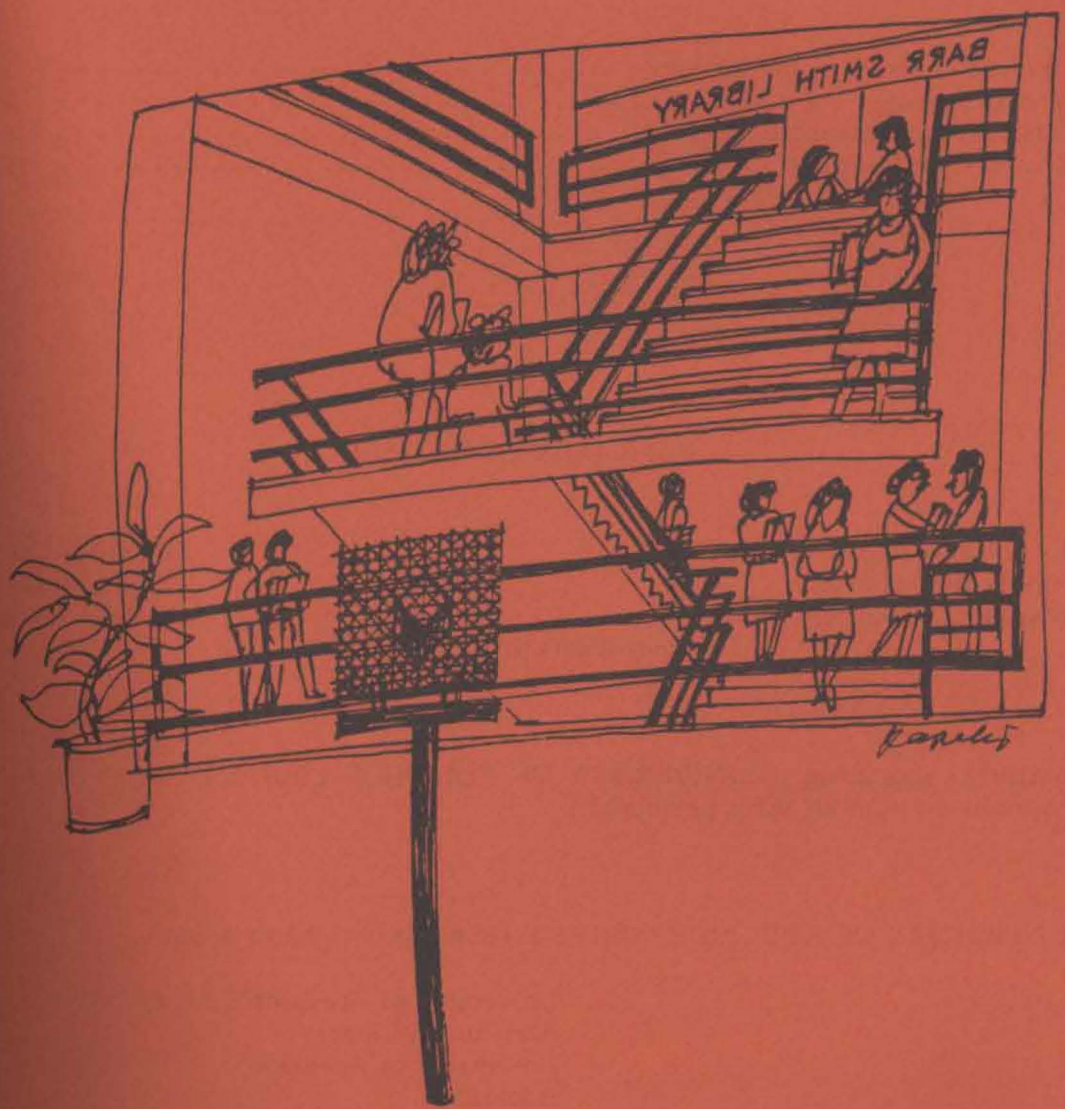
University of Adelaide

LIBRARY NEWS



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UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE LIBRARY NEWS

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SERVICE CHANGES IN THE LIBRARY

The number of staff in the Library has been gradually declining over several years. Until now this has resulted only in marginal reductions in direct service to users, largely the reduction of evening and weekend opening hours, the cessation of some accession lists of new books, and some delays in processing of Reserve Collection books and books returned from loan.

