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UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND  
LIBRARY

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ANNUAL  
REPORT  
of  
THE LIBRARIAN

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1962

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE JAMES FORSYTH LIBRARIAN

FOR 1962

## 1. GENERAL

This is the thirteenth and last annual report to be submitted by the present writer. His service as Librarian of the University of Queensland has thus covered almost exactly one quarter of the University's life and has exceeded by a wide margin that of any of his predecessors. Perhaps he may be granted the indulgence on the present occasion of surveying briefly the development of the Library over this period.

Such a review has only two objects; first, to pay tribute to the work over the years of a number of members of the Library staff and second, to emphasize how very much the Library still falls short of fulfilling its proper function in the University.

After thirteen years of concentrated effort the Library can fairly justly be said to be no longer either insignificant or wholly neglected. At the end of 1962 it was probably at last the kind of library that the small pre-World War II University really needed. It has still to achieve the size and quality required by a large modern University with a multiplicity of courses and an increasing emphasis on research.

In merely quantitative terms the Library has advanced clearly since 1949 from a position of marked inferiority to a level at which it can be reasonably compared with the University libraries of Adelaide and Melbourne. With a collection rapidly approaching 300,000 volumes it was larger in 1962 than any Australian University Library except Sydney had been at the end of 1949. By the same token, however, it was still far short of the half million mark which the Librarian had set as an immediate goal on his return from study leave in 1957; nor had it begun to approach the size regarded as minimal by any American University with a programme of teaching and research comparable to that of the University of Queensland.

It is much more difficult to make qualitative judgments, but it seems significant that although by 1962 the Library was receiving more separate current periodical titles than any other Australian University Library, it still featured very prominently as a borrowing library in the statistics of inter-library loans. A further indication of the care with which size measures must be treated is given by the chastening discovery that the 34,000 bound items added to the Library in 1962 included only 11,600 titles new to its collection.

## 2. STAFF

Emphasis has always been laid on staff in these annual reports. This has not been done lightly, since, although the matter may appear obvious, there seems need to repeat the truism that no library can be any better than its staff. It is a valid truism, despite the very real fact that University staff, if not students, should have postulated in them a degree of library competence, and a capacity for self-help, in excess of those normally to be expected from patrons of some other types of library.

Unfortunately the record of the University of Queensland shows that ever since the Senate has paid effective attention to the Library, its generosity has been much more satisfactorily stimulated towards funds for books than towards funds for staff. As the following table shows, there has been a dramatic enough increase in the total staff of the Library since 1949. The

table also demonstrates, however, that the Library's responsibilities have suffered a far greater proportional increase. The lack of matching between these two elements becomes quite startling when the staff available in any sense for processing is measured against commitments in this field.

TABLE A - LIBRARY STAFF

YEAR	TOTAL LIBRARY STAFF	PROCESSING STAFF	LIBRARY VOTE	BOUND ACCESSIONS
1949	11	9	5848	4808
1950	14	9	9668	5735
1951	15	10	14278	4991
1952	16	10	16743	7328
1953	19	12	18793	9271
1954	20	12	22105	9716
1955	26	12	22140	10064
1956	28	13	24406	13059
1957	30	14	26905	13437
1958	34	16	34919	17170
1959	38	17	48798	19106
1960	45	20	53320	24877
1961	55	23	57030	34672
1962	61	26	61008	34312

Once again, for 1962, the University was able to provide some extra staff for its Library, but as in previous years, not to the extent recommended by the Standing Committee of the Professorial Board and much more than proportionately less, by the same token than the number sought by the Librarian from the Standing Committee.

In all, including the bindery, a total increase of 6 was sanctioned by the Senate. The Librarian's estimate of the deficiency at the end of 1962 was 26.

It has been the Librarian's pleasure over the years to record in this Report the academic and professional qualifications achieved by members of the Library staff. In 1962 there was no exception to the noticeable trend in recent years towards a heightened interest by the staff in such qualifications. No less than 24 officers essayed one or more papers of the Library Association of Australia's Registration Certificate. They secured a total of 50 passes, including 13 merits, and it is notable that 30 of these passes, including 10 of the merits, were secured in intermediate or advanced level papers.

