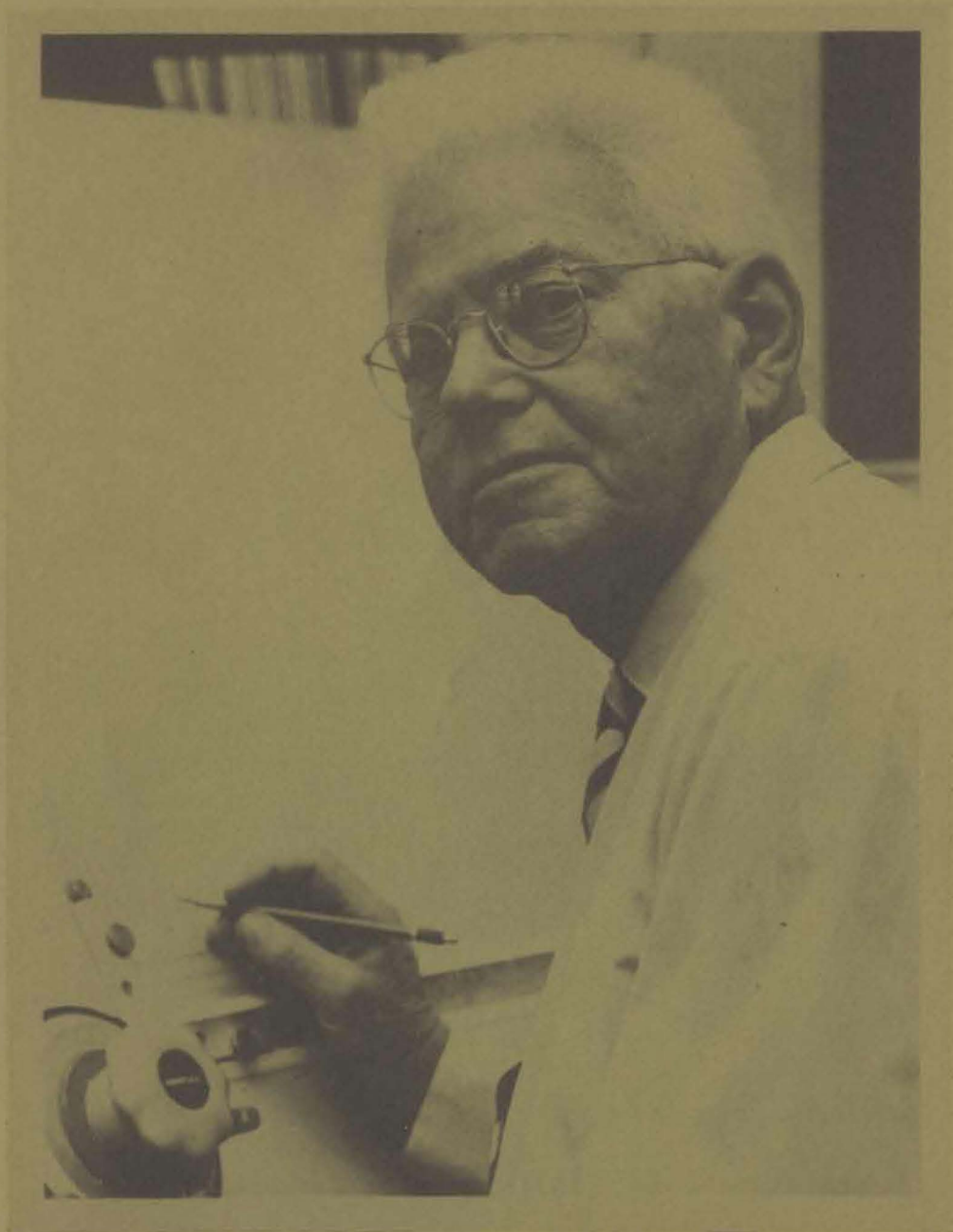


University of Adelaide

**LIBRARY NEWS**



Volume 6 Number 2

September 1984

# UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE LIBRARY NEWS

Volume 6 Number 2  
September 1984  
(This completes Volume 6)

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Heather Howard  
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## PRODUCTION

Peter Flatman  
Morena Arancio

Julie Holdway

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## THE OLIPHANT PAPERS

The Barr Smith Library Special Collections has recently acquired a collection of national significance with the arrival of the papers of Sir Mark Oliphant. The papers cover the period 1927-1983 and occupy some 13 metres of shelving. They have been arranged and described by the University Archivist, Susan Woodburn, and are now available for research although some restrictions will apply to recent material relating to sensitive issues in South Australian politics.

