University of Adelaide LIBRARY NEWS





ON-LINE SERVICES IN THE LIBRARY

UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE LIBRARY NEWS

Volume 3 Number 2 Term II July 1981

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UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE LIBRARY NEWS is issued each term, three times a year, and is obtainable from

University of Adelaide Library News, Barr Smith Library, University of Adelaide, Adelaide,

SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5001.

ISSN 0157-3314

BIBLION: THE CATALOGUE OF THE EIGHTIES

The primary function of a catalogue is to inform readers of the bibliographic resources held in a library system. The catalogue is an essential control mechanism and must be up-to-date and accurate if readers are not to be inconvenienced. The library catalogue has taken many forms in its history and has developed in pace with those technological changes which enable its primary function to be more efficiently realised.

With the information explosion on one hand and reduced staff on the other, the University of Adelaide Library must automate its cataloguing processes and make greater use of cataloguing copy from external sources. The use of external copy involves the adoption of new rules and standards which would make the integration of new records into the existing card catalogue very labour-intensive and which would complicate its use. In order to reduce the impact of this change upon library users, it is essential that a substantial on-line catalogue is developed so that reference to the card catalogue can be minimised.

In addition, the removal of material to high-density remote storage areas and the continuous relocation of books and periodicals to and from storage places a heavy burden on users and library staff. Users are inconvenienced if it is difficult to locate materials, and library staff have difficulties because the work of keeping card catalogues up-to-date is continuous and heavy. Accordingly, the Select Committee on the Future Development of the Barr Smith Library recommended in 1979 that the Library should commence work on the project to develop an on-line catalogue. By the end of 1980, the first stage of the on-line bibliographic project, known as BIBLION, was well advanced, with brief catalogue records for the whole Undergraduate Collection of 77,000 volumes updated and accessible on-line.

At present the on-line catalogue contains bibliographic information for 465,000 volumes and it is growing at the rate of 70,000 volumes a year. In addition to the entire Undergraduate Collection catalogue, the BIBLION data-base now includes records for all serials, monographs moved to the Library store and new material catalogued since May 1981. Whilst the majority of these catalogue records are brief, because they were derived from the older systems which produce the undergraduate and serials lists, upgrading of these records is proceeding as part of the on-going maintenance of these collections. Furthermore, all new records are entered in full, and appear on the screen of the computer terminal in the format of the familiar catalogue card.

These new records are derived where possible from the pilot Australian Bibliographic Network (ABN) based at the National Library in Canberra. The Library's small computer is connected to the

National Library computer by a Telecom line allowing access to a huge data-base recording most material published in English from 1968 to date. Although BIBLION was entirely developed within the Library as an in-house system, it is thus supported by an external national network, with the Library contributing to the external shared cataloguing system which in turn updates the BIBLION database.

During second term, a BIBLION terminal will be available on an experimental basis for public use. While the information and types of enquiry provided from this terminal will be limited at this stage. it is hoped to obtain valuable experience for future enhancements of the system. The terminal will present the user with a menu offering catalogue access by author, title, subject or call number. the example illustrated (Figure 1), the user nominated author access and was invited by the system to type as much or as little of the author's name as desired. In response, the computer displayed a set of matching entries and then invited the user either to browse alphabetically through the catalogue or to nominate a particular record to be displayed.

RETRIEVAL OF BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORDS BY AUTHOR/TITLE

Type in all or part of author/title and press enter ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY

