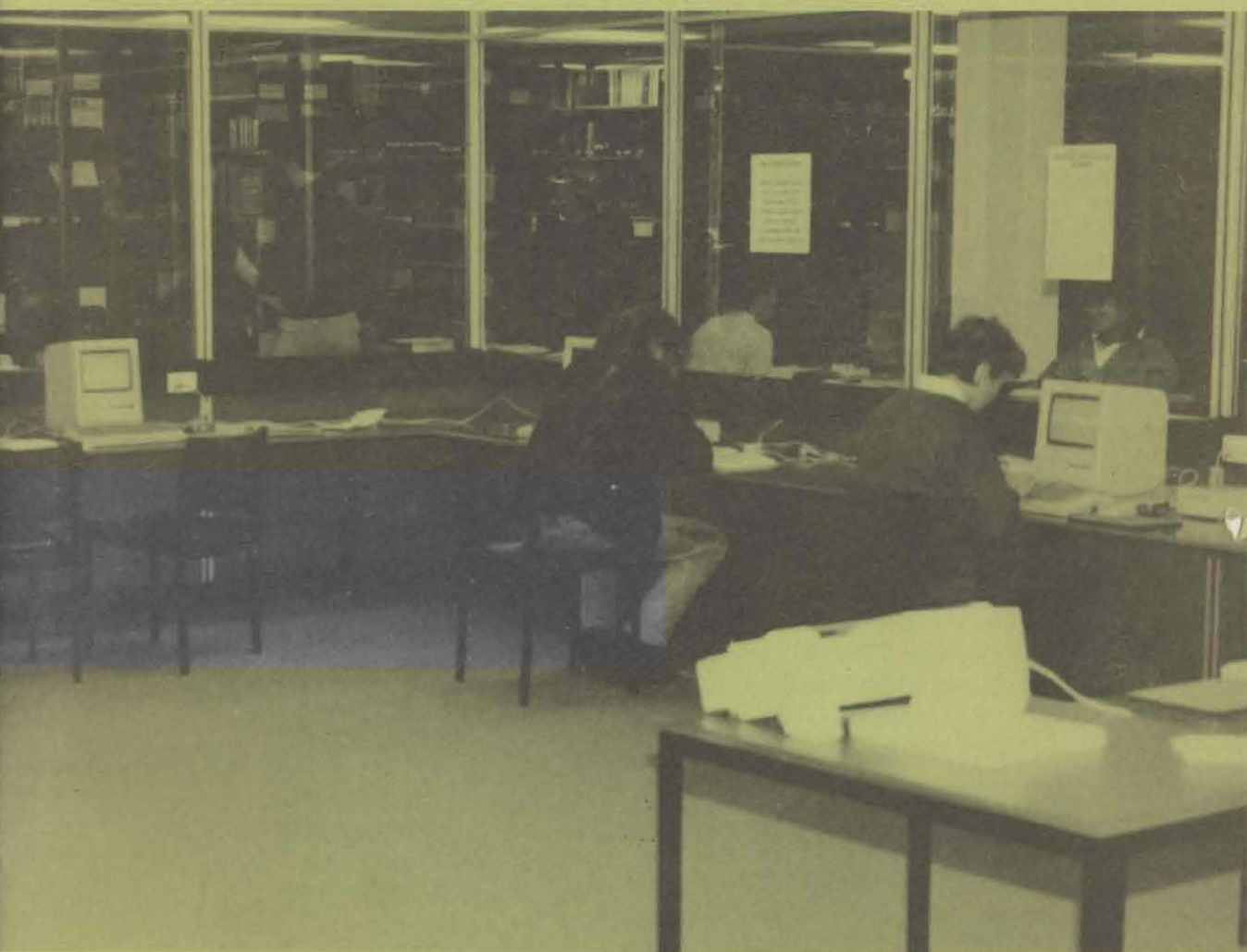


UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

LIBRARY NEWS



Volume 9
Number 1

July 1987

UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE LIBRARY NEWS

Volume 9 Number 1
July 1987

CONTENTS

Microcomputers in the Barr Smith Library	2-5
CLIRS-Computerised Legal Information	
Retrieval Service	6-8
British Biographical Archive	9
User Services - Profiles	10-11
Exchange Programmes in Academic Libraries	12-15
South Australian Library Advisory Committee	16-20

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Alan Keig	} Editors	Peter Jacobs
Liz Lee		Ellen Randva
Dick Finlay		Eric Wainwright
Chris Hone		Anne Webster
Margaret Hosking		(photographer)

Material appearing in *University of Adelaide Library News* may be reproduced without prior permission.

