



THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND LIBRARY
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1964

Introduction

The year 1964 saw some encouraging signs of improvement over 1963, but it is too early to tell if the Library is on the verge of a period of rapid expansion and improvement that is essential before it can make its proper contribution to the University and the community.

Last year's annual report gave some indication of the problems facing this Library and at the same time attempted to measure the 1963 performance against basic requirements.

It would be tempting to look at the noticeable improvements of 1964 over 1963 and mislead the Senate and the University as a whole into a false sense of achievement. The truth of the matter is that collecting materials and organizing library service for a university of this size is a task of magnitude. Beyond that, the neglect of a couple of generations is not overcome in a couple of years; and, set in its proper context, the year 1964, although better than 1963, cannot be taken as symbolizing the launching of reforms necessary to ensure a future University of Queensland Library of stature.

Resources

1. Total acquisitions

During 1964 40,392 volumes were added to the Library. Most of these were purchased but 4,414 volumes were received by way of gift or exchanges. Only 11,511 titles were not duplicating titles already held.

2. Acquisitions with special reference to purchased items

For the first time since 1961 the Library's purchasing power rose, and it rose fairly significantly, but it is important to note how the money was spent. When the year began funds allocated to the Library were such that the fall in purchasing power in evidence since 1961 would continue. Early in the year, just under £9,000 of the special research grant recommended by the Australian Universities Commission was earmarked for library buying. In June extra funds were supplied by the Senate but most of it was spent on duplicating material already held by the Library.

There has been a pressing demand for multiple copies of very heavily used books and about £11,000 was spent on these in 1964. It is anticipated that a similar amount will be outlaid for multiple copies in 1965. Duplication of a good deal of material was also undertaken to establish small working collections in newly established departments, notably Psychological Medicine, the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Unit at the Brisbane Women's Intermediate Hospital and the Medical Professorial Unit at Princess Alexandra Hospital.

Although some duplication of the kind mentioned above was necessary, it should be repeated that the division of the Library's collections into so many departmental units undoubtedly means greater duplication of stock than would be necessary if the collection were in larger units.

It is worrying to notice that although more volumes were added to the Library than in any previous year, the number of new titles added was still fewer than the figure for 1962 and only very slightly above the 1963 level.

The urgent need to step up expansion of the Library's resources was discussed in last year's report at some length. But if, in future years, purchasing power stays roughly at the 1964 level, and the library's organization remains the same, then there cannot be a significant rise in the rate of new title acquisitions.

Theoretically there are two ways of raising the proportion of new titles added to the collection:

One is to reduce unnecessary duplication and this could be achieved only by consolidating department libraries into branch libraries. Such a policy would have other beneficial effects too such as cheaper accommodation, more economical division of labour among library staff and the advantage of having wider ranges of material available to students and staff in fewer places than at present.

But implementing such a policy is a long term project, and the University has made a start in this direction already. Even if this work of amalgamating small collections was speeded up, it is unlikely that the ensuing fall in duplication would mean a significant rise in new title acquisitions. In short, although this work ought to go forward for many good reasons, including lowering duplication, it will not solve the Library's budgetary problems.

It is only through greatly expanding budgets that difficulties will be overcome eventually. For the first fifty years of its existence this University Library has had grossly insufficient funds, and the longer this situation persists the more difficult it becomes to make good past deficiencies.

In a State that has never been noted for the quality of its public library services, where school libraries are not regarded as necessary, where public ignorance on library matters is matched by official apathy, the University has a special responsibility to set an example, and to educate politicians, civil servants and the general public in the functions and value of libraries which are essential to the balanced development of this State.

Budget proposals for 1965

As is now usual the budget for the coming calendar year was considered from June onwards by the Library Committee, the Senate and the Finance Committee. Once again a proposed budget based on real and urgent needs was drawn up, but had little hope of being accepted in the middle of an A.U.C. triennium. Instead, although sympathy was expressed in many quarters for the Library's case, the average anticipated rise in University expenditure was applied to the Library based on the 1964 budget. The result was that a total approved expenditure of £231,000 was approved which can be measured against the Library Committee's recommendation of £330,888.

It also became clear towards the end of the year that virtually no funds would be forthcoming out of the special A.U.C. research grant for 1965. As noted earlier, in 1964 almost £9,000 had been allocated to buying library materials.

