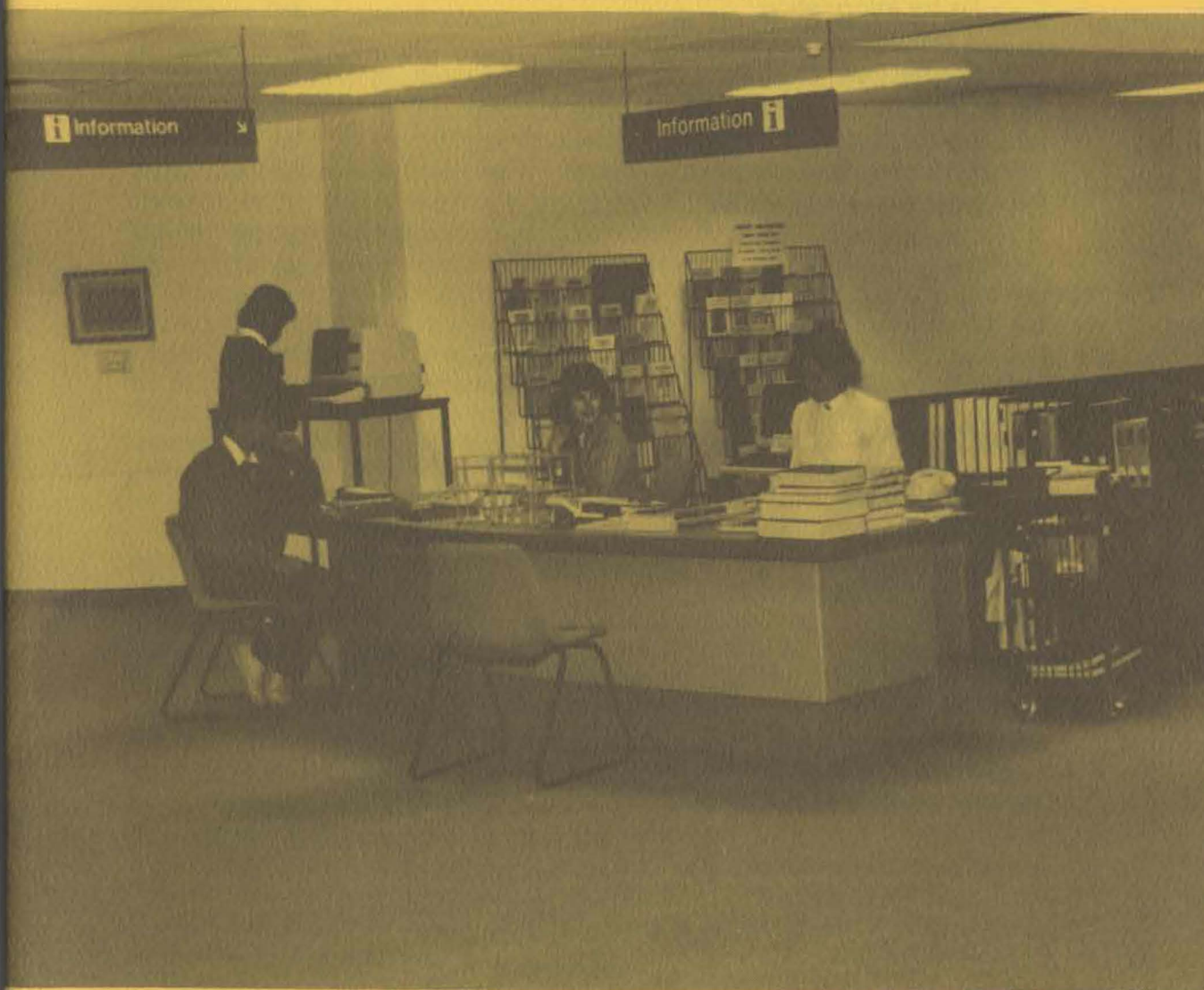


UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

LIBRARY NEWS



Volume 9
Number 2

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The provision of information is the primary reason why any library exists and the quality of a library's service will be judged by its end users, quite legitimately, in terms of the effectiveness with which this task is performed. In this issue we examine the part played by the Subject Librarians in the Barr Smith Library's service to the University of Adelaide community.

Chris Hone's article deals with the Library's main interface with its users, the Information Desk, which is the point at which the provision of information becomes a reality for many people.

A brief history of the Subject Librarians group ten years after its formation is followed by a piece by Ninette Ellis outlining some of the ways in which the Library can help its users to get the maximum benefit from the vast resources that are available. Librarians are not mere custodians of the sources of information, an image which lingers on in the minds of a few people, but are very actively involved in educating their community to make the fullest use of the material that is available, in all its various forms.

Experience in another institution can lead to improvements in the service offered by one's own Library. Ellen Randva has recently returned after six months as an exchange librarian in Vancouver; we benefited from the ideas that we exchanged with her partner, Jane Price, while she was working at the Barr Smith Library, and will now benefit again from Ellen's experiences. The next issue of *University of Adelaide Library News* will include an article being prepared by Jane Price on her insights into the workings of the Barr Smith Library.

Collection development and cataloguing are two of the 'invisible' services that tend to go on behind the scenes, but without which the Library would be unable to provide service. The selection of appropriate items for the collections, which is part of collection development activities, is pointless if you acquire the material but can't find out that the Library has it because it has not been properly catalogued. Liz Lee and Margaret Hosking lift a corner of the veil that often seems to be drawn over these essential library activities.

The Barr Smith Library has been in the forefront of libraries that take advantage of advances in technology to improve their services. We took part in the pilot project that eventually led to the creation of the Australian Bibliographic Network and we developed our own computerised bibliographic control and loan systems, BIBLION and CIRCON. In addition we have developed a great deal of expertise in searching online data bases over the past few years. Jane Wannan's article gives details of how Library users can take advantage of this method of gaining information.

Alan Keig



is for Information

by Chris Hone

Overall length: 4 metres. Shape: somewhat reminiscent of a boomerang. Construction: a tasteful combination of Tasmanian oak and eau-de-nil vinyl. Location: Level 3 of the Library in as prominent a position as could be obtained. Ancillary equipment: one sign suspended above, two adjustable swivel chairs, one BIBLION terminal, one telephone, assorted quick reference tools, three dimensional scale model of the building, desk manuals, log book and statistics file. Oh, and yes, two librarians. For most of the time for most of the year. Evenings and weekends one only, with responsibility for the whole Library. Add them all together and the answer is the Barr Smith Library Information Desk.

Many of the elements listed above will be familiar in some form to public service librarians everywhere, just as many of the questions posed at our Information Desk are repeated daily in libraries world wide. "Excuse me, may I borrow a pen? stapler? scissors? telephone book? street directory? university calendar?" Then there are the so-called directional queries which also comprise a large proportion of enquiries. "Where can I find newspapers? a dictionary? the microcomputers? Where do I go to find out about membership? what does it mean when it says 'desk stacks' on BIBLION? How do I go about photocopying? Has the most recent issue of *X* arrived yet? Where is 378.06? or 610.5? or 820A?" Not forgetting the eternal cry "According to BIBLION this book isn't on loan, but I can't find it on the shelf. What do I do? Where do I look now?"

It's a truism that the life of a public, user or reader services librarian is not an easy one. Since surveys of stress-inducing occupations consistently rate the stress of a librarian's life as being almost non-existent (where *do* they get their information from? Victorian novels?), it seems unlikely that the compilers of such lists have ever coped with first term in a busy academic library such as the Barr Smith. Bearing in mind that Subject Librarians are also responsible for orientation tours, formal reader education such as seminars, online searching of databases and for developing and maintaining liaison with their academic departments, time spent at the Information Desk is only the tip of their client-contact iceberg. Not to mention other duties such as resources selection, subject cataloguing and classifying, membership of various University and Library committees, etc...

