

THE LIBRARY BOARD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

THE LIBRARY SERVICE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

1961-62

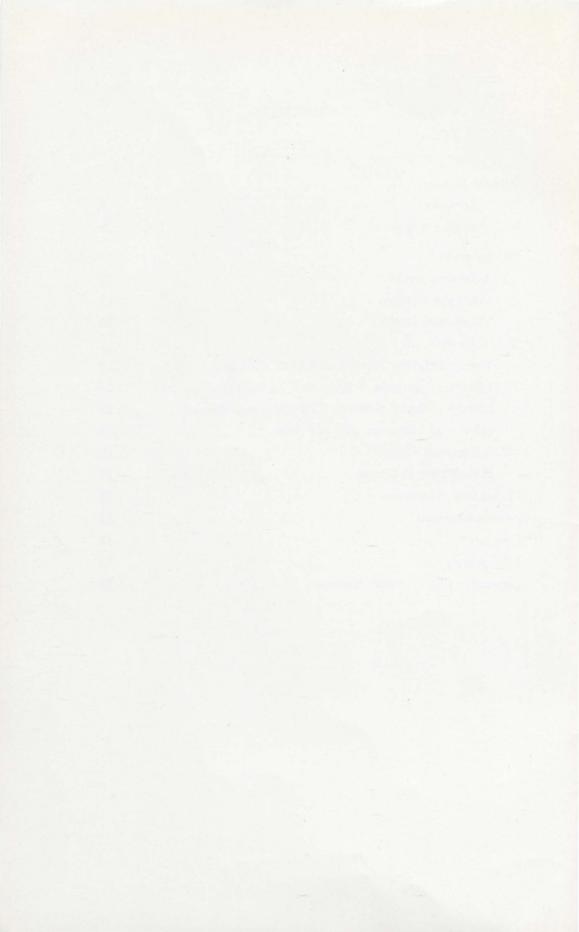
10th Annual Report of the Board

PERTH, 1962



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THE LIBRARY BOARD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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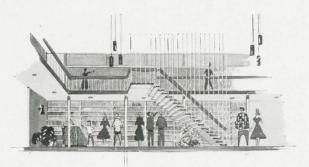
State Librarian: F. A. Sharr, B.A., F.L.A.

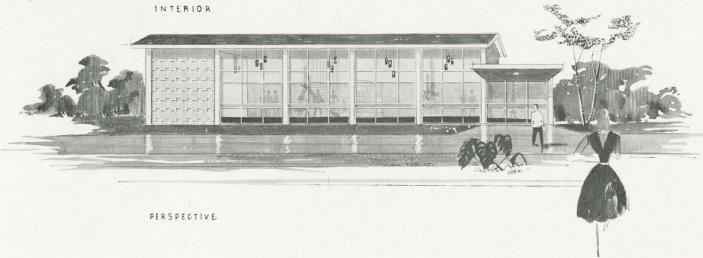
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The State Librarian,

3 Francis Street, Perth.

Telephone: 28 2461





Kalamunda Library

(Drawing by courtesy of the Architect)

GENERAL SURVEY

The glory and pride of a public library does not depend upon the number of its rare books, sixteenth century editions or tenth century manuscripts, but on how widely books are circulated among the people, how many new readers are enrolled, how rapidly book requests are filled, how many books are borrowed and how many children become interested in reading books and using libraries.

THE largest development programme in the history of the Board has been completed this year with the addition of 13 new public libraries to the service. There are now 60 public libraries associ-

ated with the Board.

The Board's original plans, formulated in 1953, envisaged the establishment of new libraries each year totalling 50,000 volumes. This rate of development was aimed to enable libraries to be started covering the whole State in a period of 20 years. This year, for the first time, the target was almost reached. It is very much to be hoped that the Government will be able to continue to allocate sufficient funds to permit this rate of development to be maintained.

The membership of the Board remained unaltered. The Board was pleased to learn of the election of its Vice Chairman, Mr. L. W. Nenke, as President of the Country Shire Councils' Association.

