

University of Adelaide

LIBRARY NEWS



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NEW LIBRARY STRUCTURE

Over the past year the Library has been working towards a new staffing organisation, dividing the library staff into three divisions. The reorganisation has taken much longer than expected because of delays in professional appointments caused by uncertainty in the long, drawn out process of professional staff reclassifications. However, all three divisions are now formally in place with the appointment of the Divisional Heads.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

The Administrative Services Division is headed by Mrs Heather Howard, who took up duties as Administrative Services Manager in November after some years as Librarian of the C.S.I.R.O. Division of Forest Research Library in Canberra. The Administrative Services Division brings the staff engaged in various functions that formerly made up the Library's Central Services Department - accounts, purchasing, stores and deliveries, statistics, buildings, equipment and maintenance matters, document production, including word processing, duplicating and photocopying, and staffing, together with the former Systems Department. The new Administrative Services Manager will be concentrating on the streamlining of administrative procedures, providing the administrative support for effective development of the Library's automated bibliographic and loans systems, staff appointment, development and evaluation, and the development of the Library's management information system. Mrs Howard's senior support staff are the Deputy Administrative Services Manager, Chris Hone, and the Senior Systems Analyst, Richard Oertel.

TECHNICAL SERVICES

The Technical Services Librarian, Mr Jim Anderson, was Head of the former Technical Services Department and the Division came into formal existence on 5th March 1984 with the arrival of a new senior support staff member as Cataloguing Librarian, Miss Linda Luther, from the Queensland Institute of Technology Library. The Technical Services Division is responsible for the acquisition, descriptive cataloguing and processing of all items acquired for the Library's collections, and is in the process of being restructured into two departments: Acquisitions and Cataloguing. Its current preoccupations are with the development of full operation of the automated bibliographic system, BIBLION, and its links to the Australian Bibliographic Network which provides much of the cataloguing used by the Library. The phasing out of the card catalogues and conversion of manual files to machine-readable form are two other major tasks for the Division in the medium term.

USER SERVICES

The User Services Division is headed by Mr Patrick Condon, who joined the Library on 10th February 1984 as User Services Librarian after being Chief Librarian of the Chisholm Institute of Technology in Melbourne for

some years. The formation of the User Services Division has involved the most complicated reorganisation, as it brings together staff of the former Circulation Services Department, Information Services Department and Medical Library, and involves a concentration of user services on Level 3 of the Library. The complications have been increased by the loss over a short period of six professional staff in the Division. These have occurred for five unconnected reasons - maternity leave, retirement, invalidity, secondment and two resignations to take up more senior positions elsewhere, but the result is a severe current shortage of subject librarians in the new Division. The restructuring of staff in the Division is therefore expected not to be complete until after the middle of 1984, but will involve two departments responsible respectively for information services and for collection management.

The divisional restructuring aims to clarify the roles of staff within the Library, to improve their flexibility and mobility, and to better their career prospects. It should also provide a more efficient and better integrated pattern of user services which will enable the maintenance and further development of services to users in spite of declining staff numbers. While there will inevitably be some uncertainty and a measure of confusion in the transition stages, it is hoped that later this year the new staff structure will be operating at full effectiveness.

OUR COVER

The photograph on the cover is from the historic photograph collection described in Margy Burn's article on pages 3 and 4. It shows a group of first year medical students in 1896 in typical pose.

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

A notable achievement in 1983 was the completion of a project to organise and index a collection of more than one thousand University photographs which had been deposited in the Library over the years. The collection is now properly accommodated in Special Collections and available to researchers.

The oldest photograph in the collection was taken at a ceremony to mark the laying of the Mitchell Building foundation stone on 30 July 1879. The photograph captures the spirit of the occasion: flags flying, the foundation stone suspended from a block and tackle, and a great crowd of spectators. Holders of green and yellow tickets, in top hats and legal wigs, sit behind the dignitaries under a canvas shelter, while holders of red tickets, in academic dress, are seated in the open. In the foreground there are hundreds of men and a few women craning their necks to watch the ceremony. It is an uncharacteristically informal photograph, in stark contrast to the stern, posed photographs so obviously taken to record formally momentous occasions in the history of the University.

