

Per 871  
4646

ECOM.

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND LIBRARY



# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN FOR 1986



James Forsyth Librarian.

F.D.O. Fielding, M.A., Dub., A.L.A., F.L.A.A.

Deputy University Librarian.

G. Eichinski, B.Sc., Grad. Dip. Lib.

Associate Librarian, Technical Services.

Mary-Rose McCarthy, B.A., Dip.Phty., A.L.A., A.L.A.A.

Associate Librarian, Administrative Services.

Judith A. Wilson, B.A., A.L.A.A.

Principal Librarian, i/c Biological Sciences Library.

Mary O'Sullivan, B.A., Dip. Ed., A.L.A.A.

Principal Librarian, i/c Health Sciences Libraries.

Frances Flynn, M.S. Simmons Mass.

Principal Librarian i/c Collection Development.

S.J. Routh, B.A., M.S. Col., A.L.A.A.

Principal Librarian i/c Undergraduate Library.

Wendy M. Cooper, B.A., A.L.A.A.

Principal Librarian i/c Central Reference.

B.K. Paton, B.Sc., Dip. Lib. (RMIT)

Deputy Technical Services Librarian.

S. McKnight, B.Bus., A.L.A.A.

Systems Analyst.

A.J. Douglas, B.A. Wits., Dip.Ed., JCK, M.B.A. Melb., A.A.S.A.

FRONT COVER

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor B.G. Wilson, unveiling the plaque to mark the opening of the new Princess Alexandra Hospital/University Library.

## UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND LIBRARY

### Annual Report of the University Librarian for 1986

The purpose of this Annual Report is to inform the Library Committee, the Academic Board, the Senate and the university community generally about the state of the University Library and the use which has been made of the substantial amount of university funds allocated to it in 1986.

The Library's principal objective is to meet such of the information needs of the University's staff and students as can be provided from its own resources and to supplement those resources with material obtained from on-line information databanks or other libraries. In return other libraries expect to be able to borrow or receive photocopies of material from the University of Queensland Library.

The continuing pressure on the University's financial resources necessarily affects the Library. It has to review its activities on an ongoing basis to ensure that the best possible use is being made of the funds available. Demand on the Library continues to increase independently of the funds available; it is also expected to accommodate and service information in new formats while at the same time maintaining its collection of more traditional printed material.

In 1986 the rapid decline in the international value of the \$A produced a crisis in funding in spite of the cancellation of journal subscriptions worth approximately \$120,000. It became obvious that a further large programme of subscription cancellations would be necessary in 1987 which would inevitably affect adversely the research activities of a number of teaching departments.

The Library collection has only during the last 15 years begun to approach the stage where it can claim moderate respectability as a resource for research. Large-scale cancellation of subscriptions, a much reduced intake of monographs and outhousing of a growing proportion of the collection for lack of space at St. Lucia will cause that respectability to be short-lived.

These problems are not unique. Every major library in Australia is supported from public funds. Few are able to absorb increases in costs which the index maintained by the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee recorded as 23.4% for monographs and 32.4% for periodicals subscriptions from January to December 1986. The corresponding University of Queensland figures were 14% and 48%, a difference partly due to a different mix of purchases and partly to the fact that major invoices for subscriptions were paid when the \$A was at its lowest.

It is known that across Australia libraries cancelled subscriptions to the value of at least \$1.25 million in 1986 and expect to cancel even more in 1987. This has implications for this University as it is the heaviest borrower from other libraries among all Australian universities. Moreover it has proved impossible to coordinate cancellations regionally or nationally. There is no complete on-line central record of periodical holdings nor any mechanism for signalling intentions to cancel particular titles. Even if there were, libraries are driven by the need to make decisions before the next

subscription falls due and, in the case of academic libraries, decisions to cancel particular titles must be discussed with academic staff. Consequently there is only very limited time during which discussions might take place with other libraries.

Inter-library loan requests will increase as the resources of individual libraries dwindle. With a declining national resource larger numbers of requests will have to be sent overseas. Within Australia many libraries will be charging a minimum of \$6 for inter-library loans or photocopies in 1987.

## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

A major planning exercise was commenced in 1986 to upgrade the hardware on which the Library's automated on-line lending, cataloguing, ordering and catalogue enquiry systems run. It became clear that expectation that the Library's PDP 11 minicomputers could support an On-line Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) had been over-optimistic and that the present system could be extended and new operations added only by moving to more powerful hardware. By the end of the year agreement had been reached with Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) to carry out a study of the feasibility of rewriting the existing software or alternatively creating a new system which might be commercially marketed. The Library also decided to investigate commercial library packages in case neither of the cooperative options with DEC should prove viable.

Library collections grow and nearly every library within the University Library has used up all, or nearly all, available shelving. An active withdrawal programme has been operating for several years. Some of the libraries have poor facilities for users; in other cases present accommodation makes servicing expensive. For example the division of the Central and Undergraduate libraries between two separate buildings necessitates staffing a large number of service points for long hours and imposes costs on the University of Queensland Library which other Australian university libraries do not have.

One of the most overcrowded libraries, that at Princess Alexandra Hospital, was moved during the year to more spacious and suitably designed quarters in the Lions Research Building. The Lions generously provided the structure and the University paid for fit-out. A very much better and busier library has resulted.

Various schemes have been discussed to relocate another badly overcrowded library, that at Mater Hospital. No final decision was reached in 1986 although both Hospital and University are anxious to remedy the situation.

After much discussion and negotiation the University decided to design the new Engineering Library, for which CTEC funds are available, as a Physical Sciences and Engineering Library, with the University's private income funding the additional space. This will enable several libraries in this group to be brought together in a building designed to be hospitable to the latest developments in information technology. It should become available in 1990 or 1991.

In its submission to CTEC for the 1988-1990 triennium the University listed an extension to Central Library which would also accommodate the Law School as its first priority. Lack of space in the Law Library is limiting the development of teaching and research. The need to withdraw material from Central Library on a continuing basis is reducing the usefulness of the library for research in humanities and social sciences.

If Central Library Stage 2 does not attract CTEC funding in 1988-90 the Library will need additional accommodation for its remote Store. The existing store at Bishop St will be full by 1989. If more space is allocated in that building steps will need to be taken to overcome the problems of dust and occasional mould which are causing the stored volumes to deteriorate. The Bishop St. store is quite unsuitable for rare books and primary materials such as manuscripts or institutional records. These require air-conditioned storage, a limited quantity of which is presently available in the Duhig Building.

Libraries are among the most heavily used facilities in the University. Most of the furniture in reading areas consists of carrels and chairs purchased when that particular library was constructed; sometimes furniture was transferred from a previous library. Most are at least ten years old, some much older. It is estimated that there are presently 600 carrels and 500 chairs requiring repair, and that this would cost \$50,000. These costs cannot be met from the quite small annual allocations which the Library receives from the central University furnishing account. A continuous furniture maintenance programme for common use university facilities needs to be established.

#### LIBRARY MATERIALS

At the end of 1985 there was a deficit of \$399,000 in the Library Materials account. Of this \$79,000 was met from savings on salaries and the remaining \$320,000 was met by a special grant from the University. This meant that expenditure on library materials from General Funds in 1985 was \$2,430,107.

Only \$2,254,400 could be allocated from General Funds in 1986 for Library Materials. Much of this increase was achieved by reducing salary expenditure by \$194,000. Even though this meant an increase of 17.5% for Library Materials over the original 1985 allocation it was nearly \$176,000 less than actual expenditure in 1985. Of that expenditure nearly \$1,760,000 had been required for periodical subscriptions. It was decided to reduce expenditure on subscriptions by \$100,000 and to allocate the saving to books. This still meant a reduction of \$60,000, or nearly 11% in the funds available for books compared with the original budget estimate for 1985 of \$562,135 and actual expenditure in that year of \$644,542.

Against this background, and with the price of books rising rapidly, it is not surprising that the number of new monograph titles purchased fell from 15,992 in 1985 to 10,078 in 1986. In fact these figures probably understate the fall since they record books catalogued and there is a small time-lapse from accessioning. Actual expenditure on books from recurrent funds exceeded budget by \$82,407.

An attempt to save money by purchasing \$US forward was unsuccessful. Just over \$400,000A was used to buy \$US in October to pay invoices in December, at a time when further devaluation was being confidently forecast. In fact the \$A had risen by the time the invoices were paid. As a consequence of this rise in the \$A and the loss caused by the difference between the high short-term interest rate in Australia compared to rates in the United States the University actually lost nearly \$14,000A on this transaction.

