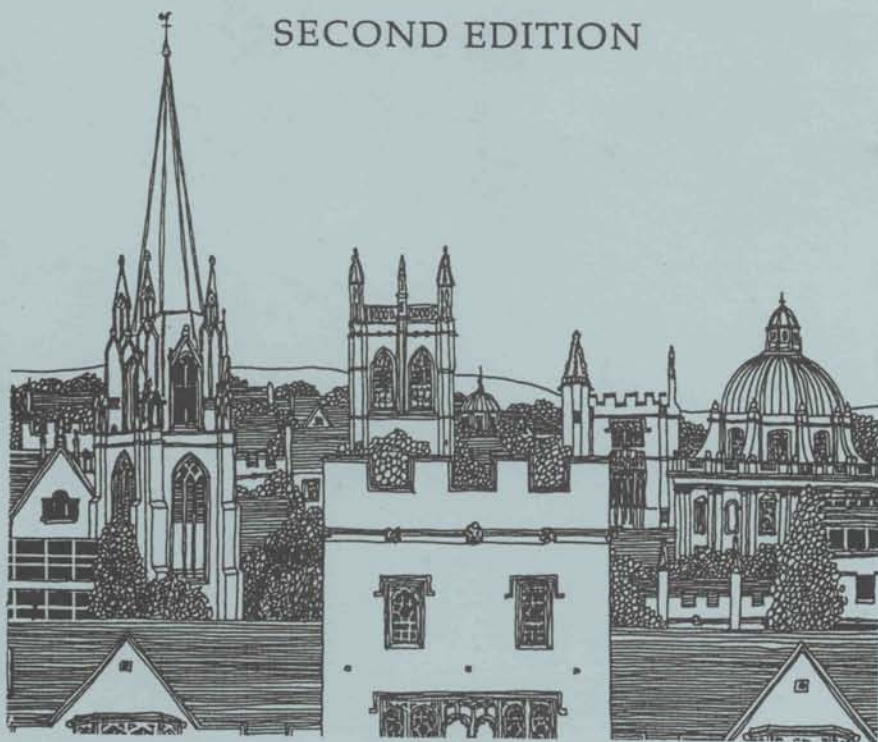


University of Adelaide

LIBRARY NEWS

The Oxford
English
Dictionary

SECOND EDITION



Volume 11
Number 2

November 1989

University of Adelaide

LIBRARY **NEWS**

Volume 11
Number 2

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Liz Lee } *Editors*
Dick Finlay }

Chris Hone
Margaret Hosking
Ellen Randva



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

One could be forgiven for thinking that after eleven years of continuous publication there would be nothing left to say in the pages of University of Adelaide Library News. I believe that this journal reflects the dynamism of the Barr Smith Library in that I have never had to look very far to find ideas for articles. Although this issue is larger than any we have previously produced, some items have had to be held over until the next issue.

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome the new University Librarian, Ray Choate, who will take up his appointment in January. I hope to be able to publish an introductory piece in the first issue for 1990.

Following on from last issue's article on compact disk technology, we start with a description of Dissertation Abstracts Ondisc, a recent addition to our CD-ROM service. If you haven't yet taken advantage of this new information service, you might like to start with this one; I reckon that this particular database is the simplest to operate of those we have bought so far.

From the cutting edge of information technology to a venerable tradition in reference sources; the second edition of the OED is a landmark in any reference librarian's life. Liz Lee's review indicates that even this sine qua non of the printed academic reference library is now almost totally dependent on computer systems for its production.

The Barr Smith Library has a good collection of works by Father Julian Tenison Woods, and so it was fitting that an exhibition commemorating the centenary of his death should be displayed in our Ira Raymond Exhibition Room. I asked Sister Marie Foale, a graduate of The University of Adelaide, and who was instrumental in arranging the exhibition, if she would write a background article for readers of University of Adelaide Library News and she kindly agreed to do so. By the time this issue appears her book, *The Josephite Story* will have been published; it will make interesting reading.

A feature article in the last issue paid tribute to a former University Librarian, Ira Raymond, shortly after the title Librarian Emeritus was conferred on him by the Chancellor of The University of Adelaide. Chris Hone reminds us that Ira Raymond is the second librarian to be honoured in this way, the first being Mr. Raymond's predecessor, William A. Cowan.

One member of the present Barr Smith Library staff remembers working with Mr. Cowan better than any of us; Marjorie Rooney, who celebrated forty years of service in June this year, spoke to me recently about some of her memories of the Library in past years.

Returning to the present, the Library has successfully introduced a new way of imparting essential library skills to first year students. Ninette Ellis describes the introduction of the Library Skills Workbook to our existing library instruction programmes.

The Subject Librarian for Medicine, Ellen Randva, gives details of a piece of software that enables users to do their own Medline searching, and we finally come to the end of this bumper issue with a look at the problems that were involved in the massive task of converting the Barr Smith Library's catalogues to machine-readable format.

Alan Keig Ed

Dissertation Abstracts Ondisc

by Margaret Hosking

In the Last issue of University of Adelaide Library News Mick Draper described a new Library service — the provision of bibliographic databases on Compact Disks with Read Only Memory (CD-ROM). The Library has recently purchased *Dissertation Abstracts* in this format. There are three disks in the set, covering the period 1860-1988. They contain bibliographic citations and some abstracts for doctoral dissertations (PhD theses) as well as some Masters theses, completed at accredited North American (mainly U.S.A.) colleges and universities. A complete list of participating institutions is available in a booklet which accompanies the disks.

The service will be of interest to academic staff and higher degree students across all subject areas who need to discover what research has already been done in a particular area, either as an adjunct to their own work or to check whether their own work is an original contribution.

Searching

Searches can be limited to fields within each bibliographic record: Abstract, Author, Date, School (University), Subject or Title.

Search terms may be combined by using Boolean operators such as 'and', 'and not', 'not', so as to refine a search to a specific topic. Further refinements are possible using truncation and proximity operators. When a reference has been found it can be printed out directly to an attached online printer.

Copies of the full text of theses on the database may be obtained in microfilm or hard copy format from University Microfilms International in the same way as a book is ordered for the Barr Smith Library collection.

Searching *Dissertation Abstracts Online* is relatively simple. The CD-ROM service is intended to run with a minimum of assistance from Library staff, but initial help in setting up the system, and the disks themselves, are available at the Information Desk.

The following pages contain a step-by-step illustration of a typical search.

UMI DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS ONDISC

Main Menu

INTRODUCTION to Dissertation Abstracts Ondisc

HOW TO USE Dissertation Abstracts Ondisc

SEARCH the Dissertation Abstracts Database

BROWSE a Subject Area

CHANGE to another UMI Disc

EXIT from System

To Select Option: Use Arrow Keys (↓ ↑) then press Enter/Return (↵)

First select an option from the Main Menu screen.

UMI DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS ONDISC – January 1985 to December 1988

Search term(s) : barnacles and recruitment

To Search: Enter key word or phrases, press ↵ F1=Help F2=Commands

Type in the search term(s) at the prompt; in this case we are searching for theses on barnacle recruitment.

Note that we are searching the most recent disk, covering *Dissertation Abstracts* from January 1985 to December 1988.

UMI DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS ONDISC - January 1985 to December 1988

Search All Subject Areas
Subject Area(s) of Previous Search

COMMUNICATIONS AND THE ARTS
EDUCATION
LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND LINGUISTICS
PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION AND THEOLOGY
SOCIAL SCIENCES
BIOLOGICAL STUDIES
EARTH SCIENCES
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
PHYSICAL SCIENCES
PSYCHOLOGY
NO TITLE OR SUBJECT AVAILABLE

To Select Subject Area(s): Use ↓↑ and press ← F1=Help F2=Commands

We select the subject area BIOLOGICAL STUDIES for our search.

UMI DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS ONDISC - January 1985 to December 1988

<u>Search Terms</u>	<u>Item Count</u>
(01) : barnacles —> BARNACLE	22
(02) : recruitment —> RECRUITMENT	206
(03) : (01) and (02)	6

Search results in 6 items

To Display List of Items : Press ← F3=Modify Search F1=Help F2=Commands

Six theses have been found that deal with the topic of barnacles and recruitment.

UMI DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS ONDISC – January 1985 to December 1988
Item 5 of 6 in this Search

FACTORS AFFECTING THE SETTLEMENT, METAMORPHOSIS AND DISTRIBUTION OF LARVAE ...

BIOLOGICALLY INDUCED ALTERNATIVE STATES IN TWO ROCKY SUBTIDAL BENTHIC ...

SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL VARIATIONS AND BIOLOGICAL INTERACTIONS AMONG TROPICAL ...

SUCCESSION AND STABILITY IN TWO ROCKY INTERTIDAL COMMUNITIES ON THE CENTRAL ...

THE ROLE OF BARNACLES IN REGULATING INITIAL RECRUITMENT TO A FOULING ...