A recent survey of reference desk staffing patterns¹ suggests that many reference librarians in American academic institutions spend more hours on average per week on desk duties than do their Adelaide colleagues. One fifth to

one quarter of one's time on rostered Information Desk duties may not sound a great deal, but the mix of duties required of Subject Librarians here may well be unique to this Library. Certainly, there is no mention of a cataloguing component in Bunge's survey, although recognition is given to 'off-desk' client involvement such as reader education and online database searching. And if client contact experienced at the information desk is only the tip of the iceberg as far as the Subject Librarian is concerned, it is an ethos which this group of staff as a whole embraces vigorously. The commitment to service to one's public is seen nowhere more clearly than at the Information Desk.

For many students the Information Desk is their first introduction to the Library. On Orientation Week tours they are always shown the location of the Information Desk, reminded that at least one librarian is on duty there at all hours that the Library is open, and given a brief demonstration of BIBLION, the Library's online public access catalogue. It is here that the

'...commitment to service to one's public is seen nowhere more clearly than at the Information Desk.'

nervous first-year, overawed and overwhelmed by University life, will come to have reading lists interpreted, to find (they hope) that copies have already been placed on Reserve, or to be directed to locations on other floors. Students needing assistance with assignments or tutorial presentations are frequent callers at the Information Desk. Academics are welcome too - maybe a journal issue can be traced, perhaps at a library interstate, or an enquiry made about a book on order, or extra copies of a title ordered for undergraduate courses.

More and more, with changes in curriculum and sky-rocketing book prices, students as well as academics are realising that the Library is an essential resource for their courses. However, learning how to use a Library effectively, particularly one as physically complex as this one, is not always easy. If students ignore invitations to a guided tour of the Library during Orientation Week (there are three tours every hour from 9.00am to 5.00pm and special ones for part-timers as well), if they decide that Library seminars arranged by their Subject Librarian in conjunction with tutors and lecturers are an optional extra of little importance, the difficulty is compounded.

BIBLION

The first hurdle is learning how to use the Library's online, public access catalogue, BIBLION. Its user-friendly nature usually results in people who "don't know how" (and who are scared to try) quickly becoming familiar with some at least of the various options available to them once the basic principles have been explained.

Many students and staff become adept at using the system, determining the call number, establishing whether an item is on loan or maybe in closed access

or in the Reserve collection, with aplomb, and may need assistance only to interpret a particularly confusing or complex catalogue record. Some users, on the other hand, seem never really to feel comfortable with BIBLION and require reassurance that, yes, they did press the right keys, it's just that the Library doesn't have that particular title.

Helping users with BIBLION searching and dealing with the many 'where do I find' questions often seems to form the majority of the questions faced by the librarian rostered for duty at the Information Desk. If these pall, there are always the versions offered by telephone enquirers, usually along the lines of 'Can you tell me if you have such-and-such a title?' or 'When does the Library close?' But it is an acquired skill to sense that when a person comes to the desk asking for information on hang-gliding, what he really wants is information on the aerodynamics of flight for a mechanical engineering seminar...

Reference Work

All too often what seems on the surface to be a simple request turns out to require finding specific, detailed information if the user is to go away happy with our service. Unravelling the real need behind a user's initial, tentative enquiry may well mean time spent in demonstrating the use of appropriate reference tools, indexes and abstracts, and may also require referral to the relevant Subject Librarian.

Often it may also mean consulting staff outside the Information Services Department. Checking whether a particular issue of a journal was ever received or whether the latest one has arrived, finding out where in the system a book recently received but not yet catalogued has got to, extracting for brief consultation a journal issue which has been gathered up to be sent for binding, establishing the status of items supposedly on Reserve, all these and more involve the cooperation and helpfulness of staff in other areas of the Library. It is not always remembered that those in the public eye are only some of the total Library staff. Information Services staff would be the first to recognise that without their colleagues behind the scenes their jobs would be much more difficult, if not impossible.

However, being purveyors of information is not a one-way street. In order to provide the information you must first of all have access to it so that you may provide it at all. For this access Subject Librarians rely as much on their contacts with Departments and the academics within them as they do on their colleagues in the Library. Reading lists, advance notice of items likely to be in heavy demand and therefore that need to be placed in the Reserve Collection, all can be grist to a Subject Librarian's information mill.

As students become more familiar with the Library, and feel less inhibited or threatened by it, so the demands on the Information Desk, the Reference Collection and upon individual Subject Librarians increase. In a continuing attempt

to make the Library more human, and using it less difficult, Subject Librarians produce a range of printed materials to help users, including orientation guides and sophisticated subject bibliographies covering most of the subjects taught at the University. At the last count, fifty-nine different subject bibliographies were available. They are displayed in a rack near the Information Desk and are freely available either from the librarians on duty or from the librarian responsible for that particular subject.

While many queries can involve librarians at the Information Desk in an extended search for information, inevitably there are occasions when no one is waiting for attention and the librarian on duty may undertake other tasks. The question is, what can be considered suitable at these times? On the one hand, the accusation of 'just reading magazines' is certainly inaccurate and unjust. There is never enough time for professional reading, and occasionally a stint at the Information Desk may provide an opportunity to catch up with new journal issues in our own subject areas. Then, too, the library world is changing so fast that it is almost an impossible task to keep up with the latest developments, and a quick glance at new library science journals can at least give us a brief idea of what is happening in the big world outside the Barr Smith Library. Recent issues of journals, whether library profession or subject oriented, are useful sources of references and reviews of newly published books which may be recommended for purchase for the Library collections.

Many librarians like to take cataloguing tasks to the Information Desk - they may not have time to complete even one book on their rostered shift, but the thought of having a BIBLION terminal at their fingertips, as it were, is sufficient inducement to many to trundle out their little orange trolley on each occasion. Access to the Australian Bibliographic Network, located at the National Library in Canberra, is available with only a few keystrokes from the terminal at the Information Desk, which makes an ideal combination for cataloguing; it is certainly 'interruptible!'

A first point of contact for many people, the Library's Information Desk must be seen as welcoming and, above all, as providing information. In a service-oriented profession, information, to the tune of some 35 000 queries during the 1986 academic year, is certainly our business. Every change, every refinement, every new procedure is introduced with that aim in view. We trust that it is successful.

Reference

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A Decade of Service

by Alan Keig

When the members of the editorial committee of *University of Adelaide Library News* decided to devote this issue to the work of the Subject Librarians in the User Services Division of the Barr Smith Library, they did not realise that this year is the tenth anniversary of its formation. It seems to me appropriate, then, to record a brief history of the group which has served the University community so effectively over this period.

The 'Red Report'

The genesis of the Subject Librarians group was a report by the then Deputy University Librarian, Owen Slight, in August 1973. Its actual title is *Final Report on the Staff Structure and the Organization of the Library*. University of Adelaide, 1973 (2 vols), but it has become universally known as the 'red report' because it was issued in distinctive red covers. The University Librarian's *Report on the Staff Organization of the Barr Smith Library* (referred to, less colourfully, as the 'white report', and which summarized the 'red report'), was accepted by the University Council towards the end of 1973. This allowed planning to proceed for a comprehensive reorganisation of the staff structure and responsibilities of Barr Smith Library staff.

The main thrust of the 'red' report was to separate the more mundane and clerical aspects of library work from the professional side and to place increased emphasis on professional service to Library users. A critical requirement was the creation of an entirely new sort of librarian, to be classified as a 'Library Assistant', who would be appointed at a level between the Professional Officer Grade 1 (now Librarian 1) and the Clerical Assistant (now the General Library Assistant) level. At the same time there was to be an emphasis on the systems approach and on systems development in the staffing and operation of the Barr Smith Library.

