

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND LIBRARY**

by

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1. A Provincial University and its Books (1911-1939)

After decades of debate as to the value of a university in a struggling, frontier state, the Queensland Government finally resolved in 1909 to establish the University of Queensland. Funding of £10,000 per annum was approved to pay the salaries of four professors and ten lecturers, and to cover the cost of "attendants, registrars, librarians, messengers, caretakers and general expenses."¹

Although the need for a library was thus recognized in the bill which eventually established the University, no provision was made for the purchase of books. However a public appeal raised £2,000 for an equipment fund, which was supplemented by £1,000 granted by the government for equipment for the Faculty of Arts, and these funds were used for the purchase of the initial bookstock.

When classes commenced in 1911, the fledgling university enrolled a total of 83 students in three faculties (Arts, Science and Engineering), with a teaching staff of nineteen. Perhaps to this small number of students the meagre Library facilities did not seem particularly inadequate, but the teaching staff, mostly recruited from overseas, must have found the collection very poor. To supplement the very limited resources of the University Library, early lecturers made use of the excellent private library of the prominent Brisbane barrister and University Senator, John Laskey Woolcock, one of the early champions of university education in Queensland.

The University Registrar, F.W.S. Cumbrae Stewart, also held the post of Honorary Librarian from the establishment of the university in 1910 until 1925, but his duties as registrar left him little time to attend to the Library. For this reason one of the lecturers in the Faculty of Arts, R.J. Cholmeley, was appointed Assistant Librarian to attend to the day to day running of the Library and to catalogue the books.

Cholmeley, who had no training in library work, has been described as "an eccentric who carried his books in a child's satchel, and wore baggy trousers, an over-large coat and a straw-boater on the back of his head."² Like many later eccentrics among the Library staff, he proved to be an excellent librarian during the four years prior to his departure to volunteer for military service in England. He served with distinction in the First World War and was awarded the Military Cross, but died of pneumonia during the Russian intervention of 1919.

A succession of female clerk typists was employed to provide assistance in the Library, one of whom, Ellen ("Nellie") McIver, was appointed in 1918 and was to

¹ Malcolm I. Thomis, *A Place of Light & Learning: The University of Queensland's First Seventy-five Years* (St. Lucia, Qld.: University of Queensland Press, 1985), 21.

² *Ibid.*, 72.

spend forty years with the Library. A competent woman of forceful personality, she soon made herself indispensable. In 1925 the Registrar and Honorary Librarian, Cumbrae Stewart, was appointed Professor of Law, and the post of Librarian was left vacant. To fill this gap, McIver was promoted to the position of Assistant Librarian, with effective control of the Library. However her lack of tertiary education or professional qualifications made it impossible for her to advance further, and over the years she became increasingly resentful of her superiors. She also became another of the Library's great eccentrics. A later University Librarian recalled that she was "prone to make fierce 'ssh'ing raids into the reading room. On one such occasion a very brave student, destined to become something of a figure in the Australian academic world, made so bold as to say, 'But surely we students have some rights.' 'That's just where you're wrong, dear,' said Nellie, 'you have no bloody rights whatever.'" ³

From 1911 until 1923 the Library was housed in Old Government House, which formed the nucleus of the University site in George Street. It occupied three rooms, with desk space for only twenty-four readers. The books and the wooden shelves were subject to attack by white ants and borers. Opening hours in 1911 were from 9am to 5pm and from 7pm to 9pm on weekdays, and from 10am to 12.30pm on Saturdays. By 1922 the collection contained only 20,000 books, but the shelves were already full and books were stacked on the floor or in a storeroom. The student body now numbered 405, and the number of teaching staff had risen to thirty-two.

In 1923 the Library was moved to the ground floor of the Art Block of the Central Technical College in George Street, adjacent to the University site. Here it was to remain until 1948, when it moved to the St Lucia campus. These "temporary" premises soon became dangerously overcrowded, and the building eventually developed alarming cracks. The reading room had bare floors, the desks were merely trestle tables, and the students were not allowed direct access to the bookstacks.

The Depression years were particularly difficult for the Library. In 1930, when the State Government made a substantial reduction in funding for the University, a Senate select committee proposed a series of austerity measures, including a large reduction in the Library vote. In 1934 the post of University Librarian was again filled, albeit on a part-time basis, by A.C.V. Melbourne, a lecturer in the History Department. Melbourne knew little about librarianship, but as a long-standing member of the academic staff and a member of the University Senate he was well placed to obtain extra funding and staff for the Library.

The State Government finally yielded to pressure from the University and the foundation stone for a new library building in George Street was laid in 1935. That building still stands as part of the Queensland University of Technology, but although it was always referred to as "The New Library Building", it was immediately dedicated to other uses and the Library never occupied more than some basement storage space.

In addition to the main library, which served the needs of the Faculty of Arts, there were smaller libraries in the various science departments. Some of these departmental

³ Harrison Bryan, "Recollections of a Cataloguer Manque," *Cataloguing Australia* 13, no. 3 (1987): 65.

collections were nothing more than a few bookshelves, but others gradually expanded into substantial collections of books and journals, usually managed by the departmental secretary. By 1939 there were about eight departmental libraries.

The 1935 survey of Australian libraries by Ralph Munn and Ernest R. Pitt reported that the University of Queensland Library was "inadequate in number of volumes, size and training of staff, and building facilities."⁴ They added that "the staff is composed of two women who have had no training in library methods ... cataloguing is inadequate, comprising only author and shelf lists, both of which are kept in the office and are not available to students."⁵ The annual expenditure on the University Library (£1,725) was the lowest of all the mainland states. 1935 was a particularly bad year for the Library, as the University decided to reduce the Library budget to help pay for an expansion into new fields of teaching and research to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the University's foundation.

The comments by Munn and Pitt on the other libraries in Brisbane help us to understand the problems faced by students and lecturing staff at the University during these years, especially in the Faculty of Arts. The Public Library of Queensland (the future State Library) was "so far below the state libraries of every other state, except Tasmania, that exact comparisons become futile"⁶ and during the depression year of 1932/33 only thirty books were purchased for the collection. The Brisbane School of Arts library contained mainly fiction, although the recently established Workers' Educational Association library possessed 8,000 volumes of "high standard."⁷ The only well run and adequately funded library in Brisbane was the Parliamentary Library, "which would be an ornament to the most expensive gentleman's club,"⁸ but university students would not normally have had access to this collection.

In the sciences, the situation was perhaps not quite so grim. The Royal Society of Queensland library had a significant (if disorganized) collection of serials, which was housed at the University, and there were substantial libraries in certain government agencies, such as the Queensland Museum, the Geological Survey and the Government Botanist.

By the end of 1938 the Library (including the departmental libraries) held a collection of around 36,500 volumes.

1939 saw the opening of the new Medical School at Herston, incorporating a large and well furnished room for the library. The bookstock and periodical collection were limited, but the students had access to other libraries, such as that of the Queensland Branch of the British (later Australian) Medical Association.

⁴ Ralph Munn and Ernest R. Pitt, *Australian Libraries: A Survey of Conditions and Suggestions for their Improvement* (Melbourne: Australian Council for Educational Research, 1935), 96.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*, 61.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 64.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 108.

2. The Beginnings of Professional Library Service (1939-1949)

The appointment, in early 1939, of a professionally trained University librarian was the result of a bequest from James Forsyth, who had left £8,000 to the University for the construction of a new library building at St Lucia. When the State Government assumed financial responsibility for the construction of the new campus, the income from the Forsyth Bequest was reallocated to help pay the salary of a full-time professional librarian.

Richard Pennington, the first James Forsyth Librarian, was an Englishman with a degree in English from Birmingham University, who had lived in Sydney for some years in the 1920s and was well known in literary circles there. After returning to England in 1930, he completed a Diploma in Librarianship at the University of London and then spent four years as Gladstone Librarian at the National Liberal Club. The main reason for Pennington's return to Australia seems to have been financial. In his semi-autobiographical novel *Peterley Harvest*, the hero travels to Australia "already dreading the hot colourless vistas of the Brisbane River."⁹

Shortly after his arrival, Pennington reported on the poor quality of the Library's holdings of Australiana. There was little he could do to rectify this problem, as the annual acquisitions budget of around £2,000 was divided between the academic staff, who made all purchasing decisions. Pennington's staff consisted of the Assistant Librarian (McIver), two cataloguers, a clerk-typist and an attendant. McIver was to prove a constant source of irritation to Pennington, who tried unsuccessfully to have her dismissed.

The outbreak of war, only five months after his arrival in Brisbane, also acted as a brake on Pennington's ambitions for improving the Library. The newly constructed buildings at St Lucia were handed over to the Army for the duration of the conflict, and the Library had to remain in its increasingly cramped accommodation in George Street. The Library collections expanded significantly during Pennington's term of office, mainly as a result of donations which he solicited from individuals, government agencies and other libraries. Pennington was ahead of his time in recognising the need to build up strong collections of Australian material, but the University authorities did not share his vision in this regard.

⁹ [Richard Pennington], *Peterley Harvest: The Private Diary of David Peterley* (London: Secker & Warburg, 1985), 286.

Cataloguing standards improved under Pennington's administration and he also began reclassifying the collection from the Dewey Decimal system to the Library of Congress classification system, a decision which was reversed by one of his successors, and reversed again in the 1960s. He also attempted to bring the mushrooming departmental libraries under tighter control. Students were given better access to reference books and in 1943 new students were given a roneoed library guide – a remarkable innovation at that time.

The poet Judith Wright was working in an administrative capacity at the University of Queensland at this time, and assisting her future husband with his researches in philosophy. She has left us a vivid picture of the research libraries in Brisbane in the early 1940s:

I had tried the libraries and been staggered by their inadequacies; the old WEA [Workers' Educational Association] library was the best of them, but there was not one trained librarian in any library in Brisbane. When I went to the public library for a reference on one of Jack's quotations from an article in the Royal Society journal, the chief librarian had refused to entertain my request. 'The Royal Society for what?' he demanded. 'It must be a society for something.' Finally I found the reference myself in the parliamentary library among a dusty series undisturbed since they had reached the shelves ... The war years had cut Australia off almost completely ... Books had been among the first imports to suffer but Brisbane's bookshops were at least better than its libraries, where lack of money prevented acquisitions even when they were available.

The university library was better supplied, and ... I began to go through the more recent accessions and journals and find at least some essential references ... I remember asking for a back issue of *Nature* at the only place it was listed, the university library. The librarian finally located it in the limbo of some shelf far off in the dungeons and gave it to me with the expression of one overtaxed by demands, remarking, 'Nobody has ever asked for that before.'¹⁰

Working in a small, provincial university under wartime restrictions proved very frustrating for Pennington. Soon after the end of the war, in January 1946, he departed to take up the post of University Librarian at McGill University in Canada. In his final annual report (for 1944) he puts the size of the collection at approximately 80,000 volumes.

He was succeeded in October 1946 by Norman Gould, who had worked as a secondary school teacher in New South Wales and had done pioneering work in the development of school libraries before briefly holding the post of librarian at the New England University College in Armidale. Gould's tenure of his new position was also brief, as he retired in May 1948, following a nervous breakdown which was generally attributed to his inability to cope with the increasingly difficult Miss McIver. He is remembered for the long overdue innovation of placing call numbers on the spines of the books.

¹⁰ Judith Wright, *Half a Lifetime*, ed. Patricia Clarke (Melbourne: Text Publishing, 1999), 194-5.

When the English librarian Lionel McColvin surveyed Australian libraries in the summer of 1946/47, he reported that "the University Libraries of Australia, with one exception, form the group of which it would be least fair to be critical and derogatory. The exception is the University of Queensland, which is shockingly housed in 'temporary' premises, with its stock dispersed in a variety of unsuitable rooms – even in corridors."¹¹

¹¹ Lionel McColvin, *Public Libraries in Australia* (Melbourne: Melbourne University Press, 1947), 64.

3. Post-War Expansion (1950-1964)

The postwar years saw a rapid expansion in university enrolments throughout Australia, as men and women returned from war service to resume or commence their studies. Numbers were further boosted after 1951, when the Commonwealth Government began providing university scholarships, many of them to students from working-class backgrounds whose families had no tradition of tertiary education. The 1950s also saw the intake of the first overseas students (mainly from Asia), funded under the Colombo Plan and Unesco schemes.