The Board had for some time been concerned by the fact that many publications of government departments and agencies were not deposited in the State Library both for immediate use by the public and for preservation. The matter was raised with the Government and in December the Hon. the Premier requested all Ministers to issue a direction to departments, instrumentalities, boards, etc., under their administration to forward copies of all documents released for public information to the State Library. The Board wishes to express its warm appreciation to the Hon. the Premier for this assistance in its work, which has already resulted in a marked improvement in the resources of the State Library relating to Western Australia.

Another development in the field of West Australian studies during the year was made possible by the gift to the Board of a tape recorder by Miss Jean Rogerson. This will be used mainly in the Battye Library to record the reminiscences of important figures and old identities who can tell of early developments in the State. One major project has already been completed through the co-operation of Mr. Norman Brearley who was a pioneer of commercial aviation not only in Western Australia but in Australia. The interviews recorded on tape have been typed out, edited, submitted to Mr. Brearley for checking, and will be filed permanently in the Battye Library.

In last year's Report the Board's decision to approve the establishment of a Central Music Library was reported. The suggestion came from the Music Council of Western Australia who agreed to provide the initial stock if the Board would maintain and staff the

collection thereafter.

A number of valuable donations of scores and musical periodicals have been received. The Board's existing stock of both scores and books on music has been transferred to the Music Library. One staff member has been fully occupied throughout the year on cataloguing and arranging this material. The location of the proposed library has been cleared and prepared. As yet, however, the initial stock is neither large enough nor representative enough to justify the opening of the library for public use.

Some 2,600 donated scores have been catalogued, but about a quarter are in need of binding or rebinding before they will be fit for use. In addition some 250 scores already in stock have been re-

catalogued.

The Lady Mitchell Memorial Children's Library fund was wound up during the year and the cash balance of £45 14s. 6d. transferred, in accordance with the constitution, to the Library Board to be used at the discretion of the Board for any purpose, but preferably in a manner appropriate to the object of the fund. The Board resolved to purchase and present to the City of Perth a globe of the world to be placed in the children's library of the new Central Library when that is completed.

Book prices rose by about 10 per cent. during the year and the trade journals forecast a similar rise in 1962–63. The implication needs no

underlining.

In March, Miss Florence McKeand, Librarian: Accessions Section, proceeded on long service leave prior to her resignation on marriage. Miss McKeand was appointed Librarian: Accessions Section, in 1954, when the Board first set up its Headquarters. She was the senior officer in the grade of Librarian and over the last eight years had been responsible for the training and development of Accessions Section and for the conduct of the Board's world wide business of book and periodical purchasing. She saw the stock of the Board grow from nothing to nearly half a million volumes in that period and made a distinguished contribution to the development of the State wide service.

The Board has appointed Mr. I. D. Tweedie, Assistant Librarian, Accessions Section to the post of Librarian vacated by Miss McKeand. Mr. Tweedie is a graduate of the University of Western Australia, a qualified librarian and has had a further period of training and experience

overseas.

The immediate concern of the Board is the development of libraries in Western Australia, but librarianship like scholarship is international and any large library authority has an international as well as a local responsibility. This responsibility is two sided: on the one hand to keep abreast of overseas thought and development so that it may be adapted when appropriate to improve the local service; on the other to make its experience and thought available to other countries.

At the 1961 Conference of the Library Association of Australia two papers were given surveying the world wide library scene. Their most striking conclusion was the similarity of hopes, needs and problems in all countries, Eastern and Western, developed and less developed. It may surprise some readers that the quotation at the head

of this report, which so aptly and concisely expresses the viewpoint of the Library Service of Western Australia, was written by Lenin in Russia some 40 years ago. It was noticed in a recent American book.

In its planning and development the Board has benefited greatly from overseas experience. It is gratifying that it is now able in some small measure to begin making its own contribution. Two librarians, Mr. F. Ullah Beg of Pakistan and Mr. G. A. Bemnet of Ethiopia spent several weeks in Western Australia studying the work of the Board. They came on Fellowships awarded by U.N.E.S.C.O. To assist its development work particularly in Africa, Unesco also requested the State Librarian to prepare a paper on the organisation of library services in sparsely populated areas based on West Australian experience.

Two publications of the Board: the Statement on Book Selection Policy and Siting & Design of Public Library Buildings have caused considerable interest overseas and requests for copies have been received

from libraries in 12 countries.