- 1.0
- 11
- ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY /CENTENARY LECTURE SERIES (1972 ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY /MITCHELL BUILDING CENTENARY (1979 ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY /OPENING OF THE MEDICAL SCHOOL NORTH WING (1979) 1.2
- ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY /SIR DOUGLAS MAWSON ANNIVERSARY VOLUME <1952 1.3
- ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY /TALKS BROADCAST BY THE ABC IN THE SERIES ALMA MA <1974
- ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS BOARD /CAREERS AND COURSES IN SOUTH (1971 15
- ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON ASSESSMENT /INTERIM REPORT (1975)
 ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON ASSESSMENT /INTERIM REPORT REPORT ON (1975)
 ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON ASSESSMENT /REPORT AUGUST 1975 (1975)
 ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON ASSESSMENT /REPORT AUGUST 1975 /STUD (1975) 1.6
- 17
- 1.8
- 19
- ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY COMPUTING CENTRE /CYBER USERS GUIDE TO SOFTWARE F <1978 20 ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGIN /ACOUSTICS PASS CO (1980
 - Type F (forward) to continue search
 - or R (reselect) to start new search
 - or D followed by entry no. to display record or E to end search

CAN CONTINUE SEARCH

AND PRESS ENTER

Figure 1

In this case the user requested a particular record which was then displayed as illustrated in Figure 2.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC DISPLAY

Adelaide. University. Appointments Board Careers and courses in South Australia : an aid to school leavers, 1971. --[Adelaide Adelaide University Appointments Board in association with the Adelaide University Graduates' Union, 1971].

- 1. Occupations
- 2. Vocational guidance

HOLDINGS DISPLAY

COLL	CALL NUMBER	VOL	COPY	LOCK	SIZE
B2F NND	371.42/A228A 371.42/A228		i i 2 3	RC	

PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE

Figure 2

Planning is under way to integrate the automated circulation system CIRCON with BIBLION so that the "Holdings Display" (Figure 2) will not only identify the location and number of copies of a title, but will also include information about its availability. removal of material to remote storage and the increasing purchase of material in microform in order to overcome storage problems reduce the ability of the library user to browse effectively through the shelves and so make use of a catalogue essential. The on-line catalogue will offer the user a more responsive and more readily browsable resource than the present card catalogue, and it will be less dependent on an understanding of filing rules, and less subject to filing errors. The availability of titles and volumes will be indicated directly without reference to printed lists or to the Circulation Desk, and the user will be able to go to the shelf with a greater likelihood of finding the item. Another facility being investigated is the use of catchwords or keywords taken in any order from a title or corporate body name to retrieve items of interest.

This new technology can provide alternative forms of the Library catalogue to more effectively meet user needs. For example, a general users catalogue would serve the majority of users who seek to locate a known item for which they possess some element of information, while a librarians catalogue would include not only records for material held by this library, but also material held by all the members of a network such as ABN. Another more futuristic view may be a departmental catalogue which would provide full catalogue

records in a particular field for a group of users. Individual users might be able to restrict the scope of a catalogue search to material in a certain language, or published within certain dates. Small printers associated with groups of terminals would enable users to copy the references identified for later use.

At this point, the Library has not determined when its card catalogue will be closed. BIBLION must move to a larger minicomputer in order to support the continued growth of the on-line catalogue and the provision of the public access facilities described above. Before benefits can accrue both to the library user through improved access and to the Library through the reduced involvement of library staff in routine work, a significant proportion of the Library's holdings must be accessible on-line, and BIBLION must prove itself to be at least the equivalent of the card catalogue. The longer the transition period, the greater the cost, both in user frustration and library staff time.

Peter Nissen.

SIR WALTER CROCKER

The Library has recently added several copies of *Travelling Back: the Memoirs of Sir Walter Crocker* to its collections. Published in 1981 by Macmillan Australia, the memoirs are of particular significance to the University of Adelaide since the Barr Smith Library is the repository of Sir Walter's papers. The papers were put together over many years, and include Sir Walter's journals, correspondence, files, memoirs and clippings, as well as his own publications and those of other people. Sir Walter Crocker began presenting his papers to the University in 1971 and continues to add to them from time to time.

Copies of $Travelling\ Back$ are available from the Research Collection, as well as the Main and Undergraduate Collections and the call number is 92/C9373t.

ORNITHOLOGY

The Library has an interesting collection of ornithological books and prints of bird paintings, a small selection of which is on display until the end of July.