The Library has been able to cope adequately with the decline in staff numbers over this period for a number of reasons, including the successful introduction of the automated loan system, greater efficiency resulting from a reorganisation of staff in 1979, some special short-term funding for various projects, and because the decrease in the number of new books bought for the Library has meant that fewer staff are required for processing.

In 1983 and 1984, however, the Library faces a particularly difficult situation. The demands for traditional library services are continuing to increase as illustrated by the statistics for interlibrary loans, general loans and reference enquiries. Users are demanding new services such as on-line information retrieval, library seminars and the use of audiovisual materials. The Library also faces extra recurrent costs because of its lack of space and the consequent need to send books to storage areas and to replace paper items with microform.

Late in 1982 the Library commenced operation of a large new computer-based cataloguing system which will eventually offer on-line access to the entire collection. Apart from offering many benefits to users, it will also enable staff savings to be made. While the transition from the manual card catalogues to the new automated system is taking place during the next two or three years, the Library has to process most items for both the old and new systems which requires dual processing and, therefore, extra staff. The benefits of the new cataloguing system will not be fully realised until the new system is in full operation and the contents of the card catalogues transferred to the on-line catalogue.

In these circumstances, it has been impossible to avoid some substantial reductions in the direct service to library users during 1983. The Library has adopted a general strategy which has been endorsed by the Education Committee and the Council of the University:

1. To make service reductions within a longer term strategy of improving services through increased efficiency and technological developments.
2. To attempt to ensure that service reductions are not concentrated on any one user group.
3. To prefer service reductions which result in some inconvenience rather than the complete loss of a service.
4. To recognise that some short-term staffing effort is required for systems developments which lead to long-term staff savings and service improvements in the future.

Arising out of this strategy, a number of service reductions have occurred in 1983. Some of these have been controversial and much discussion has taken place to try to ensure that the resulting inconvenience to users is minimised as far as is possible.

1. Loans of unbound journals (except in special cases) ceased in March 1983.
2. The Library will no longer open on public holidays.
3. The Library has ceased to notify academic staff of the arrival of new books ordered, except in urgent and other special cases, and no longer produces a photocopied list of new book accessions.
4. The display of selected dust jackets of new books has ceased, although the new books themselves are still displayed weekly.
5. Paging from the Library's storage areas has been reduced to three days each week from the main library store, and to a single daily service from the Library basement.
6. The information desk service is staffed by only one librarian, rather than two, for longer periods of the week.
7. A controlled cataloguing backlog of material less likely to be used will be created during the period of transition from the card catalogues to the machine-readable catalogue. Once the transition has been completed, and dual processing ceases, it is expected that the backlog will be eliminated within a relatively short time.
8. Reshelving of material in the Law Library will be slower because of a reduction in the Attendant service.

During 1983 further discussions have taken place to streamline the integration of the services offered from the Medical Library desks with those of the main Barr Smith Library by the beginning of the 1984 academic year. While the location of Medical Library service may change, it is not intended that the service to the medical faculties will be any different from that offered to other faculties of the University.

Direct service changes are always controversial. It is hoped that the present service reductions will enable the Library to continue to develop services during this difficult period and that many of the services ceasing at present will be offered in future in a more effective way once the transition to the automated cataloguing system is complete. It has been regarded as essential for the length of this transition to be minimised by devoting adequate staff resources to the development and implementation of the new systems.

Eric Wainwright

AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPERS ON MICROFILM

Australian newspapers are an important primary source in areas such as history, economics and politics. The Barr Smith Library has built up its collection of Australian newspapers over the years to support the needs of researchers, and by 1981 the Library had current subscriptions to the main daily newspapers of each of the Australian states. In addition, the Library has used Literary Equipment funds to build up its microfilm collection of back issues of newspapers, and its holdings now include complete sets from the earliest issue to date.

Library practice is to keep only the latest three months of each title, since binding newspapers is extremely expensive because they have to be individually hand-sewn, and the bound volumes take up an inordinate amount of shelf space. Paper copies are discarded when the appropriate reel of microfilm has arrived in the Library. Two exceptions are The West Australian, current copies of which are not available on microfilm, and The Advertiser which we keep both in bound volumes and on microfilm.

Microfilm copies of newspapers are easy to read on the Library's modern microfilm equipment, especially when a number of issues must be scanned. Copies can be made using microfilm reader-printers, whereas bound volumes are too fragile to be photocopied.