The University of Queensland, with its perennial problems of inadequate funding and insufficient accommodation, struggled to cope with the ever increasing student body. The buildings at St Lucia were eventually vacated by the Army and returned to the University, and the first classes were held there in 1949. However the George Street campus remained the centre of student life for quite some years to come.

The energies of the academic staff at the University of Queensland had hitherto been largely consumed in the teaching of students, leaving little time for research. After the war, this slowly began to change. The Ph.D. degree was introduced in 1950, and in 1953 the Senate established a separate fund for research fellowships, equipment and maintenance. In 1954 the Senate resolved "that it be a condition of appointment of members of staff that they shall carry out research in addition to teaching duties."¹²

To lead the Library during this time of rapid change, the University appointed the 26 year old Harrison Bryan as third James Forsyth Librarian in 1950. Bryan, the son of the Professor of Geology, had been born in Brisbane and was a graduate of the University, with an honours degree in History. After graduation, he had trained as a librarian at the Public Library of New South Wales and commenced work immediately afterwards in 1949 as Assistant to the Librarian at the University of Queensland, effectively in charge of the Library, and was promoted to the position of University Librarian the following year. If Bryan was lacking in years and experience, he was well endowed with energy and enthusiasm, and he was to need both.

At the end of 1948 the Arts Faculty moved to St Lucia, along with the Main Library, in time to commence operation at the beginning of the 1949 academic year. (The science and engineering departments, with their associated departmental libraries, were to remain at George Street for some years yet, and in some cases until the 1960s.) The Library Building at St Lucia was a two-storey structure, comprising the two lower floors of what is now the Duhig Building. It had been modelled on the great

¹² Thomis, *Place of Light*, 198.

libraries of Europe, with an octagonal reading room on the upper level and a glass ceiling to provide natural lighting, but in 1948 it was still far from complete. Although the building's sandstone exterior created a fine impression on the visitor, its cavernous spaces and internal layout were quite unsuitable for a library and Bryan never ceased to complain about the deficiencies of the building. Bookworms and cockroaches were a constant menace in the warm, humid conditions.

Bryan was determined to improve the services provided by the Library and to raise its profile within the University. He was able to obtain extra staff to improve and extend the library card catalogue, providing subject indexing (via Library of Congress subject headings) for the first time in 1951. The introduction of stencil duplication of catalogue cards in 1953 considerably speeded up the cataloguing process. He continued Pennington's practice of providing a printed guide to the Library, and orientation tours were introduced. As University Librarian he enjoyed the salary and entitlements of a Lecturer of the University and became a member of the all-powerful Library Committee of the Senate. By the end of 1951, the Library bookstock had finally reached 100,000 volumes and there had been a substantial increase in the budget for book purchases.

By 1954 the Main Library building was already full, and it was necessary to build a mezzanine floor on the upper level to provide for further expansion of the collection. In the same year the Fryer Memorial Library of Australian Literature was moved from the English Department into the Main Library. This collection had been established in 1927 and owed much to the foresight of Dr F.W. Robinson, a pioneer in the study of Australian literature. It would develop over time into a major resource for Australian studies.

In 1955 Bryan was finally successful in having the University agree that all employees occupied full-time on library work were to be part of the Library staff. This helped him to exercise more control over the many departmental libraries at St Lucia and George Street. It also made him responsible for the Thatcher Memorial Library, which had been established by the University's Department of External Studies in 1948 to lend books to the University's many external students. When the University began to establish study circles in Queensland country towns in the 1950s, small libraries were established to support them, often in conjunction with a local public library. These libraries were extensions of the Thatcher Library and were later named the Ringrose Libraries, after the Director of External Studies who established them.

In 1956 Barry Scott, who had commenced his career in the Library as a junior assistant in 1947, was appointed as the first Deputy University Librarian.

The first students at St Lucia found their new campus a "barren and inhospitable place."¹³ Public transport and all other facilities were very limited, and this inevitably had an impact on the usage of the Main Library in an era when few students owned a car. If one is to judge from David Malouf's novel *Johnno*, students in the early 1950s made more use of the Public Library, centrally situated in William Street, than of the University Library at St Lucia. Nonetheless use of the Main Library slowly increased,

¹³ Ibid., 180.

and in 1957 it became possible to justify the re-introduction of Saturday opening, for the first time since the move from George Street.

The appointment by the Commonwealth Government in 1957 of the Committee on Australian Universities, under the chairmanship of Sir Keith Murray, marked the beginning of a new era in university education. As the Commonwealth Government became increasingly involved in this area, university funding improved significantly, although the University of Queensland still struggled to meet its financial commitments, always trying to maximise its grant from the State Government, to which Commonwealth funding was tied.

The first effects of the new funding regime were seen in the Library in 1959, when the acquisitions budget rose by 40%. Unfortunately the student population also rose by 19% in that year, whereas the number of Library staff rose by only 10%. Attracting and retaining suitable staff (especially graduate staff) was to be a problem for many years.

Providing space for the rapidly expanding collections was another headache, especially after the Senate began to provide modest funding for the development of research collections. In 1959 a large mezzanine floor was inserted into the lower level of the Main Library, partly to accommodate the Thatcher Library, and partly to provide extra seating in the reading rooms. Two years later the Main Library was able to expand into the eastern end of the Main (Forgan Smith) Building. As the University Librarian recorded, this provided space for (among other things) "an informal reading area in an endeavour to syphon off the rowdy element that had thrived in our multi-reader table environment."¹⁴ This was the first, if grudging, recognition that university libraries were not just places for silent, individual study. Another important innovation was the appointment of Spencer Routh as the Library's first reference librarian in 1959. He was to play a major role over the next 38 years in developing the Library's reference services and research collections.

In a 1959 report of the Humanities Research Council entitled *The Humanities in Australia*, the following assessment was made of the humanities collections in the University of Queensland Library:

This ... is quite a weak collection which appears to have suffered badly from inadequate buying during a large part of the history of the University of Queensland. In most areas of the humanities, it is barely adequate as a collection for pass undergraduates. Honours work is made very difficult by its manifold deficiencies and these are made the more burdensome by the serious weakness of the holdings of the Public Library ... Fortunately, it is an improving collection ... but it will need a great deal of strengthening before it becomes fully adequate even for undergraduate teaching. It is hardly necessary to add that, for research work, it is negligible.¹⁵

¹⁴ Harrison Bryan, *No Gray Profession: Reminiscences of a Career in Australian Libraries* (Adelaide: Austlib Press, 1994), 40.

¹⁵ G.H. Russell, "The University Libraries," in *The Humanities in Australia: A Survey with Special Reference to the Universities*, ed. A. Grenfell Price, 115 (Sydney: Angus & Robertson, 1959).

A significant advance for the influence of the Library in university affairs came in 1960 with the announcement that the University Librarian was to be a member of the Professorial Board, although not as a Professor. This finally gave the Librarian a voice in the forum responsible for major decisions on academic policy.

Harrison Bryan resigned at the end of 1962 to take up the post of Librarian at the University of Sydney, from which he later advanced to the position of Director-General of the National Library of Australia. He was able to look back proudly on fourteen years service to the University of Queensland, during which time the Library collections had grown from 96,000 volumes to almost 300,000 and staff numbers had increased from eleven to sixty-one.

During 1963 and 1964 Bryan's deputy, Barry Scott, held the post of Acting University Librarian, before resigning in July 1965 to become the inaugural University Librarian of Macquarie University. He remained in that post until his untimely death in 1970.

Overcrowding in the Main Library had become so severe that in 1963 the University Senate decided to proceed with the upwards extension of that building, despite the fundamental unsuitability of the structure. The original plans were followed as regards the height of the building, but five more floors were added, instead of the planned three floors. Construction began in December 1963.

1964 saw a significant rise in the acquisitions budget, which permitted the first large-scale acquisition of multiple copies of heavily used books. A special grant from the Australian Universities Commission was used to pay for some long back runs of journals and some large collections of government publications in microform.

Some first steps were being taken to amalgamate the small departmental libraries into larger, more efficient units. In 1960 a Biological Sciences Library was formed from the fusion of the Zoology and Agriculture libraries, and Botany and Entomology were also incorporated into this collection. In 1964 the Physiology and Biochemistry libraries were amalgamated to form what came to be known as the Bancroft Library. Larger branch libraries were able to offer students longer opening hours and more sophisticated services, and opening hours in the Main Library were also improving, with the introduction of Sunday opening in 1964.

4. The Growth of a Research Library (1965-1976)

The early 1960s were a period of rapid growth for the University of Queensland. A long overdue expansion of secondary education in Queensland was producing more students qualified for university entry, and noticeably more women matriculants. The University's student population was growing at the rate of around 1,000 per year, new degree courses were being introduced, teaching departments were being expanded and new departments created. More than one hundred new academic staff were appointed in some years.

The Commonwealth Government was providing increasingly large sums to universities through the Australian Universities Commission. This led to greater research activity, and the number of postgraduate students at the University of Queensland rose from 173 in 1958 to 779 in 1965. To support these developments, the Commission provided very generous funding for university libraries during the triennium 1964-66.

This then was the situation facing the new University Librarian, Derek Fielding, when he commenced work in June 1965. Born in Belfast and a graduate of Trinity College Dublin, Fielding had trained as a librarian with Sheffield City Libraries before holding senior posts in university libraries in New Zealand and Western Australia. From March the following year he had the assistance of a new Deputy University Librarian, Sid Page, who came to the University of Queensland after working in special libraries in New South Wales and the scientific and technical information service of the Hertfordshire County Council in England.

As the extension of the Main Library was still under construction when Fielding arrived, it is not surprising that buildings and accommodation were an early concern of his. The completion of the extension in 1966 provided a respite, but with the rapid increase in the size of the collections during the 1960s, the respite was to be only of brief duration. In many of the branch libraries, overcrowding was severe and endemic.

Staffing was another problem area. With no School of Librarianship in Brisbane, it was difficult to attract trained staff. Most of the professional staff had "learnt on the job" and had completed the examinations conducted by the Library Association of Australia to gain their qualifications. At the lower levels, staff turnover was very high. In 1969, for example, twenty-two of the fifty-six library assistants resigned. It was always possible to recruit new staff at this level, as the University provided a congenial working environment and excellent opportunities for part-time study, but the endless filing of cards and other repetitive tasks ensured that many of these bright young people soon sought alternative employment. Staff at this level were almost

exclusively female, because females were cheaper to employ in the era before women achieved equal pay with men for clerical work. When equal pay was introduced in 1972, male library assistants slowly became more common.

In his first Annual Report, Fielding suggested that "a greater willingness by the university to employ older women could be most helpful".¹⁶ By 1970 he was able to report that arrangements were being made to accommodate the needs of married women on the staff, with flexible working hours and leave of absence: "on balance the extra administrative complications are outweighed by the special abilities and maturity which the employment of married women places at the library's disposal."¹⁷

In 1965, there were no fewer than thirty-eight locations outside the Main Library where library books were housed. Consolidation of these collections into larger, more viable branch libraries was one of Fielding's priorities. In 1967 he submitted proposals to Senate for eventual reduction of the collections at St Lucia to a research library for the humanities and social sciences, an undergraduate library, a science library, a biological sciences library, a fine arts/architecture/music library, an engineering and geology library, a law library and a curriculum laboratory. He eventually achieved something very similar to this proposal, but it would require many years of planning and much skilful diplomacy.

Some of the small departmental libraries at the Royal Brisbane Hospital were amalgamated in 1967 into a new Clinical Sciences Library, which the following year became jointly funded by the University and the North Brisbane Hospitals Board. Although this library duplicated much of the stock of the Central Medical Library, located only a short distance away at the Medical School, it became a busy and successful unit of the hospital, and the same model was followed in establishing joint university/hospital libraries at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in 1969 and the Mater Hospital in 1970.