Some early original sets exhibited are by Broinowski, Sharpe, Mathews and Morris. The G.J. Broinowski Birds of Australia, published between 1890 and 1891 contains more than three hundred coloured plates. R.B. Sharpe's two volume set, The Birds of Paradise and Bower Birds (1891-1898), has many beautiful illustrations of these spectacular birds. G.M. Mathews' Birds of Australia was compiled from the author's own collection of birds. Mathews was also a collector of books on ornithology and his collection was presented to the National Library in 1939. The Library's copy of F.O. Morris' History of British Birds, published in 1851-1857, contains manuscript slips compiled by the previous owner recording his sightings of the birds described.

In recent years, fine limited editions of John Gould's classic works have been published in facsimile, enabling the Library to acquire, either by purchase or presentation, copies of his works not held in the original editions. These include Birds of Australia, Birds of Australia and Selected Islands, Birds of Europe, Birds of Great Britain and Birds of New Guinea.

Prints of the works of the artists Neville Henry Penison Cayley and his son Neville William Cayley (noted for his standard work on Australian birds, What Bird Is That?) are held by the Library, most having been produced in attractive limited editions. The works of F.T. Morris on Australian birds have also been produced in limited edition sets and the Library now has nine of these titles.

One of the most recent acquisitions is Susan Hyman's book Edward Lear's Birds. Edward Lear, well known for his verse, was also a noted ornithologist, and his Illustrations of the Family of the Psittacidae, published in 1832, was the first large-scale volume of coloured drawings of parrots to appear in England. Reproductions of his paintings of parrots and owls and other illustrations to his poems appear in Hyman's book.

The early exploring expeditions usually included artists who recorded the flora and fauna. Examples of such illustrations in the present exhibition come from La Perouse, A Voyage Round the World in the Years 1785-1788; Dumont d'Urville, Voyage de la Corvette L'Astrolabe, 1826-1827, 1828-1829; and Sonnerat, Voyage à la Nouvelle - Guinée, 1776.

ABN AND THE BARR SMITH LIBRARY

The National Library of Australia is at present testing a proposal for the development of an Australian Bibliographic Network (ABN). The University of Adelaide Library is one of several libraries participating in the pilot project to evaluate the system over a period of six months.

For many years librarians have explored the possibility of co-operative or shared cataloguing as a means of avoiding the duplication of intellectual effort in individual libraries, saving on expensive labour costs and achieving standardisation of catalogue entries. Partial success has been achieved in most libraries, including the Barr Smith Library, by drawing on the published catalogues of certain national libraries, such as the Library of Congress's National Union Catalog and the National Library's Australian National Bibliography. Catalogue entries have also been supplied at modest cost in card form and in more recent years there has been an expansion in the provision of cataloguing-in-publication data through the co-operation of book publishers.

The most significant recent development has been the emergence in the U.S.A. of regional networks of libraries which share an automated bibliographic support system. One of the most successful of these is the Washington Library Network (WLN) serving libraries mainly in Washington State and Alaska. The National Library purchased the software from WLN and has been using the system for in-house cataloguing since 31 March 1980. It is an extension of this in-house use, made in accordance with the general requirement of the National Library Act that the Library make available "services in relation to library materials (including bibliographical services)", that it proposes the automated national bibliographic service ABN.

The service can provide more than an on-line shared cataloguing facility; it will also support other specific functions including selection, acquisition, reference and information services, and interlibrary lending since ABN contains a powerful inquiry capability, although it does not approach the sophisticated level of information systems such as DIALOG. Essentially it is a technical processing system featuring a large data-base and effective authority control (which maintains consistency of forms for headings, cross references from variant forms, links from earlier to later forms and between broader and narrower terms and related terms). As a national resource it could obviate individual or even regional duplication of effort. Each participant may draw from the ABN data-base the bibliographic data (or catalogue entries) it requires and in turn contribute to the data-base original cataloguing which then becomes available to other participants.

