

History of the Collection of  
The University of Western Australia  
Library, 1913 – 1999



by

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## Introduction

The *History of the Collections of the UWA Library, 1913-1999* was edited by Dr Emma Hawkes from the Centre of West Australian History in March 1999.

A library... is a great capital investment which without noise and display constantly returns dividends which cannot be measured.<sup>1</sup>

When the University of Western Australia was founded in 1913, the Library was allocated £2000 and held a few hundred books; in 1997 the library system spent \$4,442,148 on acquisitions and carried over a million volumes.<sup>2</sup> This site traces the history of this collection, examining how the University of Western Australia library system has developed and how particular collections have been established.

While the emphasis of this work is on the history of the Library collection, the changing acquisitions policies and the sources of funding, this history is intertwined with broader themes such as the tenure of the head librarians, the erection of the libraries and the financial strategies of the University as a whole. This is, then, a brief history of the library system at the University of Western Australia.

The 1913 Senate made almost no provision for a library and it was only after the academic staff purchased their own books that they acknowledged the necessity for a library collection. A few hundred volumes were bought, but the Library was only nominally supervised and organised until the appointment of Malvina Evelyn Wood to the position of University Librarian in 1927. The library system was revitalised at this point - the collection doubled in only a few years and a central library building was built. However, the depression and World War Two slowed the collection of books, and it was not until Leonard Jolley became the University Librarian in 1959 that the Library began to expand its collections significantly, to experiment with new forms of information technology, to erect new library buildings, and to bring departmental libraries under central control.



Library before construction 1931

Technological improvements became even more significant in the 1980s as Arthur Ellis, the new University Librarian, tried to alleviate financial difficulties by expanding the University's collections of audio-visual and electronic materials and computerising the Library's catalogues. These themes persist in the 1990s as the Library continues to "provide links between the University of Western Australia community and sources of recorded knowledge, information and published cultural heritage."<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Report on the Library for the Year 1963.

<sup>2</sup> Report on the Library for the Year 1997.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.library.uwa.edu.au/aboutlib/policies/irpolicy> (comment: do we need new link?)

Downloaded 5/1/1999 (No longer available).

## 1913 – 1926

*Judged by either British or American standards, our book collection is of course inadequate. It has been built up to supply the immediate needs of the students in the subjects studied at this University. As a result the collection has many gaps in particular subjects and serious gaps in the collection as a whole.<sup>1</sup>*

When the University of Western Australia opened its doors to 184 Science, Arts and Engineering students in 1913 there were almost no library services. The Senate had not allocated money for books and had to divert funds for this purpose during the year. In the absence of a librarian, there was no coherent acquisitions policy nor an organised borrowing system. The history of the library at this time is one of disorganisation and of limited collecting for immediate needs.

The Senate's preparations for the opening of the university in 1913 did not include provisions for the library, as the Senate believed that the needs of the students could be met with text books and that the staff could use the Public Library.<sup>2</sup> The staff had to buy books themselves and to force the Senate to approve the decision retrospectively.<sup>3</sup> £2000 was diverted to meet the immediate need for books, and, in the absence of an acquisition policy, the Vice Chancellor allocated these funds to the departmental heads to spend as they liked. The Faculties of Science, Arts and Engineering bought 1212 volumes and kept them in either the central library or in departmental libraries. However, funds were far more limited after this and by 1926 the library held only 10,514 volumes.

From its inception the University of Western Australia was a free university which did not charge students fees. Funding came from government subsidies although these were rarely felt to be adequate. The outbreak of World War One almost immediately after the founding of the University and the subsequent rural depression of the twenties both meant that government allocations were meagre. For instance, the 1923 budget allowed only £50 for the running of the library and the sums allocated to the departments for the purchasing of books ranged from £5 to £80.<sup>4</sup> The only redeeming factor over this period was that the university received donations from the Oxford University Press and the Cambridge University Press, and gained a small collection of history and economics books from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.<sup>5</sup>

The university did not have a librarian at this time. The initial cataloguing of the University Library was undertaken by the Public Library for an honorarium.<sup>6</sup> The Senate then paid different members of staff an additional £50 per annum to monitor the library, and from 1921 onwards appointed A.S. Brown, an untrained pensioner, to supervise the library. While he monitored the students using the library, he could not, of course, be expected to do much more. Decisions about purchases were made on an *ad hoc* basis by the Library Committee or by heads of departments. In 1918, for instance, the Library Committee decided there was "no need" for works on architecture "at the present time."<sup>7</sup> Further, the absence of a librarian

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<sup>1</sup> M E Wood, Report on a Visit to Europe and America by the University Librarian (Perth: Fred W Simpson, 1936) 13.

<sup>2</sup> Madeleine McPherson, A History of the Library of the University of Western Australia, 1913 - 1959.

<sup>3</sup> McPherson, A History of the Library of the University of Western Australia, 1913 - 1959 (1965) 3.

<sup>4</sup> Estimates for 1923, Senate Minutes, 1922 - 1924.

<sup>5</sup> 7/10/1920, Report of the Librarian, UWAA 0413, Library Committee; McPherson, A History of the Library of the University of Western Australia, 1913 - 1959 (1965) 19.

<sup>6</sup> 15/9/1913, Letter from Whitfeld, UWAA 0401, Library Committee.

<sup>7</sup> 14/2/1918, UWAA 0412, Library Committee.

meant that purchases were not always catalogued. In 1921 Brown found 131 books which had been "hitherto unregistered" and in 1927 there were some 1200 books missing.<sup>8</sup>

This disorganisation and lack of funding inevitably meant that collecting progressed slowly. In 1920 the staff complained that research facilities were "inadequate" due to "the absence of a well-equipped library of standard works and periodicals."<sup>9</sup> These comments had much justification. In 1921 the library acquired essentials such as the Oxford English Dictionary, the Dictionary of National Biography, an atlas and copies of state and federal legislation for the first time.<sup>10</sup> As M.E. Wood noted when she was appointed as the first librarian, the library could not "meet all the demands of the undergraduates, let alone the research workers."<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> 5/7/1921, Report of the Librarian, UWAA 0995, Library Committee; 30/11/1927, Report of the Librarian, UWAA 0996, Library Committee.

<sup>9</sup> 21/6/1920, Senate Minutes, 1918 - 1922.

<sup>10</sup> 6/7/1921, UWAA 0995, Library Committee.

<sup>11</sup> Wood, Report on a Visit to Europe and America by the University Librarian (1936) 13 (Unpublished Diploma of Librarianship Essay, University of New South Wales, 1965) 2.

## 1927 – 1939

*A first-class reference library is an absolute essential<sup>1</sup>*

In the late twenties the Senate began to improve the library and part of the Hackett bequest was channelled towards appointing a librarian, erecting a more appropriate library and acquiring amore substantial collection.

In 1926 the Senate stated

*[t]hat an adequate reference library must be regarded as an essential part of university equipment, and a considerable capital sum should be expended on the library to make up arrears, and in future a very much larger annual library grant than hitherto should be allotted.<sup>2</sup>*

M.E. Wood, an experienced librarian and a graduate of the University of Western Australia, was appointed in 1927. With the aid of two assistants she undertook a significant reorganisation (indeed, an organisation) of the library. They made a register of acquisitions, created a card catalogue, brought books in from the departmental libraries, hunted for missing books and checked all future book orders. The state of disarray which they overcame is indicated in the fact that in 1928 Wood found it necessary to insist that books be registered before they leave the University. "No person shall be allowed to use any book until it has been stamped and entered in the catalogue."<sup>3</sup> For the first time there was a systematic attempt to house the books centrally, to record their whereabouts and to order new works in an organised fashion.