There is no colour bar to the enjoyment of books

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

The Board has now supplied the books for 60 public libraries covering 67 local authorities stretching from Port Hedland to Esperance.

Books totalling 49,129 volumes (as against 19,845 volumes last year and 31,480 the year before) have been supplied to 13 new public libraries at:—

ac .		
Bridgetown	Kondinin	Ravensthorpe
Broomehill	Laverton	Rockingham
Busselton	Meekatharra	South Perth
Coolgardie	Perth (City)	Wagin
Gingin		

and to 13 existing libraries in supplementation of their stocks.

This great increase in the rate of development was made possible by the increase of funds allocated by the Government last year and was foreshadowed in last year's Annual Report.

Laverton is the smallest place in which a library has yet been established. It is some 250 miles north-east of Kalgoorlie on the edge of the desert; the Shire has a population of 306 excluding full blood aboriginals and an area of 70,000 square miles. In most other parts of the world the idea of establishing a public library in such circumstances would cause eyebrows to rise. The success of other small libraries in fairly remote places, when backed by the resources and organisation developed in Western Australia, and their ability not only to meet but also to stimulate purposive as well as recreational demand, persuaded the Board that the experiment of establishing a library in a place as small as Laverton was justified. A reconnaissance was, of course, made by the State Librarian first.

This library is a genuine public library in miniature. It has 800 books and offers to its readers the full range of the Board's book and information resources.

There is in that area a substantial native population, both full blood and caste. A view expressed by the representatives of the Shire Council to the State Librarian was that a library could be of particular benefit to the younger natives by helping them to build on the educational foundation given in mission and State schools so that they could fit themselves in knowledge and skills for genuine integration into the

community.

When the library at Coolgardie was started several hundred books which had survived from the original Mechanics' Institute founded in 1894 were vested in the Board. They were of remarkable quality and afforded striking evidence of the ability of the men who chose and imported them in the heyday of Coolgardie's prosperity. It was therefore decided that a representative selection should be made up to show the present and future generations what a goldfields Mechanics' Institute was like in the old days. This collection will shortly be returned to Coolgardie for permanent preservation and display by the Shire Council.

In order not to stop the supply of books for new country libraries, the arrangements for the initial stocking of the Perth and South Perth libraries were unusual. The normal procedure is to supply all the books required to stock a new library at one time and at the same time to remove to Headquarters the books from any existing library maintained by the local authority. Both Perth and South Perth had existing libraries. It was, however, arranged that their stocks should be built up over a period instead of at one time. The restocking of South Perth will occupy about a year, and the enlargement of the central library stock for Perth to a total of 65,000 volumes will occupy three years. If the normal practice had been followed no other libraries could have been started this year.

A further departure from normal practice occurred when a library service was provided for the Shire of Wandering without the establishment of a library. Wandering has a population of about 600 and lies

between Pingelly and Boddington. The Board suggested to the three local authorities that a better service could be given more economically to the people of Wandering by enlarging the stocks of the existing library at Pingelly and the proposed library at Boddington and giving all Wandering residents the right to use either of the other libraries. The three local authorities readily agreed to this suggestion and the

necessary additional books have been supplied to Pingelly.

Pingelly can offer a further example of the readiness with which country local authorities will co-operate with each other and with the Board to give better service to the people of the district. Narrogin library is jointly supported by the Town and Shire of Narrogin and the Shire of Cuballing. Popanyinning, at the north end of the Shire of Cuballing, looks naturally to Pingelly as its centre rather than to Narrogin. A small centre had been maintained from Narrogin at Popanyinning before Pingelly library was established. On the opening of the library at Pingelly it was suggested that the Popanyinning centre should be closed and that half its books be transferred to Pingelly, the other half returning to Narrogin. All the local authorities agreed, with the result that the people of Popanyinning now have a choice of some 2,200 books a few miles away instead of their former centre of 200 books.

When the South Perth library became associated with the Board some criticism of the Board was made by a small section of the residents. Their main complaint appeared to be that the Board had immediately supplied 3,000 non-fiction books to the library. Since they were not compelled in any way to read these books, the grounds for the complaint were not clear. However, the results over the next few months are interesting in the light of this criticism.