Sir Mark was born in Adelaide on 8 October 1901. He was educated at Unley High School and Adelaide High School. After matriculating in 1918 he first worked for the jewellery manufacturing firm of Schlank's Ltd., and then as a cadet at the State Library of South Australia.

In 1919 he enrolled as a part-time student at the University of Adelaide - one of only two or three who were financing their courses by part-time work - and at the end of the year the Professor of Physics, Professor Kerr Grant, offered Mark Oliphant a cadetship in the Physics Department. The salary was ten shillings a week, the same as he was earning at the State Library, but it allowed him to take any course without paying fees so long as it did not interfere with his duties as a cadet.

After graduating as a B.Sc. in 1921, Oliphant did honours work under the supervision of Kerr Grant and stayed on at the University as a demonstrator, since no lectureship was available. In 1925 Lord Rutherford, Director of the Cavendish Laboratories at Cambridge, visited Adelaide and made a great impact on Mark Oliphant. Two years later he became a post graduate research worker under Rutherford at the Cavendish Laboratories. His subsequent work on radar and the atomic bomb during World War II is covered by some of the documents in the collection.

The papers mainly concentrate, however, on Sir Mark's career as Director of the School of Physical Sciences of the Australian National University (1950-1963), as Governor of South Australia (1971-76) and on the period subsequent to his retirement from public office. There is also a collection of notes and correspondence of Lord Ernest Rutherford, collected by Oliphant for his book, Rutherford - Recollections of the Cambridge Days (1972).

The collection includes scrapbooks relating to Oliphant's term as Governor of South Australia, photographs, correspondence with staff of the University of Adelaide, a typescript of Oliphant's 1930 doctoral thesis "The cathode region of the glow and arc discharges of electricity through gases", and his physics lecture notes given at Cambridge.

The Barr Smith Library is indeed privileged to have been selected to house this important collection of papers of one of South Australia's most famous sons.

Wendy Finnimore

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## REMOTE ACCESS TO BIBLION

The Library is expecting its link to the campus network Ethernet to be in place this year. Delays have already altered the scheduled May connection, but hopes are high that the cable will be installed shortly. In anticipation of this, the University Librarian wrote to all departments on campus in April, advising of the possibilities of remote access to BIBLION and seeking volunteers to be hooked up on an experimental basis. Seventeen departments responded with interest, but only fourteen of these indicated that they had the necessary equipment. Heather Howard, Administrative Services Manager, and Patrick Condon, User Services Librarian, are currently visiting the departments who possess BIBLION-compatible equipment to meet the potential users, to inspect the terminals and proposed locations and to discuss aspects of search techniques, training and feedback. By the time the Ethernet link is in place the three lucky "guinea pigs" should have been chosen. Although the Library is approaching the connection of remote users with caution, it is a very exciting development, and one which may radically change some aspects of the provision of information to our users.

# USER SERVICES - PROFILES

## JUDITH LLOYD

Judith Lloyd joined the staff of the Barr Smith Library in 1961 following previous experience at the C.S.I.R.O. Division of Soils Library and the State Library of South Australia. She was in charge of the Medical Library from 1964 until it was integrated with the main Barr Smith Library in 1984, when she was appointed Information Services Librarian.



In her present position she is responsible for the coordination of the activities of the Subject Librarians Group and is especially concerned with liaison between the Barr Smith Library and its various user groups.

Judith is a Bachelor of Science graduate of the University of Adelaide and is an Associate of the Library Association of Australia. Her professional interests include reference and information services, user information needs and the extent to which the Barr Smith Library resources and services meet those needs, information retrieval, scientific literature and bibliography.

If you have any problems concerning the Library's information services, Judith's office is in the Subject Librarians' area on Level 3 of the Research Services Wing, or you may telephone her on extension 5067.