University of Adelaide Library News is published twice a year and is obtainable from:

University of Adelaide Library News
Barr Smith Library
University of Adelaide
G.P.O. Box 498
Adelaide
SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5001

ISSN 0157-3314

The first issue of *University of Adelaide Library News* for 1987 opens with an article by Gordon Abbott, Music and Audiovisual Librarian, on the first twelve months operation of a suite of microcomputers that has been made available in the Barr Smith Library to members of the University community.

As a matter of interest, this issue has been entirely produced using the desk-top publishing programme PageMaker, running on a Macintosh Plus microcomputer, and with output from the LaserWriter providing camera-ready copy for the University's Printing Section.

Dick Finlay's article on CLIRS - the Computerised Legal Information Retrieval System - describes another aspect of the role that micro-computers are coming to play in Library services.

Our regular USER SERVICES - PROFILES section features the first, and very successful job-sharing position in the Barr Smith Library, that of History Subject Librarian, and the present 'dynamic duo' of Patricia Scott and Margaret Hosking.

It is probably not widely known how valuable the Library's exchange programme has been in building up the collection over the years. Deputy Acquisitions Librarian, Chris Smith, has contributed an article to this issue which places the exchange scheme in perspective as an important part of collection development.

The final article in this issue outlines some of the work that has been done by the South Australian Library Advisory Committee since its formation five years ago.

The cover illustration shows the Macintosh microcomputer suite in the Reserve Collection on Level 3 South and was taken by *University of Adelaide Library News* photographer, Anne Webster of Special Collections.

Alan Keig

PROBLEMS

One of the main problems associated with the Library's micro-computing facility has been the amount of staff time that has had to be devoted to it. Difficulties associated with users' inexperience together with hardware and software problems, have made significant demands on staff time.

Another problem has been a fairly high incidence of damage, both accidental and deliberate, to the Library's software. The problem of accidental damage has diminished to a certain degree as users have become more competent with the Macintoshes, but the problem of deliberate damage has remained. It is largely related to users who attempt to alter standard software configurations, thereby rendering the software unusable to all but the most experienced user. This appears to be done by certain people as a way of demonstrating what must appear to them to be an enviable skill. Both forms of damage require considerable amounts of staff time to be spent in restoring software to its normal state.

Damage to hardware has mainly been confined to 'mice' but there has also been wilful damage to the drive units on two of the computers and to one of the external disk drives.

Library staff and users also experience problems when people save their documents on the Library's software, and Library staff time is still being wasted by users who make no attempt to use the self-instruction packages.

PRINTING

The LaserWriter is fairly slow and this has resulted in quite a lot of user dissatisfaction. A booking system is in use with this machine and it is always fully booked two weeks ahead. This makes it virtually impossible for a casual user to get a short document printed quickly. It is feasible to connect all the Macintoshes to the LaserWriter through a network system, but, because the LaserWriter queues incoming work a page at a time, this option could mean that nearly all the micro-computers would be inactive while users were waiting for their particular page to be printed.

The LaserWriter is a high-precision device which will deteriorate with excessive use; the manufacturer recommends that usage be limited to

about 4 000 pages per month, or 130 pages per day. The Library's LaserWriter printed an average of 170 copies a day in the three months to October 1986 and the daily average is probably just as high, or even higher, in July 1987.

STATISTICS OF USE

The figure for loans of 'mice' is the most accurate indication of actual use, since it is necessary to borrow a mouse in order to use one of the Library's microcomputers.

Loan Statistics 30 June 1986 - 30 April 1987

Macintosh Plus Guided Tour	192
512K Macintosh Guided Tour	879
MacWrite	938
Microsoft Word	503
MacDraw	356
PageMaker	222
MacLightning (Spelling checker)	113
ClickArt Effects	30
Microsoft Excel	192
Microsoft File	99
MacProject	59
Microsoft Basic	80
Macintosh Pascal	97
Professional Composer	174
MacDraft	110
MacTerminal	93
MacType	22
<hr/>	
Total number of software loans	4159
<hr/>	
Loans of 'mice'	6252
Pages printed - LaserWriter	46 665
Pages printed - ImageWriter	11 500

Some difficulties have been experienced in anticipating maintenance and other recurring costs for future planning of the microcomputer facility. For example, the most recent estimate of upgrading the software to current versions is just under \$2 000. This is for software that we have owned for less than a year and which was originally purchased for approximately \$9 000.

