

NEWS

THE UNIVERSITY
OF ADELAIDE
LIBRARIES

Number 2

September 1993

Resources and Budget Update

The latest figures from the key index for price movements in books and journals purchased by Australian University libraries shows a startling increase in the year June 1992 to June 1993. Over that period, the prices paid for books increased by 9.92% and the prices for journal subscriptions by 20.4%.

When looking ahead to 1994, we have been informed by our major overseas suppliers that they expect the average price of journals to increase by 10-12% (the average annual increase over the past decade has been about 10%). Approximately 95% of our acquisitions are from overseas and this increase, coupled with the exchange rate which is at present dropping, does not augur well for the books and journals budget.

At this stage, our best estimates suggest that if the University continues to purchase the same number of books as in 1993, if we continue to subscribe to the same number of journals, and if the dollar remains as it is at present, we will require at least \$660 000 extra in order to maintain a 'steady state' in acquisitions.

One of the serious problems about materials budgets is the fact that the supplementation funds provided by the Government for non-salaries budget lines are based on Australian inflation and do not take enough consideration of research material, such as books and journals, which must be purchased from overseas. This 'anomaly' has been indicated to the Senate Standing Committee Inquiry into the Organization and Funding of Research in Higher Education; it is probably wishful thinking to assume that their report will recommend a more realistic supplementation process which will take into consideration the factors of overseas inflation of books and journals, and currency fluctuations.

...continued on back cover...

Did you know...?

In September 1992 approximately 300 users from outside the Library logged into our computer catalogue; in September 1993 there are nearly 3 000 logins each week.

Current Contents — coming to a terminal near you!

ARE you struggling to keep up with the literature in your subject area?? If your answer is 'Yes', then help is at hand: *Current Contents*, the leading service in current journal information, is now available free (via AARNet) to all Australian University staff and students, for a 12 month trial period.

This means that users with accounts on the University of Adelaide network will be able to access the database in the Library, in their office or laboratory, and by modem, from home or from those University sites — such as the teaching hospital-based Departments — that are not currently on the campus network. Users without accounts — such as undergraduate students — will be able to use the service from a number of terminals in the University of Adelaide Libraries.

**For more information
about this new service,
please turn the page.**

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Current Contents — more on this new service

PUBLISHED since the 1960s by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) in hard copy and, more recently, on diskette, *Current Contents* appears weekly in seven different subject-related editions: Agriculture, Biology and Environment; Clinical Medicine; Engineering, Technology and Applied Sciences; Life Sciences; Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences; Social and Behavioral Sciences; and Arts and Humanities.

In aggregate terms, *Current Contents* provides access to the contents of around 4 500 science journals, 1 500 social science and 1 200 arts/humanities journals. In the new national service all seven editions will be available, and will be searchable individually or collectively. With the exception of the Arts and Humanities section, most references in the database include abstracts of the articles.

Database features

Users of the search service can either browse the contents pages of journal titles of interest, or run subject searches on the system. In fact, searches can be stored on the system, and then re-run as and when needed to update information on topics of interest to you. For example, if you are interested in keeping up with everything published on both AIDS and Hepatitis B, and in everything published by J. Bloggs, and everything published by people working at the Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, and everything published in the journal *Lancet*, such a search can be run, and then stored by you on the system. You can then re-run the stored search every week as the database is updated, or however frequently or infrequently you require.

Subject searches can include searches of words or phrases in the titles of articles, and can also be broadened to include keywords from the articles, and the abstracts as well.

Unlike the paper and diskette services, the CAUL service has the **entire** *Current Contents* file going back to March 1993. By the end of the 12 month trial there will be 18 months' worth of data, searchable either as one large multi-disciplinary file, or as a small subject-specific subset, and limited to the current week or current month.

Rapid Document Delivery Service

Users of the *Current Contents* service will also have access to ISI's document delivery service (known as 'The Genuine Article').

Information about this service will soon be available from your Subject Librarian.

What happens at the end of the 12 months?

The *Current Contents* project is funded by a grant from DEET awarded to CAUL, the Council of Australian University Librarians. It is a 12 month pilot study, and for users it is free during this period.

Assuming that the trial is a success, and any bugs in the way the service works are ironed out to users' satisfaction, then the *Current Contents* service is likely to continue. Also, it is planned that other heavily-used database services will be added over time by CAUL.

At this stage it is not clear how it will be funded; it may be that further grant funding will be forthcoming, or that the Universities will have to pay for the service themselves — or a mixture of the two.

However, it is CAUL's intention that the individual user is not faced with charges for use of the database itself.

How do I find out more?

User id's for faculty and post-grads will be distributed to you by Departmental heads. In the first instance, contact people for problems in using the service will be your Subject Librarian, or, where relevant, the Librarians at the Waite, Roseworthy, Performing Arts and Law Libraries.

Publicity on how to access and use the service will appear soon, and Library staff will be available to run orientation sessions for staff members who are interested in this new service.

Steve Cramond

Document Delivery

THE Library, and the University Library Committee, is looking at ways of satisfying the increasing information needs of the University within the constraints of our budget. One of the possibilities being considered is a review of the means of acquiring and providing information, and electronic document supply is being explored as an alternative to purchasing books and journals. This can only apply to a small percentage of our information needs, but it is a way of providing required information from material not held here, especially those titles which we are compelled to cancel as part of budget reductions.