In the year before Fielding's arrival, the Acting University Librarian had reported that "in 1964 there was, as there has been in recent years, more and more emphasis placed on wider undergraduate reading by the teaching staff ... the set text book approach to teaching in the University is weakening."¹⁸ This revolution in teaching methods gathered pace in the following years, and meant vastly increased use of the Library. The number of items loaned by the Main Library almost doubled between 1963 and 1965. The introduction of the first coin-operated photocopying machine in 1967 provided an alternative to borrowing which students were not slow to embrace. Another alternative to borrowing was demonstrated by the substantial increase of theft from the Main and branch libraries, necessitating the introduction of controlled turnstiles in the Main Library in 1966.

In 1966 a large Open Reserve Collection of 10,000 books in heavy demand was established on the lower ground floor of the Main Library, and Fielding became increasingly convinced of the need for a separate Undergraduate Library. He recognised the problem of adequately predicting undergraduate needs and suggested the introduction of Library staff members to liaise with particular departments. He

¹⁶ University of Queensland Library, *Annual Report*, 1965: 8 [hereafter cited as: *Annual Report*].

¹⁷ *Annual Report*, 1970: 6.

¹⁸ *Annual Report*, 1964: 6.

noted in his 1968 annual report that "there is a need to find more efficient ways to train students in library use"¹⁹ and the growing size and complexity of the University Library and the increasing emphasis on self-directed study only made this need more acute. In 1972 the Library took advantage of the latest technology to produce its first tape/slide orientation programme, which proved very popular with new students, and in 1975 the first Principal Librarian in charge of Reader Education was appointed.

Although developments in computer technology promised to remove much of the drudgery from library work, the benefits were slow to appear. The first successful automation project was the production, in 1969, of a printed catalogue of the Thatcher Library to be distributed to external students. The following year Library staff began helping medical researchers to formulate search statements to be submitted to the MEDLARS database, which was held on tape in Canberra. These were the first steps in computerised information retrieval at the University of Queensland, but it was not until 1974 that researchers in the biological sciences had access to similar facilities.

The number of volumes in the University Library reached half a million in 1968. The growth in the collections was fuelled not just by increasing undergraduate demand, but also by the greatly expanded research activity of the University. Meeting the much more complex information needs of research students was a daunting task. A separate Reference Department was established in the Main Library in 1966 to provide better assistance to students and to deal with the increasing number of inter-library loan requests. In 1967 Fielding reported, with a hint of bitterness, that "this university is attempting to foster post-graduate study without any real conception of the cost of adequate library resources."²⁰ However there were years in which funding was more generous, and in 1969 total expenditure on the Library reached almost one million dollars for the first time.

The Library's research collections received a substantial boost in 1967 when the collection of the late Father Leo Hayes was donated to the University. Twenty-five tons of material were transported from the Catholic Presbytery at Oakey and incorporated into the University's Library and museums. The collection included 25,000 books, pamphlets and periodicals, mostly on Australian subjects, along with much valuable manuscript material.

The cataloguing staff had barely finished processing the Hayes collection when, in 1969, they embarked on a major project to reclassify the whole University Library from the Dewey Decimal system to the Library of Congress system, a project which was not completed until 1979. It involved the handling of a staggering number of catalogue cards. In 1974 alone, 688,000 cards were produced, sorted and filed.

1968 was a turbulent year on university campuses throughout the Western world, and in Queensland the following three years were marked by severe student unrest, the inevitable result of conflict between reform-minded students and an ultra-conservative State Government. The Library maintained its services during this period, although the introduction of a Student Union Library Liaison Committee in 1968 and of a Library suggestion box in 1969 are indicators of a changing environment. A more

¹⁹ *Annual Report*, 1968: 22.

²⁰ *Annual Report*, 1967: 11.

dramatic sign of the times was the appearance of a naked male on the Library roof in July 1969 as part of a student-organised display of erotica.

The severe overcrowding in the Main Library was relieved by the opening of the new Central Library at the beginning of 1973. This new building was erected just to the north of the existing Main Library building to contain the Library's research collections in the social sciences and humanities, as well as providing accommodation for Library staff and administration. Its holdings were soon to be enlarged by a special Australian Universities Commission grant of \$150,000 for the 1973/75 triennium, which was used to purchase back runs of periodicals and other research materials, including a large number of microfilms. The Commonwealth Government had assumed responsibility for university funding from the beginning of 1974, creating hopes (soon to be disappointed) of a secure financial future for university libraries.

The old Main Library building (now renamed the Duhig Building) became the Undergraduate Library. This was a collection of heavily used material, much of it in multiple copies, dedicated to the needs of undergraduate students. The staff included professional librarians designated as "readers' advisors" to liaise with the teaching departments. The Undergraduate Library contained the Library's first collection of audio-visual materials, in recognition of the growing role that these were playing in university teaching. This was a collection which would grow rapidly over the following years.

Sid Page resigned in 1972 to become the inaugural University Librarian of Griffith University (a post which he held until his retirement in 1983), and he was replaced as Deputy University Librarian in July 1973 by John Cummings, who had previously worked in university libraries in New South Wales and the United States. Cummings underwent gender reassignment in 1989 and took the name Katherine Cummings. In her memoirs published under the title *Katherine's Diary*, she describes the impact on the Library of the torrential rains which caused the Australia Day Floods of 1974:

The new University Library ... was taking in so much water that ... I spent much of my time visiting the new building to empty the garbage tins of water which filled beneath the gushing runnels from every ceiling. The joints between the slabs of facing had not been sealed adequately and water would enter the seams, run for a distance through the suspended ceilings, then debouch into the carpeted reading areas ... after bailing out the library, [we] would go to the top floor to watch tangled masses of vegetation and the odd house swirling past ...

The aftermath of the flood was in some ways more disheartening than the flood itself ... The University gave its staff permission to go and help anyone they knew and organised teams of helpers from those left over. Library staff worked on the flooded homes of less fortunate colleagues and at night we were organised into security patrols to prevent looting of unoccupied houses.²¹

²¹ Katherine Cummings, *Katherine's Diary: The Story of a Transsexual* (Port Melbourne: Heinemann Australia, 1992), 150-1.

In retrospect it can be seen that the year 1976 was a turning point in the Library's development. On the positive side, it saw the first fruits of Fielding's long campaign for the amalgamation of branch libraries, with the opening of the new Biological Sciences Library, a four-storey building with a refectory on the first level and the Library on the three floors above. Fielding proudly reported that "for the first time a separately staffed service point for reference enquiries was available in a science library."²² The Architecture and Music libraries were also amalgamated in the new Zelman Cowen Building. As a fitting coda to these achievements, a ceremony was held on December 7th at which Professor Emeritus Dorothy Hill, the University's most distinguished graduate and a generous supporter of the University Library, presented the Library's millionth book to the Vice-Chancellor.

In contrast to these pleasing developments, 1976 saw a severe cut in the University's budget, as a result of a downturn in the global economy coupled with a decline in the value of the Australian dollar. Three staff positions were lost from the Library's establishment, the number of serial subscriptions fell for the first time since the 1940s and there was a substantial reduction in the number of books purchased. The Library also began to put more effort into discarding unwanted (mostly duplicate) material in an effort to create additional space, as it became increasingly obvious that funding for new or expanded buildings was unlikely to be forthcoming at any time in the immediate future.

Fielding had already commented the previous year that "by 1975 a point had been reached at which services appropriate to a modern university had been reached."²³ With the symbolic acquisition of the millionth book in 1976, the University of Queensland Library, the second largest university library in Australia, with 229 staff and annual expenditure of over \$3.6 million, had clearly become a significant research library.

²² *Annual Report*, 1976: 20.

²³ *Annual Report*, 1975: 21.

5. Going Online (1977-1993)

The ending of the "long boom" of the post-war Australian economy brought significant problems for the University and the Library. Cutbacks in funding were exacerbated by the volatility of the Australian dollar, a crucial factor for the University Library, because most of its books and journals were purchased from overseas. In these circumstances, the first priority was to maintain journal subscriptions, so book purchases were greatly reduced. The number of books purchased in 1980, for example, was only about half the number purchased in 1974.

There was a temporary improvement in university funding after the election of the Federal Labor government in 1983, but a dramatic decline in the value of the Australian dollar from 1985 onwards resulted in drastic cancellations of journal subscriptions in 1986 and 1987. The budgetary pressures eased for some years thereafter, until rapidly rising periodical subscriptions and book prices began to cause further problems.

Of course financial pressures affected not only the Library's collections, but also its services. Staff numbers were reduced in 1977 and 1980, and by 1982 it became necessary to curtail opening hours to meet a 5% reduction in salary expenditure. As Fielding noted that year, "the majority of students are more inconvenienced by reduced hours than by the absence of research material"²⁴ and students were not slow to voice their anger. In April 1982, for example, an all night "study in" was held in the Law Library to protest against the cutbacks.

Despite the economic stringency, Fielding pressed ahead with plans for automating the Library's operations. Development in this area had begun in earnest in 1974 with the purchase of a Varian V72 minicomputer. A systems analyst and programmer then began working on an automated loans system, which was inaugurated in the Undergraduate Library in 1976. Even though this primitive system required the library staff to manually key the user code of each borrower and the item code of each book borrowed, the reduction in clerical work and increased speed in the processing of returned loans were dramatic. Automated lending was extended to Central Library in 1981 and gradually to other branches thereafter.

Although commercially produced library automation systems were now starting to appear on the market, the Library found it surprisingly easy to extend its home-grown loans system to handle automated cataloguing as well. In 1983 an online catalogue of

²⁴ *Annual Report*, 1982: 1.

the Library's periodical holdings was produced for staff use, and a computer-output microfiche version was produced for public use and for sale to other libraries.

Cataloguing of current accessions was then automated, and in 1985 work began on retrospective conversion of the Library's vast card catalogues to machine-readable form. This Herculean task took only three years to complete. Like the earlier reclassification project, it was overseen by Mary-Rose McCarthy, who gave outstanding service to the Library for quarter of a century as manager of the Cataloguing Section, and later of all technical services operations.

However it gradually became clear that the Library's in-house computer system was not sufficiently robust to mount an online public catalogue, and the search began for a commercial system to replace it. "In many respects [our] own system is much more sophisticated than the available commercial packages"²⁵ lamented Fielding, but the pioneering era of home-grown systems was drawing to a close. In 1987 the PALS automated library system, which was still under development, was purchased from Unisys.

The first tangible benefits of the PALS purchase were seen in August 1988 when the online public catalogue became available in Central Library. Although it was a fairly complex command-driven system, students welcomed it enthusiastically, and usage of the collection jumped dramatically as automated keyword retrieval replaced the laborious searching of alphabetical card catalogues. The PALS loans module was implemented the following year, in conjunction with a project to barcode the bookstock to speed up lending procedures.

Library staff had been involved in computerised information retrieval since 1970, but it was not until 1977 that they began searching databases online. In that year the MEDLINE database became accessible at the Department of Health in Canberra, using existing telephone lines and an acoustic coupler. The Library was obliged to charge \$20 for each search to cover the telephone costs and other charges, and details of the retrieved references were printed offline and posted from Canberra. The following year it became possible to perform online searches of databases mounted by the Lockheed Corporation in California, at a cost of \$44 per search.

However it was not until the purchase of the first databases on computer disc (CD-ROM) in 1988 that library users were able to search databases themselves, without using a librarian as intermediary and without paying communication charges. As this was the same year in which the Library's catalogue became publicly accessible online, it can be seen as a watershed year in the development of information retrieval.

More sophisticated means of information retrieval resulted in increased use of the Library's collection and increased demand for material not held by the Library. It also meant that users required more assistance in using the new technologies. Many of these users (especially in the evenings and at weekends) were not students or staff of the University of Queensland, and the Library struggled to define appropriate levels of service for non-members of the University.

²⁵ *Annual Report*, 1987: 10.

In 1977 Fielding was able to report that "each year there are fewer students who do not get exposed to some form of reader education"²⁶ but in 1980 he conceded that "some students are attending reader education sessions with very similar coverage several times."²⁷ The development of new information technologies meant that the importance of training students in use of the Library became more widely accepted, but an effective model for integrating reader education into the curriculum was to remain elusive.

The first computer for student use (a mini-computer used to run computer-assisted learning software) was acquired in 1981. The Library was ambivalent about its role in providing computer facilities to students: "it is not intended that the Library should be used as a parking space for terminals simply because libraries are open and supervised for seven days each week" wrote Fielding in 1982.²⁸ Nonetheless a further sixteen machines were acquired in 1985 and housed in the Audiovisual Services section, along with a rapidly growing collection of videorecordings.