The library expanded enormously at this time - the number of books acquired in 1928 was not equalled again until 1951. The library was allocated £3000 for three years from the Hackett bequest and in 1928 also gained £1000 from the Carnegie foundation.<sup>4</sup> In 1927 £2000 was given to the departments to spend on books "urgently required."<sup>5</sup> Chemistry and Biology each got £250, while £200 was allocated to each of the departments of Agriculture, History and Economics, Mathematics and Physics, Mining and Engineering, Classics, Modern Languages, Geology, Philosophy, Education, Law, English and general reference. Architecture and Music received £50 each and a further sum of £200 was allocated for books for the reserve collection.<sup>6</sup>

The money was spent at the discretion of the individual heads of departments. Although Wood monitored the books that were bought, there was still no centralised acquisitions plan. Rather, the departmental heads concentrated on filling in the gaps in the existing university collection. So, for instance, in 1928 when Professor Murdoch visited London, he was given *carte blanche* to buy books he considered the library would need. His only instructions were that he should spend up to £200 on "general books for the library" and £50 on "engravings of eminent men of letters."<sup>7</sup>

Unfortunately, this moment of affluence and expansion was interrupted by the great depression. Vice Chancellor H.E. Whitfeld tried to spare the library from the university's

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<sup>1</sup> 1925, Notes on the Report of the Royal Commission on University Education in New Zealand, Senate Minutes, 1925 - 1927.

<sup>2</sup> 16/8/1926, Senate Minutes, 1925 - 1927.

<sup>3</sup> 5/7/1928, Senate Minutes, 1927 - 1929.

<sup>4</sup> 21/5/1928, Senate Minutes, 1927 - 1929.

<sup>5</sup> 21/3/1927, Senate Minutes, 1925 - 1927.

<sup>6</sup> 12/12/1927, Senate Minutes, 1927 - 1929.

<sup>7</sup> 2/8/1927, UWAA 0996, Library Committee.

financial difficulties, even though the university had lost around twenty per cent of its annual income from the state government.<sup>8</sup> In 1930 he stated:

*I am convinced that the prosperity of the State depends ultimately on developing the intelligence of our citizens, and that education is the one thing that really pays for itself.... I am sure that any expenditure on the University will be re-paid many times over.... [The library] must be kept open.*<sup>9</sup>

The university also tried to alleviate the impact of the depression by gaining further grants. In 1930 the Senate resolved to ask the Carnegie foundation "immediately" to renew their grant<sup>10</sup> and in 1937 they received a four-year grant of \$5000 from them.<sup>11</sup> Despite these measures, the library made far fewer further acquisitions in the 1930s and by 1931, when the Hackett money ran out, was already cutting journal subscriptions.<sup>12</sup>

Nonetheless, there were important advances in that decade. The "urgent necessity" of establishing a separate library building had been acknowledged and the library was built at Crawley in the 1930s (now the Registrar building).<sup>13</sup> Further, the first official branch libraries were established, Law in 1928 and Music in 1935. As a result of the influx of money from grants and bequests in the late 1920s and the organisation that Wood had imposed throughout the 1930s, the library system expanded and was running smoothly. In the thirties the first inter-library loans were introduced and the University of Western Australia made more loans than any other Australian university library.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> 10/2/1932, Vice-Chancellor Whitfeld to D V Portus, UWAA 2391, Whitfeld Correspondence.

<sup>9</sup> 10/7/1930, Memorandum on 1931 Estimates, Vice-Chancellor H E Whitfeld, Senate Minutes, 1929-1931.

<sup>10</sup> 19/5/1930, Senate Minutes, 1929 - 1931.

<sup>11</sup> McPherson, A History of the Library of the University of Western Australia, 1913 - 1959 (1965) 9.

<sup>12</sup> McPherson, A History of the Library of the University of Western Australia, 1913 - 1959 (1965) 8.

<sup>13</sup> McPherson, A History of the Library of the University of Western Australia, 1913 - 1959 (1965) 20; Marion Dixon, Looking Back: A Short History of the UWA Law School, 1927 - 1992 (University of Western Australia, 1992) 36.

<sup>14</sup> McPherson, A History of the Library of the University of Western Australia, 1913 - 1959 (1965).

## 1940 – 1958

*The central library as a storehouse of knowledge relating to all faculties, and equally available to all faculties, best expressed the community of ideas inherent in a university education.... It would be unfortunate if departments were allowed to build up their own collections at the expense of the basic collections in the central library<sup>1</sup>.*

The 1940s and 1950s were a period of slow but significant growth for the University Library. Although the disruptions of World War Two meant that books were not acquired at the same rate as in the late 1920s, the library gradually moved towards a more centralised model and began to follow more focussed acquisitions policies.

The outbreak of World War Two directly affected the University of Western Australia. Troops were quartered at the University, staff and students enlisted or were conscripted, and academic knowledge filtered through to the University less quickly as overseas publishers produced less. Even after the war books were "difficult to secure" as European publishing houses were in disarray and American ones expected payment in dollars which meant accepting unfavourable currency exchanges.<sup>2</sup> In 1949 Wood was still trying to buy back copies of German publications which had been unavailable during the war and which remained difficult to acquire from East Germany.<sup>3</sup>

At the same time the University Library began to develop a professional identity. In 1953 Vice-Chancellor S.L. Prescott asked for advice on the future of the library. In return, A.L.G. MacDonald, head librarian of the Australian National University, offered him a definition of the roles of the head librarian and the university library.

*As I see it, the librarian's job is, within the limits of his budget, to procure and make readily available the material required by staff and students for the purposes of study, teaching and research, and to act as curator of the university's property in so far as it consists of books and allied material.<sup>4</sup>*

This is one of the first descriptions of the library's mission, and it suggests a new awareness of the library's role on campus.



Library staff 1950

In the 1950s there was also a move away from departmental libraries towards a centralised library system. Wood had nominally supervised all the university's books since 1927, but departmental libraries had effectively been beyond her control. One of the library regulations noted that these rules "shall not apply to a Departmental Library except in so far as the Department may decide."<sup>5</sup> By the 1950s there was an awareness that departmental libraries led to needless duplication of acquisitions and that amalgamating existing libraries was a sound way to consolidate the university's research strengths. A.L.G. MacDonald advised Vice Chancellor Prescott that

<sup>1</sup> 4/3/1955, Meeting of the University chief librarians, UWAA 2052(4), Library, General.

<sup>2</sup> 12/4/1949, M E Wood to Vice-Chancellor Currie, UWAA2052 (2), Library, General.

<sup>3</sup> 12/4/1949, M E Wood to Vice-Chancellor Currie, UWAA2052 (2), Library, General.

<sup>4</sup> 15/12/1953, A L G MacDonald to Vice-Chancellor Prescott, UWAA 2052 (3), Library, General.

<sup>5</sup> Calendar for the University of Western Australia for the Year 1927 (Perth: Fred W Simpson, 1926) 90; Calendar of the University of Western Australia for the Year 1950 (Nedlands: University of Western Australia Text Books Board, 1950) 215.



*I think that any sensible librarian faced with a long history of departmental libraries must acknowledge the fact that some division of the University Library is going to persist and it seems to me that the best solution of a perplexing problem is to work for the natural amalgamation of departmental libraries in parallel or related fields into larger units.<sup>6</sup>*

In 1957 the University of Western Australia accepted that there were "dangers" in departmental libraries and that it was "unfortunate" to allow them to develop.<sup>7</sup> Instead, the central library increased in size, departmental libraries were amalgamated into branch libraries, and branch libraries came under central control.

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<sup>6</sup> 15/12/1953, A L G MacDonald to Vice-Chancellor Prescott, UWAA 2052 (3), Library, General.

<sup>7</sup> Meeting of the University chief librarians, UWAA2052 (4), Library, General.