FUNCTIONAL AND ECOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OF AGGREGATION AND COLONIALITY IN ...

To Display Full Record of Item: Use ↓ ↑ and press ← F1=Help F2=Commands

The first line of the abstract of each of the six theses on the topic is displayed. We have selected one of them to look at in more detail.

UMI DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS ONDISC – January 1985 to December 1988
Item 5 of 6 in this Search

Author: BROS, WILLIAM ERNEST

Title: **THE ROLE OF BARNACLES IN REGULATING INITIAL RECRUITMENT TO A FOULING
COMMUNITY OF TAMPA BAY, FLORIDA (STRUCTURE, DEVELOPMENT, PHYSICAL)**

School: UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA (0206) Degree: PHD Date: 1985 pp: 159

Source: DAI 46/10B, p.3318

Publication No.: AAC8527895

Abstract: Barnacles may directly affect recruitment of other species because they provide sites for attachment of sessile species, and may provide refugia or epibiotic food sources for herbivores and predators. In this research, a series of experiments were conducted to determine if structural habitat modifications, made by barnacles, affect initial recruitment to a subtidal fouling community in Tampa Bay, Florida.

The results showed that the presence or absence of structure provided by barnacle shells strongly affected subsequent recruitment to the community. Removal of barnacles caused a reduction in total number of species and individuals, while addition of barnacle shells caused an increase in recruitment of species and individuals.

Use + and - for Next and Previous Items. F4=Output F1=Help F2=Commands

An abstract of the thesis is displayed — use the Page Down key to scroll through the complete abstract. The Publication Number is required if you wish to order a copy of the whole thesis. You may make a printed copy of this screen by pressing the Print Screen key.

New Reference Tools

The Oxford English Dictionary, 2nd edition

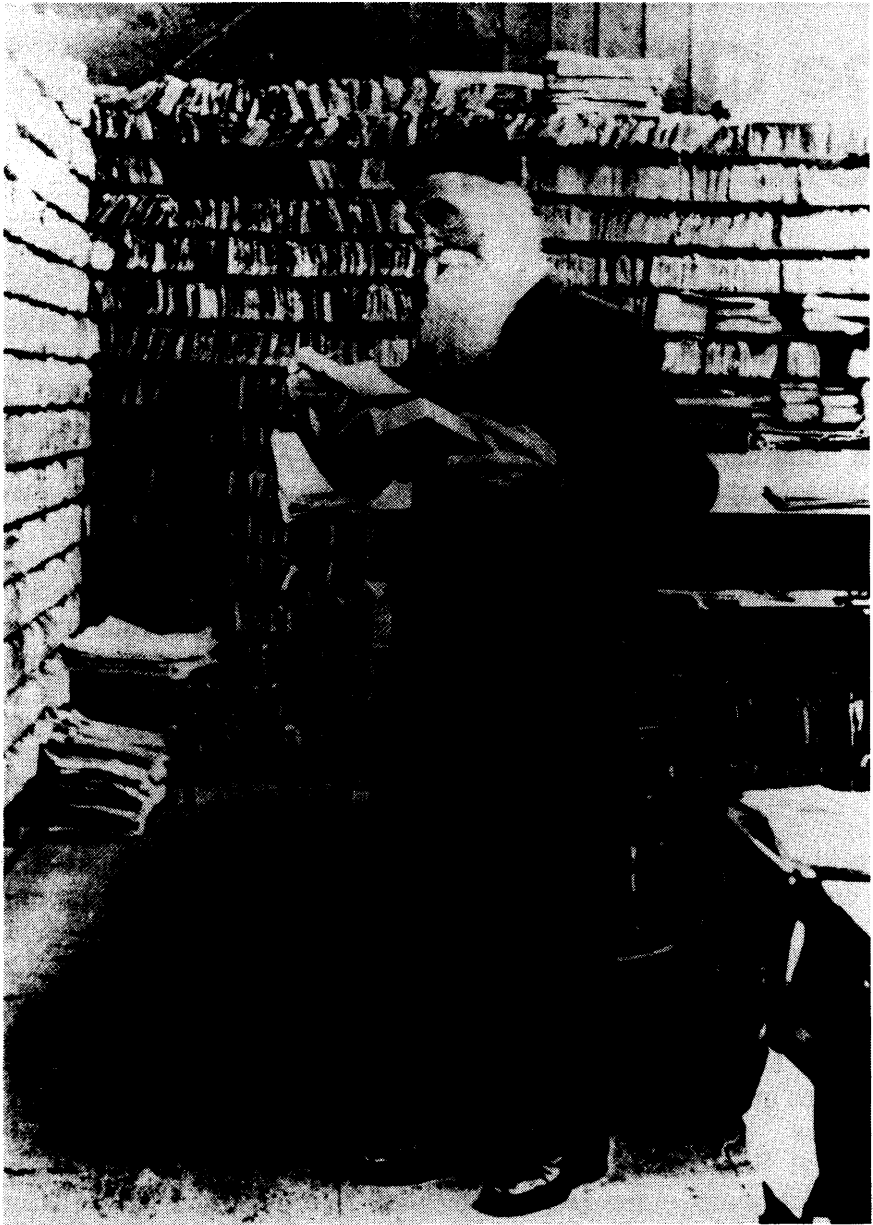
by Liz Lee

The Library has recently purchased a copy of the second edition of *The Oxford English Dictionary*, in twenty volumes. This new edition of a major reference tool incorporates the original *Oxford English Dictionary (OED)*, and both the 1933 and 1972-86 supplements, as well as additional material. The new edition is the first stage of a project to completely update the *OED*, the first volumes of which were published in the 19th century.

The compilation of the original *OED* was a unique project and reflects the dedication of a series of editors, sub-editors and numerous volunteers. The idea for a completely new English dictionary based on historical principles was first mooted by the Philological Society in 1857. In August 1858 the plan was officially announced and the assistance of contributors invited. Herbert Coleridge was appointed as the editor.

Although it was known at the outset that this would be a massive undertaking, the full extent of the project was not anticipated. While early dictionaries had included only words likely to be unfamiliar to users, by the 18th century the principle of general inclusion was accepted. Johnson augmented his dictionary with the systematic use of quotations to illustrate and justify the definitions, and in the 19th century Richardson introduced the principle of historical illustration, whereby changes in the meaning of a word over the centuries are illustrated by appropriate quotations. In 1857 Dean Trench published a paper 'On some deficiencies of our English dictionaries' which influenced the Philological Society to undertake the preparation of a completely new English dictionary – the initial idea was to supplement the dictionaries of Johnson or Richardson – based on historical principles and to include every word occurring in the English language.

Under the direction of the first two editors, Herbert Coleridge and F. J. Furnivall, the foundations of the project were laid, but it wasn't until the



Sir James Murray

appointment of Dr James A. H. Murray as editor in 1879, and Oxford University Press as publisher, that significant progress was made. A further appeal for volunteers followed and by 1881 the number of readers had reached nearly 800. Without this voluntary assistance, the cost of the project would have been prohibitive. Each reader was allocated a number of titles, with instructions to 'make a quotation for *every* word that strikes you as rare, obsolete, old-fashioned, new, peculiar, or used in a peculiar way'. The amount of work undertaken by different readers varied enormously, some producing as many as 165 000 quotations. In addition, several collections of dictionary material already compiled by scholars were handed over for use in the *OED*. Volunteer sub-editors placed the millions of quotations received in alphabetical order, at the same time sub-dividing them under the different senses of the word. Assistants then checked and verified the references, wrote definitions, incorporated new material, distinguished senses and subsenses, and reconciled the historical order of the senses with their logical development from the original meaning of the word. Much discussion centred on the lines on which the editing of the *Dictionary* was to proceed, for example, the best means of indicating pronunciation, and the question of typography. Part I covering A-Ant was finally published on 1 February 1884, with Part II, Ant-Batten, appearing in 1885.

It became evident that some editorial co-operation was necessary to increase production and from 1888 there were two distinct sections of the *Dictionary* simultaneously in progress, under Murray and Henry Bradley. In 1897 William Craigie joined the team as third editor, with the addition of Charles Onions in 1914. Sir James Murray died in July 1915, and Dr Bradley in May 1923, and the work was completed in 1928 by Craigie and Onions.

Since the *OED* had been published over a period of 44 years, a supplement was then produced containing new words and meanings lacking in the original work. Once this was completed, the original ten-volume *New English Dictionary on Historical Principles* was re-issued in 1933 as *The Oxford English Dictionary* in twelve volumes. Subsequently a further four-volume supplement, one third the size of the original work, was published between 1957 and 1986, edited by R. W. Burfield. This *Supplement* included not only words and senses new to the language in Britain since the *OED*, but also terms from other varieties of English, including the vocabulary of North America, the West Indies, Australia, India and Pakistan. There was also a wider coverage of technical and scientific terms, slang and dialect.