The book buying vote for 1965 was set at £100,586 and this meant that the total expenditure on books, serials etc. in 1965 would be about the same as in 1964, unless some additional funds were unexpectedly forthcoming.

Significant acquisitions in 1964

Library service to students in the social sciences and the humanities was much improved by the first large scale acquisition of multiple copies of heavily used material. It was estimated during the year that something over £100,000 would be necessary to equip the Library immediately with an adequate supply of multiple copies for use in all courses, and although such expenditure was impossible, a good start was made with about £11,000. Much care was taken over the choice of titles and the number of copies bought, full use being made of experience obtained in the daily operations of the Reader Services Department. It is planned to continue and expand this policy on multiple copies in 1965.

There is some danger associated with this whole matter. The need for multiple copies is an obvious one. It is relatively easy to measure requirements and to purchase appropriate stocks. In addition there is a clamorous demand from a very large number of students. It would be all too easy to divert more and more funds towards buying this material at the expense of deepening the Library's total resources.

Some of the most important purchases made during the year were in the fields of government documents and bibliography. The Library has begun to receive complete sets from 1962/3 onwards of the United States government documents (in microform) and of the British parliamentary papers. In addition a microcard edition of the complete nineteenth century British parliamentary papers was obtained.

The most important single bibliography bought was the CATALOGUE GÉNÉRAL DES LIVRES IMPRIMÉS of the BIBLIOTHEQUE NATIONAL in Paris, and other valuable items were the RESEARCH CATALOGUE OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, the LIBRARY CATALOGUE OF THE SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL AND AFRICAN STUDIES at London University, and the INDIA OFFICE LIBRARY CATALOGUE OF EUROPEAN PRINTED BOOKS. Further bibliographies: Avery Index to architectural periodicals (Columbia University - Avery Architectural Library), Great Britain Public Record Office, List and indexes, 1893 and later, Great Britain, Public Record Office, Calendar of state papers, Colonial series 1860-1933., M.E. Cosenza: Society Biographical and bibliographical dictionary of the Italian humanists. Of the following periodicals important back issues were obtained: Studies in philology (1906-1952), Poetry (1919-1955), Review of English studies (1932-1949), Anglia (1878-1912), Annals and magazine of natural history (1888-1957).

3. Acquisitions with special reference to donations

There was a rise in the number of donations received in 1964 over the 1963 level, but they represented about the same proportion of the total acquisitions. In 1964 donations were 12.8 per cent of the Library's intake, and in 1963 12.2 per cent.

Particularly valuable gifts of books were made by:

Mr. E. Bowker, formerly University of Queensland, now at the University of Southampton.

The late Mr. A.E. Brooks of Brisbane.

Mr. A. Denat, formerly of the University of Queensland and now at Melbourne University.

The Government of India (through the kind offices of His Excellency Shri B.K. Massand, High Commissioner for India in Australia).

The Government of Italy (through the kind offices of Dr. F. Olivieri Italian Consul in Brisbane).

Mrs. S. Kyle, Corinda (widow of the late Professor W.M. Kyle).

Dr. K. McWatters, formerly of the University of Queensland, now at Leicester University.

The Newman Society, Brisbane.

Mr. S.J. Routh, Reader Services Librarian, University of Queensland.
Professor Sir Fred Schonell, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Queensland.

The Government of Switzerland (through His Excellency M. Frederic Gygax, the Ambassador for Switzerland in Australia).

The Government of the United Kingdom (through the British Information Service).

Money donations were again negligible, the only significant amount being given by Mount Isa Mines Ltd. Useful small contributions were made by some graduates and by local learned societies.

As reported last year, it is likely that an active programme for encouraging donations might gain support and would also spread a greater awareness of the central role to be played by the Library in the work of the University. It would seem advisable for the new Librarian to set about establishing a "Friends of the Library" movement soon after he is appointed, and as soon as the Main Library becomes a more attractive place to visit.

S t a f f

Equal in importance to the quality of a library's resources is the quality of its staff, and the best use of limited resources can only be made if they are organized and administered by a staff of sufficient numbers and with appropriate training. Brief accounts follow on the work of the staff in processing and in reader services during 1964.

1. Processing

(a) General

1964 was by far the heaviest year ever faced by the processing departments but the year ended without any lag in current processing at all, and some ground was made in long standing jobs from the past. There was little change in the organization of the processing departments, the same efforts as in previous years being devoted to the most economical division of labour possible and in keeping with the qualifications and experience of each member of the staff.