Associated with these requirements was the need to develop in-service training for staff to improve general efficiency, and the training of personnel for the new Library Assistant positions.

*Knowledge is of two kinds.
We know a subject ourselves,
or we know where we can
find information upon it.*
Samuel Johnson

The 'red report' had a far-reaching impact on the development of the Barr Smith Library and was crucial to the formation of the Subject Librarians group. Paragraph 238 is worth quoting in its entirety:

The practice of professional library service, like the practice of professional medical, legal or engineering services, to mention but a few of the professions, requires a sound knowledge basis, a number of professional skills, and a social purpose which generates in its practitioners a professional concern for the needs of the client. Professional librarians who spend their time as functional specialists with a technical orientation and bias in all they do while at work find little opportunity to become fully involved in the objectives of their profession. It is very difficult, if not impossible, for them to evolve during the first five years or so of their professional lives, a developed professional concern for the needs of the users of library services. This concern shows itself in the practising librarian as the ability to make a significant contribution to developing certain sections of library collections, and in improving their bibliographic organization in ways which benefit the user and give greater meaning to the service for both the client and the practitioner. In a University environment this level of professional activity must be conducted in close collaboration with the academic community, and in close contact with students at all levels. ¹

A later paragraph gives a rationale for subject specialisation:

The University of Adelaide Library should now be preparing librarians to engage in professional services directly concerned with the information and bibliographic needs of users. These needs can only be met when professional staff are available to users, and when this staff knows the library's collections extensively over a wide area, and intensively within those areas of their special subject competence. To become equipped in this way requires an investment of a considerable amount of time and effort. The result of the programs leading in this direction will be the production of professional librarians who have developed a deep knowledge of those parts of the collection in which they have become literature experts; who are of material assistance to academic staff in selecting teaching and research materials; and who themselves are capable of selecting materials in ways which supplement, but which do not compete with, the interests of academic staff; who give subject analysis to new materials in the areas of their literature specialization, who produce authoritative bibliographies and guides to the collections to supplement the more formally structured aids. These librarians will also become expert guides to users of the Library, and whose special knowledge of the collections is essential to sound conservation programmes. ²

Much work was done to implement the various organisational features of the reports, and by March 1976 the Library was ready to move to the most critical aspect of the reorganisation, the creation of a group of subject specialists. A memorandum was sent to all members of the Barr Smith Library staff in April 1976 attached to which was a report by the Librarian and the Deputy Librarian setting out in detail the proposed structural changes.³ This was followed by a detailed discussion paper, *Subject Responsibility Among Library Staff*,⁴ which

was prepared by the then Training Librarian, Stephen Beaumont, for the Co-ordinating Committee on Literature Specialists, which had been given the task of bringing the group into existence. By July 1976 this committee had become known as the Co-ordinating Committee for Subject Librarians and had made recommendations so that the service could be operational from the start of the 1977 academic year.

The Committee proposed that there be three groups of subject librarians with staff drawn from the existing professional librarians in the Readers' Services, Acquisitions and Cataloguing Departments of the Library.

Assurance was given that the existing salaries, conditions of employment and level of duties and responsibilities of all staff involved in the reorganisation would be safeguarded. At the same time, it was pointed out that the new subject specialists would be able to increase their professional technique, thus increasing their professional competence, service capabilities and job satisfaction, with the likelihood of improved career prospects.

The three original groups were:

Humanities Group	Social Sciences Group	Sciences & Applied Sciences Group
Ninette Ellis*	Howard Coxon	Lillemor Andersén
Elizabeth Lee*	Teresa Kow*	Mary Howie
Li Hoo Cheong	Kay Leverett*	Maggie Low
Victoria Mazil	Patricia Scott*	Jane Wannan*
Rosalind Miller		
Jo Parkes		
Rosemary Douglas		
Briony Fraser		

Names marked * represent members of the present Subject Librarians group

Before the group could become properly operational time had to be spent in learning some of the new skills that would be required. Existing Readers' Services Department staff needed to become familiar with cataloguing practices while their opposite numbers in the Cataloguing Department had to learn reference work and become involved in planning orientation tours and seminars for the new crop of students they would be serving.

There is no official record of when the Subject Librarians group formally came into existence but it is certain that by Orientation Week 1977 they were up and running, ready to cope with the influx of new students. It is equally certain that they haven't stopped running since, even though their actual numbers have decreased and the range of their duties has been considerably expanded.

Education for Librarianship

One of the recommendations of the 'red' report addressed the question of new graduates from professional library schools and how their expectations might best be fulfilled in a practical environment:

The librarians who are now being trained in professional library schools, and those recent graduates from these schools, have as a result of their education in librarianship acquired a high expectation of what the profession of librarianship should offer them. The new technology combined with the rising levels of user demand require a positive response from professional librarians, and an improved organization of their work which will involve them in face to face contacts with the users daily. Such contact can only take place in the areas where direct services to readers are given. Developing the work of librarians along these lines will do much to create the opportunities expected and hoped for by new recruits from the library schools. A good library service is the result of the efforts of highly skilled staff who even though many of them are highly talented, are nevertheless produced as a result of working in a system which makes high level demands on them. At best, their formal education and training reveals their potential, and gives them an initial preparation. Whatever their potential, it may be brought to full development only if they work at a professional level in a system which first of all offers the opportunities for development in terms of tasks, guidance and further training, and then requires that certain standards are achieved.⁵

The Library Studies Unit was established at the University of Adelaide in 1975, offering a post-graduate diploma in librarianship after one year of full time study. Three of the first group of successful graduates were appointed to the staff of the Barr Smith Library as Professional Library Assistants in January 1977; after twelve months practical training in different areas of the Library, Margy Burn, Margaret Hosking and Elizabeth Naumczyk joined the Subject Librarians group in February 1978. Margaret Hosking is still with us as a Subject Librarian, as is Elizabeth Naumczyk who is now Deputy Law Librarian, while Margy Burn is in charge of the Mortlock Library of South Australia.

Unfortunately the Library Studies Unit was an early victim of the University's lack of funds and was forced to cease operations in 1978.

The Role of the Subject Librarian

In August last year the Library Policy & Management Group issued an official statement covering the role of the Subject Librarian. Apart from references to database searching by computer, a service which was not readily available ten years ago, the definition of what functions a Subject Librarian is

expected to fulfil reinforces the concepts set out in the 'red report' of 1973.

A Subject Librarian is responsible for the effective delivery of a range of library services for designated academic departments. Required services include reference services, providing expert advice to readers in using the resources and services of the Library, computer based research services, reader education, liaison with academic staff members, collection development and evaluation and providing subject cataloguing for relevant material access. Each Subject Librarian is expected to develop a close relationship with the clientele he/she serves, in order that he/she would normally be regarded by their clients as the first member of the Library staff to be contacted when information is required, or when there is some problem in relation to Library services.⁶

Subject Librarians are expected to participate in general reference work, including rostered Information Desk duties, conduct orientation tours, produce user guides and bibliographies and to maintain a good general awareness of the subjects for which they have responsibility. They must develop and promote liaison with academic staff on matters relating to the building, selection, organisation, use and conservation of the Library's collections and to be aware of the detailed research and teaching interests of academic staff and postgraduate students.



The Subject Librarians' work area, Level 3 South

Making sure that adequate numbers of copies of texts are provided in the Undergraduate Collection and that required items are made available in the Reserve Collection, in consultation with members of the teaching staff, are even more the responsibility of the Subject Librarians since the position of Undergraduate Librarian was disestablished in 1984.