## THE LAST CARD

In May this year the last card to be produced for the Barr Smith Library's extensive card catalogue system was ceremoniously filed by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Donald Stranks, to mark the change to a completely computerised system. New items added to the collection are now entered only in the on-line computer catalogue, BIBLION.

The card catalogues were one of the innovations (others were the adoption of typewriters and the Dewey Decimal system of classification) introduced by the first librarian of the University of Adelaide, Mr. R.J.M.Clucas, who took up his appointment on 17 April 1900. When the last card was filed the catalogues had grown to about two million cards housed in 1800 drawers listing over 400,000 titles. They exhibit an amazing range of styles of card from the hand written (if not by quill pen then certainly by something similar!) to copies of cards produced by computer-driven printers and cover many changes of cataloguing practice introduced in the Library over the years. Familiar friends to many generations of students and staff, they have become increasingly expensive to maintain in recent years. The rising costs of staffing and the complexities of maintaining consistent bibliographic control over so large a number of titles in an era of major changes in cataloguing rules, brought on by computerization in national libraries and other major suppliers of cataloguing data, have been major factors leading to the decision to close the card catalogues.

### BIBLION

The Library has been experimenting with computer-based catalogues since 1980 when the former Librarian, Mr. I.D. Raymond demonstrated initiative in purchasing a small computer. The progress made in developing BIBLION in the next two years persuaded the University that the Library was equipped to introduce a major computerized cataloguing development, and funds were made available for the purchase in late 1982 of a large Digital VAX 11/780 computer on which BIBLION is now based.

Many library users have qualms about the passing of an old friend, and their capacity to cope with the computer age. The card catalogues will remain a valuable tool for many years to come since the transfer of the information in them to machine-readable form will be an expensive and time-consuming operation. However, from now on all users will have to learn the skills for effective use of BIBLION to find information about new titles received by the Library. It is already apparent, particularly for new items with full cataloguing records, that BIBLION offers significant searching advantages over the card catalogues, especially for periodicals and works without personal authors. In particular, the keyword approach to searching, which is impossible using a card catalogue, has proved a most effective technique for finding material on BIBLION.



The Vice-Chancellor, Professor D.R. Stranks, files the last catalogue card watched by Dr Gerald Laurence, Chairman of the Library Committee (centre) and the University Librarian, Eric Wainwright.

The rapid expansion of the number of terminals in the Library, combined with decentralised access from terminals in academic departments starting later this year, will make the catalogue increasingly convenient for members of the University, particularly when the new loan system is integrated in 1985 and users may also have details of whether a book is on loan. The system is backed up by the rapidly growing and developing Australian Bibliographic Network, a source of high quality cataloguing data which also gives details of the collections of other major Australian Libraries.

Eric Wainwright

## CIRCON 2?

Publicity has already been given to the necessity for the Library to replace its current loans system, CIRCON, with a new system because of the phasing out by mid-1985 of the University's main computer, the Cyber. The present system depends on the Cyber for its off-line file updates and generation of notices, while the on-line transactions which users see at the circulation desk are supported by an in-house IBM System/7.

Discussions have been under way for some time concerning the replacement of CIRCON, and the time-frame within which this must be achieved is now critical. There were three options available: to buy a commercial package, to lease or buy software from another library, or to develop an in-house system. Initially it seemed that the ACHILLES system from the University of Queensland was a possibility, but after it had been examined in depth through a visit to the St. Lucia campus and through studying documentation, technical difficulties and differences in the principles of its operation persuaded the senior library staff that it should be ruled out. Packages available through commercial vendors are very expensive and are usually marketed as a total, integrated system, with the loans operation as only one module. Clearly the Library was not in a position to buy a whole system, and the only hope seemed to be a company who may have been prepared to contribute to a joint development of a circulation package. This fell through as a viable option after an exploratory discussion and demonstration of their system currently in operation in small libraries, when it became clear that the requirements of a large academic library such as the Barr Smith were too complex to be easily serviced by their package.