By 1982, the Oxford University Press was considering a new edition of the

OED. As a first step, the *Dictionary* would need to be converted into machine-readable form, making it not only easier to revise, but allowing the possibility of producing a publicly available computer database. Once the original *OED* and the *Supplements* had been amalgamated, a total revision and updating of the *Dictionary* would be undertaken.

In view of the enormity of the task, help was solicited from computer companies, data conversion firms, online database proprietors, universities, libraries, and the British Government. In 1983 the data conversion firm International Computaprint Corporation agreed to carry out the conversion of the two texts into electronic form. IBM United Kingdom Ltd supplied computer hardware and software under their Academic Programme, and made available a group of experts as the nucleus of a team

of system designers to build a computer system capable of integrating the two electronic texts

'...help was solicited from computer companies, data conversion firms, online database proprietors, universities, libraries, and the British Government'

into one. The University of Waterloo, Canada, undertook to design a database system suitable for the dissemination of the *OED* in electronic form and for the phase of updating and editing which would follow integration. The British Government acknowledged the national importance of the project in 1984 with a grant towards the cost of lexicographical research.

Before data capture could begin, a system for structuring the text had to be devised. The tagging language inserted into the electronic version needed to not only express the typographical features of the printed text, but also to identify the structural elements within the dictionary entry. Data capture began in earnest in November 1984, and the first magnetic tapes and proofs arrived in January 1985. A team of proof-readers then checked not only the accuracy of the text, but also the selection and positioning of the computer codes.

In September 1984, the Canadian Government granted funding for a Centre for the *New Oxford English Dictionary* at the University of Waterloo as a focus for database research. A unique dictionary system was created, tailored to the special needs of the project. Subsequent analysis of the integration program's performance showed that it successfully handled eighty percent of the text, leaving the lexicographical team to deal with the problem entries, correcting errors and harmonising adjacent text. New editorial software then had to be

devised, suitable for emending and integrating entries interactively at the computer terminal. As the Introduction to the *OED* points out

The use of such technically sophisticated methods, more redolent of engineering than lexicography, and unprecedented in the history of the Oxford Dictionaries, was necessitated by the scope and scale of the project. The latter may be roughly illustrated by some figures for the resources used in each main activity. Data capture, the keying of about 350,000,000 characters over 18 months, took 120 person-years; computer development took 14 person-years; automatic processing of the text took 10 months; interactive integration took 7 person-years; the two rounds of proof-reading, undertaken by over 50 people, each took 60 person-years; and final composition of the integrated text involved the setting of approximately 20,000,000 characters per week.

In the second edition of the *Oxford English Dictionary* the 69 372 entries of the four-volume Supplement have been amalgamated with the 252 259 entries of the first edition. 41 752 of these entries are new and independent, while the remainder have been integrated with the corresponding *OED* entries. In addition, new articles dealing with 5 000 words, combinations and senses have been included. Murray's own system for indicating pronunciation has been replaced by the International Phonetic Alphabet. In cases where conversions of spellings, capitalisation, hyphenation and punctuation have changed since the first edition, these have been updated.

'The availability of a random-access, multiple-indexed version of the OED can only have a positive impact on the study of the history of language.'

The *OED* on CD-ROM

A CD-ROM version of the Oxford English Dictionary is now available. Known as *The Oxford English Dictionary on Compact Disc*, it is produced by TriStar Publishing of Fort Washington, Pennsylvania, in co-operation with Oxford University Press. The availability of a random-access, multiple-indexed version of the *Oxford English Dictionary* can only have a positive impact on the study of the history of language, the full implications and meanings of words and their relationship to usage in literature.

Work in progress

Work on the new revised *OED* is well under way and is scheduled for completion in the early 1990s. New words and senses must be defined and modern quotations found for many words or senses which are currently illustrated by quotations from the nineteenth century. The coverage of English before 1700 will be improved, as will the coverage of English outside the United Kingdom. The citation style of many quotations from the original *OED* will be brought up to the standard of consistency of the *Supplement*. The style of the *Dictionary* will be modernised, and the structure of the entries will be reconsidered.

The *Oxford English Dictionary* has long been seen as a national monument, and the New OED Project team aims to ensure that this status is maintained.

Our copy of the new edition is kept on a consultation table in the Reference Collection on Level 3 South, with the call number REF/423/O98.2.



Book Launch

The Josephite Story: The Sisters of St Joseph, their Foundation and Early History, by Sister Marie T. Foale RSJ PhD, a recent graduate in history from The University of Adelaide, will be published in Adelaide on 15 November 1989. It is a must for anyone interested in the religious and social history of nineteenth century South Australia. It will be available in paperback for approximately \$16 a copy.

For further details write to Sister Marie Foale at the Adelaide Catholic Archives, 39 Wakefield Street, Adelaide 5000, or you can telephone her during office hours on (08) 210 8108.

Father Julian Edmund Tenison Woods

Priest, educator, scientist, author

by Sister Marie T. Foale*

Julian Woods was born in London on 15 November 1832, the fourth son and sixth child of the expatriate Irish couple, James Dominick Woods and Henrietta Saint Eloy Woods. His father was an Irish barrister who later became a parliamentary reporter and sub-editor of the London Times, and his mother was the daughter of an Anglican minister, the Rev. Joseph Tenison. Much of Julian's early schooling was received at home from his father or a tutor, but he also attended several London schools and took art lessons at the Royal Academy.

During his late teens Julian felt drawn to the religious life and in February 1851 he entered the Passionist novitiate in England. He made his profession twelve months later but shortly afterwards left the Order because of ill health. Early in 1853 he travelled to France where he entered the novitiate of the Marist Fathers, but again his health failed and he was obliged to abandon the idea of becoming a religious priest.

After having spent some time travelling and teaching in France he returned to London where he met Bishop Robert Willson of Hobart and volunteered to accompany him to Tasmania. After his arrival there in January 1855 Julian worked among the convicts as an unordained prison chaplain. When the prison system changed, Willson offered him a teaching position. He decided instead to leave the colony and visit his brothers in Melbourne and Adelaide before returning to England.

While he was in Adelaide, Bishop Francis Murphy accepted him as a candidate for the diocesan priesthood and sent him to the Jesuit College

* Sister Marie T. Foale RSJ PhD is a graduate in history of The University of Adelaide and the author of the recently published *The Josephite Story*. She was instrumental in arranging an exhibition of Father Woods' works in the Barr Smith Library's Ira Raymond Exhibition Room during September and October this year.



Rev. J.E. TENISON WOODS
at Penola about 1860

at Sevenhill to complete his studies. He was ordained at St Patrick's Church, Adelaide on 4 January 1857 and soon afterwards took up his appointment as priest in charge of the South East of South Australia with his home base at Penola.

The educator

Father Julian remained there for ten years and during that time became keenly interested in the Catholic education of the children on the stations and in the scattered settlements of his vast parish. He opened a school in the church at Penola in 1861, and in 1866 engaged Mary MacKillop as teacher-in-charge. Together they worked out the idea of the Institute of the Sisters of St Joseph and in March 1866 Mary committed herself to becoming its first member.

In April 1867 Julian took up the position of Director General of Catholic Education and Inspector of Schools for the Adelaide diocese. He moved to Adelaide where he was also spiritual director to the Sisters of St Joseph and editor and copywriter for the local Catholic newspaper, *The Southern Cross and Catholic Herald*.

The founder

He filled these positions until August 1871 when he went to New South Wales to prepare for a Josephite foundation in the Bathurst diocese. During the following month Bishop Sheil excommunicated Mary MacKillop and the Institute of the Sisters of St Joseph was threatened with extinction. However, it was restored in 1872 and the Australian hierarchy conducted an inquiry into these events. One outcome of this inquiry was that Julian was asked to remain away from Adelaide until Rome reached a decision regarding his position as Spiritual Director of the sisters. He never returned to South Australia.

During the 1870s Father Woods made extensive missionary journeys throughout Queensland, New South Wales and Tasmania. In July 1872 a group of Josephites went to Bathurst. When Bishop Quinn refused to accept that they should remain members of a centrally governed religious Institute with its Mother House in Adelaide, most of these sisters returned to South Australia in 1876. Those who remained formed the nucleus of the diocesan branch of the Sisters of St Joseph. Father Woods became involved in its establishment and subsequently supervised

foundations from Bathurst to the dioceses of Maitland, Goulburn and Hobart. As well, he founded the Order of the Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Brisbane.

The scientist

In 1883 he was invited to explore mineral deposits in the Malay Peninsula and spent the next three years travelling throughout South East Asia. On the way home he explored mineral deposits in the Northern Territory. On his return he retired to Sydney where he wrote reports of his travels. However, his health was now broken and he died on 7 October 1889 after a long illness.

