copy volumes per year, it would be necessary for the Library itself to convert its purchases to microform. The capital and staff requirements for such an operation are enormous: to keep up with the annual intake would need some twenty-five staff (single shift) and involve a capital expenditure of \$900,000 for the twenty-five microfilm or microfiche machines that would be required. The annual running costs would be about \$300,000 a year!

Wholesale use of microform cannot therefore be seen as a realistic answer to the storage problems of the Library, but an increase in the number of periodicals taken in microform would be a useful contribution to the storage problem. This may involve the establishment of a distinct microform service area in the Library.

The storage of books at about double the density presently used in the open access stacks of the Library obviously reduces the space needed, but readers must be excluded from such high density areas for safety reasons, and to avoid problems arising from reshelving. Instead, the volumes they wish to consult must be specially requested and fetched by library staff, which increases the running costs of the Library and reduces the service which readers have traditionally expected. However, a storage library can be built at about half the cost per square metre of extensions to the main open access library, so that the capital costs per volume may be only one quarter to one sixth of the costs of extensions to the main library.

2.

High-density storage is far from ideal, but at least the books would continue to be available, even if less readily. Without this the number of reader places in the Library would have to be reduced (the new books added every year occupy the same space as about sixty reader places) and the number of new books bought would have to be drastically cut.

The solution of the Library's space problems is not easy, and will involve changes in the traditional operation of the Library for readers and staff. But the Committee has not been able to see any means by which the Library can continue in its present form without these changes unless it adopts a policy of removing one old book for every new one, and burning the old books to provide energy for heating the University!

The Library Committee and the Select Committee wish the Report to have the widest possible circulation and hope to arrange a seminar on the Report later. It is perhaps of interest that the Select Committee has had access to a number of papers from other Australian university libraries on the space problem, but none has examined the problem as thoroughly as the Select Committee has. The only reservation may be that the Report is so thorough that its size will frighten readers; the ancillary documents and working papers from the Select Committee will themselves add to the storage problems of the Library as they are to be deposited in the Library's Special Collections.

G.S. Laurence.  
Chairman, Library Committee.

#### RECENT BRITISH BOOKS ON MUSIC.

An exhibition of recent British books on music will be on display in the Library during late September. The exhibition has been arranged by the British Council, and will coincide with the Third Symposium of the International Musicological Society being held at this University. There will be nearly three hundred books and periodicals in the exhibition, ranging over many aspects of music - history, performance, instruments, personalities and education. Catalogues with full details of the items will be available.

THE EARLY IMPRINTS PROJECT.

The Early Imprints Project in South Australia aims at compiling a bibliographical list of all items published before 1801 held in public and institutional libraries and in private hands in South Australia. It is part of a larger scheme which will bring together in machine-readable form the titles, descriptions and locations of all books and other printed material, including periodicals and ephemera, printed before 1801, held in Australia and New Zealand.

It will contribute to a still larger project, already begun in Britain and the United States, known as the E.S.T.C. - the Eighteenth Century Short Title Catalogue - which will provide a list of titles and major locations of books and other printed materials in English, wherever produced, between 1701 and 1800, and all material regardless of language, printed in Great Britain and America during the same period.

Short title catalogues already exist for the period from the introduction of printing in England in the 1470s, and from 1641 to 1700, usually referred to as Pollard and Redgrave, and Wing, respectively, after their compilers. Few Australian holdings are listed in these, and the Early Imprints Project will cover the whole period from 1470 to 1801. It has been estimated that there may be one hundred and fifty thousand relevant items in Australia and New Zealand.

In Australia the project, which was initiated in South Australia in 1976, is administered from the Humanities Research Centre, with the Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand as co-sponsor. The Executive Committee has recently appointed an editor, Dr Brian McMullin, and an acting editor, Professor Wallace Kirsop, both of Monash University. While there are still important decisions to be made, particularly those regarding the conversion of the collected data into machine-readable form, it is important that the project gets under way in all States as quickly as possible, since collection of data is a very time consuming process.

The Early Imprints Project in South Australia is the first of the State projects to begin collecting data. Dr Alan Brissenden, the chairman of the local committee, received funds from the Australian Research Grants Committee in 1979 to appoint a research assistant, who began work by recording the collections of the University of Adelaide.