Cataloguing, collection development, assisting with the preparation of literary equipment submissions, oversight of gift and exchange material and participation in weeding and store selection programmes are among the other varied activities that occupy the attention of the members of the Subject Librarians group. They are also involved in forward planning of library objectives by serving on appropriate working groups and committees and are required to participate in formal professional development programmes and seminars as well as undertaking their own professional development through reading of appropriate literature and attendance at meetings.

It is evident that all of the aspirations of the 'red report', as well as some activities that could not have been predicted at the time, are being actively and enthusiastically carried out by today's Subject Librarians. The University community has benefited greatly from the foresight of their progenitors.

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Formal User Education in the Barr Smith Library

by Ninette Ellis

User education (or Library instruction as it sometimes called) is a major component of the work of every Subject Librarian in the Barr Smith Library. The aim of the range of programmes offered is to make students and staff aware of the resources available in the Barr Smith Library and in libraries in general, and of the most effective way to use them. It is part of the University's overall goal to provide education for life. The benefits of the information skills imparted to students by their Subject Librarians don't stop at graduation; they allow a person to continue to keep up to date in their chosen field as well as with personal interests, thus adding to the quality of research and of life.

Orientation Week tours

Subject Librarians are very busy in Orientation Week each year taking groups of new students around the Library. Every student enrolling at the University of Adelaide is invited to go on a Library Tour during O-Week, and most of them take up our offer. The tours last for about twenty-five minutes each, and, while the Subject Librarian in charge of each group of twelve students does not have time to go into much detail, at least the general layout of the building and the arrangement of the books can be explained. The location of the Information Desk is always pointed out and a brief explanation of BIBLION is given.

Orientation Week tours are designed to give a brief introduction to the Barr Smith Library and its services; all first year students are also invited to attend a subject seminar with their Subject Librarian, usually early in First Term, where a more detailed introduction to the Library is undertaken.

Orientation Week Tours				
	1984	1985	1986	1987
Number of tours	113	118	111	123
Students attending	1065	1089	787	1269

Undergraduate students

The steady increase in the demand for Library service, and especially for Library education programmes for undergraduates, over the past few years, may be related to the reduction in the number of academic staff and a concomitant increase in teaching loads. In addition, a decreasing reliance on examinations as a form of assessment has caused some Departments to reorganise their courses, placing a greater emphasis on research projects and thus research skills, which must be taught by Library staff.

Different Departments of the University have varying requirements in the content and level of the undergraduate library education programmes. However, the courses will normally include instruction in the following basic skills:

- ~Location of books and other material in the Barr Smith Library and the use of the Library's services.
- ~Explanation of the references on reading lists and the method of finding them in the card catalogues and BIBLION.
- ~Use of the catalogues to locate reading beyond prescribed texts.
- ~Use of basic reference materials (encyclopedias, dictionaries, indexes, etc.) to expand scope of reading.
- ~The ability to discriminate in the choice of reading material.

To be most effective, a Library skills seminar should ideally be tied to an actual essay or project so that it becomes immediately relevant and so that the techniques learned are immediately reinforced. The Library's education programmes are devised after discussion with the lecturers concerned to ensure that all the needs are met. Some lecturers take an active part in Library seminars and may actually sit in with their students. This can add an extra dimension because they may draw attention to a particularly relevant part of the seminar.

In some cases the techniques learned at a Library seminar are reinforced by means of a project that must be completed by the participants, which is usually marked by the academic Department concerned and may even form a percentage of a student's final assessment.

Undergraduate subject seminars

	<i>1984</i>	<i>1985</i>	<i>1986</i>	<i>1987</i>
Number of seminars	182	182	176	210
Students attending	1627	1666	1558	2284

The acquisition of any skill takes time and acquiring proficiency in research is no exception. To this end the Barr Smith Library encourages Departments which require substantial evaluative reading in their courses to make arrangements for their students to undertake Library seminars each year. The seminars are graduated so that the skills taught become more sophisticated as the students progress through their courses. Experience has shown that students who make use of the information sources described in Library seminars, when writing essays or preparing assignments, generally develop a greater enthusiasm and interest in their work. Some Departments have also commented on an improvement in the standard of written work of these students.

Honours and Postgraduate students

Many Departments require their Honours and Postgraduate students (either in groups or on a one-to-one basis) to attend in-depth Library seminars to expand their research skills. Each student's topic is necessarily highly individual and seminars are usually tailor-made to suit their particular requirements. Typically they will be introduced to the more sophisticated research tools such as citation indexes and online searching of overseas databases.

Students who have had regular user education seminars throughout their undergraduate years have a solid basis on which to start their research. They are confident in their ability to make use of a wide range of research tools and know how to organise and document their assignments. Consequently they quickly learn the use of additional sources and refinement of techniques. Students who have not attended Library skills seminars as undergraduates may meet their Subject Librarian for the first time in response to a letter which the Library sends to all new post-graduate and higher-degree students outlining the services that are available to them. These students are at a distinct disadvantage, having to learn substantial skills before they can start their topic proper.

Advanced level subject seminars				
	1984	1985	1986	1987
Number of seminars	41	48	52	57
Students attending	391	439	460	408

Future Developments

Earlier this year the Barr Smith Library appointed the writer to a new position of Formal User Education librarian with the task of looking into ways of maximising the use of the Library's resources through effective instruction. I was for many years the Subject Librarian for Anthropology and German and now divide my time between the new post while retaining responsibility for German.

After looking at current user education practices in the Barr Smith Library I intend to explore the application of new teaching methods to the library skills education programmes. It may be that for some students our methods are inefficient or that the presentation is uninteresting and so they are not acquiring the skills that we are working to impart to them.

Science students, for example, may be more motivated to use the Library and its resources if they were taught by computer assisted instruction. This technique is already being used successfully in the Biochemistry Department and is used in other tertiary institutions in Australia in the teaching of Mathematics, Physics, Health Sciences and Management Accounting. It has had some use as a Library instruction method at the South Australian College of Advanced Education and also at the South Australian Institute of Technology, as well as by a growing number of academic institutions in the United States of America.

In the past the Library's user education programs have been directed mainly at students and members of the academic staff. One of my aims is to extend this service to interested members of the University's administrative staff.

Enquiries about any aspect of the Library's user education programmes and suggestions for improvement to the existing services will be very welcome.

