

We list below brief descriptions of research work being carried out in the centre.

(a) A project to investigate data structures and data relationships has been initiated by Mr. Legg.

(b) Very extensive files of data which are accumulating through contracts with the VUSEB, and ACER (see preceding section), and from other sources, are being used as the basis for research into various aspects of student assessment.

(c) A project to develop computer-based hospital information and record systems is proceeding, in collaboration with the Hospitals and Charities Commission, and with several Melbourne hospitals.

(d) A small computer system for remote control and recording of hospital laboratory analyses has been developed by a study group from the Hospitals and Charities Commission, working with the centre; the system is now under construction.

(e) In parallel with the development of the remote-terminal system (section 3) a project to investigate various aspects of multi-access and time-sharing computer systems is being planned.

In the latter part of the year new office space became available in a converted locker room, and this greatly eased the accommodation problems which had faced the staff in the centre. While office space is still not sufficient for the staff's needs, most members have been reasonably accommodated, and it has been possible to clear a passageway previously used for office work.

Library—Librarian: Mr. E. H. Clark, B.A. (Melb.), F.L.A.A.

By the end of 1967, the University library had grown to approximately 271,500 volumes. 6,393 periodicals were being currently received.

Stock was distributed as follows: the main library (165,600 volumes), the Hargrave Library, for the physical sciences and engineering (36,500), the law library (23,600) and the bio-medical library with 22,750 volumes on the Monash campus, 9,225 at the Alfred Hospital, 1,827 at Queen Victoria, and further small collections at Prince Henry's, Fairfield, and Royal Park Hospitals.

Space was at a premium throughout the library system. As anticipated the main library was mostly overcrowded, the bio-medical library, at both its campus and Alfred Hospital locations was almost impossible to operate, and some strain was felt in the Hargrave Library. With the completion of the law school building early in 1968, which has library space temporarily beyond its requirements, some relief can be expected because of space that will be temporarily available there for other library purposes. Movement of the law library itself will release space in the Hargrave Library, the main library will occupy one floor of the new law school and the bio-medical library, whose campus extensions commenced at the end of the year, will occupy another floor of the

law school until the extensions are completed. Some stack space in the basement of the medical school at the Alfred Hospital is also promised.

Loans for the year were as follows:

	<i>Staff</i>	<i>Student</i>	<i>Total</i>
Main Library	22,226	141,345	163,571
Hargrave	18,616	34,240	52,856
Bio-medical			
(a) Monash	20,558	16,608	37,166
(b) Alfred	7,619	5,840	13,459
(c) Queen Victoria	2,653	908	3,561
<i>Totals</i>	<u>71,672</u>	<u>198,941</u>	<u>270,613</u>

Photocopying services were again heavily in demand, augmented by a further machine made available to the Alfred Hospital. Prints produced for staff and students amounted, overall, to 164,399.

At the end of 1967, the library staff establishment totalled 123.

Through the inter-library loan service, 7,940 items were obtained from other libraries. Monash loans to other libraries totalled 2,833. It is pleasing to note that, with the improvement in our stock, we are able both to reduce the burden we have placed on other libraries, and also, increasingly to assist them in return.

The Council's appreciation of the many gifts received by the library has been conveyed to their donors. The library is most fortunate in receiving these valuable additions to its resources.

The library has made considerable advances in the field of computer applications. Since 1966 techniques have been developed in the Monash library for the application of data processing technology to the provision of services in the student reading, periodicals, and cataloguing sections of the library's operations. The provision of current weekly lists of materials set for student reading has become a regular feature of library service, and has provided a computer file capable of ready analysis to assist in the processes of planning for future requirements. Information regarding holdings of periodicals currently received has been listed by computer and published for distribution over the campus. Development work in the cataloguing field is also proceeding, with a view both to utilizing some of the products now becoming available from computer-assisted processes elsewhere, and to creating computer records at Monash which will in time perhaps serve to augment regional resources of bibliographic data. The pace of development in these fields of automation must, however, be regulated to some extent by the availability and suitability of equipment.