Records are compiled by examining the books, photocopying their title pages and adding notes of bibliographical interest, including format, pagination, special binding, and where possible, provenance. While some of the information could be collected from existing lists and bibliographies, a closer examination results in more accurate data collection, and it is expected that many items never before listed will be added.

Participating libraries directly benefit from the accurate identification and cataloguing of items which in some cases have not been handled for many years. The Barr Smith Library, which has discovered inaccuracies and omissions in its catalogue in this way, can take comfort from the fact that the British Library, in the first six weeks of its E.S.T.C. work, found some ten thousand printed items, uncatalogued, in the manuscript collection! Closer to home, the National Library has recently discovered the only extant copy of a seventeenth century Dutch atlas, which had been lying undetected among the miscellanea of the Petherick Collection since 1911. This was of course quite independent of the Early Imprints Project, and it is an unusually rich find, but it remains a good example of the sort of thing that a project of this kind might turn up in any large library.

The recording of The University of Adelaide collection of some three thousand titles (including nearly one hundred items in the Law Library and some early medical texts in the Medical Library) is almost complete, and work is about to begin on material held in the State Library of South Australia.

As well as the University and State Libraries, preliminary surveys have shown that pre-1801 works are also held by Colleges of Advanced Education, the University Colleges, in particular Aquinas and St Mark's, and the Lutheran Archives. Institutions like St Peter's and Prince Alfred Colleges, Rostrevor Seminary, cathedrals and churches, various clubs and societies as well as collections in rural areas such as the South-East and the Barossa Valley, and the libraries of private collectors are all expected to be rich sources of material. The Barossa Valley is particularly strong in German language items and the committee plans to conduct field work there later this year.

Adelaide University has so far made a valuable contribution to the project. It has provided accommodation for the project's research assistant, and has met part of the costs of hiring a photocopier suitable for working with rare and fragile books. Seven of the twelve committee members come from the Departments of History and English and the Library, with the other members from Flinders University and the State Library. The project is fortunate to have found strong support from academic staff and librarians in this state, and to have been able, almost from the beginning, to draw on the expertise and experience of the British E.S.T.C. The benefit of the project to scholars in many fields is incalculable; it will not only give a key to Australian holdings of items listed in the Pollard and Redgrave and Wing catalogues, but by moving with the E.S.T.C. to the end of the eighteenth century will provide valuable information on the publications of the "Age of Enlightenment". The successful completion of the project will be of lasting significance to the world of scholarship.

The committee members would be grateful for any information about pre-1801 items and their location. The knowledge of the

existence of even one or two books in the collection of an individual or institution is well worth having. The inclusion of entries for privately owned copies does not imply that the owner will be badgered by an endless stream of scholars and librarians, but simply that the fact of that title's, or that copy's, existence in Australia will be known.

If you would like to report any pre-1801 holdings, or can suggest avenues that the committee might explore, please contact the project's research assistant, Ms Cheryl Hoskin, or Miss Marjorie Rooney (both Barr Smith Library, telephone extension 2224) or Dr Alan Brissenden (Department of English, telephone extension 2620).

R.J.M. Finlay.

The editorial committee thanks Dr Brissenden for the interview on which this report is based.



Hyginus, Caius Julius  
Clarissimi viri Hyginii Poeticon  
Astronomicon Opus, Venice, 1485.

One of the incunabula held by the Barr Smith Library. Presented by H.K. Fry Esq., M.B., B.S., 1914. Rare. Fine copy. Illuminated initials throughout. Woodcut illustrations representing the stars and planets.

ANOTHER CHINESE REVOLUTION.

Under the headline *Pinyin Perils: Groans from the Libraries*, *Time* in its issue of 2 April drew attention rather light-heartedly to the Chinese Government's decision that as from the beginning of 1979 the Pinyin system of romanization of Chinese characters would replace the traditional Wade-Giles system. "Xurely you zhest," wrote a correspondent to the *Boston Globe*. "Now I have trouble with dzylophone and dzerox, and I still can't pronounce Xiaoping." "I don't even want to think about it," groaned Eugene Wu, Director of Harvard University's Yenching Library which has more than 500,000 cards in its catalogue produced with Wade-Giles romanisation.