(b) Acquisitions Department

The number of orders put through bibliographical and catalogue checking rose sharply from 14,536 to 19,113 in 1964. The Library's contacts with suppliers all over the world were further extended in keeping with its policy of trying to get the quickest, least expensive and most reliable service available.

28,049 volumes were accessioned by this Department, a rise of 10,609 over 1963. Detailed records were kept of 162 different accounts, (44 more than in 1963) operated on by the various departments of the university spending a total of £121,312.

(c) Serials Department

The number of serial titles taken regularly by the Library rose to 14,530 but it is now two and half years since a reading of all titles was made to subtract those that are no longer arriving regularly. The real figure is likely to be somewhere between 13,000 and 14,000. The many thousands of individual parts of these titles were recorded without delay by the Serials Department, and distributed to their various locations throughout the whole library

system. A continuous check was kept on parts not received and a very extensive correspondence with publishers, agents and other suppliers was maintained.

The Library maintains exchange arrangements with over 1342* institutions, societies, government and other bodies all over the world. As in earlier years it is necessary to point out again that because of the small volume of material published by this University and made available for exchange, the Library received far more material than it sent out. This has led to understandable pique on the part of many of our exchange partners, and to a slow but certain contraction of the quantity and quality of publications received.

There is no indication of this University changing its publication policy, however, and the consequences for the Library in the immediate future must be an increasing burden on buying funds to continue serials no longer available to us on exchange, and a further decline in the whole value of our exchange arrangements.

The Serials Department continued to supervise the despatch and receipt of binding to be done by the University Bindery and by commercial binders. The binding situation remained serious with the intake of material needing binding far exceeding the Bindery's output capacity. In addition there remains a substantial backlog from earlier years.

In 1964 the bindery produced only 10,852 volumes when the intake of material needing binding rose to over 15,000 volumes. Repeated assurances that the University Bindery's output would be raised have come to nothing, and proposals put forward by the Acting Librarian in 1963 and 1964 that the backlog should be let out to private contractors were rejected. In the meantime losses of serials parts, deterioration of heavily used books and otherwise unnecessary staff time in maintaining masses of unbound material are all wasting money and causing increasing inconvenience to the Library's readers.

(d) Cataloguing Department

This department catalogued and classified 37,880 items in 1964 as against 26,795 items in the previous year. It produced nearly half a million catalogue cards for filing under authors, subjects and titles in the main catalogue and its associated shelf lists and authority files, and in the catalogues in the branch, department and other libraries.

The Department also prepared copies of cards for insertion in the national union catalogues of serials and of monographs in the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization and in the National Library of Australia respectively.

In the case of a number of small departmental libraries where there are no library staff employed, departmental secretaries have been given some elementary training in catalogue maintenance by the Cataloguing Department.

At the end of 1964 steps were taken to introduce improved methods of catalogue card reproduction. Three electric proportional spacing typewriters were bought so that the quality of the master copies could be improved and at the same time all information recorded on one side of the master card instead of using the reverse side as is necessary with conventional typewriters. At the end of the year experiments in the use of offset lithographic presses and with xerographic copiers were still proceeding in order to find some more satisfactory type of duplication than the present hectographic machine is able to produce.

*(Figure at October 1965)

(e) Reader Services

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(i) Circulation work

Loan figures (excluding inter-library loans) went up by 32 per cent on the 1963 figures and the sharpest increase was in loans from the Main Library. At the end of the year there was every indication that loan figures would continue to rise quickly in 1965. No single factor can explain the increased borrowings that are far higher proportionally than the increases in student numbers.

An emergency grant in mid-year enabled the Library to buy multiple copies of heavily used material in much larger quantities than has ever been possible before.

Another factor was that every effort was made to ensure a rapid return of student loans so that the turnover rate for material in heavy demand could be as quick as possible. This policy had been stepped up in 1963, but it was only in 1964 that students became more accustomed to the harder line on borrowing regulations.

A further point, although a minor one as far as borrowing increases were concerned, is nevertheless one of the most important ones when viewed in a broader context. In 1964 there was, as there has been in recent years, more and more emphasis placed on wider undergraduate reading by the teaching staff. It is of more than passing significance that this stress on wider reading is one of the things that makes transition from school to university difficult in this State. Although the set text book approach to teaching in the University is weakening, it is still strong in our schools and is one of the reasons why school libraries have not been regarded as necessities and have therefore not developed to any marked degree.