Throughout his career Father Woods maintained an interest in geology and natural history. His enthusiastic note-taking of all that he observed in the natural environment was the basis of his first book, *Geological observations in South Australia, principally in the district south-east of Adelaide*. London, 1862. In all, he published six full-length books and over 200 articles in the area of botany, geology, marine biology, geography and palaeontology; copies most of them are in the Barr Smith Library's collections. He was an honorary member of a number of learned societies and was President of the Linnean Society of N.S.W. He was awarded the Royal Society of N.S.W.'s W.B. Clarke Medal and purse for his work on Australian mollusca.

It is now 100 years since Julian Woods' death but his memory still lives, especially among the religious orders founded by him. These people have organised a number of public celebrations to honour his memory. The display in the Ira Raymond Exhibition Room of the Barr Smith Library from 18 September to 6 October was felt to be an appropriate way to honour him because of his learning and the variety and breadth of his activities in many different spheres of life.



The illiterate art

by Susan Woodburn

An exhibition of works on ballet is on display in the Ira Raymond Exhibition Room from 24 October to 24 November, featuring material from our Theatre Collection and the Glennon papers.

The Theatre Collection was bequeathed to the Library by Miss F. Angel Symon in 1976 and additional material was received in 1988 following the death of Miss Symon's sister, Mrs. Mary Clark. It contains many valuable works on the dance, including early works on dance notation and many of the significant reference works from the first half of the twentieth century, as well as a rich accumulation of material on the Imperial Russian Ballet, the Diaghilev Ballet and the Ballet Russe. There are also biographies and autobiographies of many of the principal dancers from Marie Taglioni and Auguste Vestris to Margot Fonteyn and Rudolf Nureyev, and a wealth of splendid illustrated works on ballet which illustrate the immense visual impact of ballet and its costumes and set designs.

Australian ballet material in the Theatre Collection is relatively limited. This is offset in part by the riches in the papers of the late Keith Glennon and of Dr. Alan Brissenden. As collaborators on a proposed history of dance in Australia, they accumulated an extensive collection of material relating to dance companies, teachers and dancers in Australia from the early twentieth century. On Glennon's death in 1983 Dr. Brissenden arranged for the deposit of the collection in the Barr Smith Library.

Material from both these collections is featured in the exhibition. The basis of selection has been to show the progression of ballet theory and technique through contemporary treatises, commentaries and histories – the literature of this allegedly 'illiterate art' – and to complement these with works reflecting and attempting to capture something of the visual and essentially ephemeral nature of ballet.

The exhibition was designed by the Special Collections Librarian, Susan Woodburn and arranged by Sue Wigzell and Matthew Doyle of the Library staff as part of their work for the Library Technician's Certificate. A catalogue of the exhibition, with connecting narrative, is available.

W.A. Cowan: first Librarian Emeritus

by Chris Hone

On 23 May 1989 the new Ira Raymond Exhibition Room was opened, with the inaugural exhibition being *People, Print & Paper*, the National Library of Australia's travelling bicentenary exhibition. It was an appropriate occasion for the Chancellor to announce the conferment of the title Librarian Emeritus on Mr. Ira Raymond, University Librarian from 1964 until his retirement in 1982.

Ira Raymond is the second Librarian of the University of Adelaide to be awarded the title of Librarian Emeritus. His predecessor, W.A.Cowan, who was Librarian from 1933 to 1964, presided over a development which saw the Barr Smith Library recognised at the end of his tenure as holding major collections in, for example, medicine – 'the strongest...in this country' – and English literature – 'by far the greatest single collection [in Australia] is that of the University of Adelaide.' Both comments come from Dr. Maurice Tauber, whose report *Resources of Australian libraries* (1962), followed a survey conducted for the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographic Services.

William Cowan was a classical scholar. Born in Dunedin, New Zealand, and educated there at the University of Otago, he went on to the University of London where he took first class honours in classics. His appointment to the University of Adelaide in 1933 as Librarian and Lecturer in Latin followed a three-year period during which the Professor of Classics ran the Library following the death in 1930 of the previous Librarian, Mr. R.J.M.Clucas. Mr. Cowan became one of the first professionally qualified librarians in Australia when, having been granted a Carnegie Scholarship, he enrolled at the University of Michigan's school of librarianship and graduated A.B.L.S.

At the time of his appointment, the beautiful building for which the Barr Smith family had donated the funds was nearing completion. When he retired early, due to ill health, the first extension had become a reality. In the intervening years he had seen the Library grow from a meagre annual budget of £3 700 with a part-time Librarian, five staff and three cadets to a substantial institution, both in terms of buildings and collections. The expansion of book stock from about 90 000 volumes to



W.A. Cowan, University Librarian, 1933 - 1964

over 300 000 which took place during his years as University Librarian remains Mr. Cowan's greatest monument. This was also a time which saw generous donations from people such as Mr. Tom Elder Barr Smith and Sir Mark Mitchell. A Rare Book Room was established, its foundation being supported by the eminent authority on English literature, Professor Nichol Smith. It was also he who encouraged collecting in the area of nineteenth century English literature, so that the Library's collections now contain many rare and otherwise unobtainable items from this period.

Library organisation

It was also during Mr. Cowan's time as Librarian that foundations for the present organisation of the Library were laid. A building placed in the middle of a small campus was ideally suited to a centralized library system and this arrangement was firmly maintained, with the exception of Medicine and Law where branch libraries were established. This policy enabled the Library to focus its energies and its funds on what were seen as its primary tasks, building up its collections and providing services to its users.

Mr. Cowan quickly found that he could not be University Librarian and a lecturer at the same time. However, by 1954 he was able to spend a year of well-earned study leave in Britain and a second Carnegie grant enabled him to return to visit libraries in the United States. His involvement with the profession saw him become Councillor and later Vice-President of the Library Association of Australia, and he also held other positions in Australian and international professional organisations.

After thirty-two years service, Mr. Cowan retired in 1964 with the title Librarian Emeritus and Ira Raymond succeeded him as University Librarian.

The University of Adelaide has been fortunate that two such scholarly and professional men should have given so much of themselves to furthering the development of its Library.



Marjorie Winnifred Rooney: Forty years of service

A ceremony was held in the Old Rare Book Room of the Barr Smith Library on Tuesday 6 June 1989 to commemorate forty years of service by Marjorie Rooney. A number of her colleagues gathered at a lunch to congratulate Marjorie on this milestone and to present her with a memento of the occasion, a framed reproduction of a photograph from the University Archives showing Marjorie at a ceremony (in the same room of the Barr Smith Library) in 1969, to mark the acquisition of the 500 000th volume.

A highlight of the occasion was the ceremonial cutting and sharing of a cake that was decorated in the colours of the institution that comes a close second to the Barr Smith Library in Marjorie's list of loyalties, the North Adelaide Football Club.

1949-1989: an overview

In 1949 the University of Adelaide Library Committee and the Librarian, Mr. W.A.Cowan, had not been able to fill three of the four cadetships on offer and decided instead to employ one graduate assistant. Marjorie Rooney, who had just completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in French and History, was appointed to the position and commenced work at the Barr Smith Library on Monday 6 June.

At that time all newly appointed staff members started in the Cataloguing Department, but in practice they undertook a wide range of other duties from taking a turn on the desk to opening the mail. The new recruit soon found herself in charge of the Library's Country Lending Service sending copies of text and reference books to University of Adelaide students living away from Adelaide.

In June 1949 the Barr Smith Library consisted only of the original building: there was the Room, which was open to all members of the University community, an adjacent work area for Library staff, and stairs down to the stacks which were open only to honours and higher

degree students and staff. Undergraduates needed to fill out a request slip so that books could be paged for them from the stacks. Students who wished to borrow books from the Barr Smith Library had to pay a deposit which was refunded (less any fines that had been incurred) at the end of their course; many students elected not to borrow, but to use volumes in the Reading Room.

The Rare Book Department

In 1951 Professor Nichol Smith recommended to the Library Committee that a special effort be made to form a collection of nineteenth century publications and proposed the establishment of a Rare Book Department. The Committee resolved to set aside a sum of £50 annually from the Library Grant for the purchase of publications of the nineteenth century.

In 1954 the University Council decided to open the stacks to all users and by 1956 it had become apparent that some valuable items had subsequently disappeared from the shelves.¹ The Librarian, Mr. Cowan, suggested that the rarer and more valuable items be removed from the stacks and Marjorie Rooney was involved in the task of going through the collection. At a later stage it was agreed, at Marjorie's suggestion and with the strong support of Professor Colin Horne, that all pre-eighteenth century imprints be removed from the main collection.

Since the existing Strong Room was almost full (it was used to house University of Adelaide theses, copies of banned books, and Library correspondence and accounts) the Library Committee agreed in October 1957 that the Professors' Room be used as a Rare Book Room. Marjorie remembers that there was always a token mallee root in the rather stylish fireplace, but so far as she knows the fire was never used – perhaps sufficient warmth emanated from the bound volumes of the Loeb Classical Library that permanently adorned the cedar bookshelves. However, records in the University Archives show that Professors and Lecturers possessed keys to the Library in 1953 and even as late as 1959 there is a note that new keys for the Library, following the building extensions, were to be issued to professors and heads of Departments 'at the discretion of the University Librarian'; it may be that fires burned brightly in the Professors' Room fireplace after the Library staff had gone home for the day.