Libraries will be hard hit by the change about which they have been apprehensive for some years. The Barr Smith Library, a late-comer to collection-building in Chinese, was in time to see the writing on the wall when it began cataloguing Chinese materials. It used Pinyin from the outset, and after three years or more as a nonconformist can now smugly contemplate the revisionist tendencies of previously orthodox libraries.

LISTS OF ITEMS ON LOAN.

Academic staff and other users of the Barr Smith Library and the Medical Library may be interested to learn that it is now possible to provide printed lists of all items on loan to them. This facility is particularly valuable to academic staff and others leaving the University on study leave or for any other reason in order that they may ascertain and act on a full inventory of items recorded as being on loan to them. Inconvenience to other borrowers, to departmental secretaries, and to library staff may thus be avoided. It is generally preferred that a day's notice is provided when such a list is needed although it is possible to provide lists more quickly in exceptional circumstances.

Borrowers may at any time enquire at a circulation desk about the items on loan to them and library staff can scan the computer-held borrower's file. However, this file is held on the Cyber computer from which the response time is not quick.

Printed lists may be obtained by contacting either the Circulation Services Librarian, Stephen Beaumont (extension 2016), the Medical Librarian, Miss Judith Lloyd (extension 2067), or the Undergraduate Librarian, Mrs Rosemary Douglas (extension 2123).



## ON-LINE INFORMATION SERVICES IN THE LIBRARY.

The 1970s have seen tremendous growth in the use of computer technology to provide access to bibliographic information; that is, to search a file of references or abstracts of the literature in a particular subject area. This new and little known computer-assisted reference service is now available through the Library.

There are a number of benefits to be gained from using a computer to conduct a search. Above all else, as it becomes increasingly difficult to keep up with the volume of literature published in a field, a computer search can accomplish in minutes what might otherwise take days of manual searching in the Library. The files searched are current - there is no three months delay while an 'up-to-the-minute' index is shipped out to the Antipodes; a reference added to the computer file in the United States yesterday can be called up from Adelaide today.

Another advantage is that the vocabulary used in the search is fairly flexible so that in most files the searcher is not restricted to fixed subject headings, but can use free terms, multi-word concepts and highly specific terms. Terms can also be combined in many different ways to define the topic more precisely. In this library, a search is formulated and executed by a librarian after consultation with the person requesting the search.

The services offered here are provided on-line, that is to say a terminal within the Library is connected to a central computer elsewhere by means of a telecommunications link. It is this central computer which holds the files of millions of references, in many data-bases, which we can call up. This has the further advantage of allowing interaction and two-way communication between the central computer and the searcher. Requests can thus be modified and refined as the search progresses depending on the response from the host computer.

The Library presently provides access to three on-line services, DIALOG, ORBIT and MEDLINE. MEDLINE is an information service offered by the Medical Library which provides access to biomedical literature through a central computer located in Canberra. The DIALOG and ORBIT services are offered by the Barr Smith Library through commercial suppliers which have their central computers located in California. These services cover a vast range of subjects from meteorology to music, and provide access to files as broad in their coverage as the various citation indexes or as specialised as *Weldsearch* or *Child Abuse and Neglect*. The computer files are often provided to the suppliers by the publishers of the printed indexing and abstracting services, in which case the on-line file corresponds to the printed publication.

The references and abstracts generated at the end of a search can be printed out in a variety of formats, but because of the high costs involved in on-line communication, it is usual to have these references printed off-line (in California or Canberra) and sent by airmail to the Library. Once the librarian who formulated the search has examined the results, the printed list of references becomes the property of the person who initiated the search.

The costs of these services are shared between the Library and the user, with the charges dependent on factors such as the fees for access to the particular file being searched and for printing references, and of course the costs of the telecommunications link. Thanks to a new packet-switching system offered by O.T.C., known as MIDAS, charges for DIALOG and ORBIT searches have been substantially reduced. The complex cost structure allows us to give only an estimate of the charges before a search is undertaken, but the range is usually between \$20 and \$50 for ORBIT and DIALOG searches and \$20 - \$35 for MEDLINE. Searches may be charged to U.R.G. or Departmental Maintenance, or paid for privately.