As times change so does the concept of what constitutes an historical record. One hundred years later a significant addition to the Library's collection was a portfolio of more than two hundred detailed photographs of the graffiti on University walls.

Many of the photographs in the collection commemorate the opening of University buildings, including the Prince of Wales and Darling buildings, Union Hall, the Napier Tower, the Ligertwood building and the Library complex. Some attempts have been made to record buildings which have since been demolished, such as the old Union, and the Hut, which accommodated the Theatre Guild before the construction of Union Hall. There are very few interior photographs of buildings, with the exception of the Library.

The collection includes some photographs of students, usually in class groups or sports teams, or of significant individuals such as Edith Dornwell, the first woman to graduate, and Thomas Caterer, the first graduate. The earliest student photograph in the collection is of the medical graduates of 1891, including Laura Fowler, the first woman to graduate in Medicine from the University. The photographs of medical students are littered with skeletons. The first year student group of 1896 includes one chap in a cloth cap and wearing what appears to be a butcher's apron; another, with boater and button hole, nonchalantly rests his booted feet on the skull of a horse. (Reproduced on the cover)

Some photographs show the University in an unusual perspective. One of my favourites is of a troop of thirty stockmen on horseback on the Jubilee Oval, their hats raised. The stockmen participated in a rodeo held in honour of Sir Sidney Kidman on his seventy-fifth birthday in 1932, but the camera angle makes it appear as if they are directly outside the eastern entrance of

the newly completed Barr Smith Library. Another, also taken from the Oval, shows Wirth's circus tent with University buildings behind it. The photograph was presented to the University Council in 1929 by members of the Anatomy Department who had great difficulty teaching and working when the circus was in town.

There has been no systematic attempt to collect University photographs and as a result the historic record is incomplete. Most of the photographs prior to 1890 seem to have been collected in the 1920's as the University approached its Jubilee, and they principally portray early professors and members of Council. There are no photographs showing teaching and research in the University prior to 1906, when The Critic magazine published a photographic supplement on the University. More photographs were collected in the Centenary year, including details of fittings and ornamentation in the older buildings. Historic photographs collected for the Mitchell Building Centenary exhibition have also been deposited in the Library. Other substantial collections exist in the Buildings Office and the photographic service of the Advisory Centre for University Education, but these collections are organised for departmental use, rather than for easy access by researchers.

Photographs in the Library collection are organised chronologically with an index of buildings, ceremonial occasions and persons. There are only a few photographs which have not been positively identified and these are currently on display in the southern entrance foyer. We should be delighted to hear from anyone who is able to identify these few remaining mysteries.

The Library is keen to add to the photograph collection, and readers who have photographs which they wish to give to the collection, or to lend for copying, are invited to contact the Special Collections Librarian.

Margy Burn

SPECIAL PROJECTS IN THE LIBRARY

With the acquisition of its new and much larger VAX 11/780 computer at the end of 1982, the Library entered a major development phase designed to transfer its systems to computer-based procedures, incorporating the records of all the Library's collections, as quickly as possible. In a library as large as the Barr Smith Library, the full transition from manual to automated systems is a massive undertaking. We are presently engaged in the significant task of designing and implementing automated procedures that will develop into a fully integrated system of acquisition, cataloguing and loans/stock control; however, the enormous task of converting the existing card records of over one million volumes to machine-readable form must also be tackled.

So far the Library's main efforts have been concentrated on the development of its on-line public access catalogue, BIBLION, and the associated procedures connected with the use of the Australian Bibliographic Network for cataloguing purposes. The Library has been gradually increasing the number of terminals available for library staff and users, while a special working party has been examining the problems of closing the card catalogues and upgrading existing machine-readable records to a standard suitable for users to be more reliant on the on-line catalogue. A substantial amount of material recently acquired from late 1981 onwards is already listed in BIBLION, and the computer also contains brief records for works in the Undergraduate Collection, the Library Store and the Serials Collection. The working party's deliberations led late in 1983 to the decision that items catalogued from the 1st January 1984 onwards would be entered only into BIBLION.

