

SPOTLIGHT

University of Canberra Needs Books

With a new law programme and growing library needs, the University of Canberra Law School welcomes contributions of legal materials (especially commercial) from other university, government, law firm and industry libraries which might be down-sizing or converting to electronic formats. If you have any spare books please contact:

Professor Eugene Clark

University of Canberra Law School

PO Box 1

Belconnen ACT 2616

Ph (06) 201 5287 Fax: (06) 201 5198

Email: eec@management.canberra.edu.au

Moys Classification Changes

Would those libraries who have made changes to the Moys Classification 3rd ed by inserting new topics or adding numbers please send a copy of the changes to me by 30 November? I would like to gather any Australian alterations to the Schedules to send to the Committee in England. It will be sufficient to photocopy the pages you have altered and send those as long as you identify the library concerned.

For those on the Internet, remember the new list for Moys users mentioned in the last issue of *Australian Law Librarian*. To join the list send the command:

join lis-moys-users firstname(s) lastname

as the only text of an email message to mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk

Jacqueline Elliott

Moys Coordinator

High Court of Australia

email: jelliott@hcourt.gov.au

fax: 06 273 2110 ph 06 270 6922

Internet Seminars

The Information Source is conducting a series of seminars throughout Australia and New Zealand on the Internet during October.

Designed to be of practical application to all law librarians, the seminars will cover:

- good law sites on the Internet
- good electronic mail lists to join
- home pages
- security
- and much more

Full details will be sent out shortly, but for more information please contact:

Yvonne Butler

The Information Source

Melbourne

Tel: 03 9606 0960

Fax: 03 9606 0970

E-Mail: tis@wetple.mira.net.au

Court Libraries Meeting

We were glad to welcome court librarians from New Zealand and Papua New Guinea as well as interstate to a meeting of 24 court librarians at the 6th Asian Pacific Specials, Health and Law Librarians' Conference in Sydney in August. There were several small meetings of the Working Party on Appellate Court Library Standards before the main court libraries meeting took place on Monday 28 August at the Convention Centre at Darling Harbour. The following matters were discussed:

1. Court library standards

A draft will go to the AIJA Project Committee and then to the AIJA Meeting to be held in Wellington 20-22 September 1996. Appellate Court Library Standards are being worked on (there was a video conference in May) but working documents from the other divisions are needed, i.e. District Courts, Networks, and Specialist Tribunals. Networks will be similar to Appellate Courts but there will be some differences - the Networks Standards Working Party will go through the draft and select what they want to keep.

2. Enterprise bargaining

Wendy Ryan, Supreme Court Librarian, Western Australia raised this matter and asked if anyone had had experience of enterprise bargaining. It was agreed there are a lot of issues on which we need information. Experiences of other libraries can help. South Australian Supreme Court has gone through the process and has an agreement. Unions are able to offer a lot of information and documentation.

3. Library valuation

The best proposal was from the NZLA in May 1992. South Australia Supreme Court has relied heavily on this and they are working with Price Waterhouse to come up with a policy. It was mentioned that there are Department of Finance guidelines on library valuation. The High Court Library used the services of the Australian Valuation Office. The Library supplied copies of all bulk bills and pricelists for secondhand materials.

4. Butterworths' New Zealand prices

James Butler, Supreme Court Library, Victoria, expressed concern at the mark-up for Australian customers on Butterworths' New Zealand material. The subscription for

one volume of the *New Zealand Law Reports* was A\$640.00 and with 3 volumes per year the annual subscription comes to over A\$2,000. This is a 50% mark-up on the price New Zealanders pay. It is a small market and there should be some mark-up but this is too much.

5. Internet

About 15 court librarians present at the meeting have full access to the Internet. Joanne Liddell who has recently taken up a position in Wellington, New Zealand, at the new National Information Office for the Courts, advised that they have a home page on the Internet. The Office is intending to offer an electronic library service only.