¹ A shelf check in 1956 revealed missing books as Barr Smith Library 996, Conservatorium Library 17, Law Library 75 and Medical Library 198.



The Acting University Librarian, Patrick Condon, congratulates Marjorie Rooney on her forty years of service to the Barr Smith Library

After additional shelving had been installed, the items that had been removed from the main collection were housed in this room, which was re-named the Rare Book Room (another room was set aside for the use of the University's professors). The Old Rare Book Room is currently in use as the Acting University Librarian's office and it was, appropriately, the venue for the celebration of Marjorie's fortieth year at the Library.

In 1961 the Librarian, Mr.W.A. Cowan, was responsible for starting the Australian Reserve Collection which comprised works (usually additional copies) by Australian authors or on Australian topics, and, from August 1962, second copies of University of Adelaide theses.

Marjorie Rooney moved from her position in charge of Acquisitions (Books) in 1965 to become the Special Collections Librarian, in charge of the material in the Rare Book Room, and the Australian Reserve

Collection. No item could be borrowed from this area without the permission of the University Librarian or the Deputy Librarian.

A highlight of Marjorie's time as Special Collections Librarian was the purchase in 1972 of the Professor Maude's collection of material relating to the Pacific Islands. (For a description of the Pacific Collection see Susan Woodburn's article in *University of Adelaide Library News* 11(1), June 1989, 25-36).

Information Services

After a short period as Research Librarian, Marjorie took up her present position in the Information Services Department as Subject Librarian for Classical Studies, to which has been added the responsibility for Education, and also Fine Arts. Here she puts to good use the knowledge of the Barr Smith Library that has been built up over forty years, for the benefit of the present generation, her colleagues as well as students and academic staff.

The Barr Smith Library is a very different place now from what it was forty years ago, but Marjorie Rooney takes it all in her stride – computers, compact disks, barcodes and all the other trappings of an academic library in 1989. I suppose nothing daunts a librarian who remembers, during the gas and electricity strikes in Adelaide some years ago, being sent with her colleagues, stiff and blue with cold, to run around the Barr Smith lawns to warm up, so that the work of the Library could continue.

It has been a privilege to have worked with Marjorie at the Barr Smith Library for thirteen of her forty years; I look forward to having her as a valued colleague for many more years to come.

Alan Keig



Adopt a Book Campaign

by Susan Woodburn

The Friends of the Special Collections of the Barr Smith Library are promoting a campaign to assist the Library in the conservation of its research collections.

Some 4 000 rare books in the collection have been identified as requiring treatment to spines and boards, and many more items from the 19th and 20th century research collections require treatment for brittle paper, degradation of inferior leather or cheap paper covers, or the collapse of modern glued bindings.

The Barr Smith Library is making some funds available for conservation work, but the scale of the problem is beyond our available resources. Conservation is skilled and labour-intensive and consequently expensive. Cost estimates for books submitted to the State Conservation Centre range from \$150 to \$500 per item.

The assistance of the University community in furthering this work is being sought by the Friends of the Special Collections. Individuals or groups are encouraged to 'adopt' a specific item requiring treatment, an exact cost estimate for which will be supplied. Such assistance will be acknowledged by public display of the treated item and by the insertion of an appropriate bookplate.

One item from the collection which has been selected as urgently in need of treatment is Geoffrey Whitney's *A choice of emblemes*, the first emblem book in English, published in Leiden by the famous printer, Christopher Plantin, in 1586.

Most of the plates were taken from earlier Italian and French emblem books and *imprese*, notably *Les Devises heroiques* of Claude Paradin (originally published Lyon, 1557) and the *Emblemata* of Andreas Alciatus (originally published 1531), Johannes Sambucus (1564) and Hadrian Junius (1565). All had been published, in first or subsequent editions, by Plantin, and Whitney's collection was largely printed from the same plates.

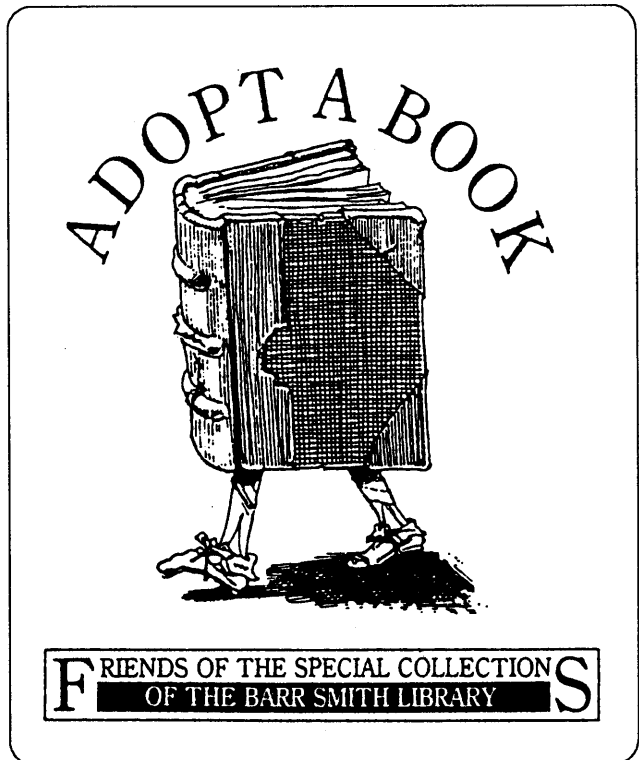
Although the text of Whitney's verses was largely derivative, most being translations and interpretations of earlier inscriptions, stories and

verses, *A choice of emblemes* was nevertheless significant and influential in introducing the emblem book more widely into England from the continent and in encouraging use of the vernacular and of local invention. While borrowings continued, these were increasingly paralleled by independent works, among them Andrew Willet's *Sacrorum Emblematum Centuria Una* in Latin and English (1591/1592) and Henry Peacham's *Minerva Britannia* (1612), laying the foundation for the truly popular and original literary work in the genre exemplified by Francis Quarles' *Emblemes* (1635), the most important English emblem book.

The Library's copy of *A choice of emblemes* is lacking the title page and the final pages 207-230, and has suffered considerable damage to the first text pages. It has been badly trimmed, with some minor loss of text, and poorly bound. Extensive conservation work will be required to take down, repair, protect and re-cover the volume.

Donations are being sought by the Friends of the Special Collections towards the cost of conservation of this item; the amount required is estimated to be more than \$400. All donations of \$2 or over are tax deductible.

Further details about the scheme and about books requiring 'adoption' can be obtained from the Special Collections Librarian, Susan Woodburn, on Level 4 South of the Barr Smith Library, (telephone 228 5224), or from Robin Eaden, the Publicity Officer for the Friends, in the English Department, (telephone 228 5618). Nomination of particular items for treatment under the scheme would also be welcome.



The logo adopted by the Friends of the Special Collections for their campaign.

The Library Skills Workbook

by Ninette Ellis and Alan Keig

The Barr Smith Library has conducted comprehensive library skills programmes for many years. Beginning with a guided tour of the Library during Orientation Week, students are introduced to our wide range of resources and facilities at subject seminars throughout their University careers. The aim is to develop students' library skills at a gradual rate so that their research capabilities keep pace with their academic needs. At the same time we are conscious of preparing them to make life-long use of information sources and systems after they leave the University.

The creation of the position of Reader Education Librarian from within the ranks of the Subject Librarians in 1987 meant that for the first time one of the group, Ninette Ellis, had the time to evaluate the way students are taught library skills in the Barr Smith Library and to investigate possible alternative methods of instruction. At the time, this appointment caused some hardship because the number of Subject Librarians had been already reduced through resignations, and individual work loads were very high.

Reader education programmes

An evaluation of the existing reader education programmes showed that the most time-consuming group was the first year students who tended to have a library instruction class in place of one of their usual tutorial times. This meant that the same Subject Librarian might present an identical library instruction class five or six times a day for five days on end. Since each Subject Librarian is responsible for two or more subjects, it is no wonder that everyone was exhausted by the end of first term!

Although there was no doubt among the Subject Librarians and academic staff members that students needed to learn the information that was taught in these classes, it was also apparent that other means of teaching them should be investigated. Fortunately for us, much research has been done on this topic by other academic libraries,

particularly in the United States, where many universities include the teaching of library skills as a compulsory component of the curriculum.

The University College of Los Angeles Library in 1973, in response to a similar situation to that of the Barr Smith Library, developed a teaching aid called *Workbook in Library Skills*. This *Workbook*, which is still in use at U.C.L.A., has also been adopted and adapted to their needs by Pennsylvania State University, Utah University, Northern Arizona University, Michigan University, Saint John's University and the University of California at Santa Barbara.