The adult bookstock before and after the changeover was:

		Before	At 30/6/62
Reference		Nil	320
Fiction	****	6,360	3,280
Non-fiction		2,600	6.100

Thus the proportion of fiction to non-fiction was approximately reversed.

In the first six months of the new service the number of adult readers increased from 1,957 to 3,546 and the proportion of nonfiction issued rose from 20 per cent. to 50 per cent.

This proves

- (a) that the Board's policy attracted nearly twice as many people to use the library as the former provision of merely recreational material:
- (b) that the public of South Perth wants and uses non-fiction if it has the opportunity to do so.

This is not an isolated example. Several similar cases were noted in last year's Annual Report. West Australian experience recently received striking confirmation by an overseas investigator who wrote :-

"It is sometimes said that the bulk of the population do not want to learn, they only want to be entertained. This view has no foundation in fact whatsoever. I know of no research or other

evidence to support such a view, whereas there is evidence to the contrary. A few, and only relatively few, do not want to know anything more; the majority are curious about the world they live in and about themselves, and indeed they feel that they have a right to know; so long as what they are told is not dull or patron-

ising, they will listen.

"The situation is complicated by the fact that people do not really know what they want and are found to like what they think they do not want. . . . So far as educational and cultural material is concerned, there is a fairly clear cut distribution of attitudes. It seems that a majority—I repeat, a majority—seems to be attracted by something which makes them think, but a fairly large minority choose to avoid them, and a few—and very few—actively resist them."(1)

Perhaps, however, the most telling refutation of the criticism and vindication of the Board's policy is that within six months of the opening of the first library in South Perth, the City Council applied to the Board to supply the books for a second library and resolved, itself, to spend £20,000 on a building therefor. The Board hopes to supply the books for this library as soon as its obligations elsewhere permit.

Demand on the Request & Information Service continues to grow. A total of 13,170 requests were received from public libraries as against 10,418 last year.

The following random selection of requests received on the last Monday in June gives a fair example of the type of books for which readers ask:—

Fenner, A. C. and Phillips, W. H.	The J.A.P. Engine
Frankenberg, R.	Village on the Border: a social study of religion, politics and football in a North Wales community
Graf, J. and Graf, D. T.	Practical Houses for Contemporary Living
Haftmann, Werner	Painting in the 20th Century Vol. 2
Hoggart, Richard	The Uses of Literacy: aspects of working class life
Janossy, N	Cosmic Rays and Nuclear Physics
Pinkerton, M. H.	Commercial Mushroom Growing
Russell, Bertrand	Why I am not a Christian
Tagore, R	The Religion of Man
Spon, E. & F. N. Ltd.	Workshop Receipts for Manufacturers & Scientific Amateurs
U.N.E.S.C.O	Proposed Programme and Budget for 1961–1962

⁽¹⁾ J. Treneman, Research Fellow in mass media at Leeds University, in Popular Culture & Personal Responsibility, Report of a conference organised by the National Union of Teachers, London, 1961.

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Technical Bulletin No. 1259—Wool Warehouses: practices, facilities, services, charges, problems

Weatherburn, C. E. Elementary Vector Analysis with Application to Geometry and Mechanics. Rev. ed.

Wheeler, Margaret, ed. A Book of Archaeology

Yorston, R. K., Smith, Advanced Accountancy. Stage I E. and Brown, S.

It is significant that the increase in requests comes principally from the established libraries and is not merely a result of the opening of new libraries. This shows the steady growth of public awareness and use of the libraries for other than recreational purposes. It is even more significant that the increase of demand is spread over all sizes of library, as the following table indicates. This demonstrates that even the very small and remote libraries are functioning as genuine public libraries, not as mere book depots, and are evoking a growth of public response similar to that in the large metropolitan libraries. Of few other parts of the world could this be said.

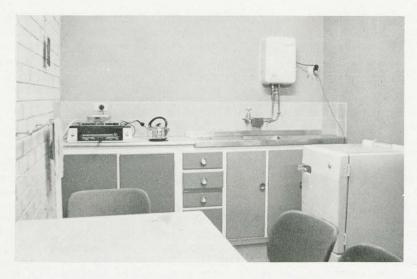
Table showing percentage increase of requests for special non-fiction books, from libraries arranged by size:—

Group	Population	No. of libraries	Increase this year over last year
A	400- 999	8	18 per cent.
В	1,000- 2,999	18	11 ,, ,,
C	3,000- 5,999	8	23 ,, ,,
D	6,000- 9,999	3	13 ,, ,,
E	18,000-36,000	2	19 ,, ,,

Only libraries open throughout the full period of two years have been included in the table.