Finding accommodation for a large and expanding library collection became increasingly difficult. University administrators around the world were coming to the conclusion that they could not continue indefinitely building larger library buildings, and so the concept of the "steady state" library was born. University libraries were required to constantly review their collections and to discard little used material, or store it in off-campus warehouses. The University of Queensland Library acquired its first off-campus storage in 1977, in a hot, dusty, poorly lit warehouse at Herston. By the end of 1989 this unsuitable facility was full.

Selecting material for removal from the shelves involved Library staff in time-consuming and sometimes agonising decisions. In 1978 Fielding foresaw a time when "there is little material on open access which is more, possibly, than twenty years old. This prospect has distressing implications for research, particularly in the humanities and some social sciences".²⁹ He campaigned unremittingly for the building of the projected Stage 2 of the Central Library Building, but the economic climate was against him. Failure to obtain funding for this much needed extension also affected the quality of the Library's collections: Fielding admitted in 1984 that he was not pushing the University to provide more equipment funds to develop the collection because of the lack of space. In 1988 he lamented that "the central libraries at the Universities of Sydney and Melbourne can display twice as many volumes as our Central Library".³⁰

There were however some successes in dealing with the accommodation problem. The new Herston Medical Library was opened at the Royal Brisbane Hospital in 1984, combining the former Central Medical and Clinical Sciences Libraries, and incorporating part of the library of the Queensland Branch of the Australian Medical Association. The opening of the Physical Sciences and Engineering Library in January 1990, amalgamating the Engineering, Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry libraries, was the final step in Fielding's long campaign to combine small branch

²⁶ *Annual Report*, 1977: 13.

²⁷ *Annual Report*, 1980: 17.

²⁸ *Annual Report*, 1982: 17.

²⁹ *Annual Report*, 1978: 3.

³⁰ *Annual Report*, 1988: 13.

libraries into larger, more efficient collections. And the notoriously inadequate Law Library was ingeniously rebuilt so as to incorporate an extra floor when it reopened in February 1990.

The library staff remained predominantly female. In 1980 there were only eight males among the fifty-four librarians and senior librarians, and only fourteen males among the 113 library assistants. However in the upper echelon the gender imbalance was reversed, with five males among the nine senior managers.

Financial stringency was taking its toll on the staff. In 1981 Fielding commented that "high staff morale has been a feature of this Library since the late sixties. It is disturbing to note that with the present discouraging resource situation signs of stress are appearing."³¹ Automation of library procedures was fundamentally changing the nature of library work, and as Fielding commented in 1982, it meant that "the work of non-professionals ... is considerably more complex and demanding than before."³² The following year he conceded that "in some cases new procedures have been introduced too quickly without sufficient training of those who must operate them,"³³ and he pointed out that "for some staff the environment to which they had been attracted and on which they had patterned their career plans is disappearing,"³⁴ a perceptive comment that was still applicable twenty years later.

The introduction of screen-based equipment during the 1980s caused a spate of problems with repetitive strain injury. Industrial disputes followed until better understanding of the ergonomic issues resulted in the introduction of appropriate workstations and work practices.

If morale had declined, this was not reflected by the statistics for staff turnover. On the contrary, the nationwide rise in unemployment had created a less mobile workforce. Procedures for recruitment and appraisal of staff were tightened to maximise human resources, and the long-standing practice of automatically promoting staff as they obtained the necessary qualifications was phased out. The first Library Staff Officer was appointed in 1988 to assume some of the personnel responsibilities which had hitherto been handled by the Deputy University Librarian.

There was considerable staff mobility in the latter position. John Cummings resigned as Deputy University Librarian in June 1977 to become Chief Librarian at the Sydney College of the Arts. He was replaced in 1978 by Eric Wainwright, who resigned in 1981 to become Librarian at the University of Adelaide. Earle Gow became Deputy University Librarian in the following year and served in that capacity until 1985, when he resigned to become Librarian at Latrobe University. George Eichinski was appointed Deputy University Librarian in 1986.

1988 brought widespread changes to Australian tertiary education, with the introduction of the so-called "Dawkins reforms". For the University of Queensland Library this meant rising demand from a growing student body, more of whom were postgraduates. The number of postgraduate students at the University of Queensland

³¹ *Annual Report*, 1981: 16.

³² *Annual Report*, 1982: 20.

³³ *Annual Report*, 1983: 2.

³⁴ *Annual Report*, 1983: 10-11.

almost doubled between 1977 and 1992, and the number of research-only academic staff more than tripled during the same period. The pressures on Library staff who were dealing with the public were considerable. In 1992 the Undergraduate Librarian reported that "the increased workload was carried without any increase in staffing, which caused considerable stress and was possibly reflected in the apparently high level of absence due to illness."³⁵

The University's long involvement with distance education was one of the victims of the Dawkins reforms, and as a result the Thatcher Memorial Library and the Ringrose Libraries were closed in 1993.

As if to compensate for the loss of the Thatcher collection, the Library acquired the library of the Queensland Agricultural College at Gatton, which was amalgamated with the University of Queensland in 1989. This sudden increase in the geographic dispersion of the Library's staff and collections brought considerable costs, not the least of which was the expense of reclassifying the Gatton library and incorporating its holdings into the University Library catalogue. Fielding acidly remarked that "there can be little doubt that if any costing at all was carried out by DEET [Department of Employment, Education and Training] before it embarked on the institutional amalgamations, the cost of integrating the libraries of amalgamating institutions went unrecognised."³⁶

The Dawkins reforms also put pressure on universities to corporatise their management practices, and the Library responded by producing its first "mission statement" in 1988. The funding and organisational environment in which the Library management had to work was becoming increasingly complex.

In August 1992 Derek Fielding left the Library to take up the newly created position of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic Services), a post which he held until his retirement in July 1994. During his twenty-seven years as University Librarian he had seen the collection grow from 400,000 volumes to over 1.5 million, and his staff had expanded from 92 to 261. In recognition of his outstanding service to the University, the title of University Librarian Emeritus was conferred on him in December 1994.

In recording Fielding's achievements as University Librarian, it is easy to overlook his significant contributions in other areas. He was a respected voice in the University on many matters outside librarianship, and he was regarded as a national authority on topics such as copyright and censorship. He also played a leading role in fostering the development of library cooperation in Australia. To the general public, he was best known in his capacity as President of the Queensland Council of Civil Liberties from 1975 to 1979, a post which was no sinecure in the heyday of the Bjelke-Petersen government.

George Eichinski was Acting University Librarian from August 1992 until September 1993.

³⁵ *Annual Report*, 1992: 23.

³⁶ *Annual Report*, 1990: 5.

6. The Electronic Library (1994-2006)

The University of Queensland was connected to the Australian Academic and Research Network (AAARNet) early in 1990, thus providing the general academic community with their first access to Internet sites in the United States and beyond. Over the next few years, the use of email, file transfer and "telnet" (remote database searching) expanded rapidly. However it was with the release of the first graphical browser in late 1993 that "the web" began to revolutionise the way in which information is stored and retrieved. For libraries, it was arguably the most significant development since the invention of printing in the fifteenth century.

The start of this new era coincided with the appointment, in September 1993, of Janine Schmidt as University Librarian. Schmidt had begun her career as a typist in the University of Queensland Library, and had qualified as a librarian before advancing to senior positions in library education and management in New South Wales. She enthusiastically embraced the new information and communication technologies and was determined that the Library would play a central role in their adoption at the University of Queensland. She set out her vision in her first annual report: "The Library is no longer simply a physical place with a large collection of printed material but a client driven service which is a gateway to information delivery, preferably to the individual's workstation."³⁷

Developments in technology were rapidly altering the way in which the Library provided its services. By 1994, 28 CD-ROM databases were available and networked to all campuses, and dial-in access was introduced so that clients could access the databases from their office or home. In 1995 the Library acquired a web server and the first Library web page made its appearance.

The PALS system had not lived up to expectations. A new and more sophisticated automated library system, Innopac (from Innovative Interfaces) was purchased in 1995 and was introduced early in 1996. Later that year, the first web interface to the Library catalogue became available. Significantly, this allowed the Library to link from the catalogue to web-based resources, such as the small but growing number of journals which were now available electronically. As databases migrated from CD-ROM to the web, and rapidly increased in number, the catalogue and the website became the gateway to these essential information resources, and the usage of both increased significantly every year. By 2005, the Library was subscribing to over 800 databases.

³⁷ *Annual Report*, 1994, introduction.

The Library was renamed the "Cybrary" in 1998 "to describe the integration of print and electronic information service delivery."³⁸ This neologism never became popular with the Library's staff or clients, and was quietly discarded in 2005, but it accurately reflected the fundamental changes that had transformed the Library's services and collections.

In 1999, over 5,000 journals were available electronically, and by 2005 that figure had reached 30,000. This represented a quantum change in the way in which scholarly information was published and accessed. It had major implications for the Library, as subscriptions to printed journals, and the manual work involved in handling printed journals, declined rapidly. Library users were now able to access many journals from their office or home, and in the scientific areas in particular, visits by researchers to the Library became much less frequent. For students, the Library was still popular as a study area and computer lab, but its significance as a repository of printed information was declining.

If journals were migrating en masse to electronic format, the same was not true of books. For various reasons, the electronic book (or e-book), was slow to establish a significant presence in academic publishing. Large collections of early printed books had been digitised, but modern scholarly monographs were still being published and accessed, for the most part, in print. However the announcement in December 2004 by the web search engine Google that it intended to digitise the collections of several major research libraries seemed to concentrate the minds of publishers and there were signs that the availability of academic e-books would soon increase.

"The Library has moved from the book business to the information business" wrote Schmidt in 1997.³⁹ In keeping with government policies aimed at developing a more entrepreneurial culture in universities, she viewed the Library as a business, with clients whose needs were paramount. Customer satisfaction surveys, focus groups and suggestion boxes became essential management tools. She was among the first library managers to realise that a new generation of students was emerging, with very different expectations from their predecessors. In a speech in 1998 she spoke of them in these terms:

They have never wound a watch, dialed a phone, plunked the keys of a manual typewriter, written on a blackboard, spun an LP or spent a penny.

But they think nothing of formatting floppy disks, downloading music off the Internet, heating a drink or meal in the microwave, or setting the clock – not to mention the actual recording – on a video cassette recorder.

They are a new breed of teenager, the leading edge of a generation that promises to be the richest, smartest and savviest ever... They are technophiles not technophobes. They fax, phone and email their friends rather than meet them in the mall.

³⁸ *Annual Report*, 1998: 12.

³⁹ *Annual Report*, 1997: 5.

Call them Generation Y, Millennial, Echo Boomers or Generation 2000. By any name they are the cool, coddled, confident offspring of the baby boomers.

This library is for them.⁴⁰

Some things, however, were not changing. Journal subscriptions continued to rise more rapidly than the rate of inflation and, as a result, in 1994 \$500,000 worth of subscriptions were cancelled and monograph purchases were reduced. The decline in the book collection was a serious side-effect of rising costs for serials and electronic resources: in 1996 spending on books decreased by 19%. In March 1996 the Howard Liberal government was elected and moved swiftly to reduce spending on higher education, with a phased 5% reduction in the operating grant of each institution, coupled with an abolition of discretionary funding and a small increase in research funding. As a consequence, the number of monograph titles purchased in 1997 decreased by a further 15%. In 1998 there was a sharp decline in the value of the Australian dollar and all monograph ordering was suspended in September that year, in anticipation of a large over-run on serials expenditure. A major, and painful, journals cancellation exercise was undertaken the following year, and a further \$650,000 of subscriptions were cancelled. The Australian dollar remained weak, and sank to its lowest ever value against the US dollar in 2001, resulting in yet another \$600,000 reduction in journal subscriptions.

Inevitably some members of the academic staff were becoming concerned about the quality of the Library's book collection. In 1999, Schmidt felt it necessary to affirm that "the Library aimed to provide an effective balance between print and electronic resources."⁴¹ However when the Library acquired its two millionth volume sometime in 2000, this milestone went completely unremarked, in sharp contrast with the celebrations surrounding the acquisition of the millionth volume in 1976. Clearly the quality of a university library's collection could no longer be measured in terms of the number of volumes on the shelves.