At the end of 1986 the Library Materials account was again in deficit by \$306,000 of which \$240,000 was due to periodicals subscriptions. Savings on salaries reduced to \$182,619 the deficit on general funds to be carried into 1987. It was quite

clear that further large-scale cancellation of periodical subscriptions would be necessary since even a modest estimate of 10% for price rises would require the anticipated 1987 expenditure on subscriptions to be increased by \$430,000 over the original 1986 estimate. This would increase the proportion of the 1987 budget allocated to subscriptions to 80%, leaving only 20% for books and a/v materials.

Other sources besides the General Funds are available for purchasing library materials but these cannot be used for ongoing subscriptions or the normal programme of current monograph purchases. The allocation of Equipment Funds for library materials has increased considerably in recent years but this is intended for strengthening the research collection through the purchase of backruns and formed collections; it is the main source from which the Library creates basic collections for appointments in new fields.

Research funds belong to departments and are spent entirely at their discretion. In the past they have helped to finance some of the better collections in the Humanities area but university policies which will direct research funds away from the Humanities will inevitably reduce the capacity of those departments to build library research collections.

It is sometimes claimed that the Library is to the Humanities and Social Sciences the equivalent of the laboratory to Engineering, Science and Medicine. This is an over-simplification because the "laboratory" disciplines are also heavy consumers of library funds both for materials and for service. Nevertheless a case can be made that the allocation of funds within the University fails to take into account the special value of the Library for Humanities and Social Sciences departments. Moreover most of those departments do not have the opportunity to supplement their research funds from outside sources and consequently have very limited resources from which to supplement library funding of research material.

#### THE STATE OF THE COLLECTION

In a word the state of the collection is parlous. The Library is acquiring only half as many monographs as was the case ten years ago. The 1054 periodical titles cancelled in 1986 fell particularly severely in the physical sciences and engineering area generally; in the humanities area linguistics, the culture (language, literature, history, sociology, politics) of continental Europe, and medieval studies were notably affected. In the words of the Collection Development Librarian, Spencer Routh, commenting on the cancellations in Humanities and Social Sciences

"I think a large majority of the titles being cancelled ought to be in a library serving the aims, or pretensions, of this University. They are titles of high standing, but often in fields where there are few academic staff or advanced students. For some a potentially small audience is made even smaller by their being in languages other than English."

"We cancelled titles in some specialities whose proponents had left the university, perhaps a decade ago ... a fair number of newsletters and other titles whose use has been rare ... a fair number of periodicals whose potential readers needed even more the equivalent expenditure on monographs. However the majority of titles cancelled were titles we ought to have continued if the University's announced range of options in research and

advanced teaching is to be taken seriously, and if one disregards the very small numbers of advanced students following many of the options."

The fact is that the University's rhetoric about the need for every academic to do research does not measure up with the resources available. It is attempting to undertake teaching and research across a wider range of disciplines than at any other University in the country yet it receives less government funding than other universities of similar size, much less than, for instance, Sydney or New South Wales. As a consequence the University is unable to finance the research needs of all its disciplines.

These pressures are reflected in the Library.

#### RELATIONSHIPS BEYOND THE UNIVERSITY

With a declining research collection cooperation with other libraries assumes increasing importance. There is a long history of inter-library lending in Australia on which greater demands are being made. For years there has been controversy within the library world about whether those libraries which lend on inter-library loan much more than they borrow should be compensated for the costs which they incur as a result. The University of Queensland Library is one of these "net lenders".

The simplest procedure, cost recovery, was opposed by those who saw the imposition of charges as a threat to "free library services" especially in public libraries. Others believed that the cost should be borne directly by the Commonwealth Government. Another view was that the National Library should emulate the British Lending Library and become the principal supplier to other libraries. There was no available data on the actual flow of inter-library loans on which policy could be based. After a previous abortive attempt such a study was financed by CTEC and ALIC (the Australian Libraries and Information Council) in 1986 to be completed in 1987.

Late in 1986 the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services (AACOBS), of which many libraries and all major libraries are members, recommended a charge of \$6 for the provision of an inter-library loan or standard (30 exposures) photocopy. At this University the Library will meet the first \$6 of any such charge.

Rationalisation of collection building between libraries is frequently advocated as a solution to the decline in the purchasing power of all libraries. It is a topic at many regional and national meetings of librarians. Academic libraries have particular difficulties with proposals for rationalisation. They must meet the needs of the courses offered by their institutions. They must also meet a reasonable proportion of the research needs of their academic departments, which also expect to be consulted about the actual purchases made in their disciplines. Any agreements to rationalise holdings with other libraries could be sustained only when these basic needs had been met and with the consent of the academic departments concerned.

Rationalisation of collections in academic libraries could work successfully only if research activities reflected the library situation. Staff and post-graduate students would have to confine their research interests within the limits of their own institution's library or accept the limitations imposed by the need to travel to another library or wait for material to come on inter-library loan. Inter-library loan is an expensive way of meeting the needs of research and sometimes quite unsuitable for the purpose.

In fact there has been a certain amount of de facto rationalisation in Brisbane. As a result of its size and age the University Library is by far the largest in the city and Griffith University, QIT and BCAE make extensive use of it both through courier services which borrow and photocopy on behalf of their libraries and through direct borrowing by their staff and post-graduate students.

Cooperation also takes other forms. Griffith University continues to purchase use of the Library's on-line lending system. Staff development activities are often open to staff from other libraries. A staff exchange scheme operates between the major libraries, coordinated by the Queensland Committee of AACOBS, which also serves as a forum for the discussion of many common interests and as a generator of various activities of mutual benefit.

In 1986 several members of library staff spent time advising and assisting the University College of the Northern Territory on matters relating to its library.

The University Librarian served for a third year as the Chairman of AACOBS Standing Committee. Spencer Routh was again a member of AACOBS' Working Party on Bibliography.

## CENTRAL SERVICES

### Staffing

Administration of staffing matters is the responsibility of the Deputy University Librarian. Until the arrival of the new Deputy, George Eichinski, responsibility for staff matters was undertaken by Wendy Cooper.

In 1986 there were 29 appointments of permanent staff. There were 28 equivalent full-time temporary positions to which 112 appointments were made during the year. The high use of temporary staff was mainly due to the need to maximise flexibility in making best use of the funds available and partly for the special project to convert the Library's catalogue to machine-readable form.

In a time of rapidly changing technology and scarce resources every effort must be made to motivate staff and enable them to develop their full potential. Lacking funds to appoint a Staff Development Officer the Library has an active Staff Development Standing Committee. A major project in 1986 was to review the Library's Performance Appraisal system. The review was still in progress at the end of the year.

The Standing Committee completely revised the Inservice Training Programme to include a number of in-service training modules in three groups, Basic Skills, Specific Work Skills and Advanced Specific Work Skills. A large number of in-service workshops, seminars and lunch-time talks were organised. One workshop, on Minor Book repairs, was recorded on videotape and copies are being sold to other libraries. The Library assisted staff to attend conferences and other activities organised by other bodies 65 times during the year.

Seven years ago the Library initiated a proposal for a new salary structure. For various reasons progress has been extremely slow. The Library's senior staff were reclassified in 1985 as part of a University-wide reclassification of senior professional

and administrative staff. Proposals regarding library staff covered by the Industrial Award were passed on to the relevant unions some time ago. There has been rapid change in the Library since 1980 and there is a good case for reviewing the original proposals to ensure that they will meet present and immediate future needs.

In the absence of a Staff Officer several aspects of the Library's staff management practice have not received adequate attention. The responsibilities of many positions have not been set out in more than general terms. Positions classified on the same grade may be associated with quite different activities and levels of responsibility. Some progress was made in 1986 with the drafting of criteria for senior library positions. These were used in relation to the library by the Committee advising the Vice-Chancellor on senior administrative and professional staff promotions. They prompted the production of similar documents for the Computer Centre and Administrative Services.

There were two industrial disputes within the Library during the year. One of these caused inconvenience to library users through bans on the use of terminals at certain times.

