

BOOKS, BOOKS AND MORE BOOKS



In a Court of Law the written word usually stands the test, particularly in certain hearings where it has been necessary to quote former cases or facts, all gained from books.

Within the AFP organisation there are three well-stocked libraries where members can obtain a vast amount of information in all aspects of the law and its application.

Two of the libraries are in Canberra. The Central library is at Anzac Park West and the other at the Training College, Barton. The third library is part of the Australian Police College at Manly.

To the casual observer, the holding room at the Central Library may appear like any other well-patronised library. However the quality of its content belies its looks. There are many highly technical and specialised books on its shelves, many of which would not be found in any other library in Australia.

Of the 3000 books in the Central Library, not all are to be found on its shelves because some are on permanent loan to various sections where they are required on a continuous basis. However, these books can nevertheless be retrieved and borrowed by other members as the need arises.

In addition to its books, the Central Library subscribes to approximately eighty periodicals, which are distributed to various sections and members as requested. Articles appearing in them which are of interest to AFP are indexed by subject so that this information can readily be retrieved.

Apart from periodicals and books a large number of technical reports, annual reports and statistics in one form or another are retained. A reference section includes dictionaries, encyclopaedias, atlases, almanacs, Who's Who, etc.

The law section comprises the Acts of the Commonwealth Parliament, Statutory Rules, Codes of Law of the various States and general reference works covering all aspects in which there is police involvement. The technical aspects of Forensic Science are extensively covered as are identification techniques and document examination.

Naturally the area that deals with police matters is well-stocked for police generally, administration

investigation, public relations ... it is all there. A section on terrorism and explosives information is gradually expanding.

Because of the interest and studies of many members, there is an ever-growing number of books on business management including some of the standard text books.

Over the past two years the library has also been expanding its sections covering sociology, computers and electronics.

Summarising the Central Library's content, the demand for the limited number of technical and specialised books held is significant, especially in such areas as digital signal processing and document examination which are not included in many other libraries.

The library facility at the Training College, despite its infancy (it was established only one year ago), has a comprehensive collection and already holds more books than the Central Library and its resources are growing rapidly.

At the Australian Police College at Manly the library has been recently expanded both in floorspace and stocks.

In the past year its bookstock was increased by over 1000 volumes to a total of 7000 volumes, with particular emphasis being placed on current texts on police administration, personnel management, crisis intervention and drugs. The collection has also been expanded in the area of commercial law, white collar crime and computer crime.

A continuing contribution is being made by the College library to the Police Digest — an abstracting service of the AFP libraries which is distributed both nationally and internationally — as well as providing a valuable reference and research service to its students and instructional staff.

All the libraries belong to an inter-library network whereby books may be lent or borrowed from other libraries in Australia. This library service is extended to all AFP members.

The purpose of the libraries is to assist members, and students at the training colleges, in their work activities. While the resources at the libraries may be limited, the Staff are always ready to discuss ways and means of providing more effective library services.