## 1959 – 1979

*And yet the experience of the whole world shows that it is impossible to have a great University without a great library.<sup>1</sup>*

In the 1960s and 1970s the University Library expanded in every sense of the word. More books were acquired in the sixties than in the preceding five decades. The central collection became so large that the Reid Library was built to house it, and at the same time the branch libraries developed and new branch library buildings were erected. Jolley became the University Librarian in 1959 and worked to bring these branch libraries under central control.

Under Jolley's tenure the principle of centralised purchasing was "re-affirmed."<sup>2</sup> By the end of the 1970s, the Library was "throwing responsibility [for purchasing] back to Departments" but nonetheless the library retained more control of the acquisitions than it had previously had.<sup>3</sup> There were no departmental collections, branch libraries were firmly under the control of the head librarian and all purchases were overseen by the central library. In 1977 Jolley wrote

*I consider it desirable that all requests for books should be seen by the University Library if only in order to enable the Library to acquire those books if they are appropriate. If this is not done the Library will be weakened and a number of imperfect and unsatisfactory departmental collections will grow up.<sup>4</sup>*

Although the departments chose what to buy, the university's collections policies were nevertheless administered centrally.

Another significant change in the university's acquisitions policy was the increasing amount of non-print material which was purchased. The Friends of the Library (FOL) was founded in 1965 and bought rare materials for the library, including facsimiles and manuscript material. Jolley thought FOL provided "a welcome touch of luxury in an otherwise utilitarian scene."<sup>5</sup> Art exhibitions were staged in the libraries for the first time in 1974.<sup>6</sup> The library expanded its collection of slides which, although first collected with money from the Carnegie corporation in the twenties, had not previously been a priority.<sup>7</sup> The Music Library began collecting tapes as well as records (which had hitherto presented serious problems as they were so fragile).<sup>8</sup> In 1977 the university acquired three VCRs and began to collect videos, starting with BBC plays for television.<sup>9</sup>



Extension to the Reid Library 1971

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<sup>1</sup> Report of the Library for the year 1961.

<sup>2</sup> Report of the Library for the year 1960.

<sup>3</sup> 25/6/1979, UWAA 796 (3), Library, General.

<sup>4</sup> 22/7/1977, Leonard Jolley to Deputy Vice-Chancellor Alan Billings, UWAA 796 (3), Library, General.

<sup>5</sup> Report of the Library for the year 1970.

<sup>6</sup> Report of the Library for the year 1974.

<sup>7</sup> Report of the Library for the year 1975; Report of the Library for the year 1977.

<sup>8</sup> Report of the Library for the year 1975; Report of the Library for the year 1976.

<sup>9</sup> Report of the Library for the year 1977.

The University Library came to rely more and more on new forms of technology. Microfilm became increasingly important in the 1970s, especially for preserving documents such as newspapers and for providing access to documentary material held overseas.<sup>10</sup> On demand



Reid Library 1960s

photocopying was introduced in 1968.<sup>11</sup> At the same time, there were experiments with electronic catalogues and automated issuing systems. The 1968 orientation film for the library mentioned an experiment with "the" university computer, one which, unfortunately, did not result in a useable computerised catalogue.<sup>12</sup> An automated issuing system, consisting chiefly of a punch card system, was used in 1967<sup>13</sup> and computers were introduced to the library for the first time in 1975.<sup>14</sup> These computers had been dropped at the airport and were also hit by lightning in 1976 and so, unsurprisingly, were not much of an asset.<sup>15</sup> However, by the end of the decade electronic technology was becoming increasingly important, limited online searches were available, and a computerised catalogue was available.<sup>16</sup>

Some of these new collections were housed in the new central library building, the Reid library. In 1960 the Undercroft was enclosed as the "only means of meeting the present urgent needs of the Library."<sup>17</sup> Plans for the construction of a new library began at once and by 1964 the Reid library was ready. Designed by the West Australian architectural firm of Cameron, Chisholm and Nicol, it was intended to provide "the outward and visible sign of the growing significance which library services might be expected to have in the University's second half century" and immediately met with acclaim as an architectural triumph.<sup>18</sup> It won the Bronze Medal of the Royal Institute of British Architects<sup>19</sup> and Jolley described it as "one of the pleasantest and most efficient library buildings to have been erected in recent years in any part of the world."<sup>20</sup>

In the years that followed, an array of new libraries was built. The Mathematical and Physical Sciences Library was opened in 1972; the Medical Library in 1974; and the Music Library in 1976. In 1973 extensions to the Reid Library were completed and it doubled in size. At the same time some of these branch libraries were brought more completely under the control of the central library administration. For instance, the staff working in the branch libraries were, for the first time, part of the library staff as a whole.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Report of the Library for the year 1975.

<sup>11</sup> Report of the Library for the year 1968.

<sup>12</sup> Library Orientation Film (University of Western Australia, 1968).

<sup>13</sup> 1967 Memo re. Circulation Procedures, UWAA 2052 (7), Library, General.

<sup>14</sup> Heather Rose, 'Support Service: Hands and Feet of the University' in *Campus in the Community: The University of Western Australia, 1963 - 1987*, ed. B K de Garis (Perth: University of Western Australia Press, 1988) 135.

<sup>15</sup> Report of the Library for the year 1976.

<sup>16</sup> 26/3/1979, Senate Minutes, 1979.

<sup>17</sup> 27/6/1960, Senate Minutes, 1960.

<sup>18</sup> Fred Alexander, *Campus at Crawley: A Narrative and Critical Appreciation of the First Fifty Years of the University of Western Australia* (Melbourne: University of Western Australia Press, 1963) 626, 741.

<sup>19</sup> Rose, 'Support Service: Hands and Feet of the University' (1988) 134.

<sup>20</sup> Report of the Library for the year 1964.

<sup>21</sup> 26/9/1960, Senate Minutes, 1960.

From the viewpoint of the 1990s, the 1960s and 1970s appear to be periods of prosperity and expansion, but the library nonetheless experienced difficulties with staffing, space and funding. Jolley described 1966 as "the year in which long-standing prophecies came true and the demands on library resources finally outstripped supply"<sup>22</sup> and 1967 as "a year of crisis and near disaster."<sup>23</sup> Library staff estimated that there were about 1000 students trying to use facilities designed for 800; half way through 1966 there was no money to continue ordering books; half the staff at the issuing desk left in 1967, many of the section heads retired at this time, and in 1970 Jolley complained that he would soon be working "single-handedly".<sup>24</sup>

Jolley had long pointed out that the University of Western Australia's expenditure was "not high by Australian standards."<sup>25</sup> In 1972 the University of Western Australia held only 449,576 books; the established university library nearest in size was Monash which held 554,286 volumes and in the same year the University of Sydney held 1,716,971 books.<sup>26</sup> The lack of funding for the library at the University of Western Australia was exacerbated by fluctuations in the exchange rate, a constant and significant increase in the cost of books and serials, an increase in the number of students requiring resources, and a diversification of the range of research interests which the library was meant to support. In 1976 Jolley commented bitterly that "[t]he modern university librarian needs to be an expert in exchange rates and preferably he should have the Federal Treasurer's study bugged."<sup>27</sup>

These financial problems were longstanding. Books had always increased in price very quickly. As the affluence of the post-war boom began to peter out, budgetary constraints were felt more acutely. It became more difficult to maintain acquisition levels, let alone expand them. Cuts were staved off for a while by the \$150,000 grant for non-recurrent special expenditure in 1975<sup>28</sup> and a \$50,000 grant in 1977,<sup>29</sup> but financial constraints were an ongoing problem which the university was forced to face in the 1980s and 1990s.

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<sup>22</sup> Report of the Library for the year 1966.

<sup>23</sup> Report of the Library for the year 1967.

<sup>24</sup> 12/6/1970, Leonard Jolley to A J Williams, Registrar, UWAA 2052 (7), Library, General.

