

# University of Adelaide

## LIBRARY NEWS



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## THE CHANGING CATALOGUE

It is now more than a year since the Library introduced a public-access terminal to allow readers to experiment with its developing on-line catalogue, BIBLION. The on-line catalogue has been generally well received and most users comment that they want to see the system expanded, with more terminals and improved access.

One of the most important prerequisites for improved access was a larger computer, and with the installation of a new DEC VAX 11/780, twenty additional terminals will soon be placed around the Library, enabling readers to consult BIBLION from a variety of locations. The quality of access to some types of material recorded in BIBLION has not yet reached a high level, but with increased computing capacity old entries can now be upgraded, and we hope that it will soon be possible to retrieve all items on BIBLION quickly, simply and conveniently.

BIBLION now includes catalogue records for most new material acquired since 1981, as well as entries for the entire Undergraduate, Audio-visual and serials collections, and for monographs in the Library Store. Most of this information could also be found using the card catalogue or computer print-out lists, however some catalogue information can now only be obtained from BIBLION. This includes Undergraduate Collection holdings for books added since June 1982 (the main card no longer indicates whether additional copies are held in the Undergraduate Collection) and entries for books which are in the Library Store. The existence of unique catalogue records in BIBLION means that the card catalogue is no longer a union catalogue, recording the holdings of all the materials in the entire library system.

In order to ease the transition to the on-line catalogue the Library will continue to record most newly acquired material in the card catalogue as well as in BIBLION. As it is expensive to maintain two separate catalogue systems, however, the Library will gradually cease recording certain kinds of material in the card catalogue and they will only be accessible through BIBLION. Eventually the card catalogue will be closed, probably in 1984. As the closure of the card catalogue draws nearer, the proportion of catalogue records which are accessible only through BIBLION can be expected to increase. No entries in the card catalogue will be stopped until it is clear that the on-line catalogue is capable of storing and retrieving these entries as well as, if not better than, the present card catalogue. If sufficient funds are made available, the Library hopes to transfer at least the main elements of all entries in the card catalogue onto BIBLION. This process, known as retrospective conversion, is expensive but essential if readers are to avoid the inconvenience of having to check more than one catalogue in the future. The Library has received a substantial grant from the Internal Development Fund to enable retrospective conversion to commence in the period 1983-85.

During the transition period library staff will continue to provide information and instruction for readers on the use of the various forms of catalogue. Readers will also need to be aware of changes to the catalogue, and prepared to seek assistance if necessary. While there will certainly be some difficulties for readers during the period of transition from a card catalogue to a fully operational on-line system, the library staff believe that BIBLION will provide a vastly improved system of catalogue access to the collections and enable the Library to continue to improve its service to the University.

Margaret Hosking

## 101 USES FOR A DEAD CATALOGUE

A few months ago the journal American libraries announced a competition "101 Uses for a Dead Catalog" offering librarians a chance to dream up clever uses for card catalogues which have been replaced by computer-stored files. Early entries suggested converting the catalogue drawers into roller-skates or using them to store the ashes of recalcitrant readers. One can easily imagine the hundreds of metal catalogue drawer rods being used for grilling shish kebabs or as rapiers in a swashbuckling film, but such fantasies do not properly address the problem of the impact of technological change on libraries.

One solution for librarians who are not in the first flush of their careers and for whom computers are totally bewildering would be to apply for early retirement, preferably with the traditional 'golden handshake' (although in these days of tenosynovitis, perhaps it should be called the 'golden armshake'.) If this ploy fails because you are only twenty-six years old, another option is to join the Library Luddites. This select band firmly believes that a microfiche is a small tropical creature swimming in a tank of heated water, and its members will tell you that VDU is a social disease the symptoms of which are failing eyesight and sore wrists. Library Luddites will recommend the purchase of a new improved machine to punch holes in the bottom edge of catalogue cards rather than a new computer, and if actually forced to use a VDU will go round telling people that they have been terminated.

More sophisticated approaches by the L.L.s include an appeal to a new god, ergonomics. The word is derived from the Latin and means we have installed complicated new and expensive machines ergo we need complicated new and expensive chairs to sit on while using them or our bodies will deteriorate overnight leading to permanent sick leave.

