U N I V E R S I T Y O F Q U E E N S L A N D

L I B R A R Y

Brisbane Australia

Report of the Librarian for 1943

1. The general information given in last year's Annual Report (the first to be typed and circulated) will not be given here except in the following condensed form:

2. Size of Library (including Departmental Libraries): approximately 75,000 vols.
Classification (for the time being): Dewey Decimal
Cataloguing : Anglo-American code, with minor modifications
Catalogues : Main Author typed card catalogue in Main Library
Manuscript duplicate of above in Main Library
Classified (Dewey) card catalogue in Main Library
Typed Author card catalogue in some Departments

Students have open access to almost all parts of the Main Library, and nearly all books may be borrowed for home reading.

Hours: 9 to 5 Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9 to 5, 6 to 9 Tuesday, Thursday
9 to 12 Saturday

Report on work done

3. General. There has been a marked deterioration in the Library service during 1943. This falling off is continuing, and will increasingly continue while adequate space is not available, not

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only for the proper arrangement and shelving of material but even for its more storage.

The Library had outgrown its normal storage space three years ago. We now need hundreds of feet of shelving, which cannot be provided in the existing buildings. Much important government material and many publications of learned societies are now wrapped up in bundles and unavailable for use. The moment is at hand when this will have to be done for some of our periodicals. Some of these bundles are now being left on the floor in the main corridor of the Library, and the coming year is likely to see the Reading Room pressed into service as a store for bundles of unshelvable material. Dispersion of the stock among distant rooms is not a solution, since this adds too greatly to the work of a small staff. The problem could be solved only by the erection of a wooden hut by the side of the Library to serve as a storehouse for material for which there is no accommodation.

4. Accessions

1942	9,650		
1943	4,441	(books & periodicals	3841
		exchange	600)

The chief bequests have been:

Mr. R. L. Hertzberg: some early 19th century German literary works.

Queensland Geological Survey, and Technical College: old geological publications to help complete some of our imperfect sets.

Mr. Ware of Ascot: Hibernia sacra 1717
Works of Sir John Ware 1739-46

Mrs Melbourne: a collection of pamphlets on Far Eastern affairs

Rev. J. Caulfeild: Hist. of Philip de Commines 1665
Jeremy Taylor The Great Exemplar 1667
Chaucer Works 1721
Baker Chronicle of the Kings of England 1674

H.M. Trade Commissioner: many books and pamphlets dealing with modern European affairs.

5. Cataloguing. Progress has been made with the re-cataloguing of the old portions of the Library and it is expected that next year will

see the completion of the Author Catalogue. One or two Departmental Libraries remain to be catalogued.

6. Classification. The old classification is being gradually checked and re-done. It is time, however, that the classification system used, the Dewey Decimal, be replaced by a more suitable one. The Dewey is now sixty eight years old and has not proved equal to the expansion of scientific studies. It is the intention of the Librarian to recommend the change to the Library of Congress classification. As such a change, involving the re-classification of all books, the re-marking of all catalogue cards and the physical re-arrangement of every volume in the Library, will entail a really great increase of work for a small staff, it will be realised that only the most cogent reasons would have prompted such a recommendation.

7. Staff. The Library was unfortunate in losing the services of Miss Mildred Wilson who was appointed Chief Cataloguer to the newly revived State Library of Tasmania. It suffered an equal loss in the resignation of Miss Phyllis Courtice who owing to war-time difficulties had to return home. Both were well-trained, hard-working and accurate librarians, and both graduates of this University. It will be several years before they can be adequately replaced.

8. Statistics. We do not trouble to compile statistics. The amounts of the book funds for the various sections of the Library for 1943 were as follows:

	£
General vote for binding and incidental expenses	308
General reference section	51
Agriculture and Meteorology	103
Architecture	50
Biblical Literature	15
Biology	72
Chemistry	70
Classics	53
Commerce	51
Education	25
Engineering	140
English and Modern Languages	72
Geology	70
Social Studies	58

Japanese	15
Law	103
Mathematics	66
Music	5
Philosophy	50
Physics	70
Surveying	5
Dentistry	50
Anatomy	100
Physiology	150
Clinical Departments	250
Physiotherapy	30
Veterinary Science	50
	£2,082

It will be obvious from this list that the Vote for English and modern languages is wholly inadequate: this sum would scarcely suffice for keeping the English section alone up to date. In fact the Literature sections of the Library are falling behind. New editions of standard authors, the result of modern scholarship, we are unable to buy; there are some writers not represented at all or represented by old and erroneous texts; the French and German sections are too meagre; while other European literatures are not represented at all. The Queensland student of literature and language, in fact, has not at his disposal a collection adequate for his needs. We are increasingly having to borrow from Sydney and Melbourne books which we ought rightly to possess ourselves; and to that extent we are being subsidised by the southern universities.

9. Binding. We are fast falling behind with necessary re-binding. The binding grant allows only for the more important periodicals. Almost no money is available for the rebinding of books, which are worn to pieces. As a matter of fact it would be unwise in many cases to waste money on such re-binding which is costly and not well performed: it would be cheaper to buy new copies of such books. But the present cost of replacement ought not to fall on the present meagre book funds, as this would still further retard their attempt to keep the Library comparatively up to date. The binding grant should be increased so that each year we could re-bind a few books worth re-binding and replace with new copies worn-out books that it would be difficult or uneconomic to re-bind.

At present such used copies are being withdrawn from circulation and the useful stock of the Library is dwindling.

10. Guide to the Library. A guide to the Library was compiled and duplicated, and is distributed to new students each year.

11. The following extract is from the speech of the President of the Australian Institute of Librarians at the recent annual conference: 'The greatest strain imposed on any University Library seems to have been felt by the Library of the University of Queensland, whose new building, and also another used for storage purposes, have been taken over for military purposes. This Library has also made special indexes of its geographical material...and it has created a Pacific section, with a special reading room. As a result of all this its ordinary work has naturally been somewhat disorganised.

RICHARD PENNINGTON

James Forsyth Librarian