Miss J. Webb, B.A., Mr. S. Routh, B.A., and Miss M. Creighton completed the requirements for the Registration Certificate.

At the same time, 13 officers secured a total of 16 units towards the B.A. degree, 1 unit towards the B.Sc. degree and 6 units towards the Diploma in Physical Education. Of these units, 1 was obtained with High Distinction, 2 with Distinction and 8 with Credit.

Mrs. M. Fox completed the requirements for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts.

It is certainly noteworthy that the Library is now attracting to its staff young people who see in librarianship a career and not merely a pleasant and remunerative interlude before the undertaking of family responsibilities.

Finally, the Committee should certainly be aware of its debt to senior members of staff in particular who have worked cheerfully and conscientiously over the years under increasingly appalling conditions.

There was at least the usual number of staff changes during the year and the more important of these are listed in appendix A.

### 3. ACQUISITIONS

Librarians are particularly adept at having their cake and eating it or rather at not having it and still managing considerable feats of digestion. It is quite proper then, while pointing to the insufficient size of the Library staff, to emphasize also the very considerable increase in output per member which has taken place over the years. Table A indicates this trend. It will be seen that the 1949 output rate, which one assumes was regarded as satisfactory, would have required a processing staff just two and a half times that actually provided to achieve the results listed for 1962. It is not without significance that 1962 shows at last a slight tailing off in unit output. There are limits to what can be extracted even from the most willing and conscientious staff.

The total number of bound volumes processed during the year was 34,412 as compared with 34,672 in 1961, but since fewer withdrawals from stock were made, the net gain of 33,970 slightly exceeded the 33,793 achieved in 1961.

New cataloguing of books, however, decreased sharply from 24,458 to 20,648, the balance of acquisitions being made up by the processing of arrears and by an increase of almost 2,000 volumes in the output of the bindery.

The decrease in new cataloguing did not reflect a falling-off of output, as will be seen later, but merely an effective reduction in the purchasing power of the Library vote. The Librarian urges that the Committee consider very seriously the implications of this fact.

In a year when the University of Queensland continued to expand, when the number of students again maintained its anticipated rate of increase, and when the spheres of teaching and research were both enlarged, the Library was able to buy less books than the previous year, and this at a time when more were being produced than ever before.

Since 1959, in which year the Library vote appeared to be the largest of any Australian university, the non-salary provision for the Library has diminished alarmingly, on a relative basis. It is important to note, moreover, that members of the Committee may not have realized that the Library vote, so-called, in Queensland has had to bear charges which in other universities are borne by non-Library funds. Thus, a Library vote of £61,008 in Queensland in 1962, even though overspent to give a total of £65,612, yielded no more than a total of £56,867 for books and periodicals, or approximately 50% of that provided for the University of New South Wales. In 1963, to anticipate, the position will be similar, Queensland providing, in effect, no more than £58,000 as opposed to £103,000 in the University of Sydney.

Since the removal some years ago of any provision for the carrying forward of unexpended credits, it has been found essential to over-commit the vote by a substantial portion in any one year, in order to equate actual expenditure with the funds provided. In previous years this over-commitment, or delayed delivery, has been carried by increases in the subsequent year's vote. In 1962, however, there was experienced the cumulative effect of three years operations over which no increase in purchasing power had been achieved.

As a result, no less than fifteen Departments had to be restrained from lodging any further orders in 1962 after 31st March. In effect, no books

were purchased on behalf of any of the disciplines covered by those Departments in 1962. It seems quite necessary to emphasize that the provision made for the purchase of books and periodicals is quite inadequate for the most rapidly growing University in Australia.

#### 4. CATALOGUING

As noted earlier, the burden of new cataloguing was relieved considerably, though most unfortunately, in 1962 by the complete exhaustion of funds. The true work output of the Department, however, is revealed by the following table:

<u>TABLE B - CATALOGUING OUTPUT 1962</u>	
NEW CATALOGUING	20448
RECATALOGUING	7021
NEW PERIODICAL TITLES	2912
UNCLASSIFIED RESERVE	4616
TOTAL	<u>34997</u> items

As a result of these efforts, the cataloguing arrears were fully overcome and, as at 31st December, 1962, there were no items awaiting cataloguing.