6. Electronic distribution of judgments

Since June 1995 the Federal Court has been distributing judgments electronically. Action by other courts was reported as follows:

- Supreme Court of Tasmania - having talks with the University
- Law Courts, Sydney - planned
- Industrial Relations Court - planned
- Federal Court - presented a paper on 31 August 1995 at the Attorney-General's Department Portfolio Librarians' Meeting
- High Court - Judgments now available on AustLI on the Internet

7. Court library statistics

The forms for the 1994/1995 statistics were distributed in August.

Jacqueline Elliott

Chair, Court Libraries Meeting

Meeting of University Law Librarians

Over 30 Australian and New Zealand university law librarians met during the recent Asian Pacific Specials Health and Law Librarians' Conference in Sydney. After discussing and congratulating Dick Finlay (Adelaide) on his work on the ALIA University Law Library Standards and agreeing to Nick Pengelley's proposals for development of a comprehensive statistics-gathering scheme, the group spent an interesting hour and a half discussing and debating the issue of the electronic library.

Progress towards the electronic library is mixed, as are views on its very desirability. Some of the group pointed to the benefits to law libraries, particularly university law libraries in "going electronic". These included ability to network products to a wide range of locations, security (i.e. no loss, damage or theft), saving in shelf space and no filing in the case of looseleaf services. Others pointed to the expense of the electronic products, perceived publisher uncertainty about charging policies and the training demands created by the move to the new technology.

When it came to discussion on the issue of "dumping" the print in favour of electronic resources (whether this be law reports, statutes, looseleaf services or journals) whilst some were in favour of embracing the electronic revolution, others indicated wariness and resistance on the part of some Faculty members and other clients to using electronic resources. At least one member of the group was giving active consideration to the need to keep print copies of modern UK, US and Canadian reports given the availability of the majority of these through online services and CD-ROMs. Although some of the group were concerned about the ability of their clientele to research in a purely electronic medium, Helen Roberts (ANU) and Petal Kinder (Monash) among others gave examples of recent major research carried out without recourse to print resources. There was also ample evidence of the enthusiasm

with which computer literate students are taking to electronic research, in ways that they never did to print.

The debate, which has been taking place through the electronic medium of the ANZ University Law Librarians' discussion list for some time, has made one thing clear - that we do indeed live in interesting times!

Nicholas Pengelley

Monash University Law Library

Statement on Future Collecting Directions - National Library of Australia

In its Strategic Plan 1993-1998, the National Library outlined three priorities which would direct its activities for that period. These include the collection and preservation of Australian materials of national significance, the promotion of the Library, its collections and national services, and improvements in access for all Australians to the materials and information they need. Establishment of these priorities formed the basis of public consultation in 1993, and they were generally accepted by both library and other client groups.

In establishing these priorities, the Library has moved away from the idea that it can best serve the Australian library community by developing a large pan-disciplinary collection containing extensive amounts of material from around the world for the benefit of the nation as a whole. An increasing amount of material is being acquired by other Australian libraries, especially in the higher education sector, and much of it duplicates the National Library's holdings. Delivery of material from one library to another is increasingly possible through the development of the national bibliographic database and improved means of document supply. Also, more materials, in particular journals, are becoming readily accessible in electronic form.

One way in which the Library will meet its priorities is through a reduction in the collecting and processing of printed materials from some overseas countries. Redirection of resources away from collecting overseas materials will allow the Library to put more effort into a number of other areas that better support the Australian library system and its clients including:

- extending its Australian collections through more focused collecting
- increased support for the activities of the National Preservation Office and for the ongoing development of a better Distributed National Collection
- development of bibliographic and document delivery services through the National Document and Information Service and support for the national bibliographic database. This will permit access to a wider range of materials and databases than is currently the case, and incorporate other significant improvements to the current ABN system
- development of access to government information through the Library's information server
- improved access to its collections of unique materials through digitisation, which will enhance both short-term and long-term availability
- extending access to its collections through an active exhibition and publication program

The Library therefore considers it now opportune to consider its collecting role within the context of its own priorities and the distributed national collection. Believing that it can best serve the needs of Australian libraries and their clients in a coordinating as well as a defined collecting role, the Library has given careful consideration to its future overseas collecting and is now in a position to outline its collecting intentions in greater detail

- The Library will continue to develop a comprehensive collection of Australiana as

broadly outlined in the *National Library of Australia Collection Development Policy for Australian Materials*, which was released as a draft document for comment in mid 1994.