#### TECHNICAL SERVICES

In recent years considerable progress has been made in computerising some aspects of the purchasing, accessioning, cataloguing and processing of incoming material. For much of 1986 it was hoped that by the end of the year the comprehensive card catalogue in Central Library would begin to be replaced by the On-line Public Access Catalogue. This would have eliminated the need to maintain a dual system, one putting information into the bibliographic database and one filing cards into the main catalogue in the traditional manner. The hope that OPAC would supersede manual filing was deferred when it became evident that the library hardware could not be relied upon to support an On-line Public Access Catalogue.

Some advances were made. All current orders are now held on computer and accessible to all libraries. The complete Library of Congress MARC database on CD-ROM (known as Bibiofile) was purchased and proved extremely useful. Catalogue details for a high proportion of new material can be located on the CD-ROM and fed through to the Library's computer system. Bibiofile has also speeded up the retrospective cataloguing project to convert existing catalogue records to machine-readable form. For this purpose the "hit-rate" is a remarkable 87%. The time taken to obtain a MARC record has been reduced by at least three weeks and the whole process greatly simplified.

The Library also bought the Library of Congress subject headings on tape and this will be fed into the on-line authority file in 1987.

Cataloguing and orders, like lending in the large libraries, are now heavily dependent on the good health of the computer system. Work is interrupted from time to time when software problems occur. This is particularly the case when overnight processing fails. One of the criteria for any replacement system will be the capacity to accomplish all tasks during normal working hours.

Computerisation also means a large learning load for staff joining Technical Services. It requires staff of high calibre and the expenditure of much time on in-service training and refresher courses.

The need for training reaches right across the library. Approximately 100 Catalogue Enquiry (CENQ) new or refresher courses were undertaken by the Systems Liaison Librarian.

The periodicals cancellation project could not have been carried out without the automated system. Although the database already held bibliographic data for all periodicals, subscription details had to be added in \$A. Lists had to be generated for each library so that they could record the number of uses. This recording happened twice, once after three months as the basis for the 1986 round of cancellations and again after a further seven months as the basis for 1987 cancellations. Lists had then to be generated for each library with periodical titles arranged by number of uses during the survey period. Each library was required to cancel titles to the value of those with no recorded use after the first survey and four or fewer uses after the second survey.

The survey generated an enormous amount of work; for technical services staff in providing data and subsequently carrying through cancellation of 1054 titles; for systems staff in writing programmes and generating listings; and for reader service staff in recording uses throughout the year by marking items before reshelving and in consulting academic staff about cancellation decisions. It is a tribute to staff already operating under considerable pressure that the project was successfully carried through.

Towards the end of the year Technical Services staff were heavily involved in drafting relevant parts of the user specification for the proposed new automated system.

### Accessions

Much work associated with the periodicals cancellation project was the responsibility of this section. The project included a survey of titles received through Gift and Exchange, of which there were 6,938. This information will enable judgments to be made about the usefulness of these titles. Although they are received either free of charge or in exchange for a title for which the Library pays, there is a service cost in accessioning and shelving them.

The Section also has general oversight of binding. Some years ago a target of 25,000 items was set for the University Bindery to meet the Library's needs but actual production has fallen short of this goal, resulting in mounting arrears. There was also discontent that the average turn-around time was seven weeks.

Although turn-around time is still not satisfactory, productivity improved in 1986 with the binding, rebinding or repair of 24,381 items. The backlog in binding across the library is estimated to be 11,000 volumes.

### Cataloguing

In addition to cataloguing incoming material this section is also engaged in the retrospective cataloguing project. During the year the output of the section was

12,206 new monograph titles and 3,564 duplicates catalogued  
 427 audio-visual titles catalogued  
 832 Microform titles catalogued  
 556 new periodical titles catalogued  
 10,431 titles relocated to Store  
 2,071 volumes discarded  
 76,165 titles retrospectively converted to machine-readable form.

A notable achievement was the entry to the database of the University of Queensland thesis collection. Access to these records now includes access by department and level of thesis.

### Orders Section

Several book suppliers not previously used were tried during the year with mixed results. A small survey of major suppliers was carried out to compare speed of invoicing and speed of delivery. Where more than one copy was required orders were sent to different suppliers. The survey led to some changes to suppliers whose delivery was faster. Price variations were negligible. More extensive and continuous surveys of supplier performance will be possible when orders operations can be computerised.

During the year a trial was run using on-line access to information about books in print. It was found that on-line database checking was much faster than the usual manual procedure and that the information accessed made it easier to make savings by placing orders in the country with the lowest converted \$A price. However there are comparatively high basic monthly costs and more work needs to be done to ensure that savings exceed the cost of on-line access.

The introduction by the University of a computer-based accounts system with very long account numbers created a great deal of work for the library. All ongoing records with account numbers had to be changed and voucher processing for payment of accounts has become a great deal more time-consuming. The Library was not consulted before the system was introduced even though it must have one of the largest accounts-processing operations in the University.

Towards the end of the year it was decided that greater efficiency would be achieved by amalgamating the Accessions and Orders sections. This will be done in 1987.

Withdrawals and Store

In order to ensure that shelf space is available for new books and periodical volumes each library is allocated a target number of volumes to be withdrawn. In fact staff overload has prevented these targets from being reached since they were established in 1981. The record is as follows

% of target withdrawals achieved each year

1981	55%
1982	85%
1983	62%
1984	64%
1985	53%
1986	67%

However these figures mask some large variations. Central Library, for instance, achieved only 30% in 1986 primarily because of the time taken up in negotiations with departments about subscription cancellations. The consequence is overfull shelves leading to misfiling and difficulty in reading the shelves to keep them in order.

Stored and discarded monographs

	<u>1986</u>	<u>1985</u>
Discarded	6,720	4,471
Sent to Store	10,332	8,099
Total in Store	58,199	47,867
Retrieved for inter-library loan	118	77
Retrieved for university users	465	378

Stored and discarded Periodical volumes.

	<u>1986</u>	<u>1985</u>
Discarded	1,992	3,874
Sent to Store	6,203	3,314
Total in Store	43,416	37,213
Retrieved for inter-library loan	403	348
Retrieved for university users	1,150	954

Store is now the fifth largest library collection in the University.

## Systems

A considerable amount of time was spent keeping the automated system operating. The addition of an extra PDP11/84 processor and a change to new operating software increased the complexity of problems. The ACHILLES on-line lending system ran reliably, several improvements were made, and procedures were organised to switch to an alternative processor if the ACHILLES processor failed.

Programmes were created to accept MARC data from the Bibliofile CD-ROM. Others were written to receive the Library of Congress Subject Headings file.

A great deal of work went into the development of OPAC programmes. A particular problem was the creation of the very large summary index file which was lost several times due to software and hardware problems. Work on OPAC was abandoned late in the year and effort diverted to creating the specification for a new system.

A half-time computer operator was appointed by suppressing a half-time typist vacancy. This has not only reduced the load on the remaining staff but also produced some much needed documentation of operating procedures.

## READER SERVICES

### On-line information services

In 1986 on-line searching of external databases was available through Central Library, the three medical libraries and Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Engineering, and Law libraries.

There was a decrease in the number of searches carried out from 2642 in 1985 to 2390 in 1986 but connect time for user searches increased from 277 hours to 329 hours. Since the communication rate for several libraries was increased from 300bd to 1200bd much of the additional time was spent on down-line loading and down-line printing of information which was formerly received by mail.

MEDLINE was the most heavily used database, reflecting the fact that it is an international database held in Australia and available at local communication costs. The heavy use also reflects the fact that the three medical libraries are used by both university and hospital staff.

### Most used databases, 1985 and 1986 (Number of searches)

	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>
MEDLINE (Medicine)	1,307	1,412
Eric (Education)	177	154
Psycinfo (Psychology)	161	93
Chem Abs (Chemistry)	89	89
SSCI (Social Sciences)	79	
CAB (Agriculture)		62

Most used Australian databases, 1985 and 1986 (Number of searches)

	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>
APAIS (Public affairs)	71	58
Qld. Newspapers	66	39
Aust. Education Index	53	35
Aust. Medical Index	17	
Family		13

The Library charges for searches to cover some costs and it is thought that the reduction in number of searches is due to rising costs and the generally tight financial situation.

The following departments were the principal non-medical users

<u>Department</u>	<u>Number of searches</u>
Education	92
Anthro. and Sociol.	78
Psychology	72
Chem Eng.	65
Management	59
Agriculture	50

The range and complexity of information databases is now so great that the task of keeping up to date is getting beyond the staff resources available.