Every library, however small or remote, can call immediately upon the stock of every other library and of the Circulation Section of Headquarters. This totals some 270,000 volumes, and can handle nearly all normal requirements. To meet the needs of readers whose needs are particularly advanced or specialized, there is a strategic reserve: the State Library. It is particularly pleasing and significant that the number of books borrowed by country libraries from the Library of Business, Science and Technology in the State Library has doubled in the last year, a further indication of the growing awareness that local libraries are more than a mere amenity.

In the early days, most new libraries were established in existing or adapted buildings. In the last two years, however, many local authorities have built or begun to plan new library buildings or separate library wings to new office buildings. The Board therefore felt it desirable to formulate its policy on local library buildings and to publish a pamphlet on the siting and design of public libraries for the information of local authorities and their architects.



Scarborough library Staff Room

The Board is not empowered to assist local authorities financially in meeting the capital cost of buildings. Its policy on their design was formulated as follows:—

- "That the general policy of the Board on the design of public library buildings be defined as follows:—
 - (a) The responsibility for the design and construction of public library buildings lies with local authorities.
 - (b) The Board has adopted certain minimum standards which are published. It will not approve the commencement or extension of a service in premises which do not conform to these minimum standards.
 - (c) While the Board does not wish to set itself up as a consulting architect to local authorities, it will advise local authorities on its minimum standards and will be pleased to offer any help or advice, through the State Librarian, which any local authority may desire in connection with the planning or design of libraries.
 - (d) The Board requests local authorities before receiving plans for library buildings to instruct their architects to consult with the State Librarian in order that his professional experience of library requirements may be utilised.
 - (e) The Board will welcome receipt of draft plans before their final approval by a local authority, experience having shown that this frequently results not only in a more suitable building but in the saving of expense to the local authority."

An indication of how current West Australian library buildings measure up to international standards is given by a comment in the American Library Journal on the pamphlet Siting and Design of Public Library Buildings—

"Some of the large and handsome libraries which have been built for very small towns should be both an inspiration and useful propaganda for librarians of small authorities here."

All public libraries have been visited during the year to maintain contact, ensure that the Headquarters service is efficient as seen from the local point of view, and to advise on any difficulties which may have arisen. The *Newsletter* has continued to be published and distributed to all libraries and staff.

BOOK PROVISION POLICY

Books are supplied to local libraries on a scale of one book per head of population served with a minimum of 800 volumes. The stock is in the following proportions: one third for children, and of the adult two thirds 40 per cent. fiction, 40 per cent. non-fiction of fairly general interest and 20 per cent. fiction of more advanced standard or more restricted appeal.

Suggestions are occasionally made that the fiction stock in local libraries is inadequate and that there are books on their shelves which nobody wants to read. Usually these suggestions are made in good faith by people who intend to be constructive. It may therefore be useful to set out briefly the reasons for the Board's policy.

It is not realistic to assume that the division Fiction/Non-Fiction coincides with the division Recreational/Study. Some fiction is the subject of academic research, while a good deal of non-fiction is certainly read for relaxation. The nearest approach to a realistic practical division would be to use the terms Informational and Non-Informational, meaning by informational a book which would not normally be read for general interest or relaxation but only for a definite purpose.

The need for any proportionate allocation of books arises only because expenditure on books is limited. If it were unlimited, every book could be bought. Given, however, a limited book fund, if more books of one type are bought, fewer of the others can be bought, and since it is necessary to ensure that the various types of reader are adequately served, a rough proportion by type of book is maintained, based on experience. There are four very broad types of book: pure reference, informational or serious study, general interest non-fiction, and fiction. Some fiction can of course be regarded as required for serious study, but the four groups are fairly distinct. General interest non-fiction comprises non-technical books on biography, travel, hobbies, sport, current affairs, plays, humorous books, some history, practical subjects, country life, gardening and so on. This group forms normally about 40 per cent. of the adult stock, which with 40 per cent. fiction leaves 20 per cent. for informational books of a

rather more limited appeal. If, however, the fiction proportion is increased either the general interest non-fiction must be reduced or the informational books squeezed out.