- The Library remains committed to developing collections relating to South-East Asia, East Asia, South Asia and the Pacific Islands in cooperation with other libraries. The Library will continue to collect materials, including legislation and legal materials, to provide advanced study collections for the understanding of the nation states in these regions. Asia and Pacific-related collecting will remain focused on current public affairs, principally for the post-World War II period, but with a general historical background of the modern era provided. To assist the full appreciation of the characteristics of the various societies, an adequate range of cultural material will continue to be collected as well. "Public affairs" will be understood to include nationally significant social manifestations and the individual's relation to them, as well as the processes of public life and international interaction that led to the maintenance and development of the individual nation states concerned. This policy is essential that outlined for Asia and the Pacific in the 1990 *Collection Development Policy*
- Government publications of the United States, United Kingdom and Canada will continue to be collected to provide a full representation of all significant government activities. As a national body, the Library is uniquely placed to benefit from deposit and other special arrangements made for this category of material. Similarly, publications of international and inter-governmental agencies selected for their high relevance to the affairs of Australia and the countries of the Asia-Pacific region will be collected in depth
- In accordance with the review of the Library's law collection in 1994, the Library

will also continue to collect international legal materials (as defined under 341 in the Dewey Decimal Classification) including journals relating to international law and the publications of relevant international bodies

- The Library will continue to develop its film study and lending collections and the map collection in recognition of the fact that these provide a unique national resource of material and provide a needed service unlikely to be filled by any other institution. Some other smaller categories of material will also continue to be developed in response to an identified national need. These include at present some monographic series such as IEEE publications and standards, and Japanese biomedical serials.
- A library and information science collection to support the full range of the Library's enterprise and the professional information requirements of the Australian library community will continue to be maintained and developed
- Client support and onsite use require that the Library maintain a collection of reference material of general scope, but with a focus appropriate to the Library's other collecting intentions. To supplement the reference collection, a basic collection of library material will be maintained covering politics, economics and social and cultural issues where these are of national or international significance. It is unlikely that the basic collection will include many non-English language titles

The Library will continue to prepare a formal collection development policy which will cover aspects of this statement in additional detail. This policy will affirm the Library's commitment to the ongoing development of its collections as part of the distributed national collection. The Library recognises that the collections will continue to evolve and be open to negotiation and agreement

It will continue to seek to enter into collaborative collecting agreements wherever appropriate, with an initial emphasis on collections relating to Asia and the Pacific.

Responses or queries concerning the Library's future collecting and access policy may be directed to:

Ms Jan Fullerton

Assistant Director-General
Collections and Reader Services
National Library of Australia
Canberra ACT 2600

Tel: 06 262 1672

Fax: 06 257 1703

Email: J.Fullerton@nla.gov.au

***FAQ (Frequently asked questions)
on the future collecting intentions of
the National Library***

***What does the National Library's
reduction in overseas collecting mean?***

Essentially it means that the National Library will be putting into practice the significant shift in collecting from overseas that was outlined in the Library's strategic plan 1993-1998 *Service to the Nation, Access to the Globe* (Canberra, 1994). The Library will be receiving far fewer monographs and serials from overseas countries outside the Asia-Pacific region, and will reduce its overseas collecting by around 60%.

***What kinds of materials will the Library
no longer collect?***

The Library is cancelling the supply of many commercially available books and serials published overseas, and closing many exchange arrangements, particularly those for countries (excluding Canada) outside the Asia-Pacific region, and designated as geographical collecting levels 1-3 in the 1990 *Collection Development Policy*.

