



# NEWS

THE UNIVERSITY  
OF ADELAIDE  
LIBRARIES

Number 1

July 1993

**T**HE Library has been aware for some time of the need for regular communication with its user community; we have decided to publish this newsletter in order to keep the University informed of our activities and matters of interest and import. The plan is to publish it three times each semester for the remainder of 1993 and for 1994. The Library will continue to use other means of communication: the irregular *Newsline* for urgent items; brief notices in the *Adelaidean* and *On Dit*; longer articles in *University of Adelaide Library News*; and the 'Suggestion Board' linked with the online suggestion box at the computer catalogue for topical question-answer information.

It is our intention to have brief articles in the *News* which inform the University about new services and initiatives, changes to practices and policies, staff activities, exhibitions, gifts, Library budget matters, and similar issues. We will review the *News* in 1994 to ascertain whether communication with our users about Library services has improved.

The editorial staff for the *News* is Margaret Hosking, Alan Keig, Patrick Condon and Ray Choate.

*Ray Choate*  
University Librarian

## Journals Cancellations

**A**BOUT 470 journal titles have been cancelled from the Libraries as a result of the 1993 cancellation programme to keep the Library materials expenditure within budget. This amounts to about \$220,000 in subscriptions; as well, book purchases were reduced by about \$75,000. (The 1992 reductions to books and journals were of similar magnitude).

Our cancellation lists have been circulated widely to other libraries in South Australia, and to several other university libraries interstate. The lists were also checked against the national bibliographic database (ABN). Of the titles being cancelled we estimate that 52% are unique to South Australia and 8.5% unique to Australia.

If journal subscription prices increase by at least 10% (roughly the annual average over the past decade), the Library's material budget line will have to be increased by a considerable amount just to achieve 'steady state'.

While the Library may receive some increase in funding for books and journals in 1994, it is unlikely to be sufficient to cover this rate of inflation and there is every likelihood that it will be necessary to reduce subscriptions and book purchases yet again in 1994.

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## Did you know...?

In 1992, there were 489,045 loans registered at the Libraries. With a University community of just over 13,000, the average number of loans per person was about 37.

## ■ Library Staff Activities ■

Ray Choate, the University Librarian, was invited to speak at the May meeting of the Association of Research Librarians held in Hawaii. ARL is an association of 120 large research libraries in the USA and Canada. The theme of the meeting was *Gateway to the Pacific Rim: Information Services for the 21st Century*.

In addition to presenting a paper on university libraries in Australia, he was invited to participate in ARL committee meetings and related activities during the three day conference.

The Information Services Librarian, Judith Lloyd, represented the University Librarian at the Australia and New Zealand CAUSE '93 Conference in Hobart in July. She spoke to the Librarian's paper 'Southern Cross' which is a proposal for a document delivery service linking online bibliographic searching with delivery of articles.

CAUSE is an American association originally established as College and University Systems Exchange which has broadened its focus to include issues concerned with managing and using technology in higher education.

The conference was attended by university computing services and administrative staff and librarians. Areas of particular interest included technology and distance education, electronic publishing, AARNET and networking, as well as broader issues such as managing information resources and organizational change.

The Library was represented by Patrick Condon and Janine Tan at the National Conference on Reference and Information Services held in Darwin in July. The theme of the conference, *Infobridges: Linking Australia and Asia*, covered three major aspects: cultural influences and reference provision; measuring the performance of reference teams; information resources common to Australia and Asia.

An informal drop-in discussion session on CD-ROM user education, held at the Barr Smith Library on 1 July, attracted approximately 35 local librarians. Organized by Liz Lee, the aim of the session was to provide an opportunity to compare notes and exchange ideas about CD-ROM user education.

Copies of leaflets from interstate and overseas institutions were available and online tutorials (including our own Medline in-house tutorial) were available for participants to try out.

The University Librarian has been elected as one of four members of the Executive of the Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL). He will hold this office initially for one year.

CAUL is the main organization for Australian university libraries at the national level. Matters currently under consideration include negotiations with overseas suppliers for the networking of databases such as *Current Contents* nationally, and the collective purchasing of databases such as the *Poetry Index*. Other matters of concern to the Council include document delivery—which affects the interlibrary loan network—and the rationalization of library collection policies on the national level as a practical response to reductions in funding for books and journals.

Cooperation between CAUL libraries in collection development is an attempt to maintain essential research materials in at least one designated library in Australia at a time when journal cancellations are decimating the collections of our major academic libraries.

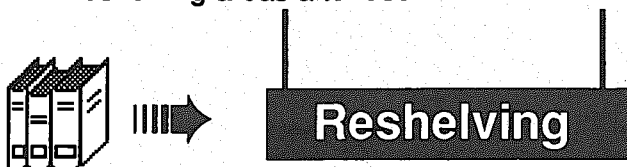
## Shelving Backlogs Inevitable

USERS of the library in 1993 will notice delays in the time it takes to reshelve books after use. Cuts in staffing now mean that the Library is not able to hire as many casual staff to reshelve books as in the past. Permanent staff—including professional staff—are regularly pulled away from other duties to attack the backlog in shelving and this in turn creates backlogs in other library service areas.