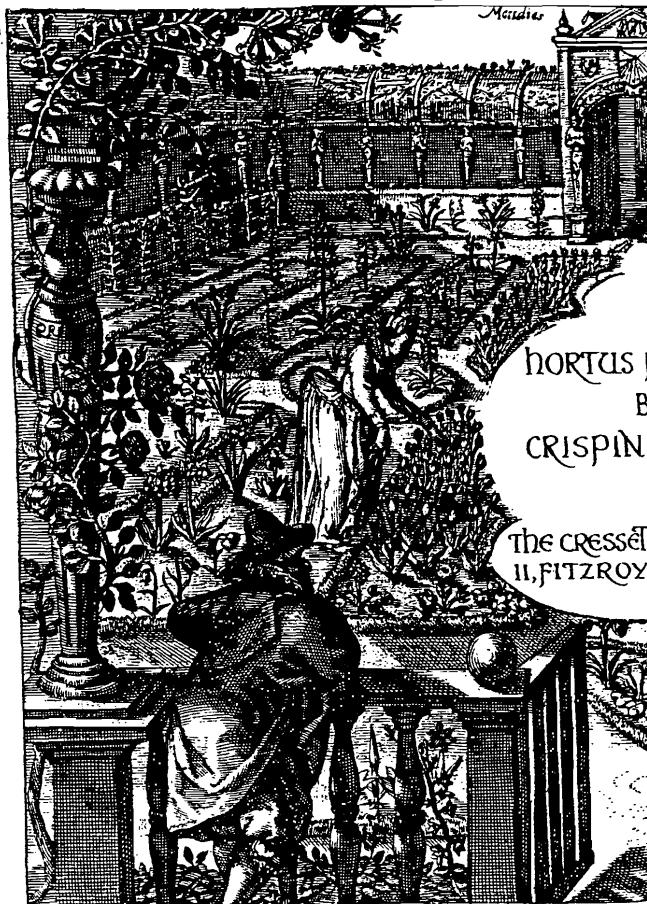


Gardens in Time Exhibition

A major exhibition of books on gardens and gardening will be held at the Barr Smith Library from 20 October to 20 November 1987. On display will be works including early herbals and floras, English gardening texts from the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries, the earliest histories of gardening in England, colonial Australian gardening manuals, literary essays on and poetical evocations of gardens from classical to modern times, and celebrations of gardens in words and pictures from the fifteenth to the twentieth century. Gerarde, Dioscorides, Parkinson, Lawson and Evelyn; Repton, Loudon, Robinson and Jekyll; Johnson, Amherst, Blomfield; Heyne, Guilfoyle, Galbraith and Walling; Chaucer, Walpole, Milton and Pope are some of the writers on gardens and plants featured, illustrated by the works of painters and engravers including Laurus, de Passe, Robins, Burne-Jones, Liardet and Blackman.

The Barr Smith Library has never consciously collected works on gardens and gardening but surprising riches were discovered in the course of research for the exhibition. A large number of works are from the collections of two of the Library's principal donors, Sir Samuel Way and Mrs Christine McGregor, and others have been acquired over the years as part of teaching and research in botany, architecture and literature. Many are held in first editions, others in beautifully produced modern facsimile or illustrated reprint editions.

The exhibition in the Barr Smith Library is one part of a co-operative effort with the State Library of South



Australia, the Royal Geographical Society, the Mortlock Library, the Botanic Gardens, the Waite Institute and Old Parliament House (History Trust), each of which is mounting an exhibition on some aspect of the theme 'Gardens in Time'.

Individual displays

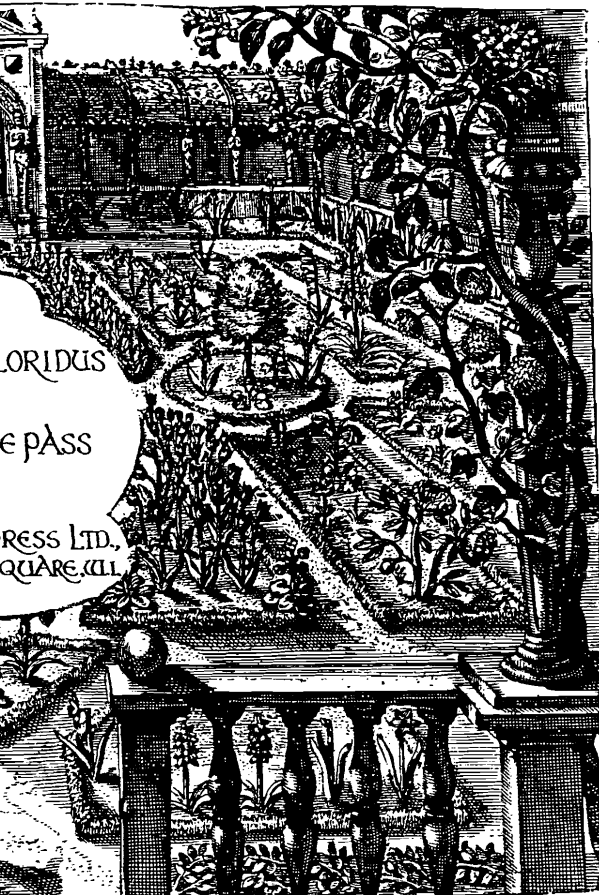
The displays by each of the institutions will reflect the strengths of their respective collections. The State Library (Rare Books and Special Collections) has concentrated on the pictorial and literary symbolism of gardens and plants as depicted in works from its collection of original and facsimile editions of illustrated books and manuscripts, herbals and other classical works on plants (including Virgil's *Georgics*, the *Visconti Hours*, the *Grimani Breviary* and the *Hypnerotomachia*) as well as seventeenth century English, French and Dutch publications on gardening. The Royal Geographical Society will feature publications by and about Ferdinand von Mueller, the renowned botanist and explorer,

Government Botanist in Victoria and Director of the Melbourne Botanical Gardens, who was instrumental in establishing the Society in South Australia in 1885.

The Waite Institute display will include rare books and other publications on practical agriculture and horticulture, early illustrated Australian floras, and documents relating to the establishment and development of the Waite rose garden and arboretum.

Rare botanical and horticultural journals and books, early herbals and floras (including a 1516 Dioscorides, a 1542 illustrated Fuchs and the rare *Novae Hollandiae Plantarum Specimen* of Jacques Labillardiere), and a fascinating collection of rarely-shown archival documents illustrating the development of the Botanic Gardens from 1855 are the focus of the display to be mounted by the Botanic Gardens.

The Mortlock Library will exhibit photographs of South Australian gardens and material from Mr Robert Swinbourne's private collection of rare



books on gardening and South Australian nursery catalogues, seed lists and photographs. On display in the History Trust's Historical Treasures Room (adjacent to the Mortlock Library) will be paintings of South Australian houses and gardens which have been lent for the period of the exhibition by the Art Gallery, some of which have rarely been seen, while Old Parliament House will mount one of their most popular exhibitions, a light-hearted look at the connections between plants and history, in the Kingston Room Verandah.

Friends of the Special Collections

The *Gardens in Time* exhibition is the inspiration of the Chairman of the Friends of the Special Collections of the Barr Smith Library, Robin Eaden of the University's Department of English, who has undertaken the work of co-ordinating the exhibitions and related activities and arranged for publicity and the publication of the exhibition catalogue. Robin has also jointly selected and prepared descriptive entries for the Special Collections display. Efforts to obtain external sponsorship of the event - which will take place at the same time as the Grand Prix and provide spiritual refreshment and refuge from it - have been unsuccessful, but some funds have been made available by the host institutions for press notices and printing of the descriptive catalogue of the Special Collections, State Library, Botanic Gardens and Waite Institute exhibitions.

A programme of the exhibitions and related activities, which include a half-day 'mini-conference' with lectures on Schomburgk, Edna Walling, old South Australian gardens and conservatories, walks through the Waite rose garden and arboretum, special guided walks at the Botanic Gardens, and nursery displays, is available from Special Collections at the Barr Smith Library or at any of the other participating institutions.



20 Oct. - 20 Nov. 1987

An Exchange in Canada or, Can I Do This Again Next Year ?

by Ellen Randva

I first became interested in the possibility of an overseas exchange when I visited Canada in 1984. After sending just one letter to the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Jane Price at the Woodward Biomedical Library replied. A long correspondence over the following eighteen months culminated in both of us beginning work in each other's libraries on 5 January 1987, for a period of six months.

Let me give you a little background about the University of British Columbia, and Woodward in particular. The scale is almost overwhelming in comparison with the University of Adelaide. Founded in 1925 on the beautiful Point Grey campus, surrounded by more than 400 hectares of gardens, forests and beaches, the University attracts more than 34 000 students to credit courses each year. A further 70 000 people use the campus annually for non-credit courses, concerts, theatre performances, sporting events, museums and lectures. U.B.C. is also committed to a world class research programme. Over sixty percent of all research in the province of British Columbia takes place on the U.B.C. campus, in fields as varied as aerospace systems, Asian studies and biotechnology, and generating more than C\$60 million in research grants and contracts. Thus, the Library, as the second largest research library in Canada (the University of Toronto Library holds the coveted number one position) with about 2.5 million volumes, is an essential and heavily-used resource. Almost one third of the users of the Library system are from outside the University itself and it has the highest circulation rate of any library in North America.