Besides the personnel problems associated with technological change, administrators will have other problems to wrestle with in addition to finding uses for dead catalogues. There will be so many terminals, microform readers and word processors in the Library that there will be no spare power points left for the cleaners to plug in their vacuum cleaners and polishers and even the tea lady may find that her urn has been pre-empted by a microfiche duplicator. Of course, expenditure on pens and pencils should drop noticeably since it isn't possible to write on a VDU screen. Consumption of paper clips will probably remain steady as people will still want to twist them into odd shapes or string them into huge chains (wrist exercises to counter incipient tenosynovitis?) as well as putting them to other traditional uses such as poking out bits of bun or sandwich that have accidentally fallen into the terminal.

There are many hidden expenses associated with the introduction of machines that even the most astute library manager may overlook: the cost, for example, of installing such essential ancillaries as ergonomic carpets may not be completely offset by removing two thirds of the light fittings to reduce the glare on VDU screens.

However, the main administrative difficulty, as always, involves people. How do you reduce the number of library staff so that those remaining do not realise they are a diminishing species? Quietly removing chairs and re-arranging tables in the tea room can help as can thinning out the number of hooks on coat racks and increasing the size and reducing the number of staff lockers.

In this situation the card catalogue (without the cards) can still be utilised: the drawers, suitably labelled, would be ideal repositories for the ashes of librarians who have been made redundant as a result of technological change.

Alan Keig.

### SEATING SURVEY

Readers were apparently bemused last month by the sight of library staff, clipboards in hand, dashing around the Library with military precision, counting bodies.

The object of the exercise was to assess the use of seating in the Library. It was hoped the survey would assist the Library to learn whether some reading areas or types of furniture are more popular than others, and whether there are reading areas which are under-used and which could perhaps be devoted to additional shelving.

At this stage, the results of the survey have not been analysed, but the Library has judged the exercise a success and will probably undertake further surveys at different times of the year.

## BARR SMITH LIBRARY AND LOCAL INSTITUTIONS

For many years the Barr Smith Library has acted as a major supplier of library materials to the many libraries of Adelaide institutions, including government departments, quasi-government organisations, societies, associations and other voluntary services. With the increasing financial pressures on the University, Council was forced to conclude in 1981 that local institutions would have to bear some share of the cost of providing access to the Library's resources.

Since the beginning of 1982 an annual access fee has been charged to Adelaide institutions, other than post-secondary educational institutions and teaching hospitals associated with the University. The annual fees enable free access to inter-library borrowing from the Library and the right to request computer based information searches at the same charge as applies to members of the University. The Library had some difficulty in recommending the most appropriate charge to be applied in this first year of the scheme, however the scale of charges for 1982 has been

Commercial organisations	\$500.00
Government departments and instrumentalities	\$250.00
Voluntary non-profit organisations	\$50.00

The Library was uncertain as to the reaction of local institutions to the scheme, but the results clearly indicate that most local institutions accept that it is reasonable for them to assist with the cost of the service provided by the Barr Smith Library. To date twenty-six government organisations, seven non-profit associations and three commercial companies have joined as institutional members of the Library and between them have made several thousand loans during the year. The option to request on line information searches has not generally been taken up, although it is known that many of the institutions involved have their own access to on-line services. Overall the scheme can be described as a limited success, enabling the Library to provide service to local institutions at a reasonable cost to itself, and it seems likely that it will continue in a similar form for many years to come. The income gained by the Library will be used primarily to provide a direct service to institutional users and to allow the Library to improve the service to all its users.

## WOMEN'S STUDIES IN THE LIBRARY

After decades of indifference and neglect the study of women has recently developed from a minority interest into a major area of research and debate. In the last ten years women's studies has emerged as an academic discipline, and during that time a great deal of published material by and about women has been acquired for the Barr Smith Library. However, the Library's collection reflects an interest in women's issues stretching back more than fifty years.

In 1930 Dr W. Ramsay Smith presented the Library with a collection of several hundred books concerning women and women's rights. Titles such as Emmet Densmore's Sex equality: a solution of the woman problem (London: Sonnenschein, 1907), Cicely Hamilton's Marriage as a trade (London: Chapman and Hall, 1912) and Catherine Hartley's The truth about women (London: Nash, 1913) provide a fascinating glimpse into an era whose preoccupations are still under discussion today. This collection continued to grow while W.A. Cowan was University Librarian from 1933-1963 as he was particularly interested in the subject. The growth of the women's movement since the late 1960s has stimulated a great increase in the publication of material by and about women, and the Library's collection reflects this growth.