Fortunately the Australian dollar began to strengthen in 2003 and this fact, combined with significant extra funding for monograph purchases over the following few years, allowed at least some of the gaps in the book collection to be filled.

The University conducted a major reclassification of general staff positions in 1994, which caused considerable distress to many Library staff, although others benefited from the changes. A new senior management framework was introduced in 1995 to provide a "flatter" management structure, and five long-serving senior managers retired. There was something of an exodus at lower levels as well, partly as a result of the University's offer of voluntary retirement packages to general staff. In 1996, following the cutbacks introduced by the Howard government, the University imposed a freeze on new staff appointments, and in the following year the Library lost sixteen positions through a process of natural attrition.

Library management had become concerned about the high rate of sick-leave among the library attendants (the staff responsible for shelving books), and from 1996 the

⁴⁰ Janine Schmidt, "From the University Librarian," *Links: University of Queensland Library Staff Newsletter*, 5 November 1998, 1.

⁴¹ *Annual Report*, 1999: 20.

permanent staff in this area were gradually replaced by casual, part-time staff (mostly students). The management structure was further "flattened" in 1998 when the position of Deputy University Librarian was abolished and the last person to hold that title, George Eichinski, resigned. When the Library's budget was cut by 3% in 2000, at a time when the Australian dollar was steadily declining in value, further staff cuts became inevitable, and twenty staff took voluntary redundancy at the end of the year.

Librarianship was still a heavily feminised profession. Of the 84 professional librarians employed at August 1998, 72 were female. At senior management level, five of the eight post-holders were female. However the rapid expansion of the Library's services into the information technology area would do something to redress the gender imbalance. By 2005, the Library Technology Service employed 23 permanent staff, of whom only eight were female.

In the ten years between 1995 and 2005, overall student numbers rose by 49%. The number of postgraduate students (traditionally heavy users of library services) rose by 88%. Yet during that time, Library staff numbers fell by 7% (from 274 to 255). In other words, the Library was catering for greatly increased student numbers, and expanding into new areas such as information technology training and support, with fewer staff. How was this possible?

Part of the explanation is that workers were gradually being replaced by new technology. The introduction of the Innopac system in 1996 finally permitted the automation of the Library's acquisitions procedures and serial receipts, abolishing the labour-intensive manual systems which had been in use for decades. In 1997 the first self-checkout machines were introduced in the Undergraduate Library, and by 2005, 44% of loans across the Library system were "self service".

Another factor was the increasing availability of electronic information sources, which affected all traditional library services. By 2005, loan figures were static or falling, as students were accessing more and more of the resources which they needed in electronic journals or in course readings scanned by Library staff and delivered via the web. The number of reference inquiries was slowly declining, despite the availability of reference services via email and online chat: clearly students were having more success in locating the information that they needed in databases or on the web. Document delivery requests for items not held by the Library were also declining as the Library's holdings of electronic journals expanded.

Realising that the traditional role of the Library was diminishing, Schmidt was keen to diversify its activities into new areas. UQL Pathways was established in 1995 as a commercial venture to provide Internet training to customers outside the University, and it operated successfully for a few years, until the demand for such training declined. In 1995 a Library Research and Development section was established to obtain funding for innovative projects, focussed on information technology developments and information skills teaching. In that year over \$300,000 in funding was obtained to support projects undertaken by the Library, in conjunction with other organisations. The R& D section was renamed the Communications Service in 1996 and folded the following year, but the Library remained involved in project partnerships. There was particular interest in working with other organisations to develop subject-specific gateways to the mushrooming information resources on the

web. Some of these projects did not live up to expectations and were abandoned, but others such as WebLaw and Austlit proved very successful.

Earlier concerns about the Library becoming a de facto computer lab were overcome and by 1996 the Library contained almost 400 personal computers for public use, and over a thousand by the end of the decade. In 1998 an Electronic Information Centre was established in the new Social Sciences and Humanities Library to provide assistance to students on information technology matters. This was so successful that in 1999 the University asked the Library to take responsibility for information technology training and support for all students, and special funds were provided to set up the AskIT service as part of the Library's burgeoning Information Technology Service (renamed Library Technology Service in 1999).

In 1998 the Library began working with Queensland high schools to help them negotiate access to databases of journal articles. This outreach project became formalised with the establishment of the UQL Cyberschool programme in 1999. With school and public libraries now providing such sophisticated information resources to their users, there was a significant decline in use of the University Library by students of other institutions and members of the general public. This development was welcomed by reference librarians who had struggled for years to provide the often high level of assistance required by that user group.

In 1998 the Library also assumed responsibility for the University Archives, but this was a short-lived arrangement and the Archives returned to the University's Records Management Section in 2006.

The Library was starting to realise the potential of the web for delivering information in new formats. For example, it was now possible to provide course readings to students via the web, and in 1995 a start was made by scanning and digitising past examination papers. In 2002 the course materials service was expanded to provide web access to scanned copies of journal articles and other set readings and even in some cases to streamed multimedia. Digitisation of historic photographs and other unique materials in the collection was also undertaken. In 2002 an e-prints server was set up to provide open access to publications of University of Queensland researchers. All of these projects demonstrated that the Library was capable of establishing a new role for itself in an era of digital information sources.

But how would students and researchers locate the material that they needed in this ever-expanding sea of data? There was a rapid expansion in demand for information skills training in the early 1990s, as more and more databases became available and the value of the Internet as an "information superhighway" became generally recognised. For the Library, this offered the opportunity to develop new services and create partnerships with teaching staff which would significantly redefine the role of the librarian. A training course entitled "Navigating the Internet" was introduced in 1994 and proved to be very popular. A ten-hour training course "Information Skills for Researchers and Postgraduates" was introduced in 1995. In addition to these generic courses, reference librarians (now renamed "liaison librarians") were teaching subject-specific courses to many classes.

A major hindrance to the development of information skills teaching was the lack of suitable training facilities. The first training room was constructed in Central Library in 1995, containing thirteen personal computers and a projector. Similar facilities were soon constructed in other branches, and subsequently expanded to meet rising demands. A senior post of Coordinator, Information Skills, was created in 1997 to oversee developments in this area.

In 2004, there were over 50,000 attendances at information skill activities. Given that the total student body in that year numbered about 34,000, it was clear that some students were being trained more than once. The Library Committee of the Academic Board had recommended in 1999 that information skills should be integrated into all teaching programmes, but this aspiration remained unfulfilled.

By the early years of the new millennium, a cohort of students had emerged who had grown up with search engines and the web. They had developed new and faster ways of finding information. In 2001, Schmidt expressed concern that "ease of access to information [was] a greater determinant of information seeking behaviour than the suitability of the information."⁴² In 2003, she pointed out that "Content remained King and the tried and true scholarly journal was still more reliable than material of doubtful origin on the Internet."⁴³

Despite unfavourable budgetary conditions, Schmidt was remarkably successful at finding funds for major building works. A new Dentistry Library was opened in 1995, replacing the cramped accommodation which had been a source of complaint for many years. In the same year, the Library Audiovisual Services were renamed Multimedia Services and the lower ground floor of the Duhig Building was refurbished to provide more suitable accommodation for this expanding service. In 1997 the Physical Sciences and Engineering Library was refurbished and renamed the Dorothy Hill Physical Sciences and Engineering Library, in honour of one of the Library's most generous benefactors. At the same time, the Geology Library, the last of the small departmental libraries, was incorporated into the Physical Sciences and Engineering Library.

Refurbishment of library buildings became an ongoing process during this period, partly to provide more space for computer workstations and training facilities, and partly as a conscious attempt to "brand" Library services in an attractive and consistent fashion. Additional space for printed collections was, however, a low priority and became less so, as traditional library materials became increasingly available in digital form. For this reason, the construction of a purpose built Library Warehouse on the St Lucia campus in 1996 was a welcome development. Low-use material could be stored here and retrieved on a daily basis, or scanned and delivered electronically to users. Unfortunately the University Administration decided in 2006 to use this facility for storing its own archives and records, and the Library was forced to return to using commercial, off-campus storage.

As far back as 1981 the University Librarian had commented that "the location of Central and Undergraduate Libraries in separate buildings prevents some economies

⁴² *Annual Report*, 2001: 11.

⁴³ *Annual Report*, 2003: 2.

and causes some duplication in services but there is little prospect that capital funds will ever permit them to be brought under one roof."⁴⁴ Schmidt was able to convince the University of the need to amalgamate the Undergraduate and Central Libraries into a single Social Sciences and Humanities Library, and work commenced on this project in August 1997.

To overcome the problem of the separate buildings, a single-storey structure called "The Link" was built to connect them, without seriously detracting from the heritage-listed façade of the Duhig Building. This created an interesting new two-towered structure which presented many challenges to Library managers after it was opened in 1998. In his novel, *Perfect Skin*, the University of Queensland graduate Nick Earls depicts the reaction of a former student when first visiting the new library:

I didn't know half of it when I was talking on the weekend about how much this place had changed.

For a start, where I'm sitting is underground and surely used to be dirt below a path when I was studying here. Back in a time I'm now thinking I should be referring to as the old days. The old days when the microfiche machines were cutting-edge technology and everyone got a tutorial on how to use them.

I sit inconspicuously at a terminal around the middle of the fifth row. I stumble through the catalogue ... In the distance I can see librarians sitting at a counter and I wonder if I should email them and identify myself as the person floundering back here, needing to be saved. I'm prepared to wave to direct them to me if it'd help, even though it'd be an uncommonly public admission of my ignorance ...

But at least I get there. Through places that are so new they even smell it, up stairs I walked up in my first year here, through a doorway I've never seen and finally among shelves that smell just as they always have, and books.⁴⁵

In 1998 the Mater Hospital Library was refurbished and amalgamated with the Hospital's McAuley Nursing Library to form the UQ Mater McAuley Library. In 2000 the Gatton Library was significantly enhanced with the establishment of the Gatton Centenary Learning Centre. The rebuilding of the Princess Alexandra Hospital saw the opening of a new library there in 2001, with three times the capacity of its predecessor.

The opening of the new University of Queensland campus at Ipswich in 1999 added to the geographical dispersal of the Library's collections. The library at Ipswich, initially small and accommodated in what had been the refectory of a training centre for the intellectually disabled, grew rapidly and in 2003 it was incorporated into an innovative new building housing a range of student services.

⁴⁴ *Annual Report*, 1981: 3.

⁴⁵ Nick Earls, *Perfect Skin* (Ringwood, Vic.: Penguin, 2000), 187-9.

The Library's reach spread even further in 2002, with the opening of branches in Toowoomba and Rockhampton to support the new Rural Clinical Division within the School of Medicine.

The last of the major building projects initiated by Schmidt was the extension and refurbishment of the Biological Sciences Library. This project commenced in August 2005 and the new library opened in December 2006. When the original Biological Sciences Library was built in 1976, the then University Librarian proudly pointed out that this was the first science library at the University to have a separately staffed reference desk to assist users in finding information. As a sign of the changing times, the new Biological Sciences Library had service points for loans and information technology assistance only.

Schmidt resigned in January 2005. Like the first University of Queensland Librarian, Richard Pennington, she left to become Director of Libraries at McGill University in Canada. During her eleven years as University of Queensland Librarian, annual expenditure on the Library had risen from \$17.4 million to \$28.9 million. The printed collections had grown significantly, from about 1.56 million volumes to over 2.1 million volumes, but the growth in the electronic collections had been immeasurable. This was the era when the "Electronic Library" changed from being a futuristic chimera to a very realistic prospect. It was certainly the period of most rapid change in the Library's history. To some, like Schmidt, those changes meant opportunities to develop and promote new roles for the Library. To others, they posed a very real threat to the Library's continued existence.

Mary Lyons was Acting University Librarian from January 2005 until the arrival of the new University Librarian, Keith Webster, in June 2006.

Further Reading

Biskup, Peter. "Richard Pennington, University of Queensland's First James Forsyth Librarian, 1939-1946." *Australian Academic and Research Libraries*, 27 (1996): 229-249.

Bryan, Harrison. *No Gray Profession: Reminiscences of a Career in Australian Libraries*. Adelaide: Austlib Press, 1994.