Five hundred non-fiction books offer far less choice to any one reader than 500 novels, because the normal reader's range of willing choice of non-fiction is restricted by subject. To reduce the proportion of non-fiction in a library which is already small means that the choice of books remaining on the shelves on any particular subject is very small indeed. This leads to the frustration and elimination of those who want to read non-fiction and thus "proves", to the satisfaction of those who under-estimate the taste of their neighbours, that there is no demand for non-fiction. There follows a progressive demand for more and more novels and less and less of any other kind of books until the library becomes useless to all but the novel reader. This is a sequence which must be firmly resisted and the easiest way to resist is to prevent the sequence starting. There have been innumerable examples in the past of libraries following this path. In Western Australia in every case when the Board has "taken over" an existing library of that sort, and put in a better bookstock the use of the library has greatly increased. The figures for South Perth quoted earlier and those others given in previous Reports prove that the Board's policy results, in fact, in more use of the libraries than the alternative policy.

In all library systems carrying a large and varied stock there is a proportion of books which are seldom used. The better the stock the greater the proportion. In Western Australia the aspect of the service which has stimulated most public enthusiasm is the Request and Information Service. A glance through the random selection of requests received from local libraries' readers published in this and previous Annual Reports will show that some of the books actually asked for are those which might be assumed to be seldom used in any one library. In each of the last five years 93 per cent. of the books asked for have been supplied. This could not have been done if the books had not been acquired (or in a small minority of cases borrowed from other libraries). If a book is acquired it must be housed somewhere, either in the State Library, or in the Circulation Section pool, or in local libraries. If the Board were to remove from all public libraries those books which were not frequently used, the Circulation Pool would be greatly enlarged and the total stock of local libraries correspondingly reduced. This is clearly not what the critics envisage, but it would be the inevitable result, unless the Board ceased to acquire those books intended to meet the needs of readers whose interests are out of the ordinary.

The existence of a free public library means that the whole population is being taxed or rated to provide a free service to a minority. This can be justified if it can be shown that the minority who use the service are thereby made better or wiser people and contribute more to the whole of society. The whole is taxed and the whole is enriched. This is the moral and political justification for State provision of education and other social services. It is very difficult, on the other hand, to justify the provision, free, of a wholly or predominantly recreational

library service, using the term recreational in its popular sense, unless concerts, ballet, theatre, films and even trots are provided free at the public expense. The Board would not feel justified in asking the Government for funds to be spent on a primarily pastime service.

That the primary emphasis of a public library is on books which do more than merely pass the time agreeably does not mean that it is "kill joy". There is a not distant parallel with education. It is the primary purpose of a school to educate, but an important secondary purpose is to make children happy. Just as a playground is a proper part of a school so recreational books are a proper part of a library, but a library which was primarily recreational would be as misguided as a school which was primarily playground. It is not the purpose of a library to educate in the narrow sense: it is the purpose of a library, in the words of the Board's original policy statement:—

"To make available to all citizens, young and old, books, periodicals and other graphic records which foster a full, useful and good life and which tend to the personal development of the individual or the social development of the community;

"To provide information on any subject which may reasonably be expected to be of value to the public, including the industrial and commercial world;

"To encourage and promote the use of books and information."

This is not a mere form of words, but a serious and deliberate definition of policy.

The Board has followed this policy for eight years. Two facts speak for themselves as a measure of its success:—

- (a) despite the number of libraries opened, the demand for the Board's service shows no signs of slackening and the waiting list of local authorities wishing to establish libraries remains as long as ever;
- (b) the use of Western Australian libraries is greater after eight years than that of British libraries after ten times that period. The British public library system is recognised as among the best in the world.

Accessions Section

I. D. TWEEDIE, B.A., A.L.A., Librarian

In last year's Annual Report attention was drawn to the serious delays in book supply then occurring. It is pleasing to record that early in this year a marked improvement was seen. Apparently publishers in the major book producing countries overseas are at least taking some heed of the many complaints from booksellers and libraries. The time taken to supply books has been cut by about a third.