The Barr Smith Library is particularly strong in its holdings of 19th century material, and the women's studies collection includes a variety of tracts dating from this period, ranging from John Stuart Mill's On the subjection of women (New York: Source Book Press, 1970) to items such as Woman's rights and duties, considered with relation to their influence on society and on her own conditions, by A Woman (London: Parker, 1840) and Josephine Butler's Personal reminiscences of a great crusade (London: Marshall, 1896). The Library also holds the first edition of Mary Wollstonecraft's classic A vindication of the rights of women (London: printed for J. Johnson, 1792), and an interesting collection of early 20th century material, which incorporates such well-known tracts as Olive Schreiner's Woman and labour (London: Unwin, 1911) and Marie Stopes' Married Love (London: Pitman, 1919).

The decades between the world wars were a dormant period for the women's movement, which re-emerged after World War II with the publication of Simone de Beauvoir's The second sex (La deuxième sexe, Paris: Gallimard, 1949) and Betty Friedan's The feminine mystique (London: Gollancz, 1963). These were quickly followed by such titles as Kate Millet's Sexual politics (New York: Doubleday, 1970), Germaine Greer's The female eunuch (London: MacGibbon and Kee, 1970), Eva Figes' Patriarchal attitudes (London: Faber, 1970), Shulamith Firestone's The dialectic of sex (London: Cape, 1971) and Juliet Mitchell's Woman's estate (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1973). Since then, a profusion of titles have treated such topics as rape, prostitution, housework, female psychology and social biology.

In the field of female psychology, works by Freud, Deutsch, Horney, Bardwick, and Baker Miller are well represented. Material discussing the concept of feminist therapy and feminist attitudes towards psychoanalysis,



such as Phyllis Chesler's Women and madness (New York: Avon, 1973) and Juliet Mitchell's Psychoanalysis and feminism (New York: Pantheon, 1974) document women's changing attitudes towards this important area.

The Library has continued to collect material covering all aspects of research in the field of women's studies, and since the mid-1960s, interest in the area has grown to the point where academic departments are involved in ordering material on women over a wide range of disciplines.

The English, French and German Departments of the University have long been interested in the study of women authors and the image of women as presented in literature, but a more recent interest is the influence of feminist theories on literary criticism. Since the early 1960s and 1970s, published scholarship exploring woman's role in literature has increased. There is a sense of the value of literature as an expression of the experience of women, with resultant changes in attitudes towards women writers and a reinterpretation of female figures as presented in literature.

The Barr Smith Library has a fine collection of literature written by women and is particularly strong in the field of 19th century literature. Through the comprehensive reprinting programmes of feminist presses such as Virago, it is now possible to purchase copies of previously out-of-print 19th and early 20th century women's publications, although in many cases the Library is fortunate in holding such works in the original edition.

The Library also collects extensively in the field of feminist literary criticism, including such titles as Elaine Showalter's A literature of their own (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1977), Ellen Moers' Literary women (New York: Doubleday, 1976), Patricia Meyer Spacks' The female imagination (London: Allen and Unwin, 1976) and Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar's The madwoman in the attic (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1979).

It is difficult to estimate the size of the women's studies collection as the material is scattered throughout a wide range of subject areas. Even the basic Dewey Decimal Classification number for "women" is not consistent. Until 1973 "women" were classed in 396 between "etiquette" and "folklore". The introduction of the 18th edition of Dewey saw "women" moved to 301.412, where the topic fitted in rather more comfortably amongst sociology, family, class and race. When this section was revised for the 19th edition of Dewey, "women" moved again, to 305.4. There are also separate classification numbers for women in the areas of psychology, economics, education and politics, and a substantial amount of material on women is held among the Library's collections of philosophy, literature, history and biography. A recently conducted survey of the Library's women's studies collection unearthed some two thousand volumes on women classified in the social sciences, and many thousands more in literature and history. The Library also holds over seventy different reference resources and receives over thirty current journal titles specifically relating to women. The University is fortunate to have at its disposal such a significant collection of resources on women's studies.

Liz Lee, Margaret Hosking

## VALUABLE BOYD GIFT

The Library has been given six valuable oil paintings by the Australian artist, Arthur Boyd. The paintings illustrate the poetry of Max Harris, and the collaborative work was published as part of the series "Australian artists and poets" in Australian letters October 1961 (820.5A/A93).

Max Harris was one of the founders of Australian letters, a quarterly magazine which printed not only literary material but also articles on Australian life and experience. The editors frequently commissioned work from Australian artists for cover illustrations and as artistic meditations on the themes of the poetry published in the magazine. Max Harris has a long association with the University, and the Library has a collection of his papers and literary manuscripts which includes material relating to the "Angry Penguins" affair.