The replacement of library instruction classes by an individual, self-paced instruction book seemed worth testing at the University of Adelaide, and particularly for first year students. The idea was appealing for several reasons:

- if it proved to be successful it would give Subject Librarians more time to spend on higher level research and teaching and make better use of their expertise for the benefit of the University community generally.
- since the learning process inherent in a workbook method of teaching is active, it was felt that it might be more effective than the existing passive listening situation.
- once it was established, it could relatively easily be made into a computer aided instruction version for students who prefer that type of learning situation.

The prototype

In mid-1988 Ninette Ellis was asked to supervise a South Australian Institute of Technology Library School student in her final project. The student was unable to pursue her chosen topic and agreed instead, as a replacement topic, to adapt the U.C.L.A. *Workbook* model to the needs of Barr Smith Library.

The prototype that was produced as a result of her efforts went through further changes, with the collaboration of almost all of the Subject Librarians, and interested members of the academic staff, to become the Draft version of our *Library Skills Workbook (LSW)*.



*The authors of the Library Skills Workbook,
Ninette Ellis and Alan Keig,
with their trusty Macintosh workhorse.*

The *LSW* is designed to be Department specific in its exercises, but needs to be completed for one Department only. It consists of a series of chapters on various aspects of the Library such as, how to use the online catalogue and the card catalogues, how to use Library of Congress Subject Headings, how to find journal articles on a topic, and so on. Each chapter is followed by a set of questions that is completed by using the techniques that have been described in that chapter.

The *Library Skills Workbook* is subsequently marked and returned to the student as a permanent reference for making use of the Barr Smith Library. Any obvious difficulties can be followed up by the appropriate Subject Librarian.

The pilot study

The *Library Skills Workbook* was tested in Semester 1, 1989 by two groups of students: Anthropology I and German I. The aim was to see whether students could learn the library skills required of them in an independent manner, as a self-instruction exercise, and whether the *LSW* was adequate for this purpose.

The Anthropology discipline made the *LSW* mandatory for all first year students and allocated to it 5% of the total marks for the subject. The German Department recommended strongly that its students complete the *LSW*.

Administration

The *LSW* for Anthropology I, which involved a potential 300 students, was produced with ten variations of the exercises, while the *LSW* for German I, with an enrolment of 90 students, was produced with four variations of the exercises. The explanatory chapters were the same for each variation, although the chapters varied slightly to accommodate special subject needs (for example, an explanation of the rules for the filing of the Umlaut, in the German version).

Students collected the *LSW* from the Reserve collection of the Barr Smith Library where it was borrowed and recorded on the loans system, CIRCON. The loan period, and therefore the time for completion, was six weeks. The *LSW* was available from the first week of Semester 1. Recording the loan transactions on CIRCON meant that lists of completed *LSWs* could be produced for each Department and students could be allocated marks from those lists.

As part of the marking procedure, students who misinterpreted whole chapters of the *LSW* were advised to seek further explanation from one of the subject librarians.

LSW Findings

In the Anthropology discipline 66% of students completed the *LSW*. Of these 14% were unsatisfactory (usually because they were incomplete, rather than poorly comprehended).

Approximately one third of the German I students completed the *LSW* and 10% of these were unsatisfactory.

A record was kept at the Information Desk of general problems that students experienced in answering the exercises. Some of the common ones were:—

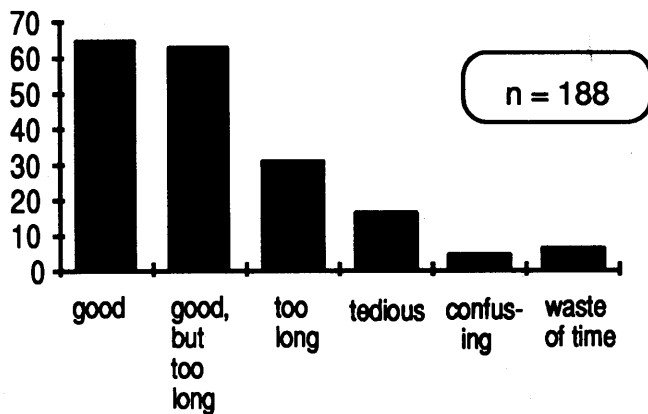
- It was evident that some of the questions were not clearly expressed and that students needed help to interpret what was wanted.
- The need to use the online catalogue to answer many of the questions meant that students sometimes had to queue for a terminal.
- The items to be consulted were not always on the shelves.

We were aware that the first problem existed and have sought the help of the University's Advisory Centre for Continuing Education to re-design the presentation of the questions in the *Library Skills Workbook* assignments. The other two problems surfaced only towards the time that the due date for handing the *LSW* came nearer and is the same competitive situation that students have to deal with in 'real life' when large groups have to read the same essay or find items from a reading list; also reflecting the real life study situation was the fact that these problems were not mentioned by students who handed in their workbooks in the first four weeks of the six weeks allowed for completion.

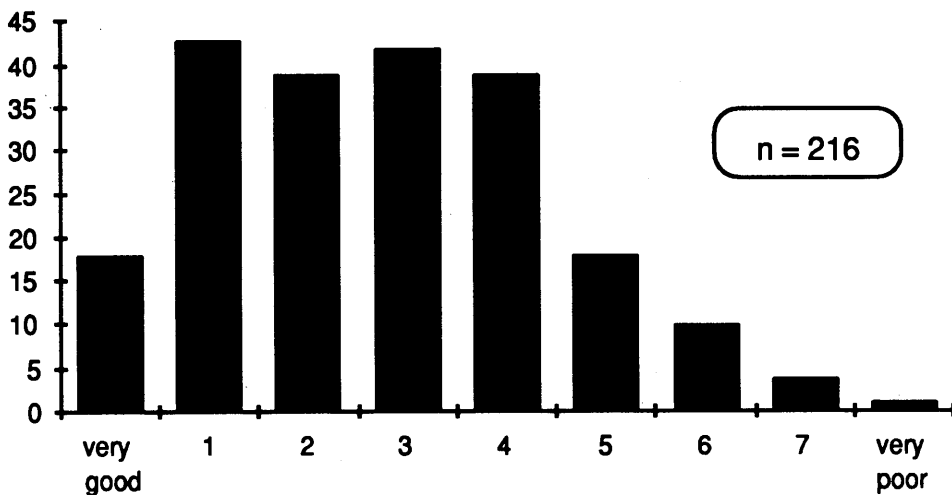
The Questionnaire

The Draft *LSW* included a questionnaire which had to be filled in by the students before they handed in their *Workbook* for marking. The completed questionnaires were analysed and the following graphs of the responses were produced:

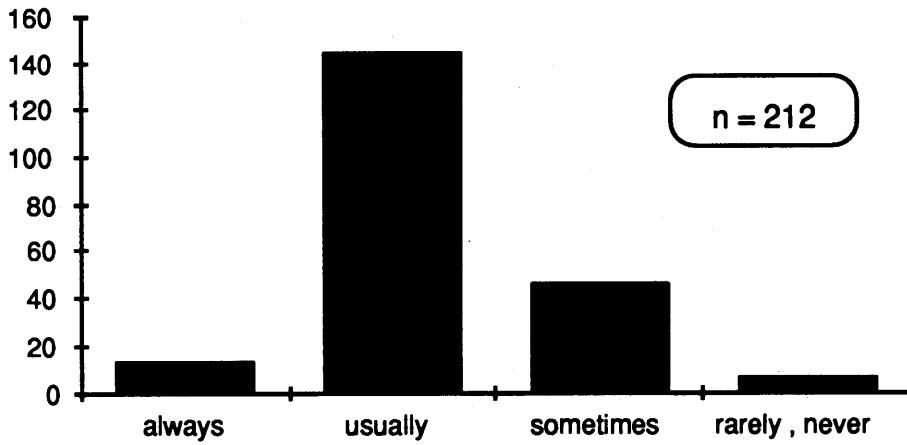
Q.1 In general, what did you think of the *Workbook* course?



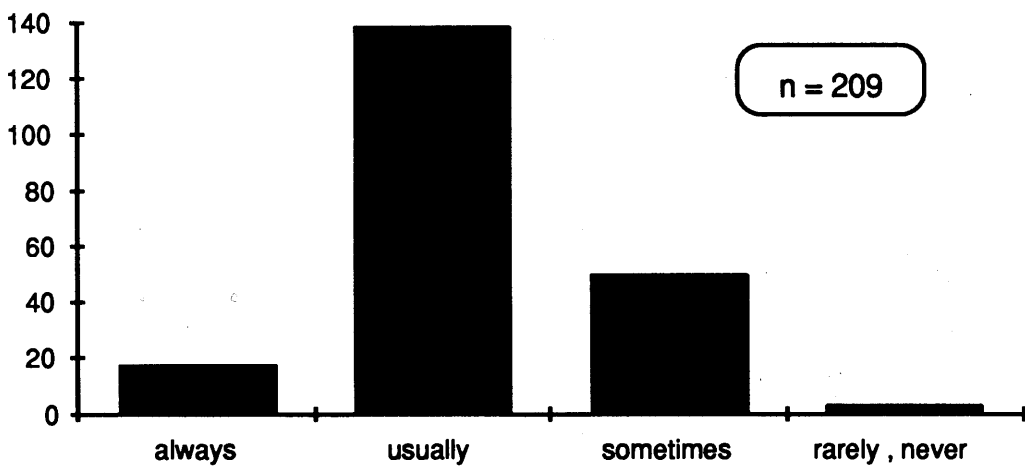
Q.2 Was the *Workbook* a good way for you to learn about the Library?