### IN-HOUSE SYSTEM

The one remaining option was in-house development, and, after several special meetings of senior library staff and input from the University's Information Systems Manager, it was decided to tackle the challenge of writing a suite of programs to allow the loans system to run on the Library's VAX 11/780. This decision was taken at the end of April, and in May a specialist group was formed to plan and recommend on the implementation of the new system. The group was named the CIRCON Replacement Working Party and has met regularly over the last four months. For planning purposes the new loan system is referred to as CIRCON 2, but it may be that a more interesting name will be devised before it comes into operation.

A project objectives document was finalised on 17 May and a system requirements document was completed on 29 June. These documents outline the framework for the system as a whole and the detailed user specifications. The Library's Systems Department now has the task of producing a broad system design as well as the system specifications. Programming is expected to achieve a target date of November 1984 for system testing prior to going "live" for the start of First Term 1985.



These schedules will be met only if there is smooth sailing - such a tight time-frame can only work if there are no unforeseen problems or delays. It was necessary to identify the essential features of the loans system as Stage I in the development; more sophisticated features or "behind the scenes" enhancements have been designated as Stage II. Stage I will ensure that the basic transactions such as borrowing, extending, placing holds, collecting holds and returning items can be carried out. Stage II will provide for such staff aids as on-line provision of statistics.

## BARCODES

The new system will rely on records in BIBLION and will require all items to be identified with barcode labels which will be read into a terminal by a hand-held light wand. The computer will then search for the record belonging to that barcode and attach the borrower number and date due details to the record. If an item to be borrowed has no barcode, then a label will be added at the desk and the relevant details manually keyed into the system. A project team is currently working to assign as many barcode labels as possible to books in the Library, at the same time entering a brief record on BIBLION if the item does not yet have a description in the on-line catalogue. About 700 items a day have been processed in this way since the project got under way in March. When the new loan system is fully operational, and a large percentage of borrowed items have had barcodes assigned, the waiting time for borrowers at the desk should be greatly reduced.

Heather Howard

## LIBRARIES: AFTER 1984

This was the theme of a joint Library Association of Australia/New Zealand Library Association Conference held in Brisbane from 27-31 August. Ten Barr Smith Library staff attended the Conference which was also the Library Association of Australia's twenty-second Biennial Conference.

One of the delegates, our Music Librarian, Gordon Abbott, also attended a Conference of the International Association of Music Librarians which was held at the same time. Besides being on the executive committee of I.A.M.L., Gordon is the editor of their journal Continuo.

Dick Finlay, our Law Librarian, took the opportunity to attend some special meetings of fellow law librarians which were arranged to coincide with the Conference.

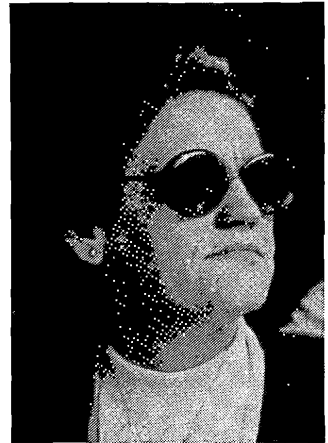
# USER SERVICES - PROFILES

## JANET HIGGINS

Janet Higgins joined the staff of the Barr Smith as a Library Attendant in May 1978. She was away overseas from March to June 1982 when she came back to us on a part-time basis as the first Library Attendant to work in the Special Collections area. After three months she was persuaded to take up a full-time appointment once again.

Janet has worked in every section of the Library over the past five years. In July this year she was appointed to a new position, Senior Library Attendant, where she will be able to put her experience to good use. Janet will supervise the work of Library Attendants under the general direction of the Collection Management Librarian, and will be responsible for compiling rosters, ensuring an equitable division of duties among Library Attendants, and overseeing security and orderly behaviour within the Library.

Janet has lived in Australia for the past seventeen years and lists as her hobbies knitting and the Girl Guides Association.



## NEW ENTRANCE FOR THE LIBRARY

During 1982 the Library Committee proposed a number of reductions in Library services intended to assist in meeting the progressive reductions in the 1983 and 1984 Library Salaries Budget. The proposals included the permanent closure of the north door of the Library and of the northern loans desk, concentrating loans on the Level 3 loans desk. These measures would achieve direct savings of staff time and promote increased efficiency of internal procedures. The proposed closure of the north door was a matter of concern to the Students Association and also, particularly, to the Union, and Council at its meeting of 11th March 1983 agreed

"that the Librarian be advised that the north door should remain open 9.00 to 5.00 p.m. Monday to Friday, for 38 weeks of the year".