Woodward Biomedical Library

The Woodward Biomedical Library is one of nineteen branch libraries of the University of British Columbia; in addition to materials in the biological sciences, it has the largest health sciences collection west of Toronto, including medicine, rehabilitation medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmaceutical sciences and nutrition. Although it began only in 1951 with the appointment of the first full-time biomedical librarian, by 1986 Woodward had grown to a collection of more than 280 000 volumes. It currently receives some 5 600 journal titles and handles over 38 000 reference queries annually - this latter figure is about the

same as the annual number handled by the Barr Smith Library!

My duties at Woodward were to supervise the activities of the busy interlibrary loan section and to provide reference assistance at the information desk, including provision of computer-assisted literature searches. Interlibrary loans was always extremely busy but the huge volume of requests was easily handled by using electronic mail systems. In Canada the main system used was ENVOY 100; they also made use of U.S.A.-based interlibrary loan network systems such as OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) and ONTYME. Also heavily used, both for reference verification and database searching, was CAN/OLE, a database network developed and maintained by the Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI) which gave access to a number of large databases such as BIOSIS, ASFA, GEOREF and ERIC (which we also make use of at the Barr Smith Library), as well as some unique Canadian databases such as OON (CISTI's online catalogue) and OONL (the National Library of Canada's *Canadiana* online). Other, more familiar, databases such as MEDLINE, BRS, DIALOG AND CAS-online, were also heavily used by Woodward reference staff in processing more than 2 600 bibliographic and 1 000 current awareness searches each year.

The Library System

The University of British Columbia Library system uses a cumbersome combination of card and microfiche catalogues with an online file available for use by Library staff at the information desks. Although this online version is still being developed in-house towards its final goal of public access, I'm proud to be able to say that the Barr Smith Library's BIBLION is far superior in its ease of use and presentation of information on screen. However, the U.B.C. system did have several extremely useful features such as an orders file, an in-process file as well as a journal receipt file which gave information about the receipt of current issues of journals - a frequently asked question in any library.

Woodward Library staff members provide a substantial information and reference service to users, particularly those off-campus, and including members of the public. The health sciences collection includes a patient information section for this purpose, a service that is frequently used by visitors and patients alike to the U.B.C. Acute Care Unit right next door! The Library also provides photocopies of articles or loans of material to those that require them, although fees are levied for this service, and the Canadian copyright laws are not as restrictive as those applying in Australia.

This great interest in the Library's services attracts the support of public organisations, individuals and companies who donate large monetary gifts or collections of books. Dr. P.A. Woodward funded the construction of the Woodward Library in its early years and also contributed to the purchase of its vast initial collections. More recently a Vancouver businessman, David Lam,

donated one million dollars to the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration to establish and operate a library of management research. However, these gifts can go only part of the way to overcome a critical shortage of space, and to maintain and improve the collections by making use of new technologies. Inadequate funds over recent years has seen cuts of up to fifteen percent in subscriptions to current journals and with 55% of the Library's purchases made in the United States, the devaluation of U.B.C.'s C\$4.6 million book budget means that the Library is short-changed when shopping for new materials. A vaguely familiar story?

Benefits of the exchange scheme

The exchange brought me many benefits, both personal and professional, and thus was a great success. On a professional level benefits lie in the experience gained through seeing how another library works and deals with problems similar to one's own. It was also fulfilling to work in an environment that endeavoured to provide services to the community at large and to be part of an institution that was so much a part of community life. For example, a successful three day Open House attracted about 300 000 visitors to the campus.

Personally, I loved the beautiful country and the friendliness of its people who took a genuine interest in all things Australian (thank you, Paul Hogan!). I also developed a passion for muffins, the Granville Island market with its craft and book shops, the sea wall around Stanley Park, and shopping on Sunday afternoons. As for Vancouver, where else can you sit in the winter sun on a local beach and twenty minutes later be skiing down Grouse Mountain?



Exchange partners

Jane Price (left) arrives in Adelaide as the author prepares to leave for Vancouver.

Collection Development and the Subject Librarian

by Liz Lee

One of the important responsibilities of the Subject Librarians is in the area of Collection Development, where they work in collaboration with members of the academic staff to ensure that the Library's resources continue to support the needs of the whole University community.

Collection Development activities entail a detailed knowledge of the collection by the individual Subject Librarians in their areas of interest and an evaluation of particular strengths and weaknesses. They are also responsible for identifying material to be placed in the high-use Reserve Collection, as well as ensuring that sufficient extra copies of required texts are purchased for the Undergraduate Collection, according to the number of students enrolled in a particular course. In addition they need to become involved in the short-term and long-term conservation aspects of the Library's resources.

Collection Building

The emphasis placed on the different aspects of selection of material for the Library's collections varies widely between the different academic Departments, according to the subject areas in which they are involved. The role of the Subject Librarian in this activity must therefore reflect the varying needs of the Departments for which they are responsible. In the science areas, for example, the emphasis is on current material; journals are of prime importance and there is a relatively limited number of newly published books of interest. There is a rapid turnover of material as major texts are continually replaced with new editions. Some of the science-oriented Departments actually prefer to allocate a portion of their book funds to pay for computer searches on the wide range of databases that are available in their subject areas, to obtain the most recent information.

By contrast, in areas such as literature and history the emphasis tends to be on the building up of a collection that will continue to be of value and which will be used by future generations of students and research workers. In these areas

original sources and first editions of earlier works are as essential to a well-rounded research collection as the most recently published critiques.

The sheer volume of publishing in the humanities disciplines presents its own problems to the people involved in the selection of material for the Library's collections, as they need to select a wide range of research materials to cater for present and future needs. Once material in this area goes out of print it may be difficult, and certainly expensive, to obtain a copy at a later date. Often the Subject Librarian has the job of tracing the location of obscure source materials essential to a particular area of research, so that microfilm copies can be purchased for the Library.

Selection of material in the humanities area is assisted by the fact that items are relatively cheaper than publications in the sciences and so more titles can be purchased for the same amount of money. However, many more multiple copies are needed to support undergraduate humanities courses, with their emphasis on reading rather than laboratory work.

Subject Librarians are in a good position to assist academic staff in the process of book selection. Besides having an intimate knowledge of the Library's collection strengths and weaknesses, they keep up to date with publishing trends and the availability of material in their subject areas by regularly scanning reviewing journals. They are aware of the teaching and research interests of academic staff and postgraduate students in their Departments and can bring relevant material to their attention.

At the discretion of the academic Department concerned, individual Subject Librarians may be authorised to order material for the Library from the Department's annual book fund allocation; all Subject Librarians are involved in the selection of reference material for the collection from general Library funds and some also make recommendations for the purchase of items for the Library's collections from special funds.

Undergraduate collection

The Library's collections must not only reflect the research requirements of academic staff but must also adequately support the teaching function of the University. Subject Librarians work closely with members of the academic staff to ensure that the Library caters for the needs of undergraduate students.

The Undergraduate Collection is a teaching collection and needs to reflect current course requirements. Subject Librarians have a responsibility to monitor the Undergraduate Collection to ensure that there are adequate copies available of material on reading lists, according to the number of students involved and the time allowed for the preparation of assignments. Equally important is the weeding out from the collection of items that are no longer needed.

Subject Librarians need to keep themselves informed of course changes and future requirements so that the Library can anticipate student demands. We

depend on early advice from academic staff members that particular items will be required or that extra copies of a title will be needed; problems can arise if insufficient time is allowed for ordering material, especially if it has to come from overseas.