(ii) Inter-library loans

These continued at a high level in 1964 when almost 5,000 items were borrowed by this Library from other libraries and just under 3,500 items were lent to other libraries. A break-down of these figures shows that not only does the Library borrow nearly twice as many items from outside Brisbane (mostly interstate and overseas) than it lends outside Brisbane, but also within the city it borrows more than it lends from other libraries.

It is indicative of the weakness of this University's library resources that 13 per cent of all staff loans come from other libraries. The percentage would be much higher if the staff were not inhibited by the high cost and inconvenience of getting inter-library loans.

While no library can ever hope to be self-sufficient there is a lesson to be drawn from these figures, especially in view of the University's policy to try and enlarge its research and post-graduate activities which will make very heavy demands on the Library.

(iii) Reference work and other assistance to readers

These activities, involving answering enquiries for specific information and helping students and staff to make the best use of the Library's resources, are carried on not only by the Reader Services Department of the Main Library, but also by library staff who are in charge of the various branch and departmental libraries. This aspect of the Library's activities is as yet insufficiently developed and there is a pressing need for more and better qualified staff in this area. In addition the division of the collection into departmental units for which well qualified staff cannot be afforded results in greater difficulty for the Library in providing good quality reader services.

During 1964 the Reader Services Department of the Main Library in particular carried a very heavy burden, and all staff gave to the limit of their time and ability in handling thousands of enquiries, in lecturing to groups of students, and in giving individual attention to the library use problems of students and academic staff.

(iv) Opening hours

For the second year in succession the Main Library was able to extend its opening hours to include Saturday afternoons and Sundays and the Library is now open from 8.30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays. The additional service was much appreciated by students and staff, and weekend attendances were very heavy.

There was little change in the opening hours of branch and departmental libraries and, as reported last year, within the context of the existing pattern of library service in this university, the only way to arrange for greater availability of the whole collection is to increase staff numbers.

General staff matters

Reference should be made to this section of the 1963 report where comments on staff numbers and training and on the important aspects of library service which cannot receive attention with the existing establishment apply with equal force to the position in 1964.

Particular mention should be made of staff unrest caused by the continued and growing disparity between salaries in this Library and those paid in the other Australian university libraries, especially among the senior positions.

Accommodation

Major extensions to the Main Library involving the construction of five new floors began early in 1964 and proceeded more or less on schedule. The extensions should be ready for occupation by the end of 1965.

New accommodation was provided for the Mathematics Library, the Physiology/Biochemistry Library and for the Education Methods Library. Small extensions were made to the Geology Library, the Veterinary School Library and the Physics Library.

Construction continued on buildings to contain two major branch libraries, namely the Engineering Library at St. Lucia and the Central Medical Library at Herston.

Planning went forward for the relocation of the Thatcher Memorial Library and the Law Library in the western end of the main building at St. Lucia.

Library Association of Australia

The University Library staff continued to support and participate in the activities of the Library Association. Mr. S.J. Routh assumed the Presidency of the Queensland Branch with Miss Vivienne A. Birt as Secretary and Mrs. J.C. Owen as Treasurer. The Acting Librarian was elected as one of the two Queensland Representative Councillors to the federal General Council of the Association.

Mrs. J.M. Weld took up editorship of the Branch journal "Quill".

Miss B. McDougall, Miss N.M. Mills and Mr. S.J. Routh each conducted a full year of evening lectures in cataloguing, classification and reference work respectively for the Central Technical College.

Miss McDougall and the Acting Librarian were associate examiners for the Association's Registration Examination in cataloguing and in university and college library administration respectively.

Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services

The Acting Librarian continued as the University's representative on this body which held its annual meeting in Canberra in August 1964.

The Council, through committees, is continuing to carry out important background studies on the problems of expanding library resources in Australia, on the scope and methods of inter-library loans in Australia, and on the development of the national union catalogues being built up in Canberra.

Shapcott Press

The most notable production brought out by the Press, which is run as a cooperative venture by the Library and the English Department, was the publication of a poem, "City Sunrise" by the distinguished poet Judith Wright. The work was set up and printed by Mr. P. Miller and Miss D. Mulhern, and was widely distributed.

The Press continued its useful function of providing practical experience in hand printing for honours students in English.

Other activities

Mr. Routh and the Acting Librarian again gave lectures to English IV honours students and examined them in historical bibliography.

(Signed) BARRY SCOTT
Acting Librarian.