During the course of discussions with the Vice-Chancellor prior to the March Council meeting the Librarian had commented that in the long term the most practical solution would be to provide single access by means of a new western door to Level 3 as part of a remodelling of the Library to make it more serviceable. Subsequently the Grounds, Buildings and Accommodation Sub-Committee of Executive Committee resolved to examine a proposal to close the north and south doors of the Library, and to open a central access door on the western side of the buildings. The benefits from this proposal were seen as a rationalization of service points, economies in Library running costs, more open access space, and elimination of a major restriction on internal circulation within the building at Level 3.

The Librarian in submissions to the Executive Committee made the following points in favour of the plan to re-organize the Barr Smith Library Building:

1. There is substantial extra staff cost in maintaining security control over two entrances.
2. The present proposal will make it possible to merge most existing service functions onto Level 3 with a consequential saving of staff.
3. The proposal will allow easier use of the building by library users including easier accessibility, concentration of services, and traffic separation from quiet reader and stack areas.
4. The extra space will allow for an additional 90,000 volumes to be shelved which will enable the Library to release existing space occupied in the Old Medical School building.
5. The provision of additional open access shelving in the link area will enable a further 30,000 volumes to be shelved. This significant increase in open access shelving will permit better access by readers, will

minimize future costs of staffing of the collection, and will permit re-organization to provide a more logical sequence of classification numbers.

By December 1983 Executive Committee had approved in principle the extension of the Horace Lamb Building westwards at Levels 1,2 and 3 to enlarge the Library and improve the function of the Level 3 link between the north and south wings of the Library. A single entrance to the Library would be provided at Level 3 by extending a bridge from the western path across to the western facade of the extended Horace Lamb Building. The Loans desk would be relocated adjacent to the new entry security desk.

The proposal represented a significant commitment against limited capital funding in competition with other present and potential claimants. Recognizing the limited number of Major Capital Works which are funded in any triennium the University has sought to achieve some of its major building requirements by staged building projects making use of "back to back" Minor Capital Works funds. Minor Capital Works allocations are made each year by the Federal Government, following recommendations from the Universities Councils, and must be spent in the year of the grant. The Western Door project will be treated as three separate and discrete Minor Work programmes (1) Bridge/Horace Lamb Extension - \$773,357, (2) Internal Renovations - \$193,805, (3) Asbestos Removal - \$36,057 (\$ December 1984).

The work will be carried out in two stages: the main building and the entrance bridge will be constructed late in 1984 and early in 1985 and the re-organization of the internal functions in the Library will take place in early 1986. It is hoped that the extensions will be completed with the minimum disruption to library users and library services.

Kay Leverett

WILLIAM ALBERT COWAN, 1908-1984

W.A. Cowan, Librarian Emeritus of the University of Adelaide, died in Adelaide on 8 August 1984.

Born on 12 March 1908 in Dunedin, New Zealand, he studied at the University of Otago and at the University of London before taking up a teaching position in Wellington.

In 1933 Mr Cowan was selected to head the Barr Smith Library, succeeding the University's first Librarian, Robert Clucas, who had died in September 1930. After a year studying librarianship at the University of Michigan, he returned to Adelaide as one of the first professionally qualified librarians in the country.

During Mr Cowan's term as University Librarian, he gave close personal attention to building a well-rounded collection of considerable depth, strong in serials, which became one of his memorials.

Mr. Cowan was active in the Australian Institute of Librarians and its successor, the Library Association of Australia and served other bodies including ten years as a member of the Unesco Committee for Libraries.

In April this year the University Council decided that a plaque should be mounted in the Barr Smith Library to commemorate his long and meritorious service.

The inscription reads:

This plaque commemorates  
the dedicated service to the dissemination of knowledge  
of  
WILLIAM ALBERT COWAN  
University Librarian 1933-1964.  
During those years the Library's resources  
grew from fewer than 100,000 to more than 300,000 volumes.  
EX LIBRIS VENIT ERUDITIO.