Fielding, F.D.O. "Medical Libraries in the University of Queensland." In *A Medical School for Queensland*, edited by R.L. Doherty, 114-125. Brisbane: Boolarong Publications, 1986.

Schmidt, Janine. "Derek Fielding and the University of Queensland." *Australian Academic and Research Libraries*, 31 (2000): 11-30 [part of a special issue published as a Festschrift for Derek Fielding].

Scott, D.B. "A History of the University of Queensland Library." *Australian Library Journal*, 10 (1961): 68-87.

Thomis, Malcolm I. *A Place of Light & Learning: The University of Queensland's First Seventy-five Years*. St. Lucia, Qld.: University of Queensland Press, 1985.

University of Queensland. *The University of Queensland, 1910-1922*. Brisbane: Published by Authority of the Senate of the University, 1923.

University of Queensland Library. *Annual Report*. St. Lucia, Qld.: University of Queensland Library, 1942-1944; 1950 to date [from 1997 online at: <http://www.library.uq.edu.au/about/annualreport.html>].

ILLUSTRATIONS



Old Government House, George Street

The Library occupied three rooms in this building from 1910 to 1923



Art Block, Central Technical College, George Street

The Library occupied the lower floor of this building from 1923 to 1948

LIBRARY.

RULES.

1. The Library of the University of Queensland is divided into—

- (a) General and Arts Library;
- (b) Departmental (Science) Libraries.

The latter will, as accommodation is provided, be stored in the buildings of the Scientific Departments.

2. The Libraries are for the use of all Members of the University.

3. The General Library will be open during Term—
On Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Other week days, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 7 to 9 p.m.

Departmental Libraries will be open at the same time as the above so far as is compatible with the working of the Department and with the provision of reading-rooms in each Department.

In Vacation the Libraries shall be open as required.

4. No book may be taken from the General or Departmental Libraries except as set forth under the Rules for borrowing.

Borrowing.

5. (a) Books may be borrowed by members of the Senate, Professors, and Lecturers, Superior Officers of the University, and by Undergraduates attending the regular courses of the University without charge or subscription, and by Graduates who are proceeding to another degree or who are engaged in approved research work on payment of a subscription of one guinea a year. External Students shall not have the right to borrow books from the Library.

(b) The following are authorized to give out books to borrowers:—

For the General Library, THE LIBRARIAN AND ASSISTANT.

For the Departmental Books, THE PROFESSOR OR LECTURER IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OR HIS AUTHORIZED DEPUTY.

(c) Borrowers shall fill in and sign a borrowing slip of the form attached for each book required, and shall hand this to the proper authority specified in Rule 5 (b), who will countersign the slip before he gives out the book, and retain it as a receipt, sending the countersign to the Main Library.

(d) When books are returned, the borrowing slip shall be cancelled and returned to the Librarian.

(e) No books may be kept for more than the time noted on the slip, but, if not required by another Student, may be taken out again by the same borrower on fresh application as above.

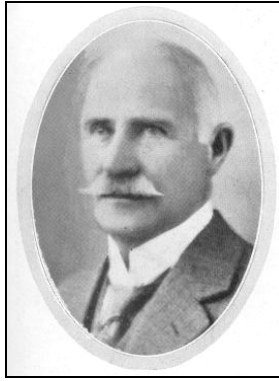
(f) Borrowers will be held responsible for loss of books or damage.

(g) If a book is already out when required by a Student, the signing of a borrowing slip shall establish for that Student a prior claim for that book so soon as it is returned.

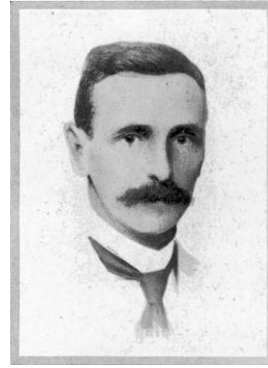
(h) Professors and Lecturers may have out not more than eight volumes at a time; other readers not more than three volumes.

(i) At the discretion of the Librarian or of Heads of Departments, certain books and periodicals may be noted as "Not to be borrowed." Current numbers of periodicals shall not be borrowed.

Library rules, 1911



F.W.S. Cumbrae-Stewart
University Registrar & Honorary Librarian
1910-1925



R.J. Cholmeley
Lecturer & Assistant Librarian
1911-1915



Isabel Hurwood
First Library Assistant, 1913-1917



"New Library Building", George Street
Built in 1935, but never occupied by the Library, it now
forms part of the Queensland University of Technology



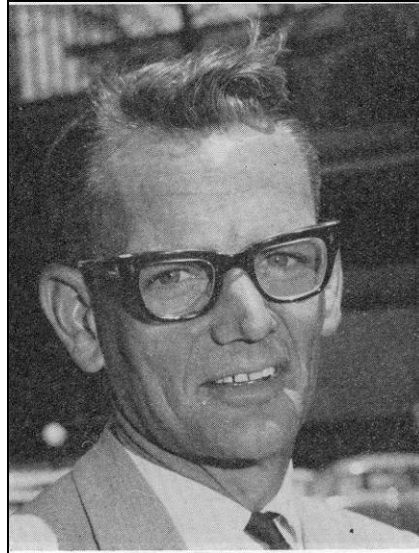
A.C.V. Melbourne
Honorary Librarian, 1934-1938



Richard Pennington
First University Librarian, 1939-1946



Medical School Library, Herston, 1939
These were the first purpose-built Library premises



Harrison Bryan
University Librarian, 1950-1962



Settling in at St Lucia, about 1949
Ground floor of the Main Library building at St Lucia (now Level 2 of the Duhig Building), probably just after the move from George Street. The man standing is apparently Harrison Bryan. The older woman is probably Nellie McIver.

Main Library in the 1950s



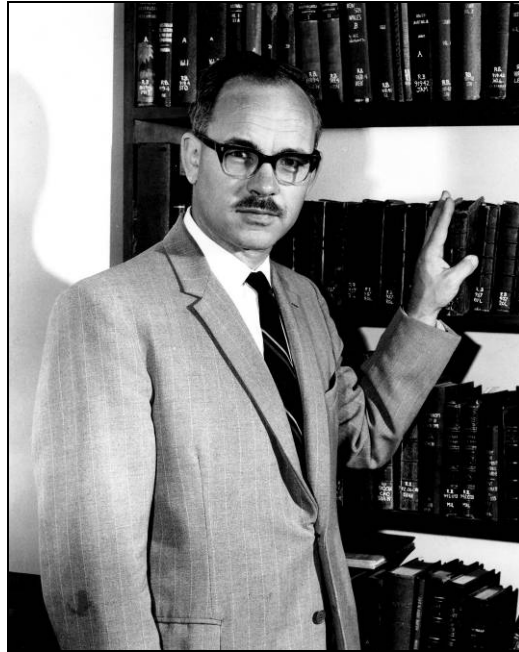
Exterior, 1958



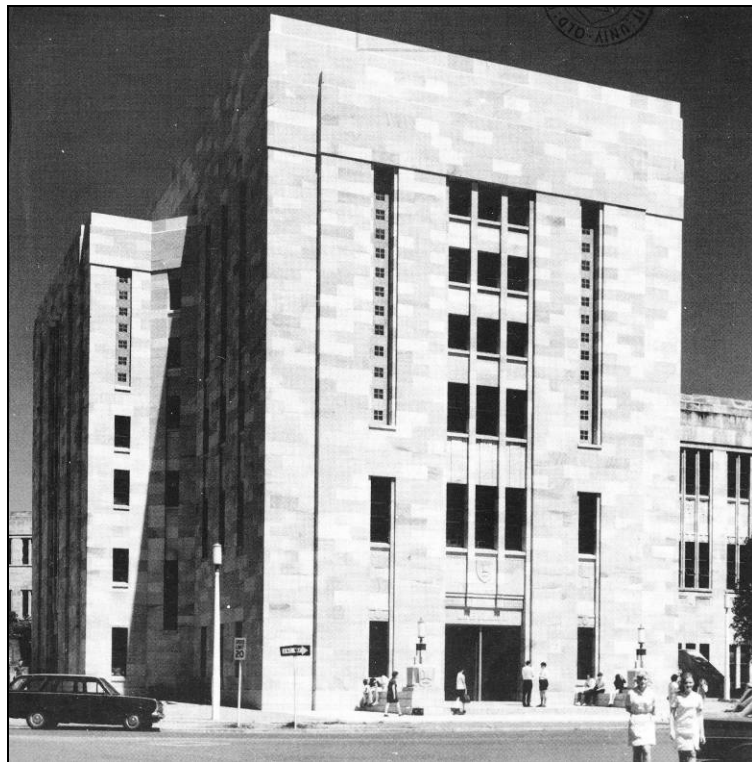
Harrison Bryan at the Charging Counter (Ground Floor)



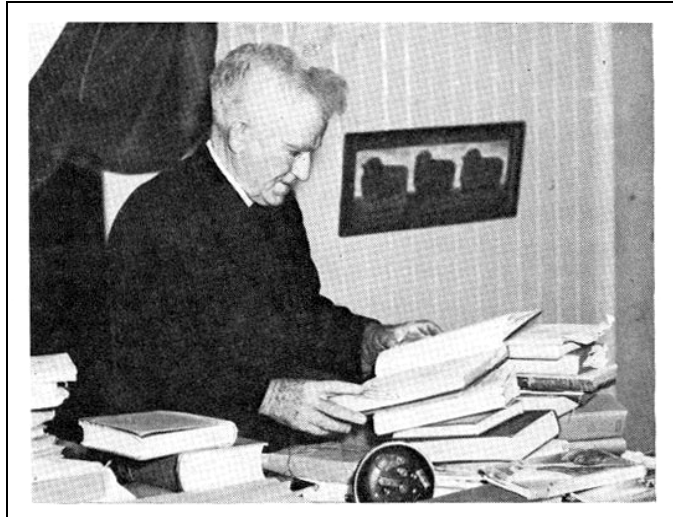
Reading Room (Ground Floor)



Derek Fielding, 1965
University Librarian, 1965-1992



Main Library after extension, 1967



Father Hayes

The Hayes Bequest (1967) significantly strengthened the Library's research collections

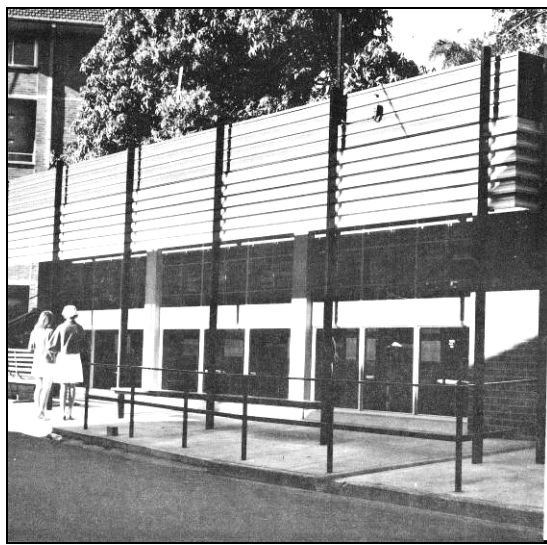


Fryer Library, 1969

Compactus shelving provided more space for the expanding collection



Architecture Library, 1960s
A typical small departmental library



Mater Hospital Library, 1970



Photocopying, about 1970
Using a coin-operated photocopier

Main Library circa 1970



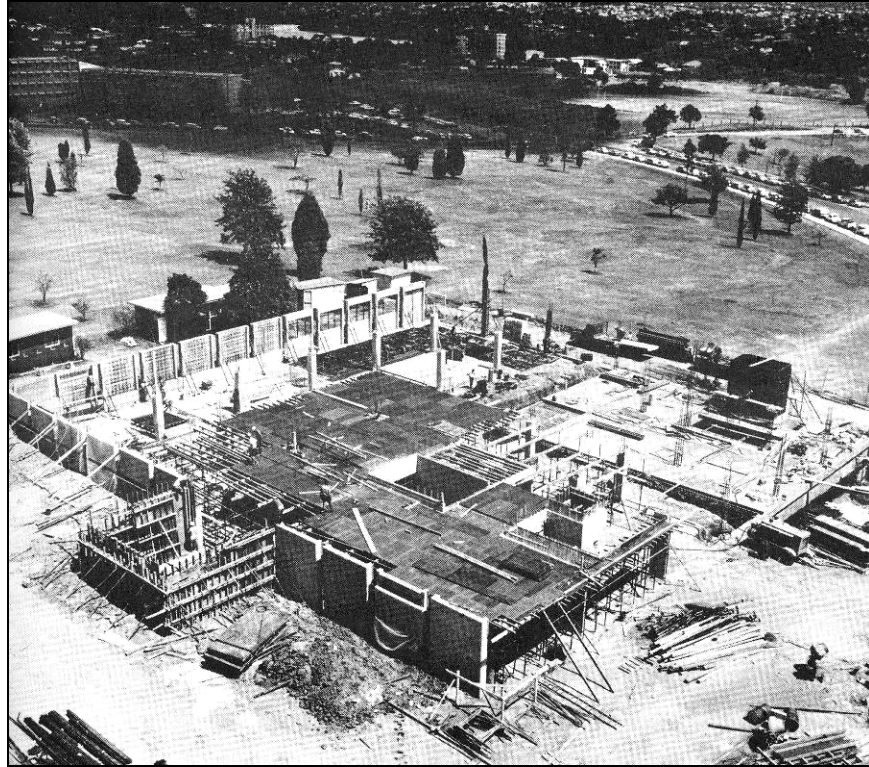
Ground Floor, entrance from Great Court



Card Catalogue, Ground Floor



Reading Rooms (Upper Floors)



Central Library under construction, 1971



Central Library

Looking from the east. The entrance to the Undergraduate Library (Duhig Building) is on the left.