The Library has sought ways in which the transition to machine-readable catalogues can be achieved as quickly as possible, and has been successful in obtaining a series of special grants to assist with this project.

CONVERSION OF THE CARD CATALOGUES

This major project aims to provide access on BIBLION to all material held in the University library system and to enable those records to be available as part of the Australian Bibliographic Network. A grant of \$77,500 from the University's Internal Development Fund for 1983/85 has enabled work to begin on the process of conversion. This is a complicated task, as library catalogue records have been prepared over many decades in both card and machine-readable form and procedures for the conversion will need to vary depending on the quality and type of records involved. It is hoped that substantial parts of the most heavily-used areas of the collection will have had their records converted and accessible on BIBLION by the end of 1984. Further funds will be sought from the Internal Development Fund and/or other sources to complete the project over the next triennium. This conversion will substantially add to the material already in BIBLION and will enable users gradually to have full on-line access to titles in their fields of interest.

UNDERGRADUATE AND RESERVE COLLECTION PROJECT

The University of Adelaide Science Association generously gave the Library a grant of \$30,000 to improve on-line access to BIBLION for undergraduate students. Part of the grant has already been used for the purchase of additional terminals for student use. The remaining funds are being spent on programming which will integrate Reserve Collection records into BIBLION; and also upgrade the quality of Undergraduate Collection records in BIBLION. Once the upgrading is complete, students will be able to use BIBLION to locate copies of all the titles held in both the Reserve and Undergraduate Collections. The system is also expected to speed up library processing of new material for the Reserve Collection. Programming is expected to be completed in time for the system to be in operation by the start of first term 1984 and it should then provide greatly improved access to the most needed material for undergraduate courses.

MUSIC COLLECTION CATALOGUING

When the substantial collection of music scores and recorded music in the Elder Conservatorium of Music was transferred to the Barr Smith Library at the start of 1982, much of the material in the collection remained not fully catalogued. The extensive personal knowledge of the collection by the former Librarian of the Elder Conservatorium, Dr Werner Gallusser, was lost when he retired from the Library in 1983. The Library sought and received over \$56,000 from the South Australian Department of Labour under its Job Creation Scheme to catalogue the recordings and the vocal and instrumental scores in the collection. Staff have already been appointed for this purpose and it is expected that the work will be completed by June 1984. The project will provide significantly improved access to the Library's music collections for staff and students of the Faculty of Music, and more effective use of library staff time in servicing their needs.

THEATRE COLLECTION

Some years ago Miss Angel Symon bequeathed her substantial collection of material on the theatre to the Library. This collection, known as the Allan Wilkie-Frediswyde Hunter-Watts Collection in memory of the well-known actor-manager and his second wife, has since been supplemented by other works from Allan Wilkie's personal collections. Much of the collection has remained uncatalogued until now because it comprises several thousand items. A most generous gift of \$10,000 from Miss Symon's sister, Mrs Mary Clark, which has been matched by a similar sum from the University Foundation, has now enabled the Library to embark on the task of fully cataloguing the collection into BIBLION. This task should take about a year and when it has been catalogued the collection will be permanently housed in the Old Rare Book Room.

With declining recurrent funds, the Library is most grateful to the individuals and organisations who have so generously contributed to these projects. The Library hopes that it will be successful in obtaining additional funds over the next few years to further the transition to a fully automated system which will bring all library resources under effective control, and maximise access to them by staff and students of the University.

Eric Wainwright



PATRICK CONDON

NEW USER SERVICES LIBRARIAN

Patrick Condon began working in the Barr Smith Library as User Services Librarian on 10 February 1984. Patrick was formerly Institute Librarian at Chisholm Institute of Technology, the product of the amalgamation of two Victorian colleges, Caulfield Institute of Technology and the State College of Victoria at Frankston.

