8 things about 1998

Last year was a particularly active one for the University of Adelaide Library with the introduction of new services, some exciting new acquisitions, and the implementation of some profitable agreements between other institutions. Here are just eight highlights from nineteen-ninety-eight!

- During the year we received and processed our two millionth item, consolidating our position as South Australia’s, and one of Australia’s, major research libraries. A celebratory event will be held in 1999 to mark this achievement. Among the items we added to the collection last year were several major gifts and benefactions received in 1997. Of special note was the collection of 30 000 items bequeathed to us by Ralph Hague.

- We were nominated as a Documentation Centre for the European Union, and started receiving and processing their research publications; the collection is administered by Reference Librarian, Peter Jacobs.

- We acquired a significant number of new electronic resources, including many electronic journals, bibliographic databases, and a mirror-site for Project Gutenberg (see separate story this issue). A list of electronic journals to which the Library subscribes is available at

<http://library.adelaide.edu.au/gen/journals.html>

In conjunction with three other Australian research libraries we developed an electronic information gateway for agriculture, called AgriGate.

- A new era of Library security arrived with PINs for every Library user, and electronic authentication procedures developed by our Systems staff for the Electronic databases in the Barr Smith Library, and also for remote access.

- Systems Administrator, Steve Thomas, and the Document delivery service, developed a Web-based form for Interlibrary and Intercampus requests, launched this year (see separate story this issue).

- We organised, on behalf of five other Australian research libraries, a major Research Council infrastructure grant to add over 120 000 electronic records to the national union catalogue for major European microform sets in Australia.

- In May we held the first ever Barr Smith Library book sale, offering over 2 000 unwanted books and journals on every subject imaginable. Most of the stock sold before midday, with profits dedicated to the purchase of new books. Annual book sales are now planned.

- In October we opened the heritage-listed Reading Room for pre-dinner drinks during the 5th biennial Australian Library and Information Association conference. Several Library staff were involved in the conference’s organisation, and others presented papers.

Celia Brissenden
Document requests via the Web

Interlibrary and Intercampus requests at the University of Adelaide Library are now easier, faster and more convenient with the Library’s new electronic request form.

Further information on the Web-based form is available through the Document delivery link:


The electronic form eliminates the need to fill in personal details and enables you to paste your citation into the form. Features such as this facilitate submission and increase accuracy, saving time and thereby speeding requests through the system.

Submitting the form electronically is convenient in a number of other ways: you may submit a request 24 hours a day, seven days a week, wherever you are; it is received immediately by Document delivery; you may request delivery to your campus of choice; a copy of every form you submit is e-mailed to you as a personal record of your request.

You must register to use the Web request form before you can submit electronically. Register by printing, signing and then faxing or mailing the registration form (available from the Web address above). If you have not registered, you can fill in the Web request form electronically, print and sign it, then fax or mail it to the Library.

You will need to enter your Library barcode and your Library PIN every time you fill in a Web request form. The login page can be bookmarked so that you can quickly make new requests as required. Due to Copyright Law and processing procedures each request should be submitted on a separate form.

Delivery time for journal articles and book chapters has been cut in half thanks to recent advances in document delivery embraced and developed by the University of Adelaide Library, such as these forms programmed and produced by the Library’s Systems Administrator, Steve Thomas. Most requests for journal articles are now supplied in 3-5 days and a FastTrack service is available for items that are required urgently.

Questions about the Web form or other Document delivery services should be directed to

Bernadine Hardin
Document Delivery Librarian
Telephone: 8303 3863
E-mail: bhardin@library.adelaide.edu.au

Project Gutenberg mirror

Project Gutenberg, an archive of public domain electronic texts, is now mirrored on the Library’s Web site.

The Project is the inspiration of Michael S. Hart, who began the project in 1971. The Archive now includes over 1,500 full-text electronic copies of texts in the public domain, from Apollonius to Oscar Wilde, provided by many volunteers from around the world, either by scanning or by keying in original printed books.

The philosophy of the Project is to make texts accessible to the widest possible audience; thus works are usually provided as a single, plain-text file, with the option to download a compressed (zip format) copy for faster downloading. The plain text format makes these works ideal for research; they will support complex textual analysis as well as assisting in searching for half-remembered quotations.

A searchable index has been developed locally, allowing users to find works using keywords. Alternatively, users may browse through an alphabetical list of works.

The mirror is updated monthly.

The address of the mirror is:

<http://www.library.adelaide.edu.au/etext/pg/>

Steve Thomas

Copy Card? Smart Card?