Central Library Reference Desk, 1973



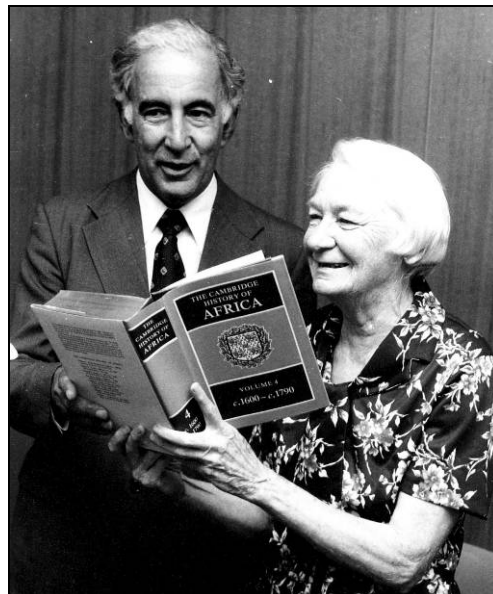
Central Library bookstacks and reading room, 1973



Library staff assist flood victims, 1974



Readers' Adviser, Undergraduate Library, 1976



The millionth book, 1976

Presented by Prof. Dorothy Hill to Vice-Chancellor Zelman Cowen

Biological Sciences Library, 1976



Exterior, from the south



Entry level (level 2), looking east towards the Reference Desk



Online searching with teletype terminal, about 1980



Automated lending system, Central Library, 1983

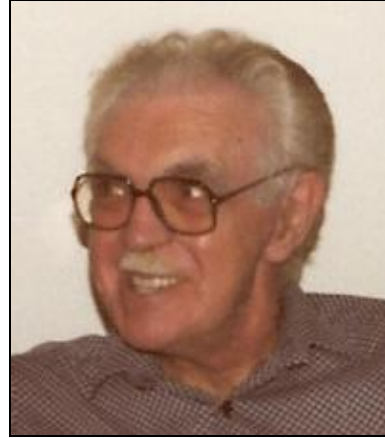


Central Library Computer Room, 1983

Deputy University Librarians



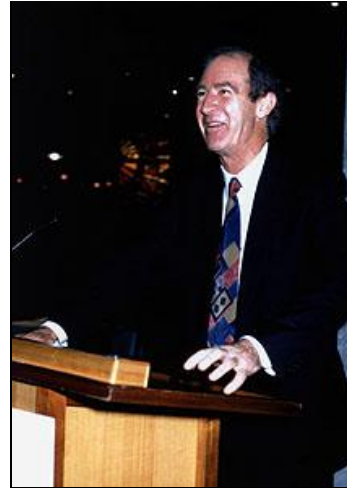
Barry Scott
(1956-1965)



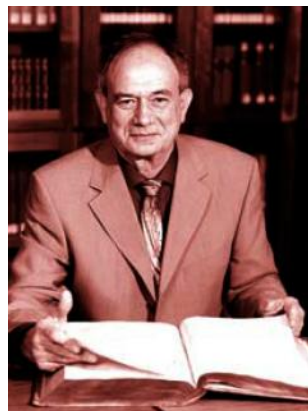
Sid Page
(1966-1972)



John Cummings
(1973-1977)



Eric Wainwright
(1978-1981)



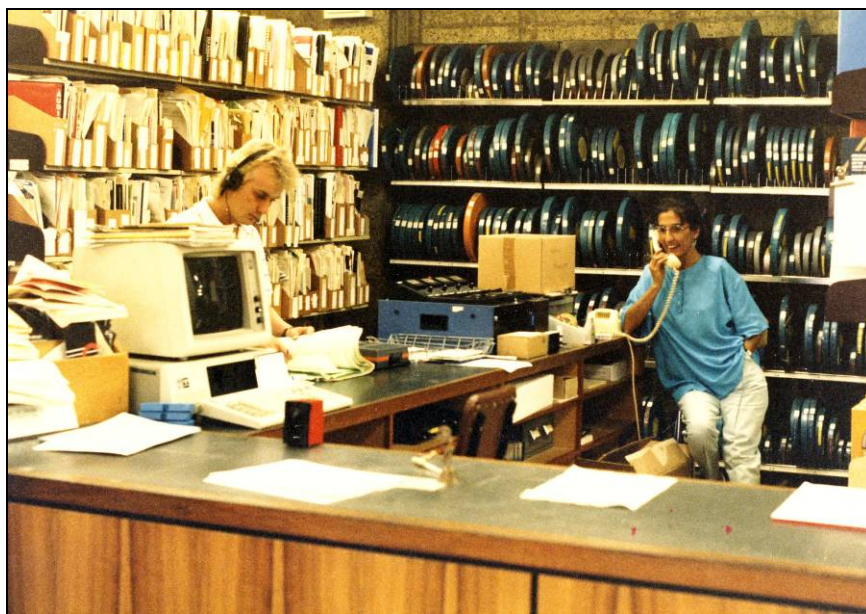
Earle Gow
(1982-1985)



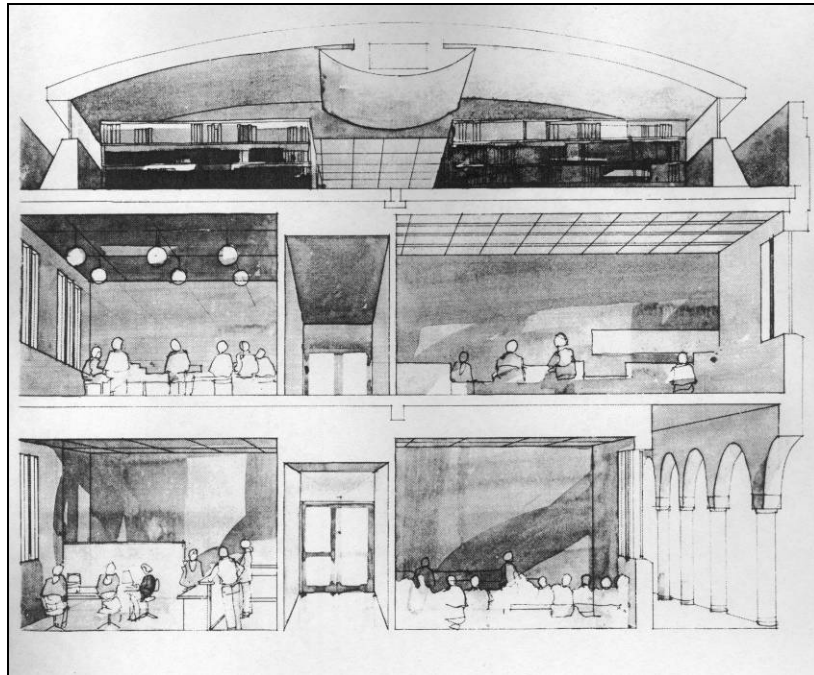
George Eichinski
(1986-1998)



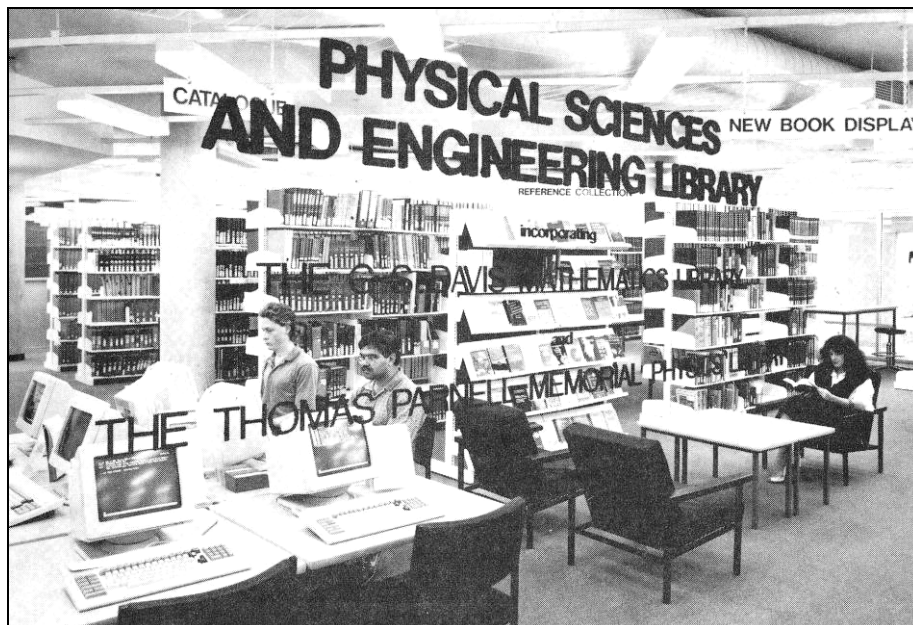
Herston Medical Library, 1984



Library Audiovisual Services, 1980s



Law Library refurbishment, 1989
 Cross-section plan showing the upper floor
 inserted on the roof of the Forgan Smith Building



Physical Sciences and Engineering Library, 1991



Spencer Routh (left) receiving donation, 1991




Janine Schmidt
University Librarian, 1993-2005



Central Library Training Room, 1996

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND



Library

We link people and information

HOME PAGE

[access, hours, services, contacts]

[About the Library](#)

[What's New](#)

[services & information updates](#)



[the catalogue & related services]

[UQL Information System](#)

[Other Resources](#)

[\[databases, e-reserve, document delivery\]](#)

Comments & Suggestions

This site was originally set up in 1995 as a student project associated with the University's Department of Computer Science.