The Librarian cannot help taking great pleasure in recording that in this respect at least he leaves a clear sheet for his successor. He could only wish that this result could have been achieved by somewhat less drastic measures than cutting off the supply of new books to the Library.

The major portion of the re-cataloguing figures comprised the reprocessing of the Darnell Pacific Institute collection which was integrated in the general bookstock, its identity being preserved by the inclusion in each volume of a special bookplate.

The gradual reduction of the number of special classifications and parallel orders in the Library's collection is designed to increase its usability. It was perhaps the only good result of a year of starvation as far as new books were concerned, that the Darnell Pacific collection could be reprocessed, since it is heavily used and its home-made classification has been a source of great confusion to staff and students alike.

#### 5. LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

The Library continued in 1962 its support of the Library Association of Australia. Miss E. M. Waugh, B.A., the Central Medical librarian, served as President of the Queensland Branch and Mr. S. Routh, B.A., Reference librarian, as Secretary.

The Librarian was elected Representative Councillor to the General Council of the Association. He was also elected to the Board of Examination, ( ) Certification and Registration of Librarians.

The Librarian represented the University at the Annual Meeting of the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services in Canbarra in August and attended meetings at the same time, in Sydney, of the Association's General Council and the Board of Examination. Together with Miss McDougall, the Acting Deputy librarian, and Miss Paterson, the Acquisitons librarian, he also participated in a weekend study conference conducted by the A.C.T. Branch of the Association.

Miss McDougall and the Librarian both acted as examiners for the Association's examinations.

## 6. LIBRARY TRAINING

Following the suggestion made by the Librarian in his report for 1961, the Library Committee appointed a sub-committee to consider the implications of introducing University courses in librarianship. The sub-committee's report, which advocated the establishment in the first instance of a post-graduate diploma course, was approved by the Committee for submission to the Senate. At the Committee's suggestion, the Senate referred this proposal to the Professorial Board and the matter rests at present with the Standing Committee of the Board to consider in conjunction with other requests for the introduction of new courses.

## 7. DEPARTMENT LIBRARIES

A further development of the temporary plan for library services for Engineering took place in 1962, when a headquarters library for the Faculty was established at St. Lucia in space made available within the Faculty offices. This library houses in addition the Civil Engineering material previously moved separately to St. Lucia. Unfortunately it was not possible to include the Electrical Engineering collections so that Engineering is served at present by two libraries at St. Lucia and one at George Street.

The accommodation of the Geology library is now badly overcrowded and plans were submitted in 1962 for the installation of a gallery.

A gallery was constructed in the Law library, providing for much needed extra shelving and making possible a small but very welcome increase in seating.

A re-arrangement of the Chemistry library, the provision of periodical display racks, and the taking over of an adjacent room for overflow reading, greatly improved in 1962 the efficiency of this Departmental library.

## 8. MAIN LIBRARY EXTENSIONS

Detailed layout plans were completed during the year, on the assumption that the extensions envisaged in the Annual Report for 1961 would form part of the University's building programme for the triennium 1964-66.

Extensive discussions have been held already with the University Architect and detailed schedules of furniture and equipment prepared.

The Australian Universities Commission visited the Library briefly on one occasion in 1962 and questioned the Librarian closely on his personal preference as between extending the existing building and starting afresh. In this connection, the Librarian would like to repeat to the Committee what he said to the Commission, namely that the decision to extend was a University decision taken presumably only after careful consideration of the matter. The Librarian's own assessment of this situation was conveyed to the Vice-Chancellor by letter on several occasions and the arguments on either side are laid out in an article which he contributed to The Australian Library Journal (vol. 11, no.4).

One point which the Committee should note carefully is that these extensions have been proposed by the University on the clear understanding that they do not offer a final solution to the problem of library accommodation. It is most important that the incoming Librarian should consider at the earliest possible date the desirable pattern of future expansion once the extended building is occupied. Without attempting to prejudge the issue it is clear that thought must be given seriously to the possibility of transferring particular functions of the Library to an auxiliary building or buildings.