HOLDINGS OF MAIN AUSTRALIAN DAILY NEWSPAPERS

TITLE	PAPER COPY	MICROFILM
ADVERTISER	1858 to date	1858 to date
AGE	1854-1973 + latest 3 months	1854 to date
AUSTRALIAN	Latest 3 months	1964 to date
CANBERRA TIMES	1926-1973 + latest 3 months	1926 to date
COURIER-MAIL	Latest 3 months	1896 to date
MERCURY	Latest 3 months	1854 to date
SYDNEY MORNING HERALD	Latest 3 months	1831 to date
WEST AUSTRALIAN	1978 to date	1833-1968

Alan Keig

PHOTOCOPYING SERVICES IN THE BARR SMITH LIBRARY

Practically every library user at some time makes use of the photocopying facilities. Last year there were over three million photocopies made in the Library, of which about 500,000 were made by copying staff and the rest by members of the University and the general public. Usage varies throughout the year, but October and November are always very busy with panic-stricken students making last-minute copies.

The Copying Service has grown a great deal since it began nearly twenty years ago with one machine. There are now nineteen self-service copying machines in the Library, and two for the use of Copying Service staff. Not only has the quantity of machines grown, but so has their quality and the latest models can indicate exactly where paper jams and other faults have occurred. Our users have not become any more gentle in their use of copiers over the years, so faults and damage still occur. The average life of a copying machine is about five years.

The basic maintenance and refilling of machines occupies only one part of the copying staff's time. They also maintain the flow of 5¢ pieces between copiers and change machines, and make photocopies for other people. Items copied include material for interlibrary loan, serial articles for the Reserve Collection, replacement pages from damaged books, and theses for higher degree students. Since the passage of amendments to the Copyright Act staff now rarely copy library items for regular library users. This decrease in workload has been counterbalanced by increased demands for change and requests for keys by people using key cassette counters which enable them to charge photocopies to departmental funds.

Among the Library's copiers are five which can make reduced images and in the near future it is planned to have a copier in the Copying Service which can increase the size of the image copied. There are no plans to introduce colour copiers which are at present too expensive and too specialised for the heavy use to which they would be subjected here in the Library. Such "backwardness" does not seem to perturb our users particularly - the use of machines still increases by about 5% each year!

Margaret Hosking

INNOVATION NO STRANGER; A FESTSCHRIFT IN HONOUR OF IRA RAYMOND

Why a festschrift? The Oxford English Dictionary defines it as "a collection of writings forming a volume presented to a scholar or savant on the occasion of his attaining a certain age or period in his career." It is still an unusual form of tribute in Australia, and yet it seemed so right for this scholar, a professional well respected in his chosen field, who was now preparing to leave it all for a well-earned retirement.

Ira Raymond had been Librarian at the University of Adelaide for eighteen years. During this time he had seen a significant growth not only in the size of the Library's collections, but also in staff numbers and floor space. He had overseen the introduction of automated systems into the Library, had convinced the University of the need for the Library to employ its own computing staff and to buy its own computer, and had encouraged full participation in the Australian Bibliographic Network pilot project. The scholar librarian accepted the need for such changes with the forward thinking that characterised his whole career.

The idea that a festschrift would be a suitable way of marking his retirement was first mooted late in 1981. Probably none of the editioral committee realised quite how many hours each would spend until the book lay before us, handsome in navy binding and end papers and gold lettering.

Selecting those who would be asked to contribute was the first step, and probably the easiest. Of those who were approached, very few felt unable to make a contribution to this project. The idea of the festschrift excited and pleased them; it seemed so suitable, so "right," and each welcomed the proposal, even though some had reservations about the time scale we proposed.

In the end, the project was brought to completion less than fifteen months after the idea was first discussed. In this we were helped by the professional interest shown by our publisher, Miss Barbara Deverson from Investigator Press. Just as vital was the co-operation shown by the contributors, who accepted the editors' seemingly impossible deadlines, thus ensuring that the festschrift would in fact be published in the same year as Ira Raymond retired. Between the two dates was more than a year of letter-writing, and telephone calls, of editing and proof-reading, until we felt we knew the individual contributions by heart.

When the published copies arrived, a few days before the book's official launching, so also did the realisation that we had achieved what had at first been thought almost impossible: a collection of essays by various authors illustrated with line drawings, edited, printed, bound and published, a tribute to Ira Raymond.