Altogether the Library accesses 15 database systems and most systems have many databases. This is a larger range than at any other university in Australia. There is a considerable cost to the library for staff training in database searching but it is felt that library users should be offered the best access to this facility that the Library can afford.

Library searching staff have to be kept up to date in what is a rapidly changing information technology scene. As with so many skills, searching must be done frequently if the skill is not to be lost. Demand is sufficiently high to ensure this in the existing libraries in which service is offered except Law. There is a problem in offering the service through the other smaller libraries. Databases relevant to medical and life sciences, physical and technical sciences are spread over at least twelve systems, each with idiosyncracies of search software. One of the advantages of the proposed Physical Sciences and Engineering Library will be that the demand for searches will be sufficient to permit specialised staff to maintain their searching skills. However even in the large libraries staff are not always sufficiently informed about the total range of databases to be certain that there is not a better choice than the one they decide to use to meet some requests.

Apart from searches for users the Library also uses on-line technology for its own purposes. Connect time for these purposes was 223 hours in 1986. Some of this time is for electronic mail, mostly for sending inter-library loan requests. Extensive use is made of the Australian Bibliographic Network database to discover locations for items wanted on inter-library loan.

Library staff also use database searching to answer reference queries where it is the only way to the information or where the time saved seems preferable to spending time working with conventional formats.

As forecast in the 1985 Annual report databases are now becoming available on CD-ROM which can be purchased for in-house use. They will not usually be as up-to-date as the information available on-line and will have to be supplemented by on-line searching. There are indications that some will be very expensive. It is probable that cost will be the deciding factor between purchasing a database for in-house use, probably without a charge to the user, and reliance on external systems with the user meeting some of the cost.

#### Library Audio-visual services

The year saw the retirement of Marjorie Roe who established audio-visual services at this Library. Her energy and enthusiasm created a resource which is one of the most extensive at any Australian university. Gulcin Cribb was appointed to succeed her.

It is disappointing to again report that there was no change to Copyright legislation during 1986 which would have legalised off-air recording of television or radio programmes. Nor has any progress been made with other copyright changes such as permitting the transfer of purchased material from one format to another. The University Librarian continues to be a member of the AVCC Committee which is negotiating with copyright owners and the Attorney-General's Department about possible new legislation.

The pilot project under which ten linked microprocessors were set up for Computer Assisted Learning has proved so popular that a booking system is being devised which will permit a maximum of two time units to be booked successively. By mid 1986 there were 24 programmes available on the hard disk and it had to be upgraded from 20 MB to 40 MB. In addition the Library owns a number of programmes on floppy disk. A video disc player was purchased and this can now offer interactive programmes through the network.

Requests were received for the network to be available for group tutorials but this is contrary to the use for which it was intended, as an independent learning facility. Alternative facilities are becoming available for group use outside the library.

While the Library has a role to play in CAL and must make the best possible use of new technology, there are several difficulties to be overcome. The Library must find money from within limited resources to purchase and maintain CAL equipment. It must also establish priorities for location of CAL equipment in the various libraries which make up the University Library. Backing up the hard disc and assisting users takes library staff away from other necessary work at a time when staff resources are under pressure. There is also a considerable amount of training and retraining of library staff to be done to ensure that they can meet the problems which arise in assisting library users. Many libraries are open at evenings and at weekends and this means that a large number of staff would need to receive training. Finally special furniture must be acquired and in some cases some building alterations are necessary.

Introduction of new services is especially difficult during a time of rigid resource constraint.

The University Department of Audio-Visual services is to open the first stage of a broadband campus network in 1987. Since it is sensible for the transmission point for programmes to be close to the store of appropriate software the Library has agreed to house the transmission point in Duhig Building adjacent to the Library Audio-Visual Services section. The Department will employ staff to operate the transmission point.

### Students with disabilities

A Standing Committee of library staff takes a special interest in library service to students with disabilities. It acts as a bridge between library staff and students, educates library staff in responses to the needs of these students, liaises with other university services and is represented on relevant university committees.

In 1986 a study room in Undergraduate Library was partially sound-proofed to assist blind students who use braille machines. Library Audio-Visual Services continued to organise the tape reading service. There were 52 voluntary readers and a total of 553 C90 tapes were used. In addition 52 inter-library loans on tape or braille were borrowed for students.

The work associated with the tape reading service has grown far beyond what was ever envisaged and can no longer be met by library staff. The Library welcomed the University's decision to appoint a Resource Person for the Disabled for one year in 1987 to organise the tape reading and make recommendations about the needs of students with disabilities.

### Reader education

Reader Education is another activity which is coordinated by a Library Standing Committee. It organises training activities for library staff engaged in reader education, circulates useful literature, coordinates publication of leaflets and promotes the exchange of ideas on planning, implementing and evaluating reader education activities. Individual branch libraries are responsible for developing reader education programmes for their users.

Reader education is a large-scale activity as can be seen from the following statistics for 1986.

Students attending tours of libraries	4,214
Students attending introductory talks	1,798
Students attending seminars, workshops and lectures	2,415
Students receiving individual instruction	87
Persons neither students nor staff attending tours	217

With the assistance of the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine two reader education CAL programmes were prepared, one on the Australian Public Affairs Information Service and one on Index Medicus. Reader education programmes also form part of the Department's courses for fourth year medical students.

Another new venture was the setting up of an information booth outside Duhig Building during Orientation Week for new students seeking information on library tours and services. It was well used and will be repeated in 1987.

A special effort was made to assist students from overseas. Special tours and talks were organised for them and contact librarians were identified for them in several of the larger libraries.

Contact persons were also identified to assist Aboriginal and Islander students.

## BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Activity in this library appears to have stabilised at a busy level. It is indicative of the pressure on library purchasing that a major problem is lack of funds for sufficient copies of books recommended for courses. There are also some communication problems with lecturers located off-campus requesting course materials to be housed in this library.

Twenty-five small group tours were run to introduce 122 new students to the library. For other students more than thirty seminar/tutorial group sessions were given covering a broad range of subject interests.

Biological Sciences Library uses the MINERVA electronic mail service and on-line access to the Australian Bibliographic network to obtain inter-library loans. These activities and on-line information retrieval were assisted by the replacement of the terminal by a microprocessor with 1200bd capability. All the log-on procedures, which differ with each system, are now automated. Search strategies can also be pre-recorded, and saved.

A Guide to resources in Zoology was produced similar to one previously produced for Agriculture.

## HEALTH SCIENCE LIBRARIES

Herston Medical Library, Princess Alexandra Hospital Library and Mater Hospital Library are jointly funded by the University and the relevant Hospital Board and administered as part of the University Library. This cooperative arrangement brings advantages to both parties. Purchasing and processing of new material is carried out at St. Lucia using computer-based systems; hospital staff have access to the full resources of the University Library; sharing of costs provides better service to university staff and students and to hospital personnel than would be the case if each had separate libraries.

An indication of the amount of traffic between the three medical libraries and between them and the most relevant library at St. Lucia can be obtained from the following statistics;

Items borrowed from other libraries, 1986

	<u>Borrowed from other</u>	<u>Borrowed from non</u>
	<u>U of Q libraries</u>	<u>U of Q libraries</u>

P.A.Hospital Library	3,205	493
Mater Hospital Library	2,092	467
Herston Medical Library	1,618	912
Biological Sciences Library	1,203	2,544

There is constant cooperation between the staff of the medical libraries. Along with the Dentistry Librarian all professional staff took some of the reader education tutorials for fourth year medical students. Emergency relief staff are provided from Herston Medical Library to the other two medical libraries and Dentistry Library. All share in staff development activities both of a specialist and a more general nature.

#### Dentistry Library

For the second time reader education was formally included in the Dentistry course (in DP313) with the Dentistry Librarian giving a six-hour session for this purpose which included a MEDLINE demonstration. Ms. Speer also created a tape-slide presentation entitled "How to use the Dental Literature". A Chinese version was also created with the help of one of the Shandong Library Fellows, Liu Chun Hua, for use at Shandong Medical university.

Agreement was reached with the Australian Dental Association, Queensland Branch, under which limited access will be available to their members in return for a donation to the Library.