A major part of the reshelving problem lies not with borrowed material, but with material used within the library. If each of the 7000 people who use the Library each day removes but one item from the shelves this trebles the amount of reshelving required each day.

Users can therefore help in a very practical way by following these guidelines:

- ✓ reshelve bound journals when you have finished photocopying
- ✓ return items to the correct reshelving bays (rather than leaving them on tables, or near photocopiers or terminals)
- ✓ use reference items, new books, newspapers and unbound journals in the adjacent area, or return these materials to their designated reshelving areas after use



Your help in this time of crisis  
would be much appreciated!

### Weekend Hours Extended

In second semester the Barr Smith Library will be open for an extra hour on both Saturday and Sunday.

Starting on Saturday 31 July, the new opening times will be:

**Saturday and Sunday: 1.00pm to 5.00pm**

## Loans System Backup

AS we have come to know, computers crash from time to time. For our users this has meant using the microfiche catalogue to find out if the item is held and its location, then filling out a loan card for each item they wished to borrow.

The information from the individual loan cards had to be keyed into the computer by Library staff when the loans system was restored.

Temporary loan cards will soon no longer need to be used. The Library is testing a computerised backup system which will come into operation immediately when the main system goes down. It will be able to record loan transactions for subsequent addition to the main system and will provide faster loans and greater convenience for both users and Library staff.

*Patrick Condon*

## Library Strategic Planning

THE Library is in the process of developing its strategic plan; several sessions have been held with Library staff and representatives of the user community looking at the mission, goals and objectives of the Library system, and linking this with the strategic planning of the University and the Faculties.

Further information on the plan will be published in later issues of this newsletter.

*Ray Choate*

## Exhibition

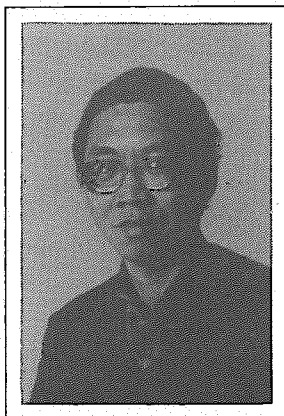
### The Popish Plot

A collection of Seventeenth Century political pamphlets, on loan for the 8th Conference of the Australasian Modern British History Association, is currently on display in the Ira Raymond Exhibition Room at the Barr Smith Library.

The exhibition will end on Friday 6 August.

*If you would like more information about any of the topics mentioned in this issue, please get in touch with the person named in the article, or the University Librarian, Ray Choate, at the Barr Smith Library.*

## Appointment of Japanese and Asian Studies Librarian



**H**oo Cheong Li, B.A. (Chinese University of Hong Kong), M.A. (University of Hong Kong), A.L.A.—the Barr Smith Library's first Asian Studies Librarian from 1975-1985—has

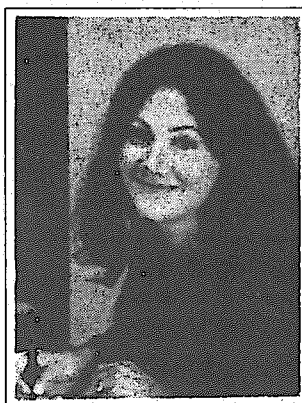
returned to us as the Japanese and Asian Studies Librarian. His current position is funded for three years by a grant from the Shoyu Club in Japan.

Li has spent the intervening years as the Japanese Librarian at the Australian National University. His research interests include Japanese publishing, the Japanese book trade, cinema and popular culture.

The Library appreciates the support provided by the Shoyu Club and acknowledges the assistance of the Centre for Asian Studies in negotiating the funding for this position.

## New History Subject Librarian

**S**usan Woodburn has been appointed to the position of half-time subject librarian for history. Susan has been employed part-time for several years as the Special Collections Librarian at the Barr Smith Library, and she will continue in this position as well.



In 1991 Susan was awarded a Masters Degree in Mediaeval History from Cambridge University.

## Reciprocal borrowing agreement

**R**ECIPROCAL borrowing, which enables staff and advanced level students to borrow from each of the three university libraries in South Australia, has been reinstated from 1 July 1993.

### WHO CAN ENROL

All staff and advanced level students enrolled in research programmes or courses which normally require a bachelor's degree or equivalent for entry (for example, students enrolled for doctorates, masters degrees, masters qualifying, graduate diploma, honours degrees), and students in years 4 to 6 of their courses.

### AUTHORITY TO BORROW FORM

You must first check at the Services desk at the Barr Smith Library (or with the librarian at the Law, Performing Arts, Roseworthy Campus or Waite Campus Libraries) to verify that you qualify. You will need to present your University of Adelaide ID card and obtain an AUTHORITY TO BORROW form.

### HOW TO ENROL

Present the signed AUTHORITY TO BORROW form and your University of Adelaide ID card at the library where you wish to obtain borrowing rights.

The University of South Australia and Flinders University have agreed to pay a fee to the University of Adelaide Libraries to cover part of the cost of providing this service.

The agreement is to run for a period of twelve months; it will be reviewed in 1994.

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