## 9. THE DEPUTY LIBRARIAN

The Deputy Librarian, Mr. D. B. Scott B.A., was selected by UNESCO during 1962 for appointment as technical adviser to the Turkish government on the development of the library of the State Planning Organization. The Committee resolved to congratulate Mr. Scott on this distinction, which is held rightly to reflect credit not only on Mr. Scott but, through him on the Library and the University.

Mr. Scott took up his new post on 1st June, being granted special leave by the Senate for one year for this purpose.

Miss B. McDougall, B.A., who has had a distinguished record as Head Cataloguer, was appointed Acting Deputy Librarian and Miss S. Gunn, Acting Head Cataloguer.

## 10. UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF TOWNSVILLE LIBRARY

The resignation of Miss Carroll from the position of University College of Townsville librarian posed once again the problem of securing a competent and qualified successor at the relatively small salary which had been approved for this position.

As an interim measure, Miss H. F. Paterson, B.Ec., Acquisitions librarian, volunteered to go to Townsville until a permanent replacement for Miss Carroll could be effected. As the Librarian confidently expected, in view of Miss Paterson's success as Acquisitions librarian, she was immensely successful in Townsville in the face of considerable difficulties, both in maintaining the standard of service set by Miss Carroll and in establishing very satisfactory relationships between the library and the remainder of the college.

Miss J. A. L. North, B.A., the replacement for Miss Carroll, has been faced with considerable difficulties, particularly due to overcrowding. This will be relieved temporarily by the opening of the new wing in 1963, but, as with the Main Library extension, this will be no more than a palliative and a separate, properly designed library building must be given high priority on the College site.

During the year the Senate approved the upgrading of the Townsville librarianship by the creation of a position at Lecturer status. At the same time, the Standing Committee of the Board had recommended the appointment of an additional professional member of staff to assist Miss North.

The Librarian suggested, in the course of negotiations, that, since it seemed that the budget would allow of only one of these extra positions, the highest priority should be given to the upgraded librarianship.

He urges that this position be implemented without delay, that Miss North be considered an automatic applicant, though not an automatic appointee, and that if she is unsuccessful she be retained at her present salary as Deputy College librarian. This proposal has the support of the College Warden. It seems clear that no single factor could be more important to the proper development of the College library than the appointment of a librarian at a much more appropriate level of academic equation than at present.

## 11. CONCLUSION

It is not without regret that the Librarian concludes his final report to the Committee. There is much pleasure to be gained from assisting at an exciting period in the development of a library and a University and friendships and associations firmly made over nearly fifteen years are not lightly broken.

The Librarian would like to express his view that no single factor in the proper development of the University of Queensland is more important than the continued improvement of the Library. There has never been a great University without a great Library, but instances can be cited of otherwise outstanding institutions reduced, inevitably, to mediocrity by failing to provide adequately for the accomodation, maintenance, and staffing of the Library as a basic central feature in their development.

It would be improper for the Librarian to conclude this document without expressing his real appreciation of the support given the Library over the years by the Senate and particularly by the members of the Library Committee. He is certain that this support will be strengthened and made even more effective as the University grows.

12. STATISTICS1. Summary of Expenditure on Library Vote.

	1961		1962	
	£	£	£	£
Payments for the year were:				
Books	33,414		35,119	
Periodicals	16,132		19,738	
Binding	112		24	
Sundries	8,788		10,731	
Total payments		58,446		65,612
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Against which receipts were:				
Library vote		57,030		61,008
Resulting in a balance of:		<u>Dr.£ 1,416</u>		<u>Dr.£ 4,604</u>
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2. Accessions

	1961		1962	
<u>Books</u>				
Purchased	21,950		16,484	
Donated	2,508		4,164	
Unclassified reserve	1,623		4,616	
Total		26,081		25,264
<u>Periodicals</u>				
Purchased	7,822		8,882	
Donated	769		266	
Total		8,591		9,148
		<hr/>		<hr/>
TOTAL		34,672		34,412
Less withdrawn		<u>879</u>		<u>442</u>
Net increase		<u>33,793</u>		<u>33,970</u>
		<hr/>		<hr/>