<sup>25</sup> 22/6/1961, Leonard Jolley to Vice-Chancellor, UWAA 2052 (5), Library, General.

<sup>26</sup> 27/9/1974, Leonard Jolley to Vice Principal, UWAA 2052 (8), Library, General.

<sup>27</sup> Report of the Library for the year 1976.

<sup>28</sup> 1/7/1975, Leonard Jolley to Vice Principal, UWAA 2052 (8), Library, General.

<sup>29</sup> Memo to the University Librarian, UWAA 796 (3), Library, General.

## 1980 – 1995

*Whilst the book and printed journal remain the primary means of delivery and storage of information and are likely to remain so for the foreseeable future other media are assuming increasing importance in serving the information needs of the University.<sup>1</sup>*

Financial difficulties constrained the Library's acquisitions policies in the 1980s and early 1990s. To deal with this, the Library invested in technology and electronic communication, and developed a more coherent and clear collections policy.

The combination of a static government grant to the university and rapid inflation in the cost of books and periodicals meant that the financial problems of the 1970s continued in the 1980s. In 1983 the Library Committee expressed their "grave concern" over funding,<sup>2</sup> and predicted "serious immediate and long term consequences" in the quality of the University of Western Australia Library.<sup>3</sup> In that year the Library experienced its first systematic cuts to the serials collections. After consulting the Faculties, 451 journals were cut.<sup>4</sup> In 1987 a further \$100,000 worth of cuts to serials were made,<sup>5</sup> and by 1991 just maintaining the periodicals was eroding the budget for monographs and further cuts to serials were forecast.<sup>6</sup>



Donation of books to Library by the Canadian Government 1985

During this difficult period the University of Western Australia Library was headed by a new University Librarian, Arthur Ellis. Ellis greatly expanded the Library's investment in electronic communication, and, increasingly, new forms of technology were used to compensate for the inadequacy of the Library's funding. The University of Western Australia joined the ABN, the Australian Bibliographic Network, which greatly increased the ease with which interlibrary loans could be made.<sup>7</sup> Further, the Library bought CDROMs such as ERIC which allowed scholars to undertake bibliographic searches readily.<sup>8</sup> Ellis argued that the "global system of information retrieval and supply" meant it was "increasingly becoming irrelevant" to hold print copies of serials.<sup>9</sup>

The University of Western Australia also tried to deal with the financial constraints of the 1980s by facilitating collaboration with other universities. The university's outdated and ineffective catalogue system was replaced, first with URICA and then INNOPAC.<sup>10</sup> In 1994 the system was networked externally, promoting inter-university collaboration.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> University Library Report for the Years 1986 and 1987.

<sup>2</sup> 9/5/1984, UWAA O604011048/1, Library Committee Minutes.

<sup>3</sup> UWAA 1895 (2), Library Committee.

<sup>4</sup> UWAA 790 (5), Library Committee Minutes.

<sup>5</sup> University of Western Australia Library News, 67 (September 1992).

<sup>6</sup> 18/11/1991, UWAA O604011048/1, Library Committee Minutes.

<sup>7</sup> Interview with Arthur Ellis, 12/2/1999.

<sup>8</sup> University Library Report for the Year 1994.

<sup>9</sup> 23/5/1994, UWAA O604011048/1, Library Committee Minutes.

<sup>10</sup> Interview with Arthur Ellis, tape, 1986; Interview with Arthur Ellis, 12/2/1999.

<sup>11</sup> University Library Report for the Year 1994.

At the same time, the Library sought to deal with its financial problems by calling on the popular management technique of documenting policies and missions. As Ellis later wrote, "when resources are limited and budgets are in decline, the Library must collect within clearly defined goals if it is to maintain its objective of providing cost-effective access to resources that support research, teaching and learning."<sup>12</sup> Between 1983 and 1985 there was an experiment with a Collection Development section in User Services, and between 1992 and 1993 the holdings of the University of Western Australia were documented thoroughly in a conspectus review. The collections were assessed in an effort to define the goals of the Library's acquisitions policy, although it was ultimately impossible to administer budgets in line with this framework.

The administration of the acquisitions budget also changed. The money was allocated to the departments - which meant that the departments were responsible for deciding which areas to cut. The Library Committee began developing an "open, transparent" policy based on need, in so far as need could be objectively measured.<sup>13</sup> Developing the formula which would allocate money to the faculties took a very long time and an enormous amount of negotiation, but work on this policy began the move towards a formal allocations policy in the early 1990s.

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<sup>12</sup> Arthur Ellis, Foreword to *Access to Knowledge: Collection Development Policy* (Perth: University of Western Australia Library, 1993).

<sup>13</sup> Interview with Arthur Ellis, 12/2/1999.

## 1990s

*[The library] is an indispensable support for research and scholarship and study and learning in the University.*

The themes which informed the history of the Library in the 1980s continue to dominate in the 1990s. The issues of funding, collaboration with other universities, and new technology still underpin the story of the library system at the University of Western Australia.

The number of students entering the Australian university system has risen dramatically over the past decade, but government funding has failed to keep pace with this expansion. University funding was further cut under the Liberal government in 1996, and this has, of course, directly influenced university libraries. The University of Western Australia has experienced ongoing serials cancellations throughout the 1990s.<sup>1</sup> As a result, the Library's acquisition policies are directed towards making the best of scarce resources:

*In the context of continual sharp price rises for published material, accompanied by the proliferation of new publications and new forms of material, the policies... are primarily designed to ensure that the comparatively limited funds available for library acquisitions are spent as effectively as possible.<sup>2</sup>*

Working towards the goal of spending the Library's money as effectively as possible has meant constant reworking of the formula allocating Library money to the Faculties. While it is agreed that the formula used to allocate funds for purchases should be "open and transparent,"<sup>3</sup> the exact form has been argued over endlessly. In 1994 there was a move away from the historical model which allocated funds along the traditional lines of research interests at the University of Western Australia.<sup>4</sup> In 1995 the funding was given to the Faculties rather than the Departments, and was then subject to further division within the Faculties.<sup>5</sup> In the late 1990s the budget is divided into a Library allocation and Faculty allocations, but it seems unlikely that this will be the final form of the formula.<sup>6</sup>

The Library has increasingly relied on collaboration with other tertiary institutions to eke out funds. The University of Western Australia is currently a member of WAGUL, the West Australian Group of University Libraries, which is developing cooperative purchasing programmes, and there are plans to install LIDDAS, the Local Inter-Lending and Document Delivery System, for inter-library loans.<sup>7</sup> Similarly, the university entered into a "cooperative library agreement" with University of Adelaide, intended to prevent needless duplication.<sup>8</sup>

While the Library has had to economise in the acquisition of printed matter, spending on technology and electronic communication has expanded significantly. As John Arfield, the current university librarian, wrote in 1997:

*While the rate of acquisition of printed material further declined under the pressure of rises in costs the availability of electronic information continued to*

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<sup>1</sup> Library Report for 1994.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.library.uwa.edu.au/aboutlib/policies/irpolicy/> Downloaded 5/1/1999 (No longer available).

<sup>3</sup> 3/3/1997, UWAA 0604010045/2, Library Committee Minutes.

<sup>4</sup> 23/5/1994, UWAA 0604010045/1, Library Committee Minutes.

<sup>5</sup> Library Report for 1995.

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.library.uwa.edu.au/aboutlib/sublibs\\_sections/acquisitions/budget.html](http://www.library.uwa.edu.au/aboutlib/sublibs_sections/acquisitions/budget.html) Downloaded 5/1/1999 (No longer available).

<sup>7</sup> 7/9/1998, UWAA 0604010045/2, Library Committee Minutes.

<sup>8</sup> 24/7/1995, UWAA 0604010045/2, Library Committee Minutes.