Thus, the Barr Smith Library interrogates the data-base on-line, attaches "holdings" to records it requires, and receives them in due course on magnetic tape, which is loaded on its in-house system, BIBLION. Minimal editing is required to incorporate the records in the in-house system and mostly concerns the addition of detailed copy information which is of relevance only at the local level. About 75% of the Library's catalogue records should be available from the ABN data-base. The remaining 25% would be new original cataloguing which is transmitted to ABN on-line, but which is not added in permanent form to the data-base until it has been reviewed at the network level.

The Barr Smith Library is the only participant in the pilot project to interface its own mini-computer, an IBM System/34, with the National Library's FACOM M180D 2 computer, through a leased line. As a consequence it can operate with several terminals and can use and evaluate ABN in production mode.

It is also able to give the South Australian Network Group (which includes the State Library and several libraries of other tertiary institutions) access to one of its terminals in return for a fee which, while modest, helps to defray the pilot project costs. Last, but by no means least, it has achieved innovations in interfacing the central facility, which are of some significance for other decentralised facilities, whether individual libraries or consortia.

J.R. Anderson.

PRESERVATION OF NEWSPAPERS

A recent investigation of the condition of bound volumes in the Newspaper Stacks has revealed that a large number require repair or rebinding at a cost of between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Many of the early volumes are beyond repair because poor quality paper has become too fragile to handle.

The Library has always been concerned to minimise deterioration of its valuable sets of early newspapers and has a policy of acquiring microfilm copies, where they are available, as funds permit. New rules regarding the use of bound volumes of newspapers are currently being drafted and will shortly be issued with a new edition of Newspapers in the Barr Smith Library.

Microfilm copies of newspapers should always be used in preference to the bound volumes. A photocopy may be quickly and easily made on the microfilm reader printer. Photocopies may not be made from bound volumes of newspapers in any circumstances.

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ERIC GILL (1882-1940)

Eric Gill was a man of exceptionally wide and varied interests in an age of increasing specialisation. He was a calligrapher, a sculptor, a typographer, a stonemason, a wood-engraver, a designer, a philosopher and self-publicist. It is not surprising that he should also be a man of contradictions. He was a Christian Socialist; he was a religious artist who in his work emphasized the ecstatic aspects of sex; and while his artistic origins lay in the arts and crafts movement of the late nineteenth century, he was also responsible for the lettering used in public notices of the London underground railways.

Gill's first and most important teacher was Edward Johnston, the calligrapher, and Gill made his living initially as a stone-mason cutting inscriptions for tombstones. From this work he developed into a sculptor. Probably his most famous sculptures are the Stations of the Cross (Westminster Cathedral), Mankind (Tate Gallery, London), Prospero and Ariel (Broadcasting House, London) and the Creation of Adam (Palace of Nations, Geneva).

As early as 1915 Gill had become involved in book production and he was to produce engravings for Count Harry Kessler's Cranach Press at Weimar. It was his association with the Golden Cockerel Press, however, which brought him international fame, and his engravings for their editions of *The Canterbury Tales* and the *Four Gospels* are justly prized. Gill also designed typefaces, notably Perpetua and Felicity. His Gill Sans Serif became an influential design in modern lettering through its use in advertising and avantgarde book typography.

All Gill's work is suffused with a moral seriousness based on strong religious feelings. Brought up in the Countess of Huntingdon's Persuasion (a sect of the Church of England) he was in 1913 received into the Roman Catholic Church. Religion was not a private matter for Gill, however. He was not shy about proclaiming his faith, or indeed about expounding his views on a variety of subjects. He published much, gaining notoriety from his opinions on trousers, which he rarely wore, preferring a smock. He was not least in the long line of English eccentrics.

From 4 May to 31 July 1981 a small exhibition of Gill's work is on display in the Special Collections Exhibition Room, Level 4 of the Research Services Wing, Barr Smith Library.

H.F. Coxon.