#### Herston Medical Library

Two Chinese librarians had this library as their principal base in 1986 while they were on fellowships as part of the University's aid project with Shandong Medical University. Herston Medical Library staff played the major role in supporting the Health Sciences Librarian in ensuring that the Fellows gained maximum benefit from their time in Australia; the visitors also spent periods elsewhere in the University Library.

This library was the forum for a research study supervised by Professor Don Lamberton to develop a formula for the equitable distribution of costs among users of a research library. The study is financed by the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services, the North Brisbane Hospitals Board and the University Library. It is expected to assist in establishing a sounder basis for the allocation of costs for jointly funded libraries; it should also provide useful information about charges which might reasonably be made if people not presently entitled to use the University's libraries were permitted to do so on a fee-paying basis.

Miss Toni Bartlett was appointed Deputy Health Sciences Librarian to replace Mrs. Airo-Farulla who retired through ill-health in 1985.

It is notable that in the two years since the former Central Medical Library and Clinical Sciences Library were amalgamated into Herston Medical Library loans have increased by 50%. In the same period MEDLINE searches have risen by 15%.

#### Mater Hospital Library

The Mater Hospital Librarian has been actively promoting awareness of the library in a number of ways. She has spoken to the Hospital Staff Association, visited hospital departments, compiled brochures and handouts and in cooperation with university departments, regularly oriented incoming fifth-year students to the Library.

These marketing activities clearly bore fruit. The number of loans increased by 97% during the year to 10,176

Nineteen eighty-six was the first full year during which MEDLINE searches were available. The total for the year was 144.

The number of orders placed fell from 310 in 1985 to 77 in 1986. This is a graphic illustration of the effects of the \$A devaluation on the price of books and periodical subscriptions.

#### Princess Alexandra Hospital Library

This Library moved from very overcrowded quarters in April to more spacious new accommodation. The Librarian lists the following improvements

- \* Extended opening hours
- \* installation of audio-visual equipment
- \* provision of a seminar room
- \* introduction of computerised access to the University Library catalogue.

All activity statistics show an increase, in loans, reserve loans, inter-library loan borrowings and MEDLINE searches.

Extended hours were temporarily funded to meet requests from hospital registrars. In the event usage was disappointing but the Management Committee decided to continue the extended hours into 1987. There are strong theoretical reasons why the library should be open on some evenings and weekend days in a large busy hospital with registrars studying for specialist qualifications.

Subscriptions worth \$4,910 were cancelled to release funds for the purchase of books

## HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES LIBRARIES

### Architecture/Music Library

After several years of growth, activity in this library appears to have steadied. There was some disruption to staffing; the position of liaison librarian with the Faculty of Architecture changed twice during the year.

The library houses and administers, but does not own, the Department of Music's record collection. Discussion took place with the new Head of Department, Professor Bebbington, about the possibility that the Library might formally take total responsibility for the collection.

Two difficulties were identified. With the present pressure on library funds the Library is not in a position to pay for current additions to the collection. It is also a fundamental policy issue that the Library does not confine the use of any of its material to particular user groups. Under the present arrangements it is reasonable to limit use of the record collection to staff and students of the Department. If the Library formally took them over they would necessarily be available to any library user. The playing facilities in the Architecture/Music Library could not meet the anticipated demand.

It appears likely that the present arrangements will continue until the library can be extended.

### Central Library

An extension to Central Library is long overdue. To make better use of available space the second level was extensively reorganised in anticipation of the introduction of OPAC. Aisles between catalogue cabinets were reduced and microform reading equipment brought together in a new location. This was a much needed change; the Library's microform collection is growing rapidly and the machines are in heavy demand.

A small addition was made to Fryer Library space but this made minimal impact on Fryer's need for more space in which to store its books, manuscripts and other primary research materials. Only a building extension could meet that need.

### Central Reference

With the reorganisation of Level 2 Central Reference took over responsibility for staffing the unbound periodicals desk. This service point also now oversees the microform reading area and accommodates inter-library loan activities.

A considerable amount of time is taken in assisting inquirers who appear to come from other tertiary institutions in Brisbane and lack knowledge of both the library system and the use of specific reference tools. In 1987 this matter will be discussed with the other institutions' libraries.

At peak times it is not uncommon for three or four people to be waiting for service because sufficient back-up staff cannot be made available. There is a growing number of inquiries concern Australian and Queensland statistics and these usually require an extended reference interview.

Thirty-three formal classes were conducted for 18 university courses. Sixty-two group tours were conducted including four on Parents' Day when there were 2,400 participants. New guides were produced on Australian History, Anthropology, Contemporary South-East Asian Studies, Computer Searching in Sociology and Microforms. Several others were revised and reprinted.

Work associated with cancelling 564 periodical subscriptions with a value of \$38,550 took time away from other projects, especially the withdrawal programme. Additions to the reference collection have been reduced by the Library's financial difficulties.

For the first time in many years inter-library loans both lent and borrowed have declined slightly. The decline in requests from other libraries could be due to the fact that this Library's holdings are not listed in the Australian Bibliographic Network database.

In the inter-library loan area problems have been caused by the growth in requests for material in Chinese and Japanese, which come from other departments as well as the Department of Japanese and Chinese Studies. Activity related to Japanese and Chinese material is not sufficiently large to justify the appointment of specialist staff in Central reference and it is fortunate that the Library has some staff elsewhere who are familiar with these languages.

### Fryer Library

As might be expected in a section intended to service research in Australian Studies, usage increased considerably in 1986. Total usages (that is consultation of an item or related group of items) rose by 33% to 13,415. However undergraduate use is growing, making up 42% of the total during the year. Manuscript usages grew by 31% to 1,062 from 55 of the manuscript collections.

With limited staff resources available, increasing use necessarily takes time from other tasks in what is a very labour intensive operation. Even then the supervision of use to prevent theft or disfigurement cannot be carried out effectively.

Processing of incoming material continues in arrears. Two hundred and seven donations or manuscript collections were accessioned, as against 276 in 1985; no manuscript collections, or even parts of a collection were catalogued and only two listed and another part-listed. Fryer Library has for some years prepared the Annual Bibliography of Studies in Australian Literature which is published in Australian Literary Studies. It has now been necessary to transfer responsibility and clerical work to the Department of English although the entries will still be taken from those prepared by the library staff for the Fryer Index to Australian Literature.

Some of Fryer's difficulties have been due to lack of space and this is to be relieved in 1987 by allocating to Fryer some space in the Duhig Building. However the major problem is that sufficient resources cannot be provided for the collecting level which has become normal. A redefinition of collecting policy or a review of priorities within the Library appear to be the only long-term solutions.

Funds from the Design Arts Board financed a project to identify and acquire architectural records. By the end of the project the Library expects to have procured records of ten to twelve major firms whose work documents not only significant contributions to architecture in Queensland but also illustrates architectural styles and trends over a period of 70 to 80 years.

Other important acquisitions included early drafts of David Malouf's An imaginary life and manuscripts of Peter Carey's Bliss and Illywhacker. Additions were made to the existing collections of Thomas Shapcott, Frank Moorehouse, Gwen Harwood, Bruce Dawe, Kath Walker and Xavier Herbert. Further material was also received for collections relating to the University of Queensland Union and to the holdings in Women's Studies (from Mrs. Kath Thomas). Pastoral records were received from the Crombie family.

As usual the Alumni Association generously donated books, periodicals and other items worth several hundreds of dollars from material it had gathered for its Book Fair.

One of the Library's most assiduous collectors, Mrs. Hilda Tuxworth, has retired from this activity. For more than twelve years Mrs. Tuxworth has given books, periodicals and manuscripts relating to the Northern Territory and the Library owes her sincere thanks for her unflagging enthusiasm, interest, courtesy and cooperation.

Also in 1986 the Library lost an outstanding supporter with the death of Mr. Len Fisher. As President of the Alumni Association, as President of Friends of Fryer and simply as an enthusiast for the library Mr. Fisher acted as collector and evangelist for Fryer over many years, ably assisted by Mrs. Fedora Fisher. Without the help of such helpers Fryer Library would be much the poorer.

The Friends of the Fryer Library held two successful functions during the year. In addition to other assistance they raised \$4,000 for publication of the Checklist of Australian Plays in the Hanger Collection. Author Joan Priest completed her term as President of Friends of Fryer and was succeeded by Dr. Tom Stephens. Such friends are invaluable and essential to the library.