*increase. A number of major electronic journals, journal collections and databases were trialed and purchased during the year.*<sup>9</sup>

In 1994 the university's databases were connected to the Internet so they could be accessed off-campus.<sup>10</sup> In 1996 the University of Western Australia set up CygNET Online on the World Wide Web.<sup>11</sup> Perhaps even more significantly, in 1993 the university's card catalogue was destroyed. Certainly this was a symbolic break with older forms of technology!

On the other hand, electronic media are not necessarily more cost-effective. The form of electronic databases and catalogues can date quickly, as new forms of technology become obsolete within years. E-journals are not necessarily cheaper. Further, the Library now has to maintain computers and deal with questions of "equity of access."<sup>12</sup> However, the Library remains committed to purchasing new forms of technology, and electronic media are definitely the most exciting and rapidly developing areas in the Library's holdings today.

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<sup>9</sup> Library Report for 1997.

<sup>10</sup> Library Report for 1994.

<sup>11</sup> Library Report for 1996.

<sup>12</sup> 7/9/1998, UWAA 0604010045/2, Library Committee Minutes.



## Law Library

The Law Faculty was established in 1927, the fourth faculty of the University of Western Australia. The Law Library was set up in the same year, but the collection did not expand significantly until recently. The history of the Law Library is one of faltering development and uncertain links to the administration of the central library.



Law Library 1960s

The core of the Law Library was set up in the late 1920s with the Hackett bequest. In 1927 £200 was allocated to the Law faculty for books,<sup>1</sup> and in 1928 £1000 was set aside for collecting law reports.<sup>2</sup> The money was spent by Professor Beasley, the first Chair of Law, on textbooks, a set of *The Law Reports* (1866-1927), *Commonwealth Law Reports* (1901-1927), and the *Western Australian Law Reports* (1890 - 1927).<sup>3</sup> Beasley also wrote to Attorneys-General of the States and of the Commonwealth, inviting donations which allowed the Law Library at the University of Western Australia to acquire almost complete

sets of their statutes and to be put on distribution lists.

The Law Library received several other major donations in these early years. In 1929 Beasley tried to purchase the library of a deceased solicitor, R.W. Hall, but the collection was instead donated to the Library.<sup>4</sup> Similarly, the books of Mr Septimus Burt, the first Attorney General of Western Australia under responsible government and the son of the first Chief Justice of Western Australia, were given to the Library.<sup>5</sup> These books were left to his grandsons, should they choose to enter the legal profession, or, failing that, to the university. When he died in 1919 the only grandson was ten years old, so the books were loaned to the Library. Francis Theodore Page Burt did become a lawyer but still gave the Burt library to the Law School, and in 1988 opened the extensions to the Law Library.

After this initial period of expansion in the late 1920s, the Library developed very slowly. The University of Western Australia had always been a "free" university, relying on funds from the government, and the exigencies of the depression and World War Two meant that very little was allocated to purchasing books. Indeed, in 1946 Beasley organised an independent fundraiser, approaching graduates and local businesses for individual donations of two guineas. He raised £900 which was spent on much-needed post-war textbooks, reference books, and the Victoria and New South Wales law reports.<sup>6</sup> Similar lateral thought about acquisitions was shown in 1948 when the *University of Western Australia Law Review* was founded with the intention of exchanging it for copies of other journals. By 1952 the university was getting copies of 64 legal journals in exchange for the in-house publication.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 12/12/1927, Senate Minutes, 1927 - 1929.

<sup>2</sup> 11/7/1928, Senate Minutes, 1927 - 1929.

<sup>3</sup> Dixon, *Looking Back: A Short History of the UWA Law School, 1927 - 1992* (University of Western Australia, 1992) 36.

<sup>4</sup> Dixon, *Looking Back: A Short History of the UWA Law School, 1927 - 1992* (1992) 36.

<sup>5</sup> Dixon, *Looking Back: A Short History of the UWA Law School, 1927 - 1992* (1992) 36.

<sup>6</sup> Dixon, *Looking Back: A Short History of the UWA Law School, 1927 - 1992* (1992) 36.

<sup>7</sup> Dixon, *Looking Back: A Short History of the UWA Law School, 1927 - 1992* (1992) 37-8.

The collection remained very small, especially in comparison with other Australian libraries. In 1967 the new Law Library building was opened, but it only held 35,000 volumes.<sup>8</sup> Just before the 1988 extensions to the Law Library were complete, the University of Western Australia had 62,500 legal volumes, while comparable universities such as Melbourne and Adelaide had 120,000 and 89,000 volumes respectively.<sup>9</sup>

The 1987 Pearce Committee Report, commissioned by the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission, described the University of Western Australia Law Library as "basic" and "not really an adequate research library."<sup>10</sup> The report suggested that the minimum size for the Library was a collection of 100,000 books with 3000 to 4000 to be added each year, but at this time the University of Western Australia held only 62,500 law books.<sup>11</sup> As a result, Professor Bob Berring, the Law Librarian at the University of California at Berkeley, came as the Robinson Cox Visiting Fellow in 1988 to develop a collection policy. The Law Faculty was given \$500,000 from the Public Purposes Trust and this sum was matched by the University to "improve the Law Library's collection to the basic standard recommended by the Pearce Committee."<sup>12</sup>

If the University of Western Australia Law Library was inadequately sized for most of its history, it was also unprofessionally curated. The Law collection was originally kept with the general library at the Irwin Street library, and, like the rest of the collection, the books were unsupervised because there was no librarian. When the university moved to the Crawley campus in the late 1920s, the Law Faculty kept the collection as a small, separate, departmental library. The collection was kept in a converted chemistry laboratory and was supervised by Miss Enid Russell, whose work as secretary and librarian was paid for by the Law Faculty. It was not until 1952 that Miss Muriel Brawl, an experienced librarian, was appointed, and not until 1963 that the head librarian of the Law Library was a member of the staff of the main library.<sup>13</sup>

These idiosyncrasies stemmed not only from financial shortages in the University as a whole, but also from a sense that the Law Library should remain distinct from the rest of the University Library system. From 1927 onwards Professor Beasley "treated the task of building a good law collection as if it were his alone" and it is striking that the first librarian from the central library was appointed shortly after his retirement.<sup>14</sup> As recently as 1988 there was a suggestion from Professor J. O'Donovan, the Dean of Law, that the Law Faculty should have "autonomy" to run the Law Library.<sup>15</sup>

The Law Library of the University of Western Australia was not the only Australian Law library to feel isolated. The Pearce Report suggested that most Australian Law libraries did not feel that their special needs were recognised by the central libraries on campus.<sup>16</sup> The great significance of the Pearce Report was, however, not in the administration of these libraries but in their collection policies. The report highlighted the "vital" importance of Law

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<sup>8</sup> Dixon, *Looking Back: A Short History of the UWA Law School, 1927 - 1992* (1992) 39.

<sup>9</sup> Craig McInnis and Simon Marginson with Alison Morris, *Australian Law Schools after the 1987 Pearce Report* (Canberra: Australian Government Publishing Service, 1994) 195.

<sup>10</sup> Dennis Pearce, Enid Campbell and Don Harding, *Australian Law Schools: A Discipline Assessment for the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission, vol III* (Canberra: Australian Government Publishing Service, 1987) 773.

<sup>11</sup> 7/11/1987, UWAA 0604010045/1, Library Committee Minutes.

<sup>12</sup> P Genoni and H Wallace, "The Law School Fund: 'Post-Pearce' collection development at the Law Library of the University of Western Australia". *Australian Academic & Research Libraries* 26 9 (1995) 271-280.

<sup>13</sup> 27/8/1990, Senate Minutes, 1990.

<sup>14</sup> Dixon, *Looking Back: A Short History of the UWA Law School, 1927 - 1992* (1992) 37 - 40.