Hardware is also expensive to maintain, and repair costs are difficult to estimate with any degree of accuracy. Applecare warranty cover is available for \$3 494 for twelve months to cover the existing hardware. This would cover most of the repair work which is likely to be required during that time. Malicious damage to the hardware is not covered by the Applecare agreement.

FUTURE PROPOSALS

There is no doubt that there is a need for a facility of this kind within the University, however, for it to be successful it needs to be set up in such a way that significantly more control can be easily exerted. A satisfactory public access microcomputing facility could be set up in the Library on similar lines to the facility in the Economics Statistics Laboratory in the Department of Economics. This comprises a network of IBM personal computers linked to a Novell server. All software is distributed and controlled by the server. Software cannot be copied or interfered with in any way. Use of a server of this kind keeps the handling of software to an absolute minimum and provides rigid control over use of the hardware. It would be essential for such an installation to have close and expert supervision at all times.

Gordon Abbott

COMPUTERS AND THE LAW - CLIRS

CLIRS stands for Computerised Legal Information Retrieval System. Its aim is to present a complete full-text data base of the primary sources of Australian law. It is also planned to include many sources invaluable to practising lawyers and to act as a gateway into many related databases.

If CLIRS ever completely achieves even a part of these aims it will be a remarkable collection, superior in scope to the American LEXIS system (to which it is also proposed to provide access). The scheme is very ambitious and its completion must be some years off. South Australian cases, for example, are restricted so far to recent South Australian State Reports. The all-important 'unreported judgments' have not yet been comprehensively fed in to bring the case law right up to date. So far, statutes are not entered at all.

SCALE

What CLIRS contains now are substantial amounts of case and statute law from New South Wales and Victoria and much smaller inputs from Tasmania and South Australia. It also gives access to Commonwealth material, in some respects the most significant item now available to a South Australian user. The Commonwealth material is not actually in CLIRS at all, but is linked to it and is automatically available as part of the CLIRS service. Known as SCALE, it is produced by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department. Somewhat ante-dating CLIRS, it contains Commonwealth statutes and law reports and other Commonwealth legal material.

The University of Adelaide's access to CLIRS is a joint enterprise between the Library and the Department of Law. The terminal is housed in the Law Library, Ligertwood Building.

With such great potential, it is not surprising that the misconceptions about CLIRS, both its content and its applications, are legion. At this stage the law content of CLIRS is no more than the online version of a number of printed or near-print publications. None of the databases is complete. There is no 'noting-up' or annotating provided by CLIRS that is not provided by the original publisher.

To use CLIRS is not without its difficulties. As is widely known, it is a full-text system which means that searches have to be extremely

carefully formulated to avoid turning up hundreds of irrelevant citations.

The system is broken up by states, and is also divided into statutes and cases. The search approach is different between statutes and cases and between CLIRS (the states) and SCALE (the Commonwealth). It is hard to imagine anyone becoming a skilled user without working at it long and frequently.

SEARCHING WITH CLIRS

What CLIRS does do is allow speedy and precise searching for the use of specific words, either alone or related to other words, in the different databases. By allowing the user to link fact-words with concept-words the system opens up a useful new approach.

It also allows the user to look for citations of references to follow the judicial history of a known case or statute decision, creating one's own individual legal annotation system.

CLIRS does not make the law more intelligible to the non-lawyer, or help lay enquirers find their way about in it. There are no references or paraphrases. The only abstracts it contains are the catchwords and headnotes already published in the law reports. CLIRS certainly does not do your legal research for you. It is aimed fair and square at the legal practitioner. Law schools are seen by its suppliers as institutions where budding lawyers might be taught to do some at least of their legal research by CLIRS instead of in the traditional way.

The teaching of research methods has been a hot potato in Australian legal education and CLIRS is unlikely to cool it.

GOVERNMENTS' AGREEMENTS

In some ways CLIRS has had a hard ride in its campaign to sell its system, particularly in the law schools. The whole matter of creating a public computerised law system for Australia was handled clumsily by many of the parties involved. The fundamental legal basis of the award of the contract to a sole supplier was open to question (the Australian governments being alone in the Commonwealth in claiming ownership of the judges' reasons for their decisions). This claim prevented the suppliers of LEXIS, believed by many to be a simpler

and better system, from making Australian material available. There has been talk of litigation, but so far the governments' claim remains inviolate. CLIRS is the licensed supplier and its STATUS software provides the only way in to the full texts of the law of Australia.