If you would like more information or wish to make use of one of these services, please contact the Training Librarian, Chris Palmer (extension 2335), the subject librarian for your Department (extension 2069) or, in the Medical Library, Ellen Aldag (extension 2979).

Chris Palmer.  
Margaret Hosking.

#### A.N.U. NEWSPAPER CLIPPING FILE.

A valuable recent acquisition of the Barr Smith Library is the newspaper clipping file created by the Department of Political Science, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University. The file has been reproduced by Microsystems Pty Ltd of Sydney in the form of 2,347 sheets of microfiche. This is equivalent to 206,100 pages.

Some nineteen newspapers, being the major national and State newspapers, have been searched. The cuttings are arranged in five broad categories: general; Commonwealth; State; federal and defence affairs; finance and economics. Within each of these are sub-categories. Thus there is a separate file for South Australia, and within that category further headings under the individual political parties, the trade unions, Parliament, etc.

The period covered is from 1952.

## CANCELLATION OF SERIALS IN THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.

Over the past few years the subscription cost of serials has risen at a rate of over 20% per annum at the same time as the budget allocation of the Library has gone steadily down in real terms. Savings have been made in several areas, notably by a reduction in staff numbers, but the serials collection has been maintained by steadily eating into funds that would normally be allocated to the purchase of books. In 1978 it was calculated that renewal of serial subscriptions for 1979 would consume more than 60% of the total grant for books and serials.

In the light of this information the Library Committee reluctantly decided that each of the Departments of the University would have to reduce its expenditure on serials by a minimum of 5% so that the proportion of the grant to be spent on renewal of subscriptions would be reduced in 1980 to 55%. Subject lists of serials showing the annual subscription cost and the existence of other copies in local and interstate libraries were sent to the Departments, who were asked to nominate 10% by cost of titles of which 5% would be cancelled. Consolidated lists of serials nominated for cancellation were subsequently circulated to all Departments so that protests against the cancellation of specific titles could be registered. As a result of this exercise four hundred and sixty three titles were cancelled between June and August 1979.

### COLLECTION MANAGEMENT.

The Library has always placed great emphasis on collection management as well as collection building. The Library has tried to support changes in direction of teaching and research interests of the university community and has recognized the need to prune the collection in areas where research interest has waned. Collection management exercises in 1972 and 1976 resulted in seventy eight titles and eighty three titles being cancelled; in addition titles are lost continually as they cease publication or their subject content or standard changes drastically so that the Department which originally ordered a title finds that it is no longer relevant.

To maintain a healthy collection, the savings made by pruning should be used to acquire material relevant to newly developing areas of interest. Cancellation of serial titles because of lack of funds is detrimental to the overall collection management programme and leads to a sacrifice of research capability of the whole institution.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF SERIALS TO RESEARCH.

Serials developed as speedy purveyors of scientific information and the growth in number of titles has underlined their importance

for the research community. In 1700 fewer than ten titles were published. In 1830 about one thousand titles appeared regularly and this figure had grown to ten thousand titles by the year 1900. It is estimated that at their present rate of growth (which is, astoundingly, three times that of the world population!) some one hundred thousand serial titles will be in existence in 1980.

Australia is particularly dependent on serials for up-to-date information; once the initial order has been placed, issues arrive regularly from eight to ten weeks on average after they are published overseas. Monograph publication is much slower and by the time a book is identified as of interest in a review or other selection aid, an order is placed for it with the appropriate overseas supplier, it arrives, is catalogued, processed and made available for loan on the library shelves, twelve months may easily have gone by.

#### THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY AS A MAJOR AUSTRALIAN RESOURCE CENTRE.

Our library has one of the strongest research collections in Australia. In 1977, for example, it satisfied 44% more requests for interlibrary loans than any other Australian university library. The 1978 figures for other libraries are not yet available but this library increased the number of requests satisfied by 6.6% over its performance in 1977.

The growth of computer-based networks is rapid in Australia which will throw even more emphasis on interlibrary lending as the holdings of libraries become more easily known by researchers in other institutions. It is vital that the strength of the library collection is maintained as a major Australian resource.

