

REPORT
OF THE
COUNCIL

1971



MONASH UNIVERSITY

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ference for teachers of mathematics was again held at Monash, attracting 1,000 participants. The department of Chemistry organized the 8th Australian Spectroscopy Conference and a conference on Reactive Intermediates. The department of Zoology conducted a five-day enrichment course on conservation and applied ecology for over 150 teachers of science and geography.

Personal

Professor R. D. Brown was elected to the Council of the Australian Academy of Science. Professor R. Street who is currently Federal President of the Australian Institute of Physics, became chairman-elect of the Australian Research Grants Committee. Professor R. H. Day is a Visiting Commonwealth Professor to the United Kingdom for the academic year 1971-72. Professor R. W. Cumming was a joint recipient of the Prince Philip Award for Australian Design for 1971; his T Visual Approach Slope Indicator System for guiding aircraft pilots on landing became a world standard during 1971. Mr A. Y. Montgomery received the Australian National Committee on Computation and Automatic Control award for the best paper published in the Australian Computer Journal during 1970. Professor J. W. Warren delivered the 1971 Crosbie Morrison lecture at Clunies Ross House. Professor B. E. Hobbs was appointed to the first chair in the new department of Earth Sciences. He will take up duty in the latter part of 1972.

General

Their occupation of the new Biology building has eased the accommodation problems of the departments of Botany and Psychology, but the completion of the current triennial programme is eagerly awaited so that Psychology can vacate the Menzies building and Botany and Zoology can obtain much needed additional space for research and teaching laboratories. The extensions to the Mathematics building will provide space for the department of Earth Sciences.

Library—Acting Librarian: Mr T. B. Southwell, B.A. (Syd.), A.L.A.A.

By the end of 1971 the University library had grown to over 498,000 volumes, the apparent rise in intake over previous years is explained by the inclusion for the first time of some 24,000 "volumes" represented on the various microforms which are becoming a significant part of any modern research collection. 8,965 periodicals were being currently received.

Stock was distributed as follows: the main library (320,200), the Hargrave Library for the physical sciences and engineering (64,000), the law library (43,000) and the biomedical library with 39,200 on the Monash campus, 17,500 at the Alfred Hospital, 3,700 at Queen

Victoria, and further small collections at the joint library run in conjunction with Prince Henry's and at Fairfield and Royal Park Hospitals.

The library's budget for 1971 was increased considerably, but even so was unable to keep pace with the rapidly rising costs of books and periodicals. It is depressing to report that as a result the number of new books acquired was again less than in the previous year, and certainly less than is necessary to meet the University's needs.

The staff establishment remained virtually unchanged, but service was maintained in spite of increased demand, and, in some areas, particularly the crucial one of reader instruction, even expanded.

As expected, space was at a premium in the Hargrave Library; building work commenced on the extension only late in the year, and no real relief will be felt until mid-1972. Some strain began to show in both the main and the biomedical libraries, the latter indicating a considerably higher level of use than is normal. Plans are in hand for an extension of the biomedical library at the Alfred Hospital, whose accommodation for readers, staff and books are all decidedly sub-standard.

Loans for the year totalled 335,910, an increase of 10.4 per cent over the previous year, the heaviest increase being in the main library (12.7 per cent) and the Hargrave Library (21.9 per cent).

Work proceeded through the year on the magnetic tape "Inventory" file, but only the biomedical library segment was completed. Work began in the long vacation on the equipping of the biomedical stock with machine-readable badges, in preparation for the installation of the new circulation system. Much time was devoted to testing out the mechanical components of the system, and final installation is expected early in the new year.

A computer-based acquisitions system was installed progressively during the year, giving excellent bibliographic control, and work is proceeding on its associated budgeting control system.

The total number of items borrowed from other libraries fell for the first time, to 9,130; although main library borrowings rose slightly, this was more than counterbalanced by falls in all other areas. All areas showed a marked increase in loans to other libraries, the total being 9,148. On balance, 1971 was the year in which Monash arose above the status of mendicant library.

The most notable event of the year was a very sad one. The foundation University librarian, Mr E. H. Clark, who had been in ill health for some years, died suddenly early in October. His wide experience and vision have shaped a library system of which Monash can feel proud.

6. UNIVERSITY FACILITIES

Computer Centre

The beginning of 1971 saw the successful conclusion of negotiations