The governments' agreements with CLIRS are all subject to review after a number of years; there could be further changes in the near future. The STATUS system used in CLIRS is being continually improved, but it is a safe bet that the U.S. systems like LEXIS and WESTLAW are progressing just as fast. CLIRS represents a great step forward, certainly, but the next step may be in a new direction. Since a substantial part of Computer Power, the parent company of CLIRS, is owned by News Limited, CLIRS is likely to remain strongly competitive.

At this stage both the Law Department and the Law Library are in the early stages of their use of the CLIRS/SCALE databases. Searches for University users would have to be undertaken subject to the understanding that the databases are incomplete, and that Library staff, who are not learned in the law, are still learning to become efficient users of the CLIRS system.

Richard Finlay

BRITISH BIOGRAPHICAL ARCHIVE

The Barr Smith Library has just acquired a valuable reference tool which provides biographical information for famous British men and women. Published by K.G.Saur in Munich, the *British Biographical Archive* comprises some 1300 microfiche which reproduce full text from around 300 different biographies published between 1601 and 1926.

The information about any particular person has been extracted from these source biographies, reproduced, and then filed in alphabetic sequence for easy access.

Where appropriate, cross-references are made to entries in *Dictionary of National Biography*.

Sources range from a work called *Atrocious Judges* to one with the title *Illustrious Irishwomen*; a complete list of the sources used is listed on a fiche at the beginning of the set.

So far the microfiche cover surnames A-M and it is expected that the work will be completed by the end of this year.

The boxes of microfiche containing *British Biographical Archive* are shelved in the Reference Collection on Level 3 South at REF/920.041/B157b.

ETHERNET TERMINALS

The Barr Smith Library has recently installed two terminals that are linked to the Computing Centre's VAX system through ETHERNET.

The terminals are on the eastern side of the main stairs on Level 3 South of the Library, in the area behind the Information Desk, and are available to members of the University community at all times that the Library is open.



USER SERVICES - PROFILES

Margaret Hosking

Margaret has spent nearly fifteen years at the University of Adelaide as a student and as a librarian. In 1976 she completed a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Psychology and History, and continued on to the University's (short-lived) School of Library Studies where she obtained a Postgraduate Diploma.

Early in 1978 she started work in the Barr Smith Library as a professional assistant, training to be a Subject Librarian. As a new Subject Librarian in 1979 her subject specialisations were Psychology and Education; later on, Women's Studies was added to her responsibilities. The demands of the



academic staff members and of students in these areas meant that her interests in reader education and online database searching were fully extended while she carried on with a Subject Librarian's other tasks of resource development and organisation. During this time she also served on committees working on problems of noise in the Library and effective signposting of the Library building.

On her return from maternity leave in 1985 she became Subject Librarian for History on a job-sharing basis, first with Pam Mathews and then with Rosemary Douglas. In 1987, after another bout of maternity leave, and the now the mother of two little boys, she resumed her job-sharing role with Patricia Scott, still looking after the needs of the History Department.

Margaret and Patricia have divided the History subjects between them, according to their expertise and interests, and the arrangement is working very well.

They have had a busy year, so far, presenting seminars on effective use of the Library's resources to History students, updating subject bibliographies and cataloguing the 'wonders' that pass across the desk of a History Subject Librarian.

USER SERVICES - PROFILES

Patricia Scott

Patricia Scott came to the Barr Smith Library in 1973 with a Bachelor of Arts degree having majored in Geography and History. As was usual in those days (in South Australia) her professional library qualification was achieved over the next three years in addition to full time work. She served in various capacities in the Medical Library and the Cataloguing Department, gaining experience in reference service, reader education, cataloguing and resource development as well as staff training and organisation.

In 1977, with the formation of the Subject Librarians Group, she was appointed Subject Librarian for Geography and Geology to which was added, later on, responsibility for Environmental Studies. During this time she also added a unit of Geology and an Honours degree in Geography to her qualifications (in addition to two of her three children).

In 1983 Patricia transferred to a part-time position in the Medical Library until it was amalgamated with the main Barr Smith Library collection in 1984. She then, together with Miss S.E. Correll, set up the procedures and organised the staff for the retrospective conversion of Library card catalogue records to machine readable form, a project that is still ongoing and which should be completed by 1989.