### Central Lending Services

Loans from Central Library differed only marginally from previous years. Loans to Fourth Year Honours and post-graduate students have declined by about 10% since 1984, being balanced by increasing loans to other undergraduates.

The number of Alumni paying the library subscription rose by 90 to 194 and they borrowed 2,321 items. The number of external students from other institutions enrolled as borrowers increased by 55% to 171; they borrowed 3465 items. Of the students 121 were enrolled at the University of New England, and 22 at Riverina College. The remainder were enrolled at Deakin, Macquarie, Curtin, Armidale CAE, Murdoch, Australian Defence Force Academy, Mitchell College and WACAE.

### Law Library

The high cost of books was reflected in a decline in monographs added to the Law Library from 677 in 1985 to 391 in 1986. Many standard works used to appear in successive revised editions. To an increasing extent these are being replaced by the publishing of serial supplements, adding substantially to the cost of subscriptions for the library.

Law's reliance on older material is probably higher than in any other discipline. Many important cases are contained in volumes published so long ago that the paper is becoming so brittle as to be unuseable. The much used photocopying machines are not kind to such volumes and they are replaceable, if at all, only in microform, a format to which there is considerable reader resistance.

A new venture in 1986 was the offering of a workshop, Introduction to Legal Research Sources at a fee of \$55. Fifteen people attended, a comfortable number for the purpose. The small profit was used to supplement the Law library's book funds. An added bonus was the improved knowledge of legal reference work obtained by Law library staff.

Arrangements were made to convert the former bagroom to a small computer searching room. Regrettably demand for searches was so low that it was difficult for staff to maintain their searching skills. It is thought that demand may increase when Queensland legal material becomes available on-line.

### Thatcher Memorial Library for External Students

In spite of the many changes in external teaching, the relocation of teaching staff into internal departments and uncertainty about the future, Thatcher Library becomes busier. This is in spite of declining student load figures. Total loans rose by 21% to 70,091. Postal loans increased by 12% to 34,068 and in-person loans by 31% to 36,023 of which 27,358 were to students enrolled externally. This was the first year in which in-person loans exceeded postal loans. Approximately 25% of external students are metropolitan.

There is a very close association between the references given by lecturers in external teaching notes and actual use of the library. It seems probable under the new arrangements that the same lecturer will often be teaching the same course both internally and externally. Although the computerised loan system readily permits temporary transfer of books between Undergraduate and Thatcher libraries shortage of funds is limiting the number of copies held. For instance the number of orders placed for Thatcher in 1986 declined by 485 to 824. Another sign of pressure on bookstock is that reservations of books out on loan rose from 5,260 to 6,640. In these circumstances it is desirable that, as far as possible, the same material should not be in demand simultaneously by internal and external students. Some staggering of teaching and assignments in such cases would assist the library to respond to student needs. By far the most common reason why a postal loan request cannot be met is that the book is on loan, 3965 times in 1986.

The Thatcher Librarian lists as principal problems

- late notification of new titles to be listed for students;
- not ordering because lecturer is to rewrite or be replaced;
- reading list too short for subject with many students;
- reading list titles out of print;
- topics are very broad creating a range of demands;
- free choice topics;
- not enough recent material.

The University of Queensland is one of the few institutions enrolling external students which attempts to provide a library service equal to that available to internal students. Surveys have shown that Thatcher is highly regarded by external students, and personal expressions of thanks are common. A CTEC report has recently suggested that external students should be serviced through TAFE Colleges whose libraries would receive additional resources and supplement their own stock by using the inter-library loan service. This proposal appears quite unsound. TAFE courses require different collections from those of CAE and university libraries. The inter-library loan service was never intended to service undergraduate courses and would be a very expensive way to do so.

Institutions should not accept external enrolments unless they are prepared to provide library services of reasonable quality and maintain an adequate collection and staffing complement for the purpose. TAFE libraries can serve effectively as local study centre libraries if their collection is supplemented with stock provided by the institutions with external students in the area, as for instance, Queensland institutions presently cooperate with the Gold Coast TAFE Library. However this service needs to be supplemented with postal loans to individual students from the home institution.

#### Ringrose libraries

Ringrose libraries existed in 1986 at the Bundaberg Higher Education Centre, Cairns University Centre, Gold Coast TAFE, Mackay University Centre, Maryborough University Centre, Mt. Isa Public Library, Nambour University Centre, and Toowoomba University Centre. In all cases the University Library pays for a part-time librarian, provides a bookstock and liaises closely through the Thatcher Library. Some or all of BCAE, Darling Downs IAE and Capricornia IAE participate in each centre, contributing variously by providing supplementary staff support, books or equipment.

The largest number of registered borrowers is 292 at Mackay and the lowest 35 at Toowoomba. External students from this University are the most numerous, 360, the next highest being DDIAE with 116. However 119 student users are enrolled outside Queensland and there are 81 users from the general community among the total registered borrower total of 926.

University of Queensland students are by far the heaviest users. They made 6239 of the 11059 loans in 1986. Moreover the overwhelming majority of books borrowed came from collections provided by the University of Queensland.

Loans have declined quite sharply at Bundaberg and Maryborough but comparatively large proportional changes can be expected where small changes in the number of local students can make a big difference. Nevertheless it is questionable whether it is worth maintaining a Ringrose Library at Toowoomba where there were only 35 registered borrowers in 1986. The next smallest operation is at Cairns where the library is expected to move to the TAFE college in 1987.

It is noticeable that several of the Ringrose librarians suggest that their useage is influenced by "the excellent service from Thatcher library".

### Undergraduate Library

The Undergraduate Library is intended to meet coursework needs in the Humanities and Social Sciences and also services undergraduates from Computer Science and Speech and Hearing. It maintains a steady collection of about 100,000 volumes and 75,000 photocopies by discarding little-used material; 6,058 volumes and 3,133 photocopies were withdrawn in 1986.

Most activity figures increased in 1986 with loans rising by 3%. However a survey revealed that use of the reading areas has declined. Were funds available a need for more group study rooms and a/v carrels could be met. Unfortunately structural problems would prevent the reading areas from being used for book storage.

The Library's shortage of funds led to a decision to abandon the policy which has been followed for many years of buying a copy of every Undergraduate and Thatcher title for Central Library. This policy was intended to ensure that there was a copy available for longer loan than offered by those libraries. All departments were advised that if a copy was required in Central Library it would have to be bought from the department's library allocation.

As already mentioned the ACHILLES Lending System facilitates the temporary transfer of books between Undergraduate and Thatcher libraries. This is an advantage because the Undergraduate Librarian reports

"It seems teaching and course offerings in the University are constantly changing, with a recent tendency to blur the distinctions between external and internal, and between coursework and research projects."

She goes on to say that some

"courses (and lecturers) continue to cause problems. Lack of planning in time for semester, lack of understanding of the realities of book ordering, and lack of understanding of stated library policies continue to blight the relationship between library staff and academic staff in some areas. We continue to have a large Kept At Desk collection to offset some of these deficiencies."

## PHYSICAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING

Reference has already been made to the decision by the University to build a combined Physical Sciences and Engineering Library.

The advantages of amalgamating some or all of the six present libraries can be summarised as follows;

All libraries are full. The new library will allow withdrawal to be less rigorous and permit some books to be returned from Store if necessary.

There will be a larger and more efficient pool of seats for disciplines in which student numbers are growing;

General access will be available for longer hours for the same expenditure as at present;

Staff can be used more efficiently in a large library;

There will be savings on equipment and line charges;

There will be greater security with an electronic theft detection system;

It will be possible to provide audio-visual, microprocessor and CAL services not possible in the existing libraries;

There will be more interdisciplinary use of resources.

The principal arguments against the proposal were

Loss of geographical convenience;

Loss, in some cases, of 24 hour key access;

Degradation of the relationship between academic and library staff.

Biological Sciences Library and Herston Medical Library suggest that the advantages will outweigh the disadvantages.

### Chemistry Library

Chemistry Department provided the library with a microprocessor so that the Librarian could search the Chemical Abstracts database. Development of demand has been slow, in part because the Librarian had not been trained to use the Registry file. There were also difficulties with the link to the Computer Centre through which communication is provided to the overseas database. Nevertheless the availability of the service has created interest inside and outside the University.

The survey of periodical use was an opportunity to review the collection and draw attention to the cost of some titles. Cancellation of one little-used title met half of the Library's \$6898 cancellation target.