BETTER ON TIME THAN LATE: BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

Readers may be interested to know that in 1980 it was necessary for the Library to recall a total of 34,055 items loaned to staff or students and held later than the due date. In 6,270 cases it was necessary for a second recall to be sent. As a ratio of recall notices to loans, loans to academic staff fell overdue to exactly twice the extent of loans to students: the recall rate for loans to staff was 29.9%, the recall rate for loans to students 14.9%. Staff will, however, be consoled to learn that proportionately fewer of their loans required second recall notices (2.5%) than students (2.7%).

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

The University Library grew in 1980 by more than 60,000 catalogued volumes. The following list is of a selection of the research materials added to the collection during recent months. Titles are listed according to the subject fund from which they were bought.

ASIAN STUDIES

American diplomatic and public papers: 'the United States and China; Series I, 1842-1860. 21v.

Great Britain. Foreign Office. Japan correspondence, 1856-1948. Microfilm, 54 reels.

Modern Chinese economy. Garland Press. 44v.

North China daily news, 1921-41. Microfilm, 198 reels.

Sekai dai hyakka jiten (World encyclopaedia). 1979. 44v.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

British Broadcasting Corporation. Radio drama. Author and title catalogue, 1923-75. Microfiche, 125 fiches.

British Broadcasting Corporation. Television drama. Author and title catalogue, 1936-75. Microfiche, 63 fiches.

British poetry between the wars, 1919-39: a formed collection of 1,512 titles.

Literary writing in America: a bibliography. 1977. 8v. Poetry quarterly, v.1-15, 1939-53. (All published.) Story, v.1-36, 1931-64. (All published.)

GENERAL

Age (Melbourne), 1902-29, 1940-69. Microfilm. (To complete the set to date.)

Combined retrospective indexes to journals in history, political science and sociology, 1938-1974. 25v.

London: a formed collection. 704v.

Wellcome Institute of the History of Medicine. Subject catalogues. 18v.

GERMAN

Archiv für das Studium der neueren Sprachen und Literaturen, v.1-100, 1846-1898.

HISTORY

British Broadcasting Corporation. The Home Service Nine p.m. news, 1939-45. Microfiche, 765 fiches.

British Museum. Department of Manuscripts. Tudor and Stuart manuscripts from the Harleian collection. Parts 1-2. Microfilm, 49 reels.

Marie Robinson.

FOUNDATION GRANT ENABLES LIBRARY TO OFFER AUSINET SERVICE

During the past four years the Library has expanded traditional reference services to include access to three international computer-based reference systems, without any extra University funding. The three systems available through the Library are: MEDLINE, a world-wide on-line search service for medical and related literature, and ORBIT and DIALOG, which are international systems offering over a hundred data-bases in all disciplines.

These services have been welcomed by the University community, and demand has grown by an average of 84% per year for MEDLINE and an average of 89% per year for ORBIT and DIALOG. The facilities are operated on a strict cost-recovery basis, as required by University policy, with all costs which are directly charged to the Library passed on to the person for whom the search is performed.

For some time the Library has seen the need to extend its repertoire of data-bases to include those offered by the AUSINET system, which specialises in data-bases with Australian content. The number and extent of these data-bases is expected to grow, as is their significance in the curriculum and research of the University. Lack of funds had prevented the introduction of this service until recently, when the University of Adelaide Foundation came to the rescue with a grant to cover the cost of training librarians in the use of the system.

The average cost of an on-line search will be cheaper for AUSINET data-bases than for those offered by U.S. services such as DIALOG, since no overseas telecommunications charges are involved. The maximum cost at present for each connect hour of searching AUSINET at the computer terminal is \$40, plus 5¢ for each reference printed, but simple searches of single data-bases should take only a few minutes and will cost correspondingly less. In addition it is planned to offer on-line searches of AUSINET data-bases at a reduced rate during the initial months, as part of the AUSINET training supported by the Foundation grant. Contact your Subject Librarian (Extension 2069) for further details.