<sup>15</sup> Dixon, *Looking Back: A Short History of the UWA Law School, 1927 - 1992* (1992) 36.

<sup>16</sup> 6/6/1988, UWAA 06 04 010 045/1, Library Committee Minutes.

libraries to Law Faculties.<sup>17</sup> By 1992 the Law Library at the University of Western Australia held 92,950 books, a 48.8% increase on its holdings five years earlier.<sup>18</sup> The University of Western Australia had had the third greatest proportional increase in the size of its library, indicating the amount of money which had been channelled into developing the Library. The Law Library now holds more than 100,000 volumes, mostly in common law, and is regarded as one of the better collections in Australia.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> McInnis and Marginson, *Australian Law Schools after the 1987 Pearce Report* (1994) 198.

<sup>18</sup> Dennis Pearce, Enid Campbell and Don Harding, *Australian Law Schools: A Discipline Assessment for the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission: A Summary* (Canberra: Australian Government Publishing Service, 1987) 75.

<sup>19</sup> [http://www.library.uwa.edu.au/aboutlib/sublibs\\_sections/law/](http://www.library.uwa.edu.au/aboutlib/sublibs_sections/law/) Downloaded 28/1/1999 (*No longer available*).

## Map Library

The Reid Library today houses a map collection which is described as an "amalgamat[ion]" of a major collection "initially developed" by the departments of Geography and Geology and a smaller collection established in the Reid.<sup>1</sup> The amalgamation of these collections was,



however, not a straightforward process. The collection's history encapsulates some of the tensions between the University of Western Australia's traditional departmental libraries and the push in the 1960s and 1970s to create centralised collections.

In 1974 Jolley intended to amalgamate the existing map collections held by departments into a single central library.<sup>2</sup> The Library Committee had allocated funds from the Equipment Grant for expanding the map collection, and Jolley believed that this signalled an opportunity to develop a central collection.<sup>3</sup> Although Jolley mentioned that he expected a "song and dance" about creating a single map collection, he probably did not anticipate the tenacity with which the department of Geography would cling to its collection.<sup>4</sup>

In the 1970s the official policy of the University of Western Australia was that the departments did not own libraries.<sup>5</sup> The university had, however, a long-standing tradition of departmental libraries.<sup>6</sup> In the 1960s and 1970s these were gradually being amalgamated into branch libraries, but Jolley constantly had to reassure heads of departments that they would not lose by handing over their books. For instance, when Professor Grieves, the head of Botany, was "rather disturbed" by the prospect of losing his departmental collection to the Biological Sciences Library in the late 1960s, Jolley assured him he would receive better service and a wider range of books from the central library.<sup>7</sup>

It would be easier for Jolley to develop a "central map collection from which maps could be borrowed" if he had access to the existing departmental libraries, particularly the collection of about 120,000 maps housed by the department of Geography.<sup>8</sup> Indeed, there were suggestions that some maps in the Geography collection had originally been purchased by the Reid Library, although, conversely, some in the Reid were claimed by the Geography department.<sup>9</sup> The staff of the department of Geography were, however, resistant to handing over their

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.library.uwa.edu.au/aboutlib/sublibs\\_sections/maps/](http://www.library.uwa.edu.au/aboutlib/sublibs_sections/maps/) Downloaded 28/1/1999. Now at <http://www.library.uwa.edu.au/services/libraries/geology.html> (*No longer available*)

<sup>2</sup> 26/11/1974. Leonard Jolley to Deputy Vice-Chancellor A J Boyle, UWAA 2052 (8), Library, General.

<sup>3</sup> 22/11/1974, Leonard Jolley to Deputy Vice-Chancellor A J Boyle, UWAA 2052 (8), Library, General.

<sup>4</sup> 13/3/1974, Leonard Jolley to Vice Principal R Angeloni, UWAA 2052 (8), Library, General.

<sup>5</sup> 21/5/1975, Assistant Registrar J A Crawley to Mr R F Holt, Mitchell College of Advanced Education, UWAA 2052 (8), Library, General.

<sup>6</sup> McPherson, A History of the Library of the University of Western Australia, 1913-1959 (1965) 16-7; F D O Fielding (Ed.), Administrative Organisation of Australian University Libraries, L A A University and College Library Section (Adelaide: L A A, 1966) 19.

<sup>7</sup> 15/10/1969, Professor Grieve to Deputy Vice-Chancellor Clews; 12/12/1969, Leonard Jolley to Professor Grieve, UWAA 2052 (7), Library, General.

<sup>8</sup> 2/4/1975, Leonard Jolley to Deputy Vice-Chancellor A J Boyle, UWAA 2052 (8), Library, General.

<sup>9</sup> 3/11/1975, Leonard Jolley to Professor Martyn Webb, UWAA 2052 (8), Library, General.

collection and they instead suggested that the single collection could be housed and curated by them.<sup>10</sup>

The "divorce proceedings" proceeded slowly and were rooted in fundamentally different conceptions of the purpose of the collection.<sup>11</sup> The department of Geography used maps extensively for teaching, but there was fears that they could not make them easily available for researchers from other departments.<sup>12</sup> While all parties agreed that the University of Western Australia should have maps available for researchers and students from all faculties, there were some doubts about whether the department of Geography could provide this facility.<sup>13</sup> While later surveys suggested that members of staff from other departments used the map collection housed by Geography, Jolley argued that

*[m]any members of the University find it easier to get maps from an organisation such as the University Library in which they feel they have the right to go rather than proceed to the map collection in the Department of Geography which involves invading, as it were, a foreign department.<sup>14</sup>*

Moreover, there was, as Jolley pointed out, a significant difference in the way the two groups regarded cartographical materials. In 1975 Jolley wrote to Professor Webb, the head of the department of Geography, saying:

*It seems to me that to you a map is a map and ought to be looked after by those who specialise in maps. To me a map is just another form of printed communication and where it is housed should be determined primarily by its subject matter.<sup>15</sup>*



In 1975 the attempt to develop a joint map collection faltered. The department of Geography continued to collect maps which were kept in the Geography building and curated by Dr Vivian Forbes. The main library maintained a small separate collection of maps in Special Collection. By 1985 there were approximately 26,000 sheet maps in the Reid, but in 1986 around 24,800 maps were transferred to the department of Geography.<sup>16</sup>

Additionally, material from the department of Geology was also transferred to Geography at this time. In this period centrifugal forces were dominant, with the departmental library developing significantly.

However, by the early 1990s the department of Geography was pressed for space and money and they reconsidered the need for a departmental collection.<sup>17</sup> In 1992 the map collection was reviewed, first internally and then by an external consultant, Dorothy Prescott. At this time

<sup>10</sup> 10/4/1975, Professor Webb to Deputy Vice-Chancellor Boyle, UWAA 2052 (8), Library, General.

<sup>11</sup> 3/11/1975, Leonard Jolley to Professor Martyn Webb, UWAA 2052 (8), Library, General.

<sup>12</sup> 3/11/1975, Leonard Jolley to Deputy Vice-Chancellor A J Boyle, UWAA 2052 (8), Library, General.

<sup>13</sup> 3/11/1975, Leonard Jolley to Professor Martyn Webb, UWAA 2052 (8), Library, General.

<sup>14</sup> 3/11/1975, Leonard Jolley to Deputy Vice-Chancellor A J Boyle, UWAA 2052 (8), Library, General.

<sup>15</sup> 3/11/1975, Leonard Jolley to Professor Martyn Webb, UWAA 2052 (8), Library, General.

<sup>16</sup> 16/10/1985, Geography Council, Agendas and Minutes, 1984 - 1989.