URL: <http://www.library.uq.edu.au/> Modified 28 October, 1996

Revised opening hours for Exam period

Library home page, 1996



Gatton Library, 1996



"The Link" under construction, December 1997

This structure connected the Duhig Building (on left) with the Central Library, to create the Social Sciences and Humanities Library



Ipswich Library, 2003



Princess Alexandra Hospital Library, 2005



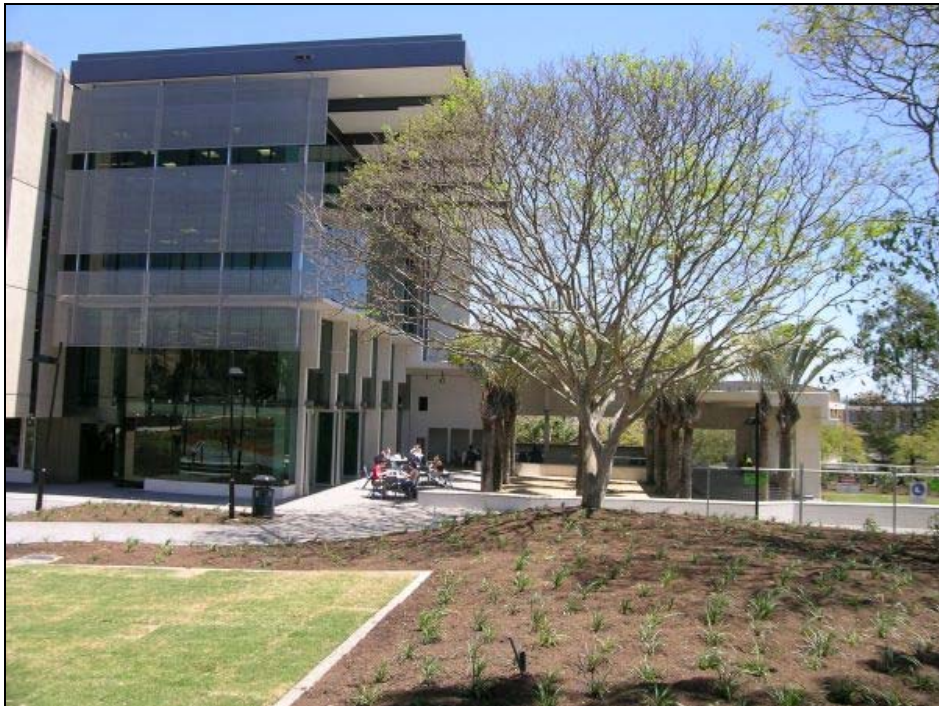
Postgraduate study area, 2001
Duhig Building, Level 4



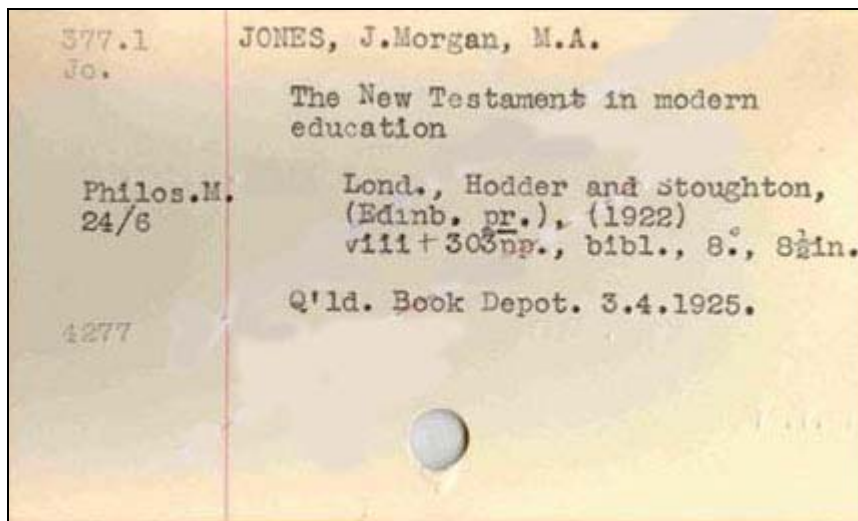
Social Sciences and Humanities Library, 2005
The entrance to The Link from the foyer of the Duhig Building



Computer "E-Zone", 2005
Duhig Building, Level 2



Biological Sciences Library, 2006
The northern extension and café



Catalogue card, 1925

Before the introduction of duplicators, cards were individually typed. At this period, only an author catalogue and a shelf-list were maintained. These catalogues were kept in the Library office and were not accessible to readers.

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA

Library Catalogue

Catalogue Help | Ask a Librarian | Catalogue | Loans | Course Resources | Databases | Document Delivery

New Search Request Export Limit / Sort Another Search (Search History)

TITLE new testament in modern educatio Entire Collection System Sorted Search

← Previous record Next record →

Author [Jones, John Morgan.](#)

Title **The New Testament in modern education / by J. Morgan Jones.**

Publisher London : Hodder and Stoughton, [1922]

Access in-library	Call Number	Status
Warehouse	AA02253	AVAILABLE

Description 303p ; 23cm.

Bibliography Includes bibliography.

Subject [Bible. N.T. -- Study and teaching](#)

← Previous record Next record →

Web catalogue, 2006

Showing the catalogue record for the same book

Earlier see 8704-6.

PARTICULARS	NUMBER AND DATE	
TAN	1983: Nov. Dec.	Tos. Office. How do youelling unit Continuing issues. If not approved by approving authorities.
	1984: Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May. June. July. Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec.	
ISSN 0511-3440	1985: Jan/Feb. Apr. May. June. July. Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec.	BT 1/87
	1986: Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May. June. July. Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec.	
① This will cease pubn after Sept 1996, unless alternative funding is found by IRS.	1987: Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May. June. July. Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec.	
② Cessad, after Sept 1996, to be available for of charge Spencer's decision not to buy monthly	1988: Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May. June. July. Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. 1989: Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May. June. July. Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. 1990: Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May. June. July. Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. 1991: Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May. June. July. Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. 1992: Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May. June. July. Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. 1993: Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May. June. July. Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. 1994: Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May. June. July. Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. 1995: Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May. June. July. Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. 1996: Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May. June. July. Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec.	
TITLE BELOW THIS LINE	NAME	

8741.6

Kalamazoo sheet

These sheets were used from the 1940s (or earlier) to record receipt of journal issues. They were filed in large, unwieldy binders.

Millennium Circulation - UQ Library - b10024773

File Edit View Go Tools Admin Help

Search / Holds by Title

Save View Edit Media(0) Meta(0) WE Summary Browse Print Close

Loans Desk

Check In

Summary Record c1095122 Card c1095122 Holdings c1095122 Routing c1095122(0) 0 Bib-Level Holds

Check-in date Fri 08 Dec 2006 Print labels Create item Check in

	Apr 2000	Oct 2000	Apr 2001	Oct 2001	Apr 2002	Oct 2002	Apr 2003
ARRIVED	12-05-2000	ARRIVED 03-01-2001	ARRIVED 29-05-2001	ARRIVED 11-01-2002	ARRIVED 3-6-2002	ARRIVED 19-11-2002	ARRIVED 23-05-2003
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19 boxes

Automated checking-in of journals, 2006
Using the Innopac Millennium system

BIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS. Philadelphia. [Formed by the amalgamation of ABSTRACTS OF BACTERIOLOGY and BOTANICAL ABSTRACTS, which see also.]
v.1(1946/7)+
Sec.D.v.18+

BIOLOGICAL BULLETIN. (Woods Hole, Mass.)
v.76(1979)+

BIOLOGICAL REVIEWS. Cambridge.
[Prior to AD.1925 called CAMBRIDGE PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.
Proceedings. Biological Sciences; 1926-75 called
BIOLOGICAL REVIEWS AND BIOLOGICAL PROCEEDINGS.]
v.1(1926)+

BIOLOGICAL SYMPOSIA. (American Association for the Advancement
of Science, Washington.)
v.5(1947)-12

BIOMETRIK. Cambridge.
v.1(1901/2)+

BIOPHYSICS. (Tr. from Russian) Consultants Bureau.
v.2(1957)+

BIRBAL SAMMI INSTITUTE OF PALAEOBOTANY. Lucknow.
Palaeobotanist. See under title.

BIRMINGHAM NATURAL HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY. Birmingham.
Annual report.
1920-48/9.
Proceedings.
v.15(1922/9)+

BIRMINGHAM. University.
Calendar. 1949/50+
English and Germanic studies. See under title.
Gazette. 1949+
Historical Journal. See UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM HISTORICAL
JOURNAL.
Department of Geography.
Geographical studies. See under title.
Institute of Education.
Educational review. See under title.
Joint Standing Committee for Research.
Annual report.
3(1924)-
Medical School. Journal
See QUEEN'S MEDICAL MAGAZINE.

BISHOP MUSEUM. See HELENICE PAUANI BISHOP MUSEUM, Honolulu.

Periodicals union list, 1959

The first printed list of the Library's journal holdings



Microfiche periodicals catalogue, 1980

The microfiche was generated from a computerised database

THE MAIN LIBRARY ST. LUCIA


So far we have been considering the University Library in its entirety. Now let us examine the Main Library in somewhat more detail since it is the focal point in the library system and since we hope that every student will manage at some time to use it in addition to any Departmental Library which may cover more specifically the field in which his main interest lies.

The Main Library occupies the eastern end of the Main Building on the St. Lucia site. You can enter the Library either through the Library Main Entrance from the drive in front of the Main Building or from the cloisters surrounding the Great Court. In the latter case you must make your way to the Basement Corridor of the Main Building, either by way of the Arts Entrance or by the staircase between the Department of Physical Education and the Library, and follow it to its eastern end, where it will lead you into the Main Entrance vestibule of the Library. There is an entrance directly into the Library from the eastern end of the cloisters, but this is to be used only by the teaching staff.


The lower floor of the Library is occupied by the library processes about which we were speaking earlier, by the Reserve Stack in which is housed material only infrequently used and by the State Paper Room which contains the large volumes of Government Gazettes and Parliamentary Papers used for reference and research. Students do not have unrestricted access to these sections of the building.

Shelves are provided at the inner end of the Entrance Vestibule to hold your bags and suit cases which must not be taken into the Library proper.

Library guide, 1950



THE FIVE STEP RESEARCH PROCESS:
www.library.uq.edu.au/findit



Finding information in the Library for your assignments:

All items listed below in bold type are the links you will find on the Library's homepage.
See: www.library.uq.edu.au

1. **Getting Started**
 - Visit any branch library and check out the print reference collection, or
 - From any branch library or your home/office computer open the homepage and go to the **Quick Reference** link and use the **Encyclopedias** or **Dictionaries & Thesauri**.
2. **Next Steps**
 - Under **Course Materials** browse or search your subject area, click on your **course code**, or
 - Click on the **Library catalogue** link to look up titles from your printed Reading List. Lecturers may place articles and books in the High Use collection for short term borrowing. Search by **Author** or **Course Code** or **Course Name**.

No Reading List?

- Find information using a **Subject Guide** on an area relevant to your topic. Subject Guides suggest general books on a topic, databases you can access, and relevant Internet sites, or
- Click on the **Library catalogue** link and use **Keywords** to search for material on your topic, or
- Click on the **Databases** link and choose a subject database to search for articles.

3. **Locating up-to-date information**
 - Use one of the Library's more than 860 Databases to find references to journal and newspaper articles, conference proceedings, etc. Many contain full-text articles which you can read and/or print. Others provide only the article reference to a print journal (and maybe a summary) which you may be able to find online by searching the Library catalogue. Click on the **Databases** link to find relevant databases.
4. **Exploring further**
 - Try the Internet - NOTE: this is NOT Step One!
 - Explore the Internet by starting with a **Subject Guide** on the Library's homepage for useful Internet sites relevant to your topic area, or
 - Click on the **Internet** link on the Library homepage for searching tips and **Subject Gateways**.
5. **Not sure what to do?**
 - Come to a Library training session to learn efficient information searching techniques. Click on the **Training sessions** link for details or ask at any branch library Information Desk.
 - Online help is available via the **Ask a Librarian** link from the home page. Staff at branch libraries provide in-person help and service.
 - Try the online tutorial **Making the most of the Library** under **Training sessions**.
6. **The Final Touch**
 - Use Library computers for professional word processing, presentation and printing.
 - Check the **How-to Guides** for information on citing references in your assignments. Also check the **Copyright & plagiarism** link to find out how much you are allowed to copy.

Library guide, 2006

CALL NUMBER	PERIODICAL (CAT. B) <i>It's a Wonderful Life</i>		1
	AUTHOR		2
	TITLE		
	VOL. AND OR PART(S)		YEAR(S)
RETURNED	NAME & ADDRESS (BLOCK LETTERS)		A
STUDENT No.	POSTCODE		B
Signature		1-3 4-6 7-9 10-12 13-15 16-18 19-21 22-24 25-27 28-31	C
			D

Manual loan card

Before automation, large files of these cards were in use. Earlier versions had holes punched along the bottom edge, to indicate the three-day period during which the book was due for return. By cutting out the edge of the card around that hole, a thin rod ("needle") could be run through a file of cards and the file shaken to extract the overdue items.



Imprinting machine, 1970

Readers could obtain an embossed disc to imprint their name and address on loan cards



Self-checkout machine, 2003

"Do-it-yourself" borrowing



Keith Webster
University Librarian from June 2006