TIME DELAYS ARE REDUCED

The AUSINET system is based on the Melbourne computer of A.C.I. Computer Services, and off-line (overnight) printouts of search results are produced in their Adelaide office for fast delivery. Immediate (on-line) printouts are also available at the time of searching, at the cost of increased connect time.

AUSINET is not only an information retrieval system - it also offers a data-base creation facility for clients who wish to convert their files of bibliographic data into computer format. These can then be searched using AUSINET's powerful retrieval capabilities,

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A DIALOG search in progress.

which allow, for example, free-text searching for a term or phrase anywhere in a record, the use of multiple access points, or searches containing combined terms. Printed or microform lists and indexes can be automatically produced, and data entry from worksheets will be carried out by A.C.I. if the client does not have a terminal with a lease line. A.C.I. is continually seeking new data for bases for AUSINET and collects royalties on behalf of file creators.

AUSINET now provides access to a number of valuable indexes to Australian information which are not available in printed form in the Library, or which are only available in computer format. In addition, the computer-based forms of the small number of those indexes which do exist in printed form in the Library are searchable in quite different ways, for example, by any significant word appearing in the title of an article, and are more up-to-date. Searches are fast and comprehensive, and printed results save note-taking on the part of the user. This extension of the Library's on-line search services confirms the Library's commitment to offering the most up-to-date and comprehensive information services to the University community.

DATA-BASES AVAILABLE THROUGH AUSINET

DATA-BASE	SUBJECT	COVERAGE
Australian National Bibliography	National publishing out- put (books and new journals)	1972-
Australian Public Affairs Information Service	Public affairs, general social sciences	1978-
Australian Renewable Energy Resources	Energy	1980-
Australian Science Index	Science and applied science	1976-
Australian Road Index	Road research including safety and construction	1977-
Australian Education Index	Education	1978-
Australian Industry Reports	Industrial research reports	1979-
Australian Bibliography of Urban Studies	Urban studies	1977-
Australian Earth Sciences Information System	Earth sciences	1976-
Union list of higher degree theses in Australian university libraries	Academic research	1975-
Office of Road Safety Retrieval System	Road safety	1970-
Bibliographic Information on Southeast Asia	Southeast Asian holdings of major Australian librarie	1978– s
W.A.I.T. index to news-papers	Partial coverage of National Times	1980-
E.R.I.C.	Education	1974-
International Road Research Documentation	Road research including safety and construction	1972-
Lead, Zinc and Cadmium Abstracts	Lead, zinc and cadmium research	1980-
AGRIS (Australian component of the inter-national data-base)	Agricultural science and technology	Available soon

14.

THE RESERVE COLLECTION

In an ideal situation a research library need hold only one copy of a title so that the widest range of published material can be purchased with the limited funds available. In a university library, however, the needs of research workers and students must co-exist, with both groups competing for some material. In the Barr Smith Library the Undergraduate Collection exists to relieve the pressure on the Research Collection, by maximising student access to material through the provision of multiple copies which are made available for varying loan periods, including terms of two weeks, three days and overnight loan.

In some cases, sufficient copies of a particular book may not be available in the Library, and it may no longer be possible to obtain them if the title is out of print. Furthermore there are insufficient funds for the purchase of multiple copies of serials commonly cited for undergraduate use, and it is therefore necessary to further ration the available material by way of another collection with even shorter loan periods and tighter security arrangements. In the Barr Smith Library the Reserve Collection serves this purpose.

Located near the northern entrance in the Undergraduate Services Wing, the Reserve Collection is an open access collection which usually contains about seven thousand books and a similar number of photocopied journal articles. The main catalogue does not indicate items held on reserve; instead a special microfiche list of the Collection is produced four times a year, and kept up to date in the meantime by a strip index at the Reserve desk.

Items from the Collection may be borrowed for use within the Library for a period of three hours in exchange for the borrower's library pass, and after 7:30 p.m. they become available for overnight loan. Readers may place a hold on any item for use at a particular time up to a week in advance.