The Library will no longer receive, for example,

- many standard subject-oriented periodicals
- most scholarly books on standard academic subjects
- the literature of the world
- law (other than international law and legal materials related to the countries of the Asia-Pacific region)
- non-Australian genealogical resources
- science and technology
- publications from many countries outside the Asia-Pacific region including such things as parliamentary publications, annual reports, some statistical material, university handbooks, calendars and research reports, publications of associations, institutions and banks
- music, i.e. printed musical material such as scores and sheet music

What will the National Library be collecting from overseas?

The National Library will continue to get a range of materials published overseas including the following:

- monographs and serials published overseas but having Australian authorship, subject matter or association
- published materials from the countries of East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia and the Pacific region with particular emphasis on the social sciences. Coverage of these areas will remain essentially that described in the 1990 collection development policy
- a full range of all significant government publications from Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States, based on the National Library's deposit and other special arrangements with government publishers in these countries

- material emanating from international and inter-governmental associations and of relevance to Australia and the countries of the Asia-Pacific region. The Library will interpret Australian interest generously rather than narrowly
- extensive statistical information and other reference material to support the provision of information services as defined in the *Strategic Plan* for which a reference collection of general scope but a focus appropriate to the Library's future collecting intentions is required
- library and information science material to support the full range of the Library's enterprise, including preservation and exhibition activities, collected at a general level consistent with a conspectus definition of level 3, i.e. a wide serials collection, with main and subsidiary topics collected, supplemented by the acquisition of the most pertinent research literature; material essential for the purposes of the Library's management, its staff development and occupational health and safety programs
- material for the Library's film study and lending collection
- overseas maps
- a small number of scientific and technological publications identified as an indispensable national resource by the Library's Document Supply Service (e.g. some monographic series such as IEEE publications)
- in addition to these areas a basic collection of library material will be maintained in the following areas:

politics and economics:

- general developments in politics and economics, policy, and/or economic resources oriented literature of the following broad topics: education, environment, energy, science, technology,

public health, including works of aspects of planning, development, ethics, evaluation, and the issues of the provision of appropriate physical and human infrastructure

social and cultural issues:

- social reform, multiculturalism, race relations, human and minority rights, religious and intellectual freedom, reflections of social issues in the arts, general description and evaluation of popular culture and its impact, descriptions of new cultural movements and new methods of cultural analysis -

where these are of national or international significance. Collecting in these areas will include biographical works on major figures, historical descriptions of major movements, international comparative studies, analyses and forecasts of the future as well as studies of the interdependences of political, economic, social and cultural issues. The collection will include a core selection of serials, and is unlikely to contain many non-English language titles.

These areas of collecting together with a comprehensive collection of Australian materials will comprise the National Library's major contribution to the Distributed National Collection.

Will Australian libraries be notified of the serial titles cancelled?

Yes. Australian libraries will be notified through postings to the DNC list and through print sources.

Is the National Library ensuring that a title is not the last Australian location before cancelling?

No. Cancellation is taking place regardless of whether the title is the only known Australian location. The Library believes that most titles to be cancelled are either widely held or very low use.

Will there be any disposal of the Library's existing collection in view of the change of direction in collecting?

Emphatically not. The Library will be maintaining and providing service from the overseas materials which it holds.

How will the reduction in overseas collecting affect document supply in Australia?

The National Library will become less likely to hold some categories of currently published overseas material. As the National Library is the largest net lender in Australia, this may lead to a rise in the number of requests made to other Australian libraries. The National Library will, however, continue to supply materials from its extensive collections. The effect of the reduction on the document supply services will be closely monitored in association with the existing clients of the service. The Library is also considering providing a service to obtain materials, not in the Library's collections, from other resources on a cost-recovery basis. Details of this will be announced at a later date.

Will this reduction in overseas collecting change the services offered in the reading rooms?

No, not substantially. The Library will continue to provide access to printed materials in the collections and to electronic sources in its *reading rooms*. There will be increasing reliance on electronic sources of information, sometimes at direct cost to users, and in some cases referral to other libraries may be appropriate.