In addition to ensuring that the Undergraduate Collection continues to serve the needs of its users, the Subject Librarians have collection development responsibilities for the Reserve Collection and Interlibrary Loans. They cooperate with Reserve Collection staff to make sure that items referred to on reading lists are made available for student use and act as problem-solvers for interlibrary loan requests where there is difficulty in identifying the requested item, or the location in another library is uncertain. In these areas the specialised knowledge of the Subject Librarian is invaluable.

Collection evaluation

A major new undertaking in the area of Collection Development is an exhaustive evaluation of the Library's resources. Subject Librarians will use their specialised knowledge to identify specific areas of strength or weakness in the collections. When this task is completed they will work in conjunction with members of the academic staff to determine an appropriate level of acquisition of material for the collections, taking into account the scope of present and future teaching and research interests.

An important by-product of this task is the identification of lesser-used items in the collection that can be sent to off campus storage, so that room may be made on the shelves for newly acquired material. Subject Librarians have the necessary knowledge to identify items that, although they may not have been borrowed for use outside the Library for some time, are standard works in a particular subject, and which should remain immediately available.

Involvement in collection development is an important part of the Subject Librarians' responsibilities. They are the contact people in the Library whose primary duty is to provide specialised assistance to members of the University community in their particular subject area. Because of their knowledge of teaching and research interests and through their involvement in other aspects of their work such as cataloguing and reference work, they play a vital role in the maintenance of the Barr Smith Library as one of Australia's major intellectual resources.

User Services - Profiles

Marie Robinson

Marie Robinson joined the staff of the Barr Smith Library in October 1960. Apart from two short absences in 1961/2 and 1965 to bring her son and daughter into the world (this was before the days of maternity leave), she has served the Library continuously since that date.

Marie graduated with a Bachelor of Science from the Queen's University, Belfast, specialising in mathematics, and completed her Library Association of Australia professional studies while she was employed at the Barr Smith.

Her first duties were cataloguing and book orders work and in 1971 she was appointed Acquisitions Librarian. These early experiences in the acquisitions area of library work have left her with a lasting interest in and an almost encyclopedic knowledge of the Library's collections; if there is ever any doubt about the history, location or provenance of a particular part of the Library's resources, the advice is always "ask Marie, she'll know"; and she always does.

As Acquisitions Librarian, Marie developed a liaison with the academic community that has led to her being as well known outside the Library as she is within it. The great variations in exchange rates and the fluctuations in value of the Australian dollar from the early 1970s, led her to collaborate closely with staff members in the University Accounts section and the Economics Department so that the Library would get the best value for every dollar of its book funds.

At the same time, she was developing collection development guidelines in conjunction with members of the academic staff, identifying authors of special interest and continuing to develop existing strengths such as the Library's collection of nineteenth century material. Her interest in collection development led to her appointment as Resources Librarian in the newly formed Subject Librarians group in 1977. This position was more accurately renamed Collection Development Librarian in 1984 when Marie assumed responsibility for the Special Collections area of the Library, an appointment that formally recognised the intense interest that she has always shown in this aspect of our resources.

Marie takes a keen interest in the conservation of Library resources and is a foundation member of the S.A. Branch of the Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Materials. She is Treasurer of the South Australian Bromeliad Society which is devoted to the culture of these South and Central American plants, and relaxes by getting away from it all on camping trips to the Flinders Ranges and other outback areas.



CATALOGUING

by Margaret Hosking

Have you ever wondered how books in your subject area come to be so nicely grouped in specific areas of the shelves? Or why, when you check a particular subject heading on BIBLION, or in the subject card catalogue, there are usually some relevant titles listed there? Well, it's not all done by magic or by computer power. There is some computer power involved, but mostly staff effort on the part of the Library's Technical Services staff and the Subject Librarians.

Subject Librarians use the catalogues every day in their capacity as reference librarians, and are conscious of the problems that can be faced by users when using BIBLION or the card catalogues. They become aware of what users may look for and can therefore anticipate problems and provide additional information in catalogue records to ensure that people can find what they need.

Subject Headings and Classification

The allocation of subject headings and Dewey Decimal Classification numbers to material is an important part of the Subject Librarian's job. Subject headings are used to describe the content of a book; their addition to a cataloguing record ensures that, however obscure the actual title of the book, it can be located on BIBLION by using the subject heading option or the keyword search option (which searches under subject headings as well as words from the title, authors, editors and so on). Because they are dealing with material in a particular subject area on a regular basis, Subject Librarians are familiar with the concepts involved and can provide subject headings that accurately reflect the content of the book, thereby ensuring comprehensive access to material in the Library's collections - always within the format of the *Library of Congress Subject Headings*, of course. This 'bible' is used as a standard list of headings by the Barr Smith Library and by most major Australian and overseas libraries.

In common with many other libraries in Australia and overseas, the Barr Smith Library uses the Dewey Decimal Classification system to classify material by subject. The DDC number is the main part of the unique call number that is assigned to every item in the Library, and ensures that like material sits together on the shelves. As particular subject areas have grown and changed in emphasis over the years, these changes have been reflected in new editions of the Dewey

tables where numbers have been expanded or reallocated. This can cause frustrations for users, but Subject Librarians, being aware of these changes, can alert academic staff and students to potential problem areas.

Cooperative Cataloguing

Cataloguing is no longer a completely internal Barr Smith Library operation as it was in the days of the card catalogues. Our cataloguing efforts have always been regulated by internationally accepted cataloguing rules which dictate the form that an entry should take. Nowadays we receive most of our catalogue records from the Australian Bibliographic Network (ABN), an Australia-wide computerised cataloguing facility based at the National Library of Australia in Canberra. ABN has revolutionised library cataloguing because it is no longer necessary for every library to catalogue each individual item that it receives. The database includes catalogue entries for material in major libraries in the United States, Canada and Great Britain, as well as in Australia. A title is catalogued once at the U.S. Library of Congress, the British Library, the Australian National Library or at one of the contributing libraries (including the Barr Smith Library), and that catalogue record is then available through ABN for other libraries to use. Many libraries accept these records and incorporate them into their own catalogues unchanged. At the Barr Smith Library we search the ABN database for a catalogue record for each new book or journal title that arrives. If a record is found that exactly matches the item we have received, it is reviewed for accuracy by the Technical Services staff, and is then examined by the Subject Librarians to ensure that all its components will be relevant to local users and conditions.

Barr Smith Library Cataloguing statistics: Number of volumes catalogued			
1983	1984	1985	1986
11 632	12 941	15 632	12 853

Not all libraries use the Dewey Decimal Classification scheme and so in the case of catalogue records originating from these libraries a completely new number needs to be determined. As well, Dewey numbers assigned by other libraries will often need to be changed so that items sit logically on the Barr Smith Library shelves with other items on the same topic, since we may have classified material at a particular number for historical reasons, regardless of

subsequent changes to the classification tables. Subject Librarians review the cataloguing record to make sure that all the headings (author, editor, alternative title, series, subject, etc.) are present and correct. These headings are crucial if our users are to find the material they are looking for in BIBLION. Sometimes extra explanatory notes are needed, for example, an item with a new title that actually acts as an index to another work that is already in our collection.

'Cataloguing is a demanding part of a Subject Librarian's work but it is important in rounding out our collection development and reference roles.'

Since subject headings are very important for the retrieval of information, sometimes the headings on the ABN entry are considered to be wrong or inadequate by a Subject Librarian who is dealing with a particular topic on a regular basis. In such cases the headings are changed or new ones are added to improve subject access to the item. For example, a new book on spectral theory of linear differential operators and comparison algebras had good headings for the operators but had failed to provide subject headings for the C^* algebras.

Original Cataloguing

The Subject Librarian's other important cataloguing role is that of original cataloguing. In a large academic library such as the Barr Smith some of the incoming material is obscure, foreign or old and therefore escapes the net of modern technology. It is the task of the Subject Librarian and Technical Services staff to catalogue those items 'from scratch' and to contribute the resulting catalogue records to ABN for use by other libraries in the network.