In 1986, on return from maternity leave, she took up the position of Subject Librarian for History, sharing the job with Rosemary Douglas.

The return of Margaret Hosking from maternity leave at the beginning of this year, as the other half of the History Subject Librarian position, has led to the formation of the 'dynamic duo' who have enthusiastically embraced the viewpoint that the Library is the historian's workshop.



EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

The bartering of materials between libraries has existed for centuries as a means of exchanging knowledge, and is in turn, an extension of the university tradition of sharing scholarly knowledge and ideas between learned institutions.

Traditionally the material available for exchange has included university calendars, university-published journals and books, departmental and library publications.

There are several reasons why exchanges are regarded as an advantageous means of acquiring material. Firstly, much of the material offered for exchange is not commercially produced nor is it available for purchase. Secondly, certain countries (notably in Eastern Europe) are restricted in their foreign exchange dealings and this places limitations on their libraries in purchasing foreign material. Many libraries have overcome this difficulty by making their publications available only on an exchange basis. A similar situation occurs in libraries in Third World countries. By entering into exchange agreements with libraries in these parts of the world, the Barr Smith Library has been able to acquire much valuable material that would otherwise not have been obtainable.

A major perceived advantage to a library involved in exchange schemes is the financial savings it represents. A library that receives copies of publications for exchange from its parent institution at nominal cost will, by negotiating exchanges at the full retail cost of the publication, be able to acquire more items by exchange as opposed to direct purchase.

RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS

In all exchange agreements there has to be some way of ensuring reciprocity; the value of what you send must approximate the value of what you receive. There are various ways of measuring reciprocity - on an 'item for item' basis, by comparing costs of subscriptions, or on a 'page for page' basis, by comparing numbers of publications exchanged - but there are other factors to be considered as well. If an item is of considerable academic merit and of great interest to its users, the

Library might overlook the 'equal value' principle. Then there is the moral question of insisting on equal value from Third World countries where the capacity to reciprocate fully is limited. Clearly there is a case for applying different criteria to exchanges with these countries.

RECORD KEEPING

A disadvantage in obtaining materials by exchange as opposed to outright purchase is the need for a fairly elaborate record-keeping and on-going audit of exchanges to ensure that all items are being received regularly, and that changes in content and frequency (and even cessation) have not affected the balance of the exchange. The person dealing with exchanges should also ideally have, or try to acquire, a reasonable working knowledge of the languages of the exchange partners. It is true to say that placing orders with a specialised library supplier relieves Library staff of much of this burden.

EXCHANGE JOURNALS

The Barr Smith Library has generally concentrated on journals in its exchange dealings and has been fortunate in having available for exchange a number of significant university-published titles. At present they are:

Adelaide Law Review
Australian Economic Papers
Australian Feminist Studies
Immunology & Cell Biology (formerly *The Australian Journal of Experimental Biology & Medical Science*)
Miscellanea Musicologica
Social Analysis
Southern Review

Of these titles, *The Australian Journal of Experimental Biology and Medical Science*, a prestigious publication which began in 1924, has been especially rewarding in attracting exchange agreements over a long period. The aggressive pursuit of exchanges by W.A. Cowan, the University's Librarian from 1933 until 1964, invaluable strengthened

the Library's journal holdings, particularly in the field of bio-medicine, in times when funds for the purchase of journal subscriptions were meagrely provided. The collection so formed was singled out for praise by Maurice Tauber in his 1961 report on Australian libraries and it provided a strong foundation for the expansion which came with greatly increased funding in the 1960's and 1970's.

THE
AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL
OF
EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY
AND
MEDICAL SCIENCE

*Sustained by the Miss A. F. Keith Sheridan Bequest to the University of
Adelaide for Medical Research*

MANAGING EDITORS:

J. B. CLELAND (ADELAIDE), T. BRAILSFORD ROBERTSON (ADELAIDE)

Assisted in the selection of papers for publication by the following

BOARD OF EDITORS:

W. E. AGAR (Melbourne); L. B. BULL (Adelaide); H. G. CHAPMAN (Sydney); R. CLARKE (Townsville);
S. DOOD (Sydney); A. J. EWART (Melbourne); J. HUNTER (Sydney); T. HARVEY JOHNSTON (Adelaide);
C. H. KELLAWAY (Melbourne); J. MCLUCKIE (Sydney); A. E. MILLS (Sydney); T. G. B. OSBORN
(Adelaide); W. A. OSBORN (Melbourne); W. J. PENFOLD (Melbourne); W. RAY (Adelaide);
P. P. SARRIS (Sydney); W. J. YOUNG (Melbourne)