3. <u>Total Bookstock</u>	<u>31.12.61</u>	<u>31.12.62</u>
	255,791	289,761

4. Staff

	1961	1962
Librarian	1	1
Deputy Librarian	1	1
<u>Main Library:</u>		
Sub-Librarians:		
Head cataloguer	1	1
Acquisitions Librarian	1	1
Reference Librarian	-	1
Serials Librarian	1	1
Assistant Librarians:		
Reference Librarian	1	-
Cataloguers	4.5	5.5
Graduate Library Assistants:		
Library assistants	3	3
Library clerks	13	16
Male clerks	3	3
Total	— 35.5	— 40.5
<u>Departmental Libraries:</u>		
Assistant Librarians	4	4
Graduate Library Assistants	-	2
Senior Library Assistant	-	1
Library Assistants	5	3
Library Clerks	11	10
Total	— 20	— 20
<u>Bindery:</u>		
Binders	3	4
Table hands	2	2
Apprentice bookbinder	1	-
Total	— 6	— 6
TOTAL	61.5	66.5

APPENDIX A.

Summary of main personnel changes in 1962.

Deputy Librarian:

Mr. D.B. Scott, B.A. was granted special leave by the Senate for one year to take up a position as technical adviser to the Turkish government on the development of the library of the State Planning Organization.

Miss Betty McDougall B.A. was appointed Acting Deputy Librarian.

Sub-Librarians:

Miss E. Carroll, B.A. resigned as Librarian, University College of Townsville, in order to take a position in the Baillieu Library, Melbourne, and was replaced as Librarian, University College of Townsville, by Miss J. North, B.A.

Miss S. B. Gunn was appointed Acting Head Cataloguer.

Mr. Spencer Routh, B.A., Reference Librarian, Reader Services, was given the status of Sub-librarian.

Assistant Librarians:New appointments:

Mrs. J. Merrell, as an Acting Cataloguer. To fill this new vacancy Mrs. Merrell was upgraded from the position of Librarian of the Fryer Memorial Library of Australian Literature. Mrs. Merrell later resigned.

Replacements:

Mrs. L.E. Beckmann, B. Comm. replaced Mrs. N. Bonnin B.A. in a half-time position in the Cataloguing Department.

Miss A. M. Copeland, B.A., A.L.A., was upgraded from the position of Graduate Library Assistant to replace in a temporary capacity Miss S. B. Gunn.

Miss M. R. McCarthy, Dip. Phys. A.L.A., was upgraded from the position of Graduate Library Assistant to Cataloguer to replace Mrs. J. Merrell.

Miss D. M. Nelson, B.A., was upgraded from the position of Graduate Library Assistant to an Acting Cataloguer to replace Miss A.J. Doig, B.A.

Miss W. O'Leary was upgraded from the position of Library Assistant to an Acting Cataloguer to replace Mrs. J. Musgrave, B.A.

Resignations:

Mrs. N. Bonnin, B.A., from a half-time position in the Cataloguing Department.

Miss A. J. Doig, B.A. from the Cataloguing Department to take up an appointment as Acting Head of the Circulation Department at the University of Oregon.

Mesdames J. Merrell and J. Musgrave, B.A., from the Cataloguing Department.

Senior Library Assistant:

Miss V.C. Hall was upgraded from the position of Library Clerk in the Thatcher Memorial Library to the position of Senior Library Assistant.

Graduate Library Assistants:New appointments:

Miss E. N. Chiang, B.A. was upgraded from a position as Library Clerk in the Reader Services Department to Graduate Library Assistant to fill a new position created in the Reader Services Department.

Upgraded position:

Miss W. M. Brady B.A. was upgraded from the position of Library Assistant to that of Graduate Library Assistant at the Biological Sciences Library.

Replacements:

Miss B. M. Brennan B.A. was upgraded from the position of Library Assistant at the Biological Sciences Library and replaced Miss D. Sullivan B.A. as Librarian of the Fryer Memorial Library of Australian Literature.