<sup>17</sup> 16/10/1991, Geography Council, Agendas and Minutes, 1989 - 1995.

the map collection held 250,000 items, some of which were "not...of any particular value" and others which were "unique."<sup>18</sup> Further, the collection was not catalogued in its entirety.<sup>19</sup>

After this review the Map Library was relocated to the ground floor of the Reid Library and began to be administered by the University Library.<sup>20</sup> The Library now holds about 40,000 items, mostly single sheet maps, but there is uncertainty about future funding for the purchase of maps. The existing collection is intended to support teaching and research for all those using the library system.<sup>21</sup> The compact existing map collection is an example of the centripetal pull of the University Library system.

The conflict over the Map Library stemmed from two radically different visions of the nature of the collection. The department of Geography had developed a fairly traditional departmental library primarily intended to support teaching. The University Library wanted to set up a single, central collection which would unequivocally meet the cartographical needs of staff and students of the whole university. The tension between these two visions underpinned the history of the Map collection and may be said to exemplify the conflict between departmental collections and the central library.

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<sup>18</sup> Working Group on the Map Collection, Interim Report, OB/00/15.

<sup>19</sup> Working Group on the Map Collection, Interim Report, OB/00/15.

<sup>20</sup> 14/3/1994, UWAA 06 04 010 045/1, Library Committee Minutes.

<sup>21</sup> [http://www.library.uwa.edu.au/aboutlib/sublibs\\_sections/maps/](http://www.library.uwa.edu.au/aboutlib/sublibs_sections/maps/) Downloaded 28/1/1999 (*No longer available*); <http://www.library.uwa.edu.au/aboutlib/policies/irpolicy/> Downloaded 5/1/1999 (*No longer available*).

## Medical Library

The Medical Library originally served the needs of two communities; both staff and students from the School of Medicine and members of the West Australian medical profession used it.

Consequently, the Library carefully negotiated its ties to both groups and based its finances, collection policies and administrative structures on their sometimes conflicting demands, before finally focussing on the teaching and research needs of the University of Western Australia.

The Medical Library resulted from collaboration between the University of Western Australia, the [Royal Perth Hospital](#) (RPH) and the [Australian Medical Association](#) (the AMA, prior to 1961 the British Medical Association).<sup>1</sup> In 1956 the University took over the existing libraries of the AMA and RPH, and, with the advice of members of the AMA, began developing the Library further. The Medical Library received £3000 per annum from the University and £1000 from the AMA for the first five years, money which was channelled into the nascent library. Naturally the demands of the Library at this time were "unlimited"<sup>2</sup> and the collection "basic".<sup>3</sup>

Because of its user population, the administration of the Library was, to an unusual degree, separated from the running of the other University libraries.

*The Medical Library is a branch library within the University library system and its staff, stock and budget are all part of the whole. It is distinguished from other parts of the University library by its location and by the fact that it provides library services to more than just the University community, in particular it serves the staff of the [hospital] and the medical profession in general.*<sup>4</sup>

The Library had its own committee, distinct from the general library committee, and members of the medical profession were represented on it. Further, the Library was located off-campus, first at RPH, and then, in 1974, at the QE II Medical Centre.<sup>5</sup>

By the 1970s there was a movement to reform aspects of the administration of the Medical Library and to bring it into line with the other branch libraries. These suggestions for reform can be summarised as (i) securing more funding from the medical community, (ii) abolishing the separate Medical Library committee, and (iii) ensuring that the Library continued to act as a centralised, general Library covering all aspects of modern medicine for members of the University of Western Australia.

Like the other branches of the University Library system, the Medical Library experienced financial difficulties in the 1970s as books and periodicals increased in price while government funding remained set. The Library responded by calling on

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<sup>1</sup> Fred Alexander, *Campus at Crawley: A Narrative and Critical Appreciation of the First Fifty Years of the University of Western Australia* (Melbourne: University of Western Australia Press, 1963) 109-10.

<sup>2</sup> 28/2/1958 M E Wood to French Consul, MS0022, Library Archival Material.

<sup>3</sup> New Zealand University Colleges, 1958-9, MS0022, Library Archival Material.

<sup>4</sup> 2/5/1983, Medical Library Committee Minutes.

<sup>5</sup> Report on the Library for 1974.

the medical community to provide more support for the University, arguing that the AMA's contributions had declined significantly in value since the inception of the collection. As early as 1970, the report of the Medical Library pointed out that "the burden of maintaining the Medical Library falls practically exclusively on the University, even though the Medical Library serves the medical community as a whole at least as much as it serves the School of Medicine."<sup>6</sup> In 1983 the Library (unsuccessfully) requested a "reasonable" contribution of ten per cent of the annual costs from AMA<sup>7</sup> and received donations from various medical associations.<sup>8</sup>

At the same time, it was seen as anomalous (or, as University Librarian Leonard Jolley put it, "ludicrous") that the Medical Library had a separate committee with representatives from the hospitals.<sup>9</sup> Jolley pointed out that it was "an accident of history" that the Medical Library had a separate committee.<sup>10</sup> There were attempts to organise the committee on "a more representative? basis" [sic]<sup>11</sup>, and it was suspended between 1979 and 1983 and from 1983 until 1988 when it was finally abolished.<sup>12</sup> The disbanding of the separate Medical Library committee perhaps marks the shift from a focus on the needs of the medical community as a whole to the specific teaching and research needs of the University of Western Australia.

While the University sought simultaneously to decrease the administrative powers of the medical community and to increase their financial contributions, it also resisted the AMA's suggestions that the Medical Library should become a specialist rather than a general library.<sup>13</sup> The AMA argued that since each hospital had its own library, these should be developed to cover the particular needs of those institutions. The organisation claimed that there would then be no need for a general medical library and that the existing University Library could instead specialise in the areas which the QE II Medical Centre covered. This move was countered with great vehemence by the University Librarian. In 1976 Jolley demanded:

*[a]n affirmation of the principle that it is desirable in Western Australia to maintain at least one central Medical Library covering the whole field of Medicine at a reasonably high level.*<sup>14</sup>

Jolley's experiences in the Glasgow Medical Library prior to his appointment as head librarian at the University of Western Australia meant that he appreciated the necessity of a single, general medical library. Further, this suggestion ran counter to the existing policy of bringing branch libraries under tighter central control.

The policy was ultimately rejected, with the Library Committee arguing that it would be a "great pity" if the Medical Library did not remain a general library.<sup>15</sup> The

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<sup>6</sup> 1970 Report of the Medical Library, MS0030, E R Beech, Miscellaneous Papers.

<sup>7</sup> 2/5/1983, UWAA 858, Medical Library Minutes.

<sup>8</sup> UWAA 857 (3), Medical School Library.

<sup>9</sup> 18/12/1978, Leonard Jolley to Deputy Vice-Chancellor G S Reid, UWAA 1895 (2).

<sup>10</sup> 18/12/1978, Leonard Jolley to Deputy Vice-Chancellor G S Reid, UWAA 1895 (2).

<sup>11</sup> 4/12/1978, UWAA 1895 (2) Library Committee Minutes.

<sup>12</sup> UWAA 0604011049/1, Medical Library Committee.

<sup>13</sup> 25/11/1976, UWAA 858, Medical Library Minutes.

<sup>14</sup> 2/12/1976, Leonard Jolley to Deputy Vice-Chancellor Alan Billings, UWAA 858, Medical Library Minutes.

<sup>15</sup> 9/12/1976, UWAA 858, Medical Library Minutes.



Medical Library today "supports teaching and research" in the areas of General Practice, medicine, microbiology, obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics, pathology, pharmacology, psychiatry and behavioural sciences, public health and surgery.<sup>16</sup> The Medical Library provides for the needs of staff and students at the University of Western Australia.