Smart Cards are well and truly here, and Telstra has installed Reload Terminals around the University, including two in the Barr Smith Library. Smart Card readers, however, have not yet been installed (although you can use your Smart Card in the Telstra public phones on campus). When suitable equipment becomes available the Library will install Smart Card readers on some photocopiers; until then, you will need a rechargeable Copy Card to copy and print in the Library.

Copy Cards may be purchased (at a cost of 50 cents) and recharged from Copy Card machines in any branch of the University Library.

- A4 copies are 10 cents
- A3 copies are 14 cents
- Laser prints are 14 cents
Gwenda Fischer, University of Adelaide Law Librarian 1959-1968

Gwenda Fischer died on the sixteenth of November last year, after a lifetime involvement in libraries and the law. As Gwenda Sargeant, she was the first professional librarian in the University of Adelaide Law Library, with an Arts degree from Melbourne, a Masters in Law Librarianship from Washington (Seattle), and an LL.B. that she completed part-time while running the Law Library. She made a significant impact on the Library, re-organising it to best serve the lawyers who used it. The Library moved four times in her nine years as Librarian, from the Mitchell Building to the Barr Smith, then to the Napier Building, and finally into its current home, the Ligertwood Building, moves which Gwenda planned with meticulous attention to detail and executed with clockwork precision.

In 1969 the Fischers moved to Sydney, where, after a short time at the Fisher Library (University of Sydney) Gwenda returned to the legal field as Librarian of the Law Society of N.S.W., and also played a major part in the formation and early development of the Australian Law Librarians’ Group (A.L.L.G.). Upon the couple’s return to Adelaide in 1980, Gwenda was appointed a Visiting Research Fellow in the Faculty of Law, and worked to compile the periodic index CANZLLI (Current Australian and New Zealand Legal Literature Index). Throughout her life, Gwenda exhibited that valuable gift of inclusive identification with the people in her sphere. The word client, to describe those whom the library served, would have brought uncomprehending disbelief. And the identification did not stop at current members — the profession, the practitioners, all those involved in the law were part of this common world. This is important in special libraries, perhaps especially so in law where the commerce is in words rather than numbers, calculations or formulae. Nobody could have set a better example in this field than Gwenda.

She is survived by her husband, Gerald; they have no children.

Dick Finlay, Law Librarian
BSL bound journals on 24-hour loan

Starting on 1 March 1999 the loan period for all bound journals in the Barr Smith Library will be 24 hours, with one renewal possible if no other user has placed a Hold on the item. This policy, approved at the November 1998 meeting of the University Library Committee, will increase the accessibility of our collection to all library users, and will be reviewed at the end of this year.

The new policy has been introduced particularly to ensure that journals are at hand when required for document delivery purposes. Due to the extensive recent journal cancellations affecting all Australian research libraries, document delivery demands are ever-increasing, in line with our collection agreement obligations with other libraries.

Remember that you can renew your own loans through the Library catalogue, using Option 14 - Borrower’s details, or alternatively telephone the Loans desk on 8303 5759.

Please note:— Bound journals may be borrowed only by University of Adelaide staff, advanced level and higher degree students. Branch libraries have independent lending policies; check with your branch for details.

‘Signatures, sex and scandal’

An exhibition with this title is now on display in the Barr Smith Library, highlighting one of the strengths of Special Collections — our rich collection of nineteenth and twentieth century literature. The display includes the signatures of four famous English authors: Lord Byron, Oscar Wilde, D. H. Lawrence and T. S. Eliot. As well as holding letters or first editions signed by these writers, Special Collections has contemporary editions of their work, and literary criticism and biographies on them. Some of these titles are included in the display, focusing on Wilde’s Salome, Lawrence’s Lady Chatterley’s Lover, Eliot’s The Waste Land and Byron’s early poetry — all of which created scandals at the time of their publication, for one reason or another!

Jennifer Osborn
Acting Special Collections Librarian

Have you chosen a PIN?

You need a Personal Identification Number for many Library functions — to renew a loan, place a Hold, use the self-service loans machine, see what you have on loan, or check how many demerit points you have.

Choose your PIN using Option 14 - Borrower’s details on the Library catalogue. If you are a returning student or staff member, you can change your PIN in the same way.

Your Library PIN is unrelated to any other PIN or password you may have for University business, such as those used for SOLAR, e-mail and the IVRS (Interactive Voice Response System).

If you have forgotten your PIN, visit the Services desk in the Barr Smith Library (or the Loans desk in your branch library) — our staff will remove your old PIN and you can choose a new one.

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