The festschrift was launched on 20th December by the Chancellor of the University, Dr.J.J. Bray, in the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond, senior

University dignitaries, eight of the contributors, and other friends and colleagues. Adelaide contributors included the Librarian of Flinders University, Mr. Noel Stockdale, Mrs. Joan Brewer from the South Australian College of Advanced Education, two academic members of University staff, Dr. Alan Brissenden and Dr. Gerald Laurence, and two members of the Barr Smith Library's staff, Mr. Eric Wainwright and Mr. Jim Anderson. In addition, Mr Zig Kapelis from the University's Faculty of Architecture contributed a number of line drawings showing various views of the Barr Smith Library and these enliven the book. Interstate contributors included Professor Jean P. Whyte from Monash University, Associate-Professor Carmel Maguire from the University of New South Wales, Miss Judith Baskin, Director of the Networks Branch of the National Library of Australia, Dr. Nancy Lane from Canberra College of Advanced Education, Mr. Clifford Burmester, former Assistant National Librarian and Mr. Dan Sprod, publisher of the Blubber Head Press in Hobart, Tasmania.

The topics they covered were as diverse as their own interests, ranging in time from the earliest printed books collected in South Australia to the latest developments in the Australian Bibliographic Network, and in subject from the evolution of Australian libraries and book resources to early professional discourse among Australian university librarians.

Publication was achieved with the aid of financial assistance from two University bodies and from the firm of B.H.Blackwell Ltd.

It was not until the project was well under way that Ira Raymond heard about the festschrift, and then only by accident. Until the 20th December 1982 he had not seen a copy and had only the most general idea of its contents. In his speech in reply to the Chancellor's presentation to him of the leather-bound, gold edged volume, he assured his audience of his pleasure in receiving such a retirement gift, for of all things, it was the festschrift which demonstrated the respect, admiration and affection of colleagues and friends all over Australia.

Chris Hone

WHAT THE CRITICS SAID ...

"The contributions to Innovation no stranger cover a wide range, reflecting a similar spread in Ira's professional interests, and the authors are drawn from the equally wide range of his professional experience. The separate chapters vary in quality but none fails to be a useful contribution to a topic of significance... I should think Ira must be pleased with this tribute; the contributions are by experts as well as friends and they are characterized by lucidity and readability. Each in its own sphere is a top grade addition to the all too modest corpus of writings by Australian librarians. In combination they comprise a short course of recommended reading equally as well for those entering the profession as for those of us for whom the end of our careers is in sight.

Finally, as a piece of book production, Innovation no stranger is unobtrusively well done. It also must surely constitute a first for hand illustrated Festschrifts, at least in modern times."

Harrison Bryan
Australian Library Journal May 1983

"This range of contributions comprehends nicely the breadth of Ira Raymond's interests and achievements, from early books, national bibliography and collection development, through staff development and professional education to automation and national cooperation. Care has clearly been taken with the production of a volume which is typographically pleasing, and enhanced by drawings of the Barr Smith Library by Zig Kapelis.

The editors ... state in their introduction 'We have attempted to produce a tribute which will honour a person for whom we all feel respect, affection and great warmth'. They have succeeded."

Alan Bundy
Australasian College Libraries May 1983

Innovation no stranger edited by Margy Burn and Christobel Palmer, Adelaide, Investigator Press for the Barr Smith Library, 1982.

Available from Mrs Chris Hone in the Barr Smith Library for $15.

ACADEMIC STAFF LIBRARY GUIDE

The Barr Smith Library has revised the guide for academic staff. Published in kit form, the guide includes the following pamphlets detailing library services relevant to academic staff:

Introduction to Library Services and Staff
Interlibrary Loan Service
Ordering Material for the Library
Borrowing from the Library: Academic Staff, Research Students and Professional Staff
Information Services
Computerised Information Services in the Library
Special Collections
Microforms, Audio-Visual Materials, Printed and Recorded Music
BIBLION
The Use of Copying Machines in the Library
Sanctions for Library Users
Library Hours
Location of Material
Map of the Library

If you are interested in receiving copies of any of these pamphlets, contact your subject librarian, or the Information Services Department, on Extension 5069.

Individual pamphlets are displayed in the Library on Level 3, Research Services Wing, adjacent to the Information Desk. Kits are available from the Information Desk or the subject librarians.