There are plans to house this general collection alongside the Dental collection in a larger library building to be erected early in the next century.<sup>17</sup> The Dental collection dates from the formation of the West Australian Dental Faculty at the University of Western Australia in 1946 from the earlier independent West Australian College of Dental Science, and should be a significant addition to the Medical Library.

Although in its early years the Medical Library served the needs of both the broad West Australian medical community and the staff and students in the [Medical School](#), the Library now concentrates on providing for the research and teaching needs of the University of Western Australia. The Medical Library is administered as a subject library which is part of the University Library system as a whole. As the University Calendar noted in 1980, "The University Library is a single system which serves the whole University and consists of a main central library and several branch and departmental libraries."<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> [http://www.library.uwa.edu.au/aboutlib/sublibs\\_sections/med/](http://www.library.uwa.edu.au/aboutlib/sublibs_sections/med/) Downloaded 28/1/1999 (*No longer available*).

<sup>17</sup> 7/9/1998, UWAA 0604010045/2, Library Committee Minutes.

<sup>18</sup> The University of Western Australia Calendar, 1980 (Perth: Alpha Print) 430.

## Wigmore Music Library

The Music Library at the University of Western Australia is one of the oldest branch libraries and it holds one of the most unusual collections, consisting mainly of primary materials.

The University of Western Australia began collecting music in the 1930s, well before the department of Music was established. In 1936 Percy Grainger donated collections of music scores to several Australian universities, including the University of Western Australia.<sup>19</sup> These were set up as the Rose Grainger collection in memory of his mother. Around the same time the University received a College Music Set of scores, books and recordings from the Carnegie Corporation.<sup>20</sup> These scores were kept in a small cupboard in the main library.

Naturally when the department of Music was established in 1959, the collection expanded. Frank Callaway, the head of department, solicited donations, and in 1960 and 1961 the central library collection of scores was combined with the smaller departmental collection. In 1966 the Library was expanded, moved to Tuart House and officially named the Wigmore Music Library, to thank Alice Ivy Hay for her substantial donations. Hay's contributions allowed the Library to buy complete sets of major composers and collected editions, and the Library was named for her mother Alice Wigmore.<sup>21</sup>

The Library was well respected at this time. In 1962 the University of Western Australia held 4958 items of music and had just acquired 1799 more in that year.<sup>22</sup> In 1970 the Australian Council for the Arts produced a report on music libraries in Australia which described the University of Western Australia's collection as the third most comprehensive in a university library.<sup>23</sup> The Library was singled out as "an instance of relatively rapid growth within the fairly limited time span of the Music Department's existence."<sup>24</sup>

The collection expanded even further in the 1970s when the advent of new forms of technology made it possible to hear recordings with greater clarity, to store materials with more reliability, and to view productions on video. There was, for example, a short-lived experiment with collecting tapes as well as records.<sup>25</sup> In 1977 the University Library acquired its first three VCRs and it became possible to watch recordings of concerts and operas on television.<sup>26</sup>

In the 1976 the first purpose-built Music Library was erected and the collection was moved out of Tuart House.<sup>27</sup> The Wigmore Music Library is attached to the School of Music and houses primary materials such as music scores, sound recordings and audiovisual recordings.<sup>28</sup> In 1994 the Library held around 32,000 items of printed music, 11,500 sound

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<sup>19</sup> Jenny Wildy, Background to the Music Library, Unpublished Notes.

<sup>20</sup> Rita Clarke, "Remembering Ivy," *Uniview Magazine*, 18.1 (1999): 26-7.

<sup>21</sup> *Report of the Library for the year 1962*.

<sup>22</sup> Roger Covell, Patricia Brown and Margaret Sargent, *Music Resources in Australian Libraries: A Report prepared for the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services* (Canberra: AACOBS, 1970) 21.

<sup>23</sup> Covell and Brown, *Music Resources in Australian Libraries: A Report prepared for the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services* (1970) 21.

<sup>24</sup> *Report of the Library for the year 1975; Report of the Library for the year 1976*.

<sup>25</sup> *Report of the Library for the year 1977*.

<sup>26</sup> *Report of the Library for the year 1976*.

<sup>27</sup> [http://www.library.uwa.edu.au/aboutlib/sublibs\\_sections/music/](http://www.library.uwa.edu.au/aboutlib/sublibs_sections/music/) Downloaded 28/1/1999 (*No longer available*).

<sup>28</sup> *Results of the Survey of Music Collections in Australian Libraries, August 1994* (1995) 8 - 20.

and video recordings, 2,000 reference monographs and 20 original manuscripts and papers.<sup>29</sup> About 10,000 secondary works on music continue to be held in the Humanities collection in the Reid Library, although the 60 research journals have been stored in the Music Library since 1986.

This is a medium-sized collections by the standards of American music libraries, but a fairly substantial one for an Australian university. Further, the Wigmore Music Library has traditionally acted in collaboration with other West Australian music libraries to ensure acquisitions are as comprehensive as possible.<sup>30</sup> In this way the Library manages to meet the needs of students training to become professional performers and composers, students intending to become music teachers and members of staff undertaking academic research. The Wigmore Music Library is truly both a teaching and a research library.

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<sup>29</sup> For further information about the University of Western Australia's collaborative relations with one other West Australian university in particular, Edith Cowan University, note 7/9/1998, UWAA 06 04 0101 045/2, Library Committee Minutes; Mark Coughlan, "Restoring Harmony to Musical Education", *Uniview Magazine*, 18.1 (February 1999) 19-20.

<sup>30</sup> Jenny Wildy, Background to the Music Library, Unpublished Notes.

## **The University Librarians**

There have been four University Librarians since the creation of the position in 1927.

### **Malvina Evelyn Wood**

Wood completed a B.A. at the University of Western Australia in 1927 and gained her M.A. in 1943. After working for the State Library of Western Australia, Wood became the first University Librarian at the University of Western Australia. Appointed in 1927, she ran the Library until 1959.

### **Leonard Jolley**



Jolley gained his B.A. from University College London in 1935 and his M.A. in 1938.

Jolley worked at Edinburgh University Library and the Glasgow Medical Library before becoming the University Librarian in 1959.

He headed the Library in its period of great expansion, between 1959 and 1979.

### **Arthur Ellis**

Ellis undertook his B.A. at the University of Western Australia in 1965.

Ellis headed the Library at the University of Western Australia between 1980 and 1995, overseeing the massive technical developments over this period.



He had previously worked at the State Library of Western Australia and at the Australian National Library, concentrating on technological developments such as the Australian Bibliographic Network.

### **John Arfield**



Arfield undertook his B.A. at Sheffield in 1971 and his M.A. at Cambridge in 1975.

After working at the libraries of Loughborough University and the University of Reading, he became the University Librarian at the University of Western Australia in 1996.

## Summary Statistics 1915 - 1995

Comparative figures on the University of Western Australia's Library

Year	Total Budget	Number of Staff	Accessions	Total of Volumes	Total of Non-Print Items
1915	£390.0.3	0	?	c. 4000	
1920	£588.18.3	0	?	c. 7000	
1925	£516.14.1	0	564	9,815	
1930	£2657.8.5	4	4,576	31,887	
1935	?	4	2,390	43,061	
1940	£4729.11.1	4	2,310	62,288	
1945	£4045	6	2,284	72,540	
1950	£10696	11	3,688	95,000	
1955	£26070	16	7,465	129,025	
1960	£54699*	31*	12,951	171,839*	
1965	?	60	21,821	279,000	
1970	\$663,000	84	27,047	408,912	
1975	\$2,305,000	152	22,160	612,833	
1980	\$3,252,996	135	52,867	832,380	77,997
1985	\$4,618,000	122**	34,120	992,628	125,849
1990	\$8,576,793	130	34,963	1,159,818	121,591
1995	\$9,953,359	122	41,333	1,225,598	174,254

\* This figure is from 1959

\*\* This figure is from 1986

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