### Engineering Library

Advantage was taken of the additional funding supplied by CTEC for the increase of 50 in the Engineering student quota to extend opening hours to four nights per week and Sunday. For this purpose the staff was increased by a half-time library assistant. Some of the funding was also used to strengthen the undergraduate collection, especially for the new Computer Systems Engineering stream.

Provision of a 1200bd VDU increased the efficiency of computer searching. The Engineering Librarian was the sole participant in Brisbane in a one-day workshop on searching patent files.

Both the Faculty and the Library have been attempting for some years to persuade the University to air-condition the Engineering Library. Conditions are particularly uncomfortable during the Long Vacation when the library remains quite busy serving academic and research staff and post-graduate students. As in other libraries, Long Vacation is also the time when many tasks are carried out for which there is no time during teaching semesters. While the new library building will be air-conditioned this relief is at least three years away and Engineering Library staff and users, like their counterparts in Geology, Mathematics, Physics and Electrical Engineering, must continue to work in temperatures which reach 35 to 40<sup>o</sup> during the summer.

### Geology Library

Although in several respects Geology is the smallest department in its Group the available figures have consistently demonstrated that Geology Library is very heavily used. In 1986 loans increased by 43% over 1985 to 15,219. Since 1979 the increase has been 107%

Statistics are not normally available for in-house use of materials. The periodicals use survey offered a rare opportunity to gain relevant information. There were more than 20,500 recorded uses of periodicals in the library during the ten month survey period. Geology was particularly reluctant to abandon subscriptions and some candidates for cancellation were transferred to other funding sources.

The Librarian has drawn attention to the increasing number of instances in which a floppy disk containing information accompanies the purchase of a book or periodical. The Library will be formulating policies to cover such acquisitions.

Geology Library holds the only large map collection in the University Library. During the year representatives of the Departments of Geography and Surveying, now jointly Geographical Sciences, approached the University Librarian to discuss the possibility of the Library taking responsibility for the departmental map collection. The only sensible course appears to be amalgamation with the map collection in Geology library but this would have substantial resource implications in staffing, equipment and accommodation. The matter had not been resolved at the end of the year.

In recent years third year Geology students from QIT have made considerable use of Geology Library. In order to reduce the time spent assisting them individually a special reader education session was arranged for them in 1986 at which 23 attended. It is proposed to make this an annual event.

### Mathematics Library

This library continues to be troubled by the temporary or permanent loss of books and periodicals. This is a difficult problem to solve in a library whose size does not warrant the expense of introducing an electronic theft detection system.

### Physics Library

In 1986 there was an increase in the number of Griffith University students using this library. This was apparently a consequence of their enrolment in two of the Department's courses. There was a small increase in loans. Demand is particularly high for first year material, presumably because the high price of books makes it even less attractive for students to buy their own.

During the year the department recommended that loans of periodicals should cease so that they would always be available in the library. This recommendation was accepted by the Library Committee. In 1987 Physics Library will join Chemistry Library in not lending periodicals. Recent periodicals are not lent from Biological Sciences Library and in other libraries particular titles are not for loan. Past discussions of a uniform procedure across the whole University Library have not won majority support in the Library Committee. Since the use of periodicals varies in different disciplines, the University Librarian has always taken the view that variation is usually justified where it meets the wishes of the major user group in a particular library.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

Devaluation has created a crisis in library funding. Over the past decade the University's income from government has ceased to grow and this has brought economies throughout the University. However the decline in the library's purchasing power had been gradual up to 1986; it had even been reversed in some years. The devaluation of the \$A transformed the decline into a landslide. Without a change in the balance of library expenditure or the injection of substantial additional funding, money for purchase of books would dry up completely.

In some of its activities the University has been able to compensate for reduced government support by more aggressively seeking alternative sources of funds, through the University Foundation and through UNIQUEST. Income from these sources, however, has been almost exclusively directed to support for research projects and post-graduate scholarships. This is in accordance with the prevailing view in the University that research is what distinguishes a good university.

Research does not take place in an information vacuum. More generous support for research teams and individual scholars will not be effective if the Library becomes unable to meet a reasonable proportion of the information needs of research from its own resources or to back up its own resources from those in other libraries. Yet this will be precisely the situation if the present round of cancellations both at this University and nationally are continued.

In estimates submitted to the Library Committee for the 1987 budget it was estimated that the Library would need \$3 million for current purchases in 1987 to return to the January 1985 level of library purchasing. The January 1985 level itself was, of course, a level at which the Library's intake of monographs had declined from 37,000 in 1977 to 27,000 in 1984 and was therefore by no means idealistic. In fact only \$2,715,000 is available in 1987.

The cancellation programmes in 1986 and 1987 have been intended to ensure that the Library can pay its bills; they are also an attempt to reduce the proportion of available funds spent on periodicals in an attempt to hold or reverse the decline in monograph purchases.

It seems unlikely that the University will be able to allocate a substantially higher amount to the Library from general funds. An alternative is for some portion of the funds obtained through UNIQUEST and the Foundation to be allocated to the Library for purchases in recognition that most of the Library's purchasing expenditure is to support research and post-graduate study. Purchasing for undergraduate courses consumes a comparatively smaller proportion of the Library's purchasing power.

An alternative would be for present library funds to be reapportioned between purchasing and operating costs. In 1985 the proportion of the Library's expenditure from general funds applied to operating costs at the five largest universities was as follows;

New South Wales	75.1%
Queensland	71.3%
Monash	71.3%
Sydney	70.0%
Melbourne	66.21%

By comparison with these other universities the Library at this University has unique features which add to operating costs. These are

a large external enrolment creating the need for a separate library, the Thatcher Memorial Library and seven Ringrose libraries at country centres;

division of the services to Social Sciences and Humanities between two buildings;

the Fryer Library which does not have a counterpart at the other universities and makes a substantial contribution to research in Australian Studies;

division of the medical library over three major teaching hospitals;

a substantial audio-visual service.

These peculiarities are reflected in the high expenditure on reader service salaries at this University. In 1985 expenditure at the five major universities on reader services and technical services (acquisitions and cataloguing) was as follows (in \$1,000s)

	<u>Reader Services</u>	<u>Technical Services</u>
Queensland	3,441	886
Sydney	2,777	1,781
New South Wales	2,821	1,721
Melbourne	2,009	1,318
Monash	2,366	1,037

Savings on salaries were increased by \$194,000 in 1986 in order to supplement the purchasing budget and this level of savings has been carried through to 1987 with a slight increase. It would be necessary to reallocate a further \$300,000 from operating costs to purchasing to attain even the modest original purchasing estimate for 1987. This could be done only through a very considerable reduction in services such as the closing of libraries at weekends and the discontinuation of some activities such as audio-visual services.

The fact is that the University of Queensland is attempting to support teaching and research over the widest spread of disciplines from general funds which are only 75% of those available to the University of Sydney, 83% of those at the University of New South Wales and 95% of those at the University of Melbourne. The Library is one of the few activities in the University in which the consequences of this inadequate funding base are readily apparent.

F.D.O.Fielding  
June 1987.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY STATISTICS 1984-1986

	1986	1985	1984
1. <u>Library Staff</u>			
Graduate Professional Staff	67	65	62 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
Non Graduates with professional qualifications	7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	7
Graduates without professional qualifications	9 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	15	14 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
Library Assistants	96 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	94 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	92 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
Technical Assistants	3	3	2
Administrative/Clerical	18 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	20 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	19 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Library Attendants	28	28	28
Others/Casual equivalent	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub></u>
TOTAL	236 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	240 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	233 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>

Distribution of Staff

Administration and Systems	10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	11	10
Technical Services	63 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	67 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	66
Reader Services (Central Library)	56 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	55 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	55 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
Reader Services (Branches)	105 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	106 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	102

2. Services

Items Lent			
Central Library	267,848	265,850	272,579
Branch Libraries $\emptyset$	678,742	640,623	613,105
Items Lent to libraries outside			
University	26,378*	27,493	27,197
Items Borrowed from libraries			
outside QU	13,122	14,127	13,996
On-line Information Searches Made	2,390	2,587	2,391
Reader Education Classes Held	185	195	284
Normal hours of opening per			
week (Central) during academic year	72	72	72

$\emptyset$  Includes all Reserve Collection lending whether extra-mural or not.  
(Total of 95,077 Reserve Collection loans in 1984, 108,959 in 1985 and 106,716 in 1986)

\* Includes 5,639 loans made by other Library Couriers.