VOLUME 1

PUBLISHED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE FOR
THE MEDICAL SCIENCES CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PRINTED AT THE HASSELL PRESS, ADELAIDE

1924

*The first issue of the the Library's
most important exchange journal*

REVIEW OF EXCHANGE JOURNALS

With the return to harder times in the 1980's, exchange agreements, like subscriptions, contracted. The institutions responsible for publishing or subsidising journals re-examined the costs of production and the competing demands on their budgets. In many cases the result has been to withdraw exchange stocks and to make the publications available only by purchase, or else to abandon publication altogether. In 1986 the University of Adelaide's Research Sub-Committee of the Executive Committee conducted a close review of journal titles published by the University and concluded that subsidies should continue, subject to its being satisfied of the academic merit, standard of excellence and the relationship and general contribution to the University, of each of the journals. The provision of exchange stocks is also to continue.

However, there is no longer any guarantee of the provision of exchange copies of University of Adelaide subsidised publications without charge to the Library. If the exchange copies have to be purchased then the reciprocal exchange titles will be drawn into competition with ordinary subscriptions. Inevitably, a further round of cancellations will follow, further weakening a collection which is not just of benefit to the University of Adelaide, but which is a significant and often unique part of the nation's research resources.

The Barr Smith Library's 700 exchange agreements range from a simple 'one-to-one' exchange of publications, to comprehensive arrangements with some of the major libraries of the world. Exchange material makes a major contribution to the Library's collection, and the success of the programme is a tribute to the quality of the journals it has to offer, to the Library staff who have nurtured and administered the programme over the years, and to the cooperative spirit of libraries throughout the world.

Chris Smith

References

- Lane, A.H. *Gifts and exchange manual*. London, Aldwych Press, 1980.
Tauber, M.F. *Resources of Australian Libraries*. Canberra, Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographic Services, 1962.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The South Australian Library Advisory Committee (SALAC) was established by State Cabinet on 30 August 1982 consequent upon a recommendation in the 1978 Library Services Planning Committee Report (the Crawford Report). This recommendation suggested that a broadly based committee was needed to advise on and promote the development, rationalisation and co-ordination of library services in South Australia.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference approved by Cabinet for the Committee are:

- ~ Advise the Minister responsible for the Libraries Act and the constituent bodies represented on it on all matters relating to co-operative activities between libraries.
- ~ Investigate, encourage and promote the sharing of library services and resources (including collections, facilities, accommodation and staffing) and to foster the use of libraries.
- ~ Investigate, encourage and promote compatibility of systems within libraries.

SALAC'S CONSTITUENCY

The Minister of Local Government
The Minister of Education
The University of Adelaide
Flinders University
The South Australian Institute of Technology
The South Australian College of Advanced Education
The Libraries Board of South Australia
The Local Government Association of South Australia

MEMBERSHIP

The above organisations and officers nominate representatives who are appointed to serve on SALAC by the Minister of Local Government. Current membership of SALAC is:

Mrs. Joan Brewer, South Australian College of Advanced Education (Chairperson)

Mr. Alan Bundy, South Australian College of Advanced Education.

Ms. Anne Hazell, Education Department (acting)

Ms. Edith Heinrich, South Australian Special Libraries.

Mr. Jim Hullick, Local Government Association.

Mr. Euan M. Miller, Libraries Board of South Australia.

Mr. Noel Stockdale, Flinders University of South Australia.

Mr. Colin R. Taylor, South Australian Institute of Technology.

Mr. Eric J. Wainwright, University of Adelaide.

Ms. Janet Wilkinson (Executive Officer)

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

SALAC first met in December 1982 and usually meets every two months. At its first meeting SALAC identified some thirty matters in the general area of library cooperation that seemed to be relevant to South Australia and which required investigation.

STAFF EXCHANGE SCHEME

Agreement has been reached between SALAC libraries on guidelines and documentation for a scheme of exchange of staff (not necessarily only library staff) for particular purposes of staff development. The scheme is run on a voluntary basis, on the initiative of individual staff members, with the support of the appropriate chief librarian.

Useful suggestions on the guidelines for the scheme have been given by the Chief (Public) Librarians' Association of South Australia, and SALAC has sought support for the scheme from the Local Government Association.