Patrick describes himself as "user conscious" and has a strong background in user services, having been User Education Librarian at Caulfield Institute prior to becoming Chief Librarian and Reader Services Librarian at Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education. He has also worked at the University of New South Wales and at the Australian Atomic Energy Commission Research Establishment.

Patrick hopes to see user education extended at the University of Adelaide. He has a firm commitment to the concept of subject librarianship and to the creation of "user friendly" systems which provide effective access to the collections of the University Library.

Patrick's arrival brings into effect the User Services Division which was created by the amalgamation of the Information Services and Circulation Services departments, and with which the services of the Medical Library have been merged. Patrick sees his role within the new Division as that of co-ordinator and he hopes to improve involvement and information flow between the formerly separate departments for the benefit of the user. He is currently reviewing the structure of the Division to give the user service area more direction and a basis for future development.

Patrick values personal contact with university students and staff and intends to begin visiting academic departments initially accompanied by the relevant subject librarian. Patrick is located in Room 459 in the Barr Smith Library, on level 4, near the Medical Collection, and his extension number is 5374.

CANCELLATION OF SERIALS REVISITED

In July 1979 the Library was forced to cancel 463 serials titles so that the proportion of the book grant spent on serials in 1980 would be no more than fifty five percent. Preparation of lists for circulation to academic departments, co-ordination of protests against the cancellation of certain titles and alteration of library records made the cancellation exercise not only unfortunate from a resources point of view, but also expensive in terms of staff effort required.

Towards the end of 1982 it became obvious that there would not be sufficient funds to renew all subscriptions in 1983 and departments were asked to nominate fifteen percent by value of their current serial titles to create a pool for possible future cancellation. When the final budget figures were known in April 1983 it was determined that five and a half percent of the nominated fifteen percent would have to be cancelled, but that one percent of the five and a half percent should be earmarked to allow departments to reinstate titles which had been nominated for cancellation by another department.

In July 1983 just over 400 titles to the value of about \$37,000 were cancelled. All titles which were the subject of a protest were saved, together with a few titles which are believed to be the only copies held in Australia. The Library assumed that expenditure on serials had been reduced to a manageable level, but unfortunately the relief was short-lived.

Blackwell's, our main subscription agent, send a large invoice in August each year to renew the bulk of our serial titles for the following twelve months. The 1983 Blackwell's invoice was a bombshell: prices had increased by twenty-seven percent since the previous invoice whereas the best information had led the Library to expect an increase of around twenty percent.

Immediate action was needed to reduce the deficit which would have been of the order of \$63,000 if the Library had done nothing about it. Regrettably, one of the steps we were forced to take was to cancel a further one percent by value of our total subscriptions, which reduced the Blackwell's invoice by \$10,000. There was no time to consult departments and so titles were chosen which it was hoped would be the least likely to generate protests. The titles cancelled will be credited against the relevant department in any future cancellation exercise.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

The Library has always been concerned to maintain the strength of its serials collection and there is no doubt that it is a useful exercise for departments to critically examine their subscription lists to determine less useful titles which may be weeded. The Library has a recently constituted and active Collection Development Committee which will work in collaboration with other members of the University community to ensure that our collections remain strong and relevant.

I have no doubt, however, that we have reached a point where any further reductions in the serials collection will have calamitous short and long term effects. We have proved that we can manage with less by increased efficiency in the management and deployment of scarce resources in a steady-state environment. By cancelling serials simply to keep pace with the ravages of inflation, without being able to make available adequate funds for essential new serial titles, we are going backwards rather than standing still. The consequences for present and future generations of research workers are dire.

I recall the words of an Illinois University librarian when faced with yet another reduction in his budget: 'We have not just been cut to the bone, we've been cut to the marrow'. It is unfortunately true that drastic surgery usually means that the affected limb is incapable of adequately supporting the rest of the body for a long time afterwards and it takes much intensive care and nurture to restore it to full effectiveness. Often the damage is so severe that the limb never recovers completely and the patient is permanently handicapped.