Miss A. M. Copeland B.A., A.L.A. replaced in the Cataloguing Department Miss M. R. McCarthy, Dip. Phys. A.L.A.

Mrs. S. M. Duskin, B.A. (Iowa) replaced in the Reader Services Department Miss E. Harrington, B.A.

Miss J. D. Graham, B.A. replaced in the Cataloguing Department Miss D. M. Nelson, B.A.

Miss D. Hoare replaced as a Library Assistant Miss J. D. Graham, Graduate Library Assistant in the Cataloguing Department. Upon completion of her B.A. degree Miss Hoare was made a Graduate Library Assistant in the Cataloguing Department.

Miss M. R. McCarthy, Dip. Phys. A.L.A., replaced in the Cataloguing Department Miss D. Sullivan, B.A.

Miss P.M. J. Moore, B.A., Dip. Ed, replaced in the Serials Department Miss J. Munro, B.A.

Transfers:

Miss E. Harrington, B.A. from the Reader Services Department to the Acquisitions Department.

Miss J. Knox, B.A. from the Acquisitions Department to the Cataloguing Department.

Miss D. Sullivan, B.A. from the Cataloguing Department to the position of Librarian of the Fryer Memorial Library of Australian Literature.

Resignations:

Miss J. D. Graham B.A. from the Cataloguing Department to take up a Research Fellowship in the English Department.

Miss J. Munro, B.A. from the Serials Department, to take up a Research Fellowship in the Department of Education.

Miss Denise Sullivan, B.A. from the position of Librarian of the Fryer Memorial Library of Australian Literature to take up a position in the Baillieu Library, Melbourne.

Library Assistants:Replacements:

Mrs. M. H. Abey, B.A. replaced Miss J. A. Smith in the Cataloguing Department.

Mrs. A. McCreath, B.A. replaced Miss J. Ferry as Dentistry Librarian.

Miss J. A. Smith was upgraded from the position of Library Clerk in the Acquisitions Department to replace Miss Wendy O'Leary in the Cataloguing Department.

Transfers:

Miss V. A. Birt from the Cataloguing Department to become Geology Librarian.

Miss J. Ferry from the position of Dentistry Librarian (after a period of absence due to ill-health) to Education Methods Librarian.

Miss J. A. Smith from the Cataloguing Department to become Physiology Librarian.

Resignations:

Miss J. Ferry, from the position of Education Methods Librarian.

Miss M. Proud, from the position of Geology Librarian, to take up a position in the City of Sydney Library.

Mrs. B. Pryce from the position of Physiology Librarian.

Library clerks:New appointments:

Miss L. N. Fawdon to the Reader Services Department. (Transferred later to the Cataloguing Department).

Miss C. J. Jennings to the Reader Services Department.

Miss B. Thiele to the Acquisitions Department. (Transferred later to the Reader Services Department to replace Miss R. Gilbertson).

Temporary clerk made permanent:

Miss J. M. Nix, of the Thatcher Memorial Library.

Replacements:

Miss R. Gilbertson replaced Miss T. McCormack in the Reader Services Department. (Transferred later to the Serials Department to replace Miss S. L. Veitch).

Miss C. F. M. Hance replaced Miss J. A. Smith in the Acquisitions Department.

Miss B. M. West replaced Miss R. Chau Shun Wah in the Cataloguing Department.

Miss J. C. Witte replaced Miss J. Whelan in the Acquisitions Department.

Library clerks: (contd.)Transfers:

Miss K. O'Keeffe from the Serials Department to the Engineering Library.

Miss F. Schiller from the Engineering Library to the Serials Department.

Miss S. L. Veitch from the Serials Department to the Acquisitions Department.

Miss J. C. Witte from the Acquisitions Department to become Education Methods Librarian.

Resignations:

Miss R. Chau Shun Wah, who resigned on marriage

Misses T. McCormack and J. Wholan, who resigned to become full-time students.

Male clerk:Temporary clerk made permanent:

Mr. G. J. Fleet of the Serials Department.