SALAC has established a Co-ordinating Committee for exchanges within its member libraries. The Co-ordinating Committee will receive and collate reports on the effectiveness of each exchange so that any necessary improvements to the guidelines and exchange mechanism may be made.

Copies of the exchange scheme guidelines and documentation are available from SALAC.

RATIONALISATION OF LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

A great deal of effort has gone into various aspects of library co-operation. A preliminary listing of subject strengths in the holdings of the major libraries underlines the difficulties of uniform definition of subject areas and grading of strength of holdings. This first listing has already been found useful by the participating libraries, and will form the basis of future editions of SALAC's *Major Adelaide Libraries: a brief guide*.

In an attempt to develop a rationalisation scheme for journals, SALAC conducted a pilot study in the subject field of agriculture. Twenty eight South Australian libraries were asked to list their journals holdings in this subject and to indicate which titles each wished to retain permanently, and those which each would cancel or transfer if permanent retention elsewhere in South Australia could be guaranteed. Thirteen of the twenty eight libraries responded to the survey (including all the major holders of agricultural journals). The Secretary is now determining the cost to libraries of the alteration of catalogue records and transferring material listed for hypothetical disposal.

CANCELLATION OF JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Following some discussion of the effectiveness of the present system for notifying other libraries of journal titles under consideration for cancellation, SALAC established, as a first step, a Working Party to draw up terms of reference for an investigation into the establishment and maintenance of a local journals union catalogue. These terms of reference have been accepted and a survey is being carried out by two officers seconded from the South Australian College of Advanced Education Library.

DIRECTORY OF ONLINE DATABASES

The second edition of the *Directory of Online Databases available for public access in South Australian libraries* was published in October 1985, and is clearly meeting a need. Three hundred copies have been distributed, a clear reflection of how firmly established and widely-used computer based literature searching has become.

FREE DISTRIBUTION OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

The approval given by Cabinet in 1983 for the free distribution of South Australian parliamentary and government publications to the libraries of the University of Adelaide, Flinders University, the South Australian Institute of Technology, the South Australian College of Advanced Education and the Adelaide College of Technical and Further Education was conditional on a review of the scheme being carried out after twelve months operation. The South Australian Library Advisory Committee carried out this review in 1985 with respect to the categories of materials distributed under the scheme, and the period of time for which recipient libraries should be required to retain material deposited. Responses were sought from the five recipient libraries and from all Government Departments and agencies providing the publications.

All recipient libraries expressed their satisfaction with the scheme and commended the State Government for its approval of it.

The supplying agencies raised several points concerning the actual mechanics of the scheme, but only one problem of substance about a particular category of material was raised. All of the points raised were discussed by SALAC and the Minister was advised of the value of the scheme to participating libraries.

CENTRAL MEDICAL LIBRARY

Beginning in 1984 and following a request from the University of Adelaide, SALAC carried out a planning assessment for a possible jointly operated medical library serving the University, the South

Australian Institute of Technology, the Royal Adelaide Hospital and the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science. State Cabinet, on the recommendation of SALAC, approved an enquiry by SALAC into

~ the present situation of medical library services, resources and facilities in South Australia, the needs of the users of them and possible ways of meeting those needs. The study should include the desirability and feasibility of establishing a formally-recognised, jointly-funded central medical facility serving the institutions referred to above in the first instance, but should also take into account other providers of medical and related library services.

~ SALAC to consult with other organisations, professional groups and individuals in the medical and related fields which might be expected to have an interest, either directly or indirectly, in the delivery and receipt of medical library services.

After twelve months work collecting submissions and analysing the responses to a questionnaire it sent to providers of medical services, SALAC's report was received by Cabinet in March 1985. Cabinet approved the establishment of a Steering Committee to make recommendations on the organizational and administrative arrangements for a Central Medical Library.

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE CALENDARS

SALAC was involved in the decision of the South Australian College of Advanced Education's decision to accept responsibility for maintaining the major State collection of university and college calendars and handbooks. Known as the Len Clark Reference Collection (after a former lecturer at the College) it is housed at the City campus and comprises the microfiche services ATHCOM, ACADEMIC MICROFILE and COLLEGE CATALOG COLLECTION (which cover, respectively, Australian, British and American material) supplemented by hard copy back runs of calendars and handbooks.

**Information from SALAC Annual report
and SALAC Signal**