#### A DEFENCE OF EXCELLENCE.

In a time of economic hardship it is important that essential but expensive investments such as libraries not be allowed to run down due to lack of funds. The Federal Government has indicated that it is prepared to support the education, training and work of researchers in Australian universities and has made available considerable sums of money in the form of research grants. The universities must recognise the importance of maintaining their most important research tools, their libraries, and should allocate sufficient funds to offset inflation in the prices of books and serial subscriptions as well as to maintain library staffing levels so that the high quality of service offered to library users is kept up.

If increased funds for subscription renewals are not forthcoming, then the Library Committee will undoubtedly be forced to ask Departments to cancel a further percentage of their serial titles in 1980, a move that could well be called 'the most unkindest cut of all'.

Alan Keig.

LIBRARY ENTERS THE 1960s  
OR (more seriously though)  
THE LIBRARY ACQUIRES VIDEO EQUIPMENT.

The Barr Smith Library recently acquired a Sony U-matic videocassette player and monitor which are now available for use within the Library. Members of the University may use the equipment to view their own videocassettes either individually or as groups. Rooms within the Library may be booked for group viewing but advance notice will usually be necessary for this facility.

The Sony U-matic player can replay three quarter inch videocassette. Programmes on videotape in other formats or on celluloid film must be converted to three quarter inch videocassette before the Library's equipment can be used. The equipment is not capable of recording programmes off-air: this facility is available, subject to copyright provisions, through the Advisory Centre for University Education.

A small fund is set aside for the acquisition of audiovisual materials from which it might be possible to make purchases of commercially published programmes in video format. The Library will also be pleased to take into its stock appropriate programmes made by members of the University.

Enquiries on the use of the video equipment or on the acquisition of materials in video format may be directed to the Circulation Services Librarian, Stephen Beaumont, extension 2016.

A NOTE TO OUR READERS.

The members of the editorial committee of *University of Adelaide Library News* feel strongly that it should provide a medium for improving communication between the Library and its users. Accordingly, in the two issues to date we have tried to include material publicising services offered in the Library and informing readers of issues under consideration within the Library.

To this end we invite readers to contribute suggestions for future articles. So if there is something about the operations of the Library which puzzles you, drop us a line, and we will attempt to explain and expose it in a future issue.

### LIBRARY INVESTIGATES SERVICES TO THE DISABLED.

Some weeks back the Library Committee established a sub-committee to examine ways in which the Library can provide better service to readers with physical disabilities. As a first step in this process, and because there are a couple of people in wheelchairs who make regular use of the Library after hours, the after-hours entrance has been changed from the completely inaccessible northern entrance to the southern entrance, where access from the plaza is made easier for those in wheelchairs. The sub-committee will also investigate access to the Library Complex, and will examine various facilities and services which can be feasibly changed in order to aid disabled people.

A recent survey by the National Library found tertiary libraries to be the most deficient in the provision of services for handicapped people. Yet anyone can become temporarily or partially disabled through sports injuries and the like, and some improvements to facilities and services for the disabled are of potential benefit to all library users.

If you can contribute suggestions or comments to this committee, its convener is Alan Keig, who can be contacted on extension 2125.

### TAXATION INCENTIVES FOR GIFTS TO LIBRARY.

The University of Adelaide Library is now an approved library under the provisions of the scheme for taxation incentives for gifts to public museums, libraries and art galleries.

The scheme was established after an Inter-Departmental Committee of Inquiry set up by the Whitlam government examined a whole range of incentives for the arts, in order to help develop Australia's cultural and historical collections.

As the scheme works now, a person wishing to donate items suitable for a library's collections, such as a manuscript, a rare book, or even a collection of modern books that is unusual as a collection, first approaches the library. Once the library has accepted the donation in principle, two approved valuers must estimate its worth. The valuation certificates are then included with the donor's tax return and he or she can claim as a tax deduction the average of the valuations given.

Further information on the scheme is available from the University Librarian, or from the Committee on Taxation Incentives for the Arts, P.O. Box 1252, Canberra City, A.C.T., 2601.