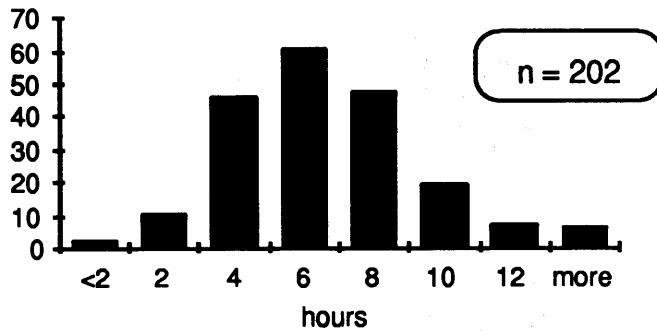
Q.3 Were the information and examples in the text clear ?



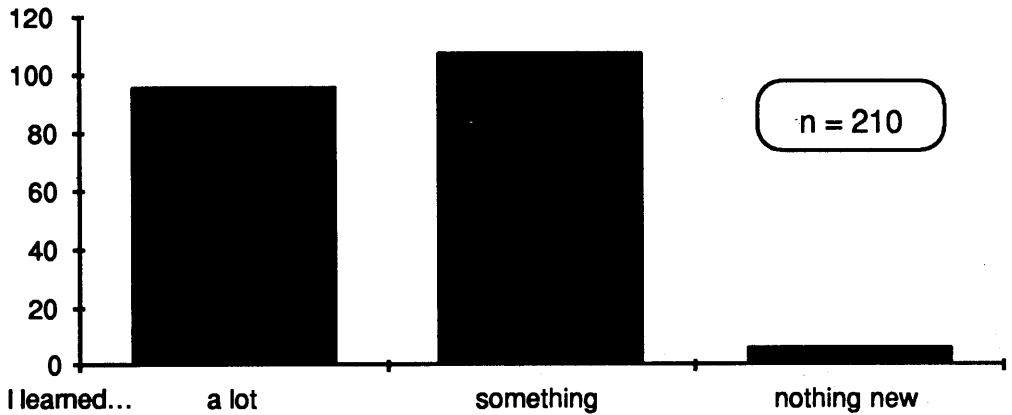
Q.4 Did you understand the assignments and were the instructions clear?



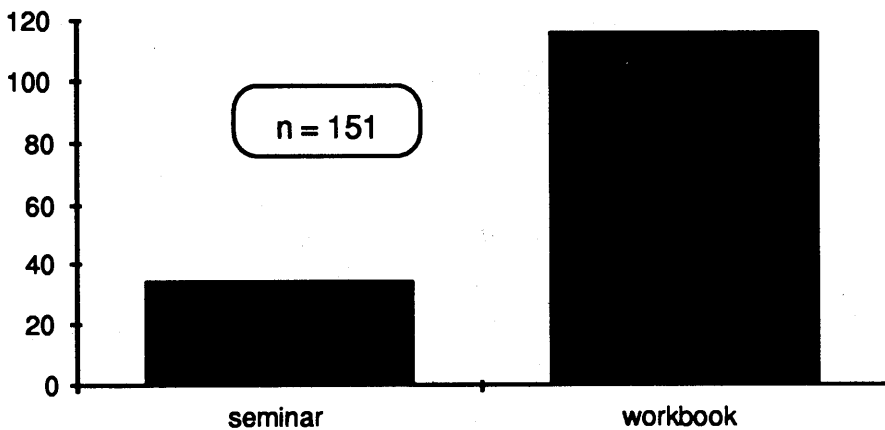
Q.5 How much time did you spend on the *Workbook* ?



Q.6 Compare your knowledge of the Library after your use of the *Workbook* with your knowledge before. (Tick one)



Q.6 I learned more from ... (Tick one)



Follow-up discussions with academic staff

The lecturer for first year Anthropology, Dr. John Gray, was very pleased with the trial of the *LSW*. He had, however, expected a greater percentage of the students to complete it since it had been made compulsory for all Anthropology I students. Dr Gray, while agreeing to the proposed streamlining of the *LSW*, was keen for it to continue in its present form without any cut in actual content. He expressed his strong support for the proposal that the *LSW* should be mandatory for all first year Arts students.

The response from the German students was much smaller, with only 33% of students completing the *LSW*. The first year co-ordinator for German, Ms. Judy Wilson, had a discussion with the students to find out what were the major reasons for the poor response. The main cause seemed to be a perception that the skills learned in the *LSW* were not immediately applicable, and they did not see the need for them. Their first major essay was not due until later in the year, unlike the Anthropology students who had an essay pending at the time of the *LSW*.

Ms. Wilson, who is still strongly in favour of the concept of the *LSW*, has suggested a closer cooperation between the Barr Smith Library and the German Department next year. She suggested that the Department may divide the first essay into two parts: a bibliography and then, at a later date, the essay proper. In this way the students would be told that they need to use the *LSW* skills to compile the bibliography and it would be part of their overall marks for the essay. Some courses in the History Department already do something similar in combining Library skills seminars with course requirements.

Both academic staff members agreed that the only way to get a good response from the students was to make the *LSW* worth some marks in their overall assessment.

Changes

Following the pilot project the Draft *Library Skills Workbook* has been thoroughly revised. We took into account the problems that some students reported, and used the questionnaire responses as a guide to what changes were necessary. Valuable advice and assistance was offered by Mr. R. Cannon of the University's Advisory Centre for Continuing Education who helped us to modify the presentation of the

questions in the assignments so as to make them more easily understood, and also to make them easier to mark (we opted for the multiple choice question format where it was appropriate). Once again, our thanks go to our Subject Librarian colleagues who looked at the new version chapter by chapter and made many constructive suggestions.

The *Library Skills Workbook* has been shortened without loss of major content; we became aware during marking of the prototype that the exercises associated with longer chapters were often poorly completed compared with those associated with the shorter chapters.

The chapter on using BIBLION will have to be completely re-written now that the Library has purchased the Dynix online catalogue system, but apart from that task, the *LSW* is in good shape and ready to be used at the beginning of the next academic year.

Future aims

It is envisaged that the *Library Skills Workbook* will become a compulsory component of all first year courses that require students to use the Barr Smith Library. Negotiations are taking place with the Faculty of Arts to see if it can be formally written in to the first year study requirements.

We believe that adoption of the *Library Skills Workbook* as a fundamental part of their courses will ensure that every first year student starts on an equal footing with the means of acquiring knowledge, a skill that will be of value for their entire lives.



Introducing ...



by Ellen Randva*

The Australian MEDLINE Network, established in 1976, provides online access to a range of medical and health-related databases for Australian health professionals. The Network is the joint responsibility of the National Library of Australia and the Commonwealth Department of Community Services and Health.

The MEDLARS system (Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System) is the group of databases run on the Australian MEDLINE Network. These databases include the MEDLARS database (commonly referred to as MEDLINE), the Health Planning and Administration Database, the Australasian Medical Index (AMI), SERLINE, CATLINE and the MeSH file (the online vocabulary file). All databases, except AMI are produced in the United States by the National Library of Medicine; AMI has been developed by the National Library of Australia.

The Library has had access to databases on the MEDLINE network since 1976, and in 1988, over 200 literature searches were performed in the Library on this network, using the expertise of subject librarians as search intermediaries. More than 100 search strategies have also been stored on the system to produce automatic monthly updates to original retrospective searches.

A new product has just been released to enable users with no previous experience of searching MEDLINE, to gain access to the system and to conduct their own searches.

**I wish to thank the National Library of Australia's MEDLARS Section for providing information on GRATEFUL MED.*

What is GRATEFUL MED and what does it do?

GRATEFUL MED (GM) is a software product developed by the United States National Library of Medicine to allow untrained users to gain access to MEDLINE. GM software contains everything needed to track down information in MEDLINE, using a personal computer.

GM provides a user-friendly menu-driven interface to MEDLINE — in other words it:—

- asks the user what to search for
- reformats the search into the correct form
- automatically calls the MEDLINE computer at the Department of Community Services and Health in Canberra
- logs into the computer
- enters your search request and stores any references that are found
- disconnects from the computer
- displays search results, and if requested, transfers the results to your printer or to a disk file

Based on your assessment of the retrieved items, and the pattern of subject terms found in the search results, GM will suggest search terms that you may select to be included in a subsequent search. GRATEFUL MED provides online access to the complete Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) index, allowing you greater precision in your subject searches.