An item may be placed in the Reserve Collection at anyone's request, as long as the course for which it is needed and the teaching staff involved are known. Books or journal articles may be placed on reserve for a few weeks or for a longer period. If it is likely that the material will be required during the following year it is usually kept on reserve, to reduce the work of assembling the Collection at the beginning of each academic year when library staff are deluged with a flood of requests. Usually teaching staff themselves make the requests, using a special single-title request form which indicates when the material will be needed and when it may be removed from the Collection.

When a request form is received, it is first checked to the reserve list and then to the Library's catalogue. If the requested item is already in the Library but not on reserve, it is unearthed

and prepared for addition to the Reserve Collection. Those items not held by the Library are pursued later. Some books have to be ordered, and some journal articles obtained on interlibrary loan -both of which may be lengthy procedures. These problems make it essential for the Library to be notified well in advance to ensure that copies can be made available on reserve when they are needed.

Articles from serials required for the Reserve Collection are photocopied and stapled into pamphlets in order to avoid wear and tear on the main serials collection, as the replacement of damaged copies can be expensive and is often impossible. Under the provisions of the 1980 Copyright Act, such copies are allowable provided that detailed records are kept. Some difficulties remain, however; for example, the copying of articles on different subjects from the same issue of a serial is prohibited.

To lessen inconvenience to readers over the summer vacation, the loan period for items from the Reserve Collection is extended to four weeks. During the vacation any item which was not used in the previous academic year is removed and the computer-generated lists of items in the Collection are sent for review to the academic staff who asked for them to be placed on reserve.

The primary function of the Reserve Collection is to ensure that material is available when it is needed and to provide equitable access at times of high demand. To operate effectively, especially in these days of financial constraint, it is essential that adequate warning is given of the material that will be required.

Les Howard.

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES

The Council of the University has decided to treat the non-confidential section of its unconfirmed minutes as public documents. Beginning with the meeting of April 1981, a set of these papers will be put on display in the Serials Section of the Barr Smith Library and will later be transferred to the Special Collections Section for preservation and continuing use.

10.

'INFINITE RICHES IN A LITTLE ROOM'

Among the many proposals made by the Select Committee on the Future Development of the Barr Smith Library in August 1979 was a recommendation that an increased proportion of current serial subscriptions be taken in microfiche or microfilm format. The Council of the University accepted the Committee's proposals and the Library began the task of implementing them.

It was decided that we would not normally cancel subscriptions to paper copies of serials in favour of microform but would continue to receive unbound issues and purchase the annual volumes in microform. In this way we shall, to a great extent, have the best of both worlds: single issues can be read in the usual way throughout the year but after the annual microform volume has arrived the unbound issues may be disposed of, in some cases as gifts to requesting Departments.

SAVINGS

In addition to very large savings in shelf space, the fundamental reason for the change in practice, the Library will also save on binding costs and will no longer face the expense of obtaining printed indexes and of purchasing replacement copies of missing issues.

Six lists totalling nearly seven hundred titles of serials for which the annual volume is available in microform at the price of binding one volume were circulated to academic staff in September and October 1980 with an invitation to appeal against the Library's proposed action. Protests or queries were received regarding almost fifty per cent of the titles, an indication that there was considerable resistance to the project, and that the Library should not have expected Departments to do so much screening of titles. It seemed also that many protests were made by people who thought that the Library would no longer subscribe to the paper copies, and who were not aware that the microform copy was being purchased as an alternative to binding and storing the paper copies.

The Library is bound by the policy of the University that 25% of current purchased serials be kept in microform. Protests concerning individual titles will need to be supported by evidence of heavy use of existing bound volumes or the presence in the paper copy of important illustrations which cannot satisfactorily be reproduced from a microform version.

MICROFORM READING/PRINTING AREA

An expanded microform facility is to be established on Level ³ of the Library's Research Services Wing where some thirty reading

machines as well as reader-printers will be installed by early 1982. It is hoped that a skilled operator will be available to produce high quality prints from microfilm or microfiche using the greatly improved new printers.

Alan Keig.