Cataloguing is a demanding part of a Subject Librarian's work but it is important in rounding out our collection development and reference roles. It is impossible to assist library users if one does not know what is in the collection, how it is arranged and how to retrieve it. The end product of the cataloguing process, the catalogue record, is also likely to be better if the people who have to use it also contribute to it.

Talk to your Subject Librarian...Electronically

Several members of the Barr Smith Library staff make regular use of the University's electronic mail facility on the VAX Ethernet network. To assist other University electronic mail users, here is a list of their names and mail addresses:

Information Services Department

Mick Draper	MDRAPER
Ninette Ellis	NELLIS
Les Howard	LHOWARD
Alan Keig	AKEIG
Kay Leverett	KLEVERETT
Judith LLOYD	JLLOYD
Ellen Randva	ERANDVA
Marie Robinson	MROBINSON
Jane Wannan	JWANNAN

Systems Group

Roland Avard	RAVARD
Steven Thomas	STHOMAS

Online Data Base Searching

One of the functions of a Subject Librarian is to save your time in looking for information on a topic by searching computerised data bases. The data bases are searched online through commercial suppliers such as Dialog in California, using a terminal or microcomputer in the Barr Smith Library linked through the telephone system to the suppliers' computers.

More than five hundred data bases can be searched through the suppliers to which the Library has access, which are Dialog, Medline, STN/Cas Online, Pergamon Infoline, ESA/IRS, Orbit, Ausinet, Australis, Presscom, I P Sharp, Australian Bibliographic Network and CLIRS. Many data bases are bibliographic, often equivalent to printed abstracts and indexes, and most can be searched back as far as the early 1970s. Suppliers are increasingly giving access to data bases that give the full text of journal articles and reference works (for example, *Harvard Business Review* and journals published by the American Chemical Society) or that contain numerical and statistical information.

At present more than 80% of the Library's searches are undertaken for users in the science and engineering departments. However, many of the standard abstracts, indexes and other reference works in the social sciences and humanities areas are available online; we should like to encourage more users in these fields to ask their Subject Librarians about the usefulness of online searching in their areas of interest.

The main advantages of online searching are speed, flexibility and timeliness. It is almost always faster to search online rather than use the equivalent printed abstracts or indexes, since different terms can be combined in a single search to produce a list of articles, with full details of each. The same search using printed abstracts may involve several steps to achieve the same result.

Online searching is often more thorough than printed index searching. In a search of a printed index you can use only standard subject headings whereas, online, terms from the abstract or title of the article can also be searched. This makes you less dependent on the indexer's choice of terms, which may be especially important when looking for material in new subject areas or articles that deal with your topic in only a minor way.

Online data bases are more up to date than printed indexes, which are usually sent to Australia by surface mail and may take many weeks to arrive here.

You can also have automatic current awareness searches giving fortnightly or monthly lists of new references on your subject, but the cost is more than \$150 a year on all except the low cost online data bases. Alternatively you can arrange with your Subject Librarian to update your search at, say, six-monthly intervals.

The results of a search are normally printed offline by the data base suppliers and arrive by airmail about one week later. If you retrieve only a few references, or if you are willing to pay the extra cost, references can be displayed online and printed immediately in the Library or made available on a 5.25" IBM compatible floppy disk, subject to copyright limitations. This is often done as a matter of course for lower cost bases such as Medline or Cas Online.

To have an online search done, see your Subject Librarian or the Law Library staff. If possible, you should be present during the search so that we can change the search strategy according to the results retrieved. This is particularly important if we have not previously done an online search for you. The computer searches very literally and your Subject Librarian will try to anticipate the effects of this when formulating a search strategy with you. If you can see the search while it is in progress you are likely to have a better understanding of the effect that an exact definition of your topic, and a choice of precise terms, may have on the quality of the results.

We are hoping to subscribe soon to a number of data bases in the new CD-ROM (Compact Disk - Read Only Memory) format which users will be able to search for themselves using a Library microcomputer. CD-ROM has most of the benefits of online searching but does not incur the associated connect time and printing costs. Data bases under consideration for purchase in CD-ROM format are Social Sciences Index, General Science Index, ERIC and Dissertation Abstracts.

Costs of Searching Online

The Library must pass on to the user all fees it is charged by data base suppliers. These fees depend on the connect time and number of references retrieved and the data base used. Some data bases are available relatively cheaply; a fifteen minute search producing fifty references with abstracts would cost \$5 or \$6 on Medline or Cas Online. Similar searches on most other data bases, however, are likely to cost in the \$30 to \$70 range.

University Departments are permitted to spend up to ten per cent of their Library book grant each year on online searching. Members of the academic staff who would like to make use of this fund should ask their Department's Library Representative for approval.

If you are interested in a few references as a starting point for further research rather than a comprehensive search, you could consider a minisearch. For a set

fee of \$10, you will receive up to forty references printed immediately, but only a limited number of terms may be searched and no changes may be made online if the results are not relevant.

Searching by Users

Recently some users have become interested in searching the data bases of suppliers like Dialog directly rather than through a librarian. For example, some members of the University Chemistry and Agricultural Biochemistry Departments use their own passwords to search the Chemical Abstracts data base Cas Online. This has advantages, but infrequent searchers may have difficulty in maintaining searching skills. If you feel that you need help searching the data bases with which we are familiar, do not hesitate to ask your Subject Librarian. We can help, for example, with specific search problems or brief basic training, let you consult our collection of data base manuals or give you information about data bases or developments.

We should also like to hear from you if your experience of personal access could benefit other users, so let your Subject Librarian know about the kinds of search problems you have had, and the data bases, hardware and software that you use. (The Library uses an Olivetti M24 and Crosstalk XVI communications software).

We are also collecting information on bibliographic, numeric and statistical data bases to which the Library does not have access. In particular we wish to know of data bases that are being used, either casually or regularly, by University staff and which might be available to other University users. The Library would not normally want access to these specialized data bases, but we should like to provide potential users with information about conditions of use.

In future, information about online searching developments will be published in the Barr Smith Library's news sheet, *Newsline*.

Please ask your Subject Librarian if you would like a search done or want more information about searching in your subject field.

Jane Wannan

Know your Subject Librarian

Anatomy	Ellen Randva
Anthropology	Chris Hone
Architecture	Kay Leverett
Asian Studies	Teresa Kow
Biochemistry	Jane Wannan
Botany	Neil McKellar- Stewart
Chemistry	Jane Wannan
Classics	Marjorie Rooney
Commerce	Les Howard
Computer Science	Mick Draper
Dentistry	Ellen Randva
Drama	Liz Lee
Economics	Les Howard
Education	Marjorie Rooney
Engineering	Kay Leverett
English	Liz Lee
Environmental Studies	Neil McKellar- Stewart
French	Alan Keig
Geography	Neil McKellar- Stewart
Genetics	Jane Wannan
Geology	Neil McKellar- Stewart
German	Ninette Ellis

Government Publications	Alan Keig
History	Patricia Scott Marg. Hosking
Linguistics	Alan Keig
Management	Les Howard
Mathematical Physics	Mick Draper
Mathematical Statistics	Mick Draper
Mathematics	Mick Draper
Medicine	Ellen Randva
Microbiology	Jane Wannan
Music	Gordon Abbott
Pharmacology	Ellen Randva
Philosophy	Alan Keig
Physics	Mick Draper
Physiology	Ellen Randva
Politics	Teresa Kow
Psychology	Teresa Kow
Social Biology	Neil McKellar- Stewart
Women's Studies	Chris Hone
Zoology	Neil McKellar- Stewart