Alan Keig

RESERVE COLLECTION 1984

Academic staff are invited to inform the Library as soon as possible of any material which should be placed in the Reserve Collection during 1984. If material wanted for 1984 is already on reserve, steps can be taken to ensure that it remains there. Enquiries may be directed to Mr Les Howard on extension 5122.

REMOTE STORAGE OF LIBRARY MATERIAL

On 19 September 1983 the first sod was turned on a site at Flinders University and the joint store to serve the needs of Adelaide and Flinders University libraries started to become a reality. Construction should be completed by the middle of this year so that occupation can begin in the 1984-85 vacation. The planning and execution of the move will be greatly assisted by the \$60,000 recently allocated by the University as a contribution towards the establishment of the store.

The need for a remote storage facility had been recognised since the late 1970's when it became apparent that additional on-campus accommodation for the Library could not be provided for some time. The establishment of remote storage, possibly in conjunction with Flinders University Library, was a major recommendation of the 1979 Select Committee on the Future Development of the Barr Smith Library.

Since that time the Library has already had to relegate some 120,000 volumes to storage in the Old Medical School, but despite reductions in funds for book purchase, increased microform acquisitions and the disposal of superfluous duplicates there is still a need for increased storage facilities. A large store could not be constructed on the congested Adelaide campus and since Flinders University Library faced similar problems, the Bedford Park campus provided the obvious location. The present joint store has been planned initially for the library systems of the University of Adelaide and Flinders University but may in future include material from other major local libraries.

In the first stage, which is expected to last until 1988, the stack capacity of the store will be 375,000 volumes, but the building has been planned to accommodate one million volumes eventually, if funds are available. The special purpose of the book stack will be reflected in its appearance: a large, windowless single storey building, relieved by a smaller fenestrated annexe for readers and staff. Shelving will be concentrated, with stacks nearly three metres high and aisles just wide enough to take a trolley. Since the intention is that only rarely used materials will be moved to the store, the main consideration is for maximum space efficiency, and there is no provision for browsing. Materials in storage will be shelved first by size, probably in five different groups, and within each size by order of transfer to the store. In addition to the existing call numbers each item will be allocated a running number which will become the key to its location on the shelves.

Although there will be some provision for readers who need to consult a range of material in the store, it will be normal practice to bring volumes back to the Barr Smith Library for readers to use. Items recalled from storage will be reviewed so that material which proves to be in demand will be returned to the open shelves. Readers who foresee heavy demand for particular titles will be encouraged to ask for their return to the main library.

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If closed access and off-campus storage are undesirable expedients they are nonetheless here to stay. Closed access collections which are serviced by library pages are a traditional feature of the great libraries of Europe and it seems that as our own collections increase the relative decline in economic growth will force the same pattern in Australia.

On-line bibliographic systems, on-demand publishing, an improved national bibliographic network, and other aspects of the information revolution will enable more rationalisation of library collections in Australia, so that the relative rate of growth may begin to slow down. The development of document transfer, or instantaneous transmission of requested material, will make each library even more a part of a national resource network and will allow increased specialisation in collection and storage, with a relative decline in the size of the network's component parts. However, electronic publishing as it is coming to be known, is still a very small proportion of published information. At least the library store will give us a breathing space for a few years so that we can continue to accommodate the traditional printed sources of information.

Dick Finlay

GOODBYE, MARGY

Margy Burn, inaugural editor of University of Adelaide Library News, has resigned from the Barr Smith Library to take up an appointment as Reader Services Librarian at the Mitchell Library, Sydney. From the very first issue, which appeared in June 1979, Margy has had the unenviable task of producing no fewer than twelve issues of Library News. This issue was almost ready for printing when Margy left.

Margy's colleagues on the editorial committee wish to take this opportunity to record the pleasure we have shared in producing this publication under her leadership and to express the hope that we can keep up the high standard that she has set.