'Southern Cross'

Linked with this is a proposal from the University of Adelaide Libraries for the creation of an electronic national document delivery system based on the research collections already in Australia. Our Library and other research Libraries are having serious, although preliminary, discussions on developing a prototype for such a system, which we provisionally have called 'Southern Cross'.

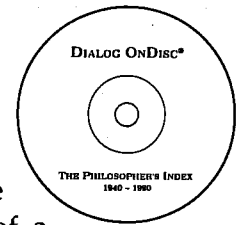
Regional Resource Sharing

I have put forward a discussion paper on regional resource sharing and co-operative collection building to the University Librarians at Flinders and the University of South Australia which will be discussed at our next meeting. In the meantime, a serials overlap study is being completed and a list of titles is being compiled of journals held in at least two of our Libraries; this will be helpful in future deliberations concerning journal subscriptions and possible cancellations.

The three university libraries have also developed and are using a paging service based on the collections of the Barr Smith Library and a daily courier service which links all of our libraries in the Adelaide region, and facilitates document delivery to the end user.

Ray Choate

Philosopher's Index on CD-ROM



THE Philosophy Department and the Library have collaborated in the funding of a CD-ROM (electronic database) version of *Philosopher's Index*.

Philosopher's Index provides indexing and abstracts of philosophy books and over 350 journal titles and is a major source of information in the areas of aesthetics, epistemology, ethics, logic, metaphysics and social and political philosophy. It will be of interest to researchers in the philosophy of various disciplines such as education, history, language, law, women's studies, religion and science.

Coverage is from 1940 to the present for English language publications and 1967 to the present for foreign language publications.

The CD-ROM version will be updated quarterly and it is possible to save your search interests (and the results of your search) on floppy disk for future reference.

Philosopher's Index on CD-ROM has been ordered from Dialog Information Services in California and should be available for use next month.

Alan Keig

Hand Printing Press — Volunteers needed

THE Barr Smith Library is in the process of rehabilitating an old Imperial Press — manufactured around 1858 — which was presented to the Library by the University's Department of English. Cheryl Hoskin (Department of English) has been assisting with the rehabilitation.

The Library is interested to hear from anyone who would like to become involved in learning to use the Press, sorting and preparing sample sheets of the wide range of type the Library has at its disposal, and preparing accompanying documentation. The type available — purchased at different times from various country printers — includes both wooden and metal type as well as decorative letters and illustrative blocks.

We are hoping to hire out the use of the Press for special occasions, such as the printing of wedding invitations, as well as make use of it for printing relating to special Library and University functions.

Anyone interested to be involved in this project is invited to contact Liz Lee at the Barr Smith Library (telephone extension 35345).



If you would like more information about any of the topics mentioned in this issue, please get in touch with the person named in the article, or the University Librarian, Ray Choate, at the Barr Smith Library.

University Library Committee

The University Library Committee has been reconstituted as a committee of three academics, two students and one library staff, with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and the University Librarian as ex-officio members. The function of the Committee will be to advise and assist the University Librarian in matters relating to the formulation of University policy and budget strategies relating to the Libraries. It will report to the Academic Board on the activities of the University Libraries in an annual report, and in occasional other reports on matters of importance to the University.

Concerning day-to-day matters, a new Library Users Committee has been established which has academic representation from all the Faculties and campuses, as well as several students and library staff.

Academic Board is now calling for nominations for positions on the University Library Committee for 1994. As a new Committee, all three academic and two student positions must be filled; at least one of the academic positions must represent the humanities/social sciences disciplines and one the science/medical/technology disciplines; one of the student positions is for an undergraduate student and one for a research postgraduate student.

*Nominations close at noon on
Wednesday 6 October 1993.*

If more nominations are received than there are vacancies, a ballot will take place at the meeting of Academic Board on 20 October 1993.

Any member of the University who is interested in nominating for the University Library Committee can obtain the terms of reference from the University Librarian.

Resources and Budget

Update *(continued from front cover)*

The students of the University have been very interested in the Library, seeing it as a major resource for their studies, and have been lobbying for an improvement in the funding situation in order to protect as much as possible both collections and services (including hours of opening). Several Faculties and Departments have also officially signalled their support for the sustaining of the research collections. As a result of the interests and the efforts of these groups of Library users, a Task Force on Library Funding has been established with Professor Gavin Brown, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, as Convener, which is currently exploring a range of issues relating to the budget.

Ray Choate

Bibliographic Services Librarian

PATRICIA Scott has recently accepted the position of Bibliographic Services Librarian in the Barr Smith Library's Technical Services Division.



Photo: Dennis Patrick Kraaijenbrink

Many Library users will know Patricia in her previous role as an extremely capable and energetic Subject Librarian for History.

As Bibliographic Services Librarian, Patricia manages the cataloguing and processing activities for the Library's collections and is responsible for the quality of the data in the Library's bibliographic database.

Science information through AARNet

University staff and postgraduate students are invited to demonstrations of information sources in science accessible through AARNet to be held on **Tuesday 19 October** and **Thursday 21 October** at 10.00am in Seminar room B, Level 3 South, Barr Smith Library.

If you would like to attend one of these sessions, please notify **Jane Wannan** at the Barr Smith Library. (Telephone extension 34659; e-mail jwannan@library.adelaide.edu.au).

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