GRATEFUL MED also provides a direct path into the computer for the experienced searcher, bypassing the GRATEFUL MED prompts, and allowing direct interaction with the search command language.

Who should use it?

GRATEFUL MED was designed primarily for physicians and other health professionals. It is for people with no previous experience of searching who prefer not to or are unable to undergo training but who would like to do their own searches, and also for infrequent users who cannot maintain their MEDLINE searching skills (MEDLINE on Elhill is not an easy system to use and regular use is necessary to maintain a level of expertise).

What are the costs involved and what is needed?

The cost of GRATEFUL MED software is A\$65. The package consists of the software and a manual; updates to the software (approximately annual) are made available for a small charge.

At the present time GM will work only on IBM or compatible micro-computers, and it works best on those with a hard disk, although operation as a floppy-only system is possible (some features of the software are not usable if there is no hard disk).

Basic requirements are:—

- IBM PC or fully compatible microcomputer
- DOS version 2.0 or higher
- a modem which is fully compatible with the Hayes Smartmodem (the Barr Smith Library uses a Netcomm modem)
- 256K RAM or more
- one 360K double sided, double density diskette drive
- 1.5 megabytes (approx.) on a hard disk (optional)

Access to Telecom's AUSTPAC service is essential and if users do not already have access to Austpac, arrangements must be made for this before requesting a copy of GRATEFUL MED.

Note:— The National Library of Australia has indicated that they are, at this time, unable to alter the GM login procedure to allow Departmental access to AUSTPAC via the University's Ethernet system. Therefore, if University departments wish to use GM at this time, they must arrange for a direct Telecom line as well as access to AUSTPAC.

What are the charges for using MEDLINE?

The charges for online access are identical to those charged to all MEDLINE users. These are, at present, \$30 per connect hour online access. Austpac charges can be estimated at between \$5 and \$6 per hour. MEDLINE invoices are raised on a monthly basis, except where the amount is below \$20, in which case the amount is carried over from month to month until it reaches \$20.

Demonstrations

Demonstrations of GRATEFUL MED may be arranged; interested persons or Departments should contact Ellen Randva in the Library (extension 5069).

Unfortunately, the Library is unable to lend its copy of GRATEFUL MED for use outside the Library.

How can GRATEFUL MED be purchased?

Application forms are available from Ellen Randva, Barr Smith Library or from:

The Principal Librarian
Australian MEDLINE Network
National Library of Australia
Canberra ACT 2600



The Retrospective Conversion Project

by Patricia Scott

The first stage of the conversion of our old card catalogue to machine-readable computer records has been achieved. This means that there is now on BIBLION at least a brief record for every title catalogued separately in the Library; books, journals, microfilms, cassettes etc.

Retrospective conversion of records began in 1980 when a substantial part of the collection had to be relegated to the Old Medical Building store. Over the next three years records were created not only for the titles in off-campus storage, but also for most of the medical collection.

The much larger task of producing records for all of the remaining collection was given impetus by the need to re-write the Library's loan system, CIRCON, as a circulation function of BIBLION, so that loan records were linked with bibliographic records.

The main retrospective conversion project began in November 1983 with the formation of the Bibliographic Projects team. Planning was begun for both retrospective conversion of card catalogue records and the original cataloguing of a bequest collection, the Theatre Collection, directly in machine-readable format. These projects were to be handled in tandem.

Staffing

In the first year the number of people engaged in the Bibliographic Projects team varied from four to ten, under the overall supervision of Patricia Scott. Many of the staff who were employed in temporary positions as Data Processing Operators applied for and were appointed to positions as General Library Assistants in the Library proper.

In February 1985 Bibliographic Projects transferred to the Technical Services Division under the direction of Jim Anderson, with Nedra Scott heading the team, then later with Maggie Low. The Bibliographic Projects team was subsumed in the Cataloguing Department in 1988.

Creation of records

The structure of the record chosen for retrospective conversion was largely determined by the needs of the Library's loan system. The University was replacing the old Cyber computer and the Library's loan system was dependent on it. Its replacement required writing programs to allow a loans function to be attached to the Library's online catalogue, BIBLION. In order to cause the least disruption, a separate computer record was required for each title. These records existed for items that had been catalogued in the previous three years, which comprised only a very small part of the collection. We were faced, therefore, with the task of creating a very large number of records in a small space of time. The minimum requirement for a record was that it displayed its unique call number, gave an indication of its author and title and would hold a barcode to allow a loans record to be attached to it.

We saw the opportunity of using one of the facilities provided by the Australian Bibliographic Network – their Non-MARC retrospective conversion program – to subsequently upgrade these very hastily created records into high quality full catalogue records. If we added a standard book number (ISBN, LC number, national bibliography number, etc.) to the items' descriptions, the records could be sent to the Australian Bibliographic Network to be matched against their database purely on that standard book number. Since the standard book numbers were in the books themselves, and not on the catalogue cards, the records would have to be created by handling the books themselves and not by using the existing card catalogue records. Handling the books gave us advantages and disadvantages. The main advantage was that we could process the books returning from loan as a priority, getting records on to the computer first for the vast bulk of circulating, and thus 'in demand', items. Since we were physically handling the books we could also attach barcodes to the volumes and immediately 'wand' the number (using a barcode reading wand) on to the newly created record as part of the same operation. The main disadvantage was that the information on the book pocket that was used to create the computer record was normally very brief (author's surname and initials, short title) and did not necessarily match with the actual card catalogue form of the author's name. The older books in the collection had no book pockets at all and so data processors had to transcribe information directly from the title page of the books. Where the information did not fit our call number notation, checks were made back to the card catalogue records.

Books returning from loan without barcode labels soon dwindled in numbers and so we were able to turn our attention to the volumes on the

open shelves. We systematically processed all items shelf by shelf, ignoring only those with barcode labels already in them (indicating that they had been previously processed).

Procedures to add barcodes to volumes and computer records for all new items added to the collection had already begun when the Retrospective Project was started.

Upgrading of records

Batches of records were supposed to be sent to the National Library of Australia for upgrading by standard book numbers against the Australian Bibliographic Network database by the last quarter of 1984. Problems with disk space meant that this process had to be postponed.

Upgrading of records to our shelf list standard was proposed from the outset for those older volumes which predated the introduction of standard book numbers. Indeed, procedures were written and staff were trained to do this. A batch of records created to our shelf list standard was also sent to the National Library and was accepted as of sufficient quality to be accepted on the National database. The relentless drive to establish a brief record for every item in the Library, however, overshadowed the desire to 'tidy up as we went along'. Very few records were upgraded internally.

Two large batches of brief records were finally sent to the National Library of Australia which retrieved approximately 90,000 full catalogue records. Fixing up multiple matches and 'near misses' took up a considerable amount of experienced staff time as the aftermath of this exercise.

The goals achieved

The Systems staff in the Library during this time went through a number of changes, as did the staff in charge of the Retrospective Conversion team. Despite this, goals were firmly set to create brief records for everything. This has now been achieved with the completion of the microfilm collection, Special Collections and the Reference Collection. Records for individual titles within a set of books or in a set of journals (known in library jargon as 'analytic entries') have not yet been added retrospectively and so there are still many records in the card catalogues that are not yet represented in the computer catalogue.

Every book in the Barr Smith Library is now represented in the database, albeit for the most part as a very basic catalogue record. Individual volumes of journals and large sets of books have yet to be added, although there is, of course, a record for each whole set. This has been due to problems with the storage and display of the information for each individual part. It is expected that the new Dynix cataloguing system will allow us to cope with this problem satisfactorily.

At present we have 234 000 brief records still to be upgraded, from a total database of 562 000 records (in other words, 58% of our records are full records). The 'dirty' nature of these remaining brief records will be more obvious than ever on our new computer catalogue which will allow the user to scan a list of author's names before looking at titles for a particular author. Unfortunately many lists will show up to four or five variations of the same author's name.

The future

The next stage of manually upgrading records by keying in information from the shelf list cards, or alternatively by using more up to date technology to capture data from the National database, or other machine-readable files such as the CD-ROM product *Bibliofile*, is likely to be very time-consuming. We will get there eventually, but when depends on the availability of staff, and hence on funding.

What has been achieved has been tremendous – we now have one of the largest databases in Australia. What is left to be done is not inconsiderable, but will be worthwhile when there will again be only one place to consult for information about what is in the Library. The end product of a full computer catalogue will be flexible and portable; users may consult it in many places, (not necessarily in the Barr Smith Library building itself), without knowledge of filing rules, allowing greater access to the Library's resources than could ever have been provided by the card catalogues. Indeed, the new system on which our catalogue (now a database) will run, will allow our users to produce their own mini-catalogues with information they require.

The possibilities seem endless.