	1986	1985	1984
3. <u>Acquisitions</u>			
<u>Books: ø</u>			
New titles by purchase	10,078	15,992	15,486
New titles by gift	2,833	2,389	3,519
Total volumes added	22,968	27,529	31,680
Total volumes deleted	6,720	4,471	11,063

ø includes music scores and UQ theses

Periodicals:

Total number of titles received	21,223	21,501	21,391
Number of non-duplicate titles received	17,301	17,556	17,450
Number of new titles received	527	557	589
Number of titles discontinued	911	546	507
Total bound volumes added	19,085	17,255	14,602
Total bound volumes deleted	1,992	3,874	2,756
Total bound volumes in library	1,342,112	1,308,771	1,272,570
Manuscript entries prepared	67	190	386
Manuscripts added	8 boxes 66 items	6 boxes 165 items	14 boxes 212 items

Microforms

New monograph titles added	814	119	229
New periodical titles added	18	7	12
Total titles held	7,309*	6,477	6,351

\* Represented by 48,663 reels, 368,677 fiche/cards

	1986	1985	1984
<u>Audio-Visual Materials</u>			
New titles added	448	1,020	601
Holdings - Audio recordings	23,834	23,267	22,386
Films	648	645	641
Film Strips	633	629	616
Maps (Pieces)	18,275	17,648	16,306
Microcomputer software			
(Floppy disks)	52	26	
Slide sets	1,026	997	950
Video tapes	2,345	2,290	1,985
Production - Audiotapes recorded	986	1,159	1,100
Film strips produced	1	10	28
Slide Sets produced	4	14	23
Videotapes recorded	992	961	1,038

Table 4. Expenditure on library materials.

	<u>1986</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1984</u>
<u>A. Books and backruns of periodicals.</u>			
Library Vote (Recurrent Grant)	586,892	644,542	581,596
Special Equipment Grant	159,160	123,208	83,713
Teaching Hosp.Rec. Grant	24,895	#	#
Hospital Boards*	10,382	27,235	11,857
Dept research funds	111,812	116,276	134,482
Dept Maintenance funds	4,913	10,474	26,142
Other Dept Funds.	8,330		
Bequests and donations	5,492	11,532	18,192
Other library funds	30,959	6,181	17,495
<u>Total</u>	<u>942,835</u>	<u>939,448</u>	<u>873,477</u>
<u>B. Subscriptions to periodicals.</u>			
Library Vote	1,964,166	1,759,347	1,240,548
Teaching Hosp.Rec.Grant	35,805	#	#
Hospital Boards*	114,192	128,736	62,746
Special Equipment Grant	24,398	17,250	Nil
Dept Research funds	12,783	11,381	19,716
Other Dept. funds	6,743	1,165	569
Bequests and donations	4,749	1,536	3,312
Other library funds	2,278	Nil	Nil
<u>Total</u>	<u>2,165,114</u>	<u>1,919,415</u>	<u>1,326,891</u>
<u>C. Audio-visual materials.</u>			
Library Vote	17,266	26,218	25,482
Special Equipment Grant	527	1,421	Nil
Dept. Research funds	131	7,701	2,291
Other Dept. funds	4,844	2,475	1,379
Bequests and donations	389	391	Nil
<u>Total</u>	<u>23,157</u>	<u>38,206</u>	<u>29,512</u>
<u>Notes.</u> # Divided between Library Vote and Hospital Board figures in 1985 and 1984.			
* Corrected for 1984 and 1985 to eliminate double counting of University contribution to joint Hospital Library expenditure. This is already included under Library Vote.			
<u>D. Expenditure on operating costs.</u>			
<u>Binding</u>			
from Library Vote	265,224	250,524	261,755
from Hospital Boards	12,530	10,534	7,875
<u>Total Binding</u>	<u>277,754</u>	<u>261,058</u>	<u>269,630</u>
<u>Running costs</u>			
from Library Vote	364,829	336,441	279,909
from Hospital Boards	8,982	10,111	2,305
from other funds	387,208	324,962	199,335
<u>Total Running Costs</u>	<u>761,019</u>	<u>671,514</u>	<u>481,549</u>
<u>Total operating costs</u>	<u>1,038,773</u>	<u>932,572</u>	<u>751,179</u>

E. <u>Equipment.</u>			
from Library Vote	185,395	85,926	112,296
from Hospital Boards	24,252	-	-
from other funds	-	12,565	2,288
<u>Total Equipment</u>	<u>209,647</u>	<u>98,491</u>	<u>114,584</u>

F. <u>Salaries and salary costs.</u>			
from Library Vote	5,381,236	5,164,000	4,911,000
from Hospital Boards	169,471	149,749	75,672
from other funds	188,780	115,408	79,663
<u>Total salaries and salary costs</u>	<u>5,739,487</u>	<u>5,429,157</u>	<u>5,066,335</u>

G. Summary of Library expenditure.

Library Materials	3,131,106	2,897,069	2,229,520
Operating costs	1,038,773	932,572	751,179
Equipment	209,647	98,491	114,584
Salaries and salary costs	5,739,487	5,429,157	5,066,335
<u>Total library expenditure</u>	<u>10,119,013</u>	<u>9,357,289</u>	<u>8,161,618</u>

H. Source of funds.

CTEC funds			
Recurrent	8,585,156	8,192,171	7,326,432
Research(URG and UC)	112,819	103,002	128,199
Equipment funds	369,480	227,805	196,009
Teaching Hospitals Recurrent Grant	60,700	#	#
Research funds(except UC andURG)	11,277	31,731	28,290
Hospital Boards	339,809	326,365	160,455
Other	639,772	476,215	322,233
<u>Total</u>	<u>10,119,013</u>	<u>9,357,289</u>	<u>8,161,618</u>

# Included in Recurrent.

Library expenditure from CTEC grants as a % of total University expenditure from CTEC grants

7.4%                      7.5%                      7.2%

Total Library expenditure as a proportion of total University expenditure

6.00%                      6.4%                      6.00%

Table 5. Expenditure on Library Materials

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Subscriptions</u>	<u>Books</u>	<u>A/V</u>	<u>Total</u>
Library books		586,892	17,266	604,158
Library periodicals	1,964,166			1,964,166
Teach.Hosp.Rec.G.	35,805	24,895		60,700
Hospital Boards	114,192	10,382		124,574
Special Equipment G.	24,398	159,160	527	184,085
Dept. Research funds	12,783	111,812	131	124,726
Dept. Maint.		4,913		4,913
Other Dept. funds	6,743	8,330	4,844	19,917
Bequests and Donations	4,749	5,492	389	10,630
Other library funds	2,278	30,959		33,237
<u>Total</u>	<u>2,165,114</u>	<u>942,835</u>	<u>23,157</u>	<u>3,131,106</u>

STATISTICS OF INDIVIDUAL LIBRARIES

	Approximate size in bound volumes	Periodicals currently received	General Loans within University	Reserve Collection Loans	Loans to Libraries Outside University
	1986 (1985)	1986 (1985)	1986 (1985)	1986 (1985)	1986 (1985)
Central Library (incl. Fryer Library and Audio- visual Services)	611,570 601,069	9,346 9,604	263,421 265,850	nil nil	6,729 6,686
<u>BRANCH LIBRARIES</u>					
Undergraduate	93,657	293	279,873	16,552	18,288
Arms	37,431	597	19,672	9,213	10,179
Biological Sciences	104,640	2,985	62,451	22,441	22,819
Chemistry	20,201	376	7,590	4,203	5,115
Dentistry	6,457	182	6,666	483	282
Engineering (incl. Elect Engineering)	56,450	2,274	32,867	14,366	11,080
Geology	29,283	1,076	9,419	5,804	5,207
H.M.L.	46,832	1,472	30,327	6,081	5,694
Law	47,944	575	10,271	17,556	21,293
Mater	7,418	211	10,176	1,223	1,770
Mathematics	19,736	422	9,191	6,290	4,844
Physics	17,750	491	4,677	709	819
P.A.H.	9,515	340	17,004	1,795	1,255
Thatcher <sup>1</sup>	122,533	75	70,091	0	0
Store A	93,139	0	1,608	0	0
Store B	5,226	0	143	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Includes 23,790 volumes and 39 periodicals currently received in Ringrose Collections.