NUMERIC DATA-BASES

The library is traditionally the home of bibliographic data, yet it also houses much numeric data: statistics are an obvious example. To take a single instance, those who have explored the journals on Level 1 will be aware of the hundreds of statistical series published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The capabilities of the computer for storing and accessing this kind of information are obvious and well known.

Libraries have been slow to provide access to this kind of numeric information, either on-line or in batch mode, even while they have grasped the possibilities for providing access to bibliographic information. On-line catalogues and on-line searching of overseas and national information systems are becoming commonplace, but experience in the United States indicates that libraries are unwilling in most instances to be involved in the collection and accessing of numeric data in machine-readable formats. The provision of access to statistical and numeric data-bases has largely remained the responsibility of academic departments or in rare cases the computing centre, but where libraries have been involved, they have been able to provide a total and integrated information service of an improved nature.

Numeric data may be generated by a large government agency, or they may be a by-product of the research of a single academic. The 'publication' of such information is not structured commercially in the same way as books traditionally have been, and this is probably the most important single reason why libraries have generally been negative in their response to these developments. Nevertheless an important distributive mechanism has been devised, the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) based at the University of Michigan. An Australian consortium (ACSPRI) based on the Australian National University Data Archive facilitates access for Australian users.

At a broader, national level there is a need for clear policies to be developed by the government and the information community to harness the new technologies in order to provide wider, cheaper and more efficient access to government-produced information in particular.

Recommendations included in a study tour report prepared by this writer after visiting the United States were as follows:

1. The University of Adelaide should continue to monitor developments with a view to offering a full range of information services from numeric data-bases in due course.
2. The University of Adelaide should investigate now the advantages of membership of ICPSR (through ACSPRI).
3. The University of Adelaide should support a research proposal to be made to the National Library of Australia seeking funds to investigate the development of information services from numeric data-bases at a national level.

4. The University of Adelaide Library should undertake to provide a centralised mechanism, through its Acquisitions Section, for the future purchase of machine-readable data files by and on behalf of academic members of staff.
5. The University of Adelaide Computing Centre should act as the central repository for machine-readable data files.
6. The University of Adelaide Library should undertake to catalogue machine-readable data files (and associated codebooks) so purchased and those already purchased, and to include the records in its main catalogue.
7. The University of Adelaide Library should provide training for its Information Services staff to increase knowledge and use of machine-readable data files and promote liaison between those staff members and other departments in the University with an interest in machine-readable data files.

The University Librarian has accepted all the proposals which refer directly to the Library, and a broadly-based University committee will be established to consider the remaining recommendations and the whole question of the future of information services to be derived from machine-readable data files offered within the University.

Howard Coxon

The writer was awarded a Professional Officers Study tour to visit the United States in 1982. Copies of his full report have been distributed widely and can also be consulted in the Library.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

A selection of research materials which have been added to the collection in recent months.

American diplomatic and public papers: the United States and China: Series 3, 1894-1905. Wilmington, Scholarly Resources, 1979. 14v.

Boyce, G.C. Literature of Medieval History, 1930-1975: a supplement to Paetow's guide. Kraus, 1981. 5v.

Compumath citation index, 1976-1982. (Subscription also placed)

Conditions and politics in occupied Western Europe, 1940-1945. Part 3. Brighton, Harvester. 24 microfilm reels.

English cartoons and satirical prints, 1320-1932, in the British Museum. Cambridge, Chadwyck-Healey, 1978. 21 microfilm reels + 12v. printed index.

Evenements de mai-juin 1968: les quotidiens et les hebdomadaires. Paris. A.C.R.P.P. 57 microfilm reels.

Great Britain. Colonial Office. Statistical registers of the Cape of Good Hope, 1821-1909. Wakefield, E.P. 47 microfilm reels.

Great Britain. Court of Star Chamber. Star Chamber and English society in the reign of James I. Brighton, Harvester. 28 microfilm reels + catalogue.

Great Britain. Foreign Office. Japan correspondence, 1856-1867, 1930-1945. Wilmington, Scholarly Resources. 168 microfilm reels.

Great Britain. India Office. India Office records: home miscellaneous series, 1600-1900. London, University Microfilms. 335 microfilm reels.

Great Britain. Public Record Office. The Hanoverian state papers, 1714-1745. Brighton, Harvester. 100 microfilm reels.

Radical periodicals of Great Britain, 1794-1914. Westport, Greenwood Press. 55 titles on microfiche.

Review of the foreign press, 1939-1945. New York, Kraus, 1980. 27v.

Marie Robinson