After a visit to central Australia in 1950 Arthur Boyd later produced his famous "Half caste bride" series of paintings. First exhibited in 1958 they had an enormous impact, not all of it friendly. Shortly afterwards he went to London and the bride and other thwarted lovers recur in his London paintings of 1959-62. Another major series of paintings by Arthur Boyd, "The judges", hangs in the Union Cellar.

The paintings will be kept with the Harris papers until they can be permanently exhibited.

The cover illustration is entitled "Dim the green hope".

## DIM THE GREEN HOPE

Dim the green hope in your young eyes,  
For there is no bride but death.

There are the things unseen, uncountable,  
The billion photons of each single eye,  
The perfect randomness of all that is,  
The great transformers pounding in each cell.  
But there is no bride but death.

Let life drop from your sleeping fingers,  
For there is no bride but death.

You have grown warm in the sunlight,  
You have averted your head to be silent,  
You have felt divinity because the rain  
Fell grey and loving to the crucifix of your arms.  
But there is no bride but death.

Do not live to live within another,  
For there is no bride but death.

Bees find only economics in the flower;  
Galaxies expand, explode, and die  
Without becoming other than they are.  
You are born to that species called 'Alone'  
And you are born to embrace no bride but death.

Max Harris.

## GET LOST!

The Barr Smith Library, with its three interconnected buildings containing a number of collections, can be very confusing for readers. Even though some attempts have been made to provide signs, the absence of an integrated system of guidance has made the Library even more difficult to use.

A working party of library staff is developing a guidance system that will enable all library users to reach the particular service, person or item they require as quickly as possible. To aid in the assessment of the present situation comments have been sought from users and staff, and a photographic survey of the problem areas has been undertaken. It is now the task of the working party to find solutions to the difficulties that are so obvious.

Margaret Hosking  
Convenor



## 5UV LIBRARY SERIES

Sixteen hundred librarians visited Adelaide in August as delegates to the twenty second biennial conference of the Library Association of Australia. The theme of the conference was "Challenge and response" and speakers from Australia and overseas presented papers on topics ranging from babies and books to telecommunications towards 2000. A production team from Radio 5UV covered the conference, recording eleven sessions and interviewing participants. The team included two librarians from the State Library and the Barr Smith Library who double as public radio broadcasters in their spare time.

This month 5UV will present a series of programmes based on the conference. "Libraries in the eighties" will be broadcast on Thursdays at 9pm and repeated on Fridays at noon, starting November 11. A further series will be broadcast in the new year. Radio 5UV can be located at 531 on the AM band.

Cassette copies of the eleven conference sessions recorded by 5UV are now available from Sound Information, P.O. Box 8, Broadway, N.S.W. 2007.

## WHO BORROWS MOST?

Top again in the borrowing stakes in 1982 are honours students. Of the 508 honours students who have collected library passes, a total of 414 or 81% had actually borrowed an item from the Barr Smith Library or Medical Library in the first ten months of 1982. A close second came academic staff with 79% or 714 of those 897 who hold a library pass. Undergraduate students are third in the running with 77% borrowing, followed by a disappointing 73% among higher degree students. The breakdown of these statistics into academic departments remains on the restricted list.

## REGISTER OF BIBLIOGRAPHIES IN PROGRESS

We have been asked to draw the attention of staff engaged in bibliographical work to the existence of the Register of Bibliographies in Progress. The Register is sponsored by the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services Working Party on Bibliography, and is maintained at the Canberra College of Advanced Education Library. It attempts to include all bibliographical works which are Australian in subject content or which list Australian library holdings.

Its main purpose is to enable scholars and bibliographers to be kept informed of work in progress which might be related to their own, and reduce the risk of duplication of effort. Although the Working Party can give advice about possible sources of financial support for scholarly bibliographic work, it has no funds of its own for the purpose.

Copies of the registration form are available from the University Librarian's Secretary.

## NEW MICROFILM READER

The Library has recently acquired a new microfilm reader ideally suited to the reading of newspapers on microfilm. The screen on the new microfilm reader is not vertical, but rather at 15 degrees to the horizontal. The machine, a Northwest microfilm 2020A, is located in the Eastern Gallery and is available for use at all times. The machine is simple to use, but readers requiring assistance should ask at the circulation desk.