Accessions Section expanded, in October, into the room previously occupied by Catalogue Section. This made possible the provision of greatly increased storage and working space, and gave the opportunity for a review of methods and processes. The room previously occupied

by the whole section has now become a receipt and transit store for books and periodicals. The centre of the room is occupied by steel shelves with a capacity of about 12,000 volumes, and unpacking benches and working tables occupy two walls. Against a third wall, next to the goods entrance, space is provided for stacking parcels and boxes of books as received, and further capacity is provided by a small store room built on to the outside porch.

The greatly increased shelf storage space now enables a large pool of books to be maintained, all of which are visible and accessible. The unevenness of the rate of supply can thus be "ironed out" in this section, so that a balanced quota of types and subjects of books may be catalogued weekly, and delays in the cataloguing of specially requested books be kept to a minimum. It is necessary to maintain a stock equal to about eight weeks throughput (10,000 volumes) for this purpose.

The newly acquired room now houses the staff and equipment concerned with the clerical functions of ordering and processing—typing of book cards, lettering of books, etc.—thus giving better and more efficient working conditions separate from the "stores" activities.

Parallel with the streamlining of physical handling processes noted above, a new costing method, using an advanced accounting machine, was introduced in January. This machine makes possible a better control of commitments and expenditure and permits adequate analysis of expenditure, neither of which had been possible by manual methods at reasonable cost.

In order to fit in with the requirements of the machine, a number of minor changes in ordering and accessioning processes have been necessary. Despite these, the throughput of books processed for Circulation and State Library has shown a slight increase (1960–61, 58,380; 1961–62, 64,503). However, the greater number of books discarded from stock has kept the net increase of Circulation stock to about the same figure as last year (1960–61, 48,055; 1961–62, 48,416). The service has now been in operation for eight years, and it is to be expected that most of the books purchased in the early years will be reaching the end of their useful lives. The stock has increased steadily, and the number of discards must increase also.

The number of stock requests received from participating libraries has again increased, by 19 per cent. (1960–61, 6,913; 1961–62, 8,239). The work and therefore the cost of checking these requests against the existing stock, the file of books on order, and quite often also in bibliographies to complete or correct their details, has caused some concern and steps are being taken to reduce it. It is recognised as vital that local librarians should be able to select for their libraries those books which they consider most useful, but it is hoped that this can be achieved more economically. A scheme involving the discussion, at meetings of metropolitan librarians, of lists of titles ordered by the Board in the previous fortnight is now being tried. It is hoped thereby to rationalize both ordering and allocation of copies and to eliminate wasteful re-ordering of titles to meet delayed demand.

A further improvement in technique is the adoption during the year of a new "NCR" paper (no carbon required) for the multiple forms used in ordering books. This has made the typing of orders much easier, cleaner and quicker. The total number of orders typed during the year is less than last year (1960–61, 15,404; 1961–62, 13,018), however a considerable speed up in supply of back orders during the year has compensated for this, and the backlog of unfulfilled orders is now, happily, much reduced.

Work has continued in receiving and despatching International Exchange material, in recording periodicals and serials for the State Library, and in locating and obtaining Western Australian publications under the Copyright Act. A total of 6,158 periodicals and serials of all types are now recorded on the Shannon Visible Control Records.

The bookstock of the Board at 30th June was 476,761 volumes: 270,617 in Circulation stock and 197,144 in the libraries within the

State Library.

Catalogue Section

C. L. DRAKE, M.A., A.L.A., Chief Cataloguer

The number of volumes catalogued during the year was 62,107, representing 16,883 titles, of which 10,033 (corresponding to 35,761 volumes) were new to the Library Board's stock. Comparable figures for 1960–61 were 56,518 volumes and 17,586 titles of which 9,339 were new. Three hundred and forty-four maps or sets of maps were catalogued.

Recataloguing of old stock from the former Public Library has been almost wholly restricted to sets of serials. The total number of main entries added to the Union Catalogue of Serials for both new titles and recatalogued sets was 2,053 (last year, 1,479). The Board's holdings of these serials have been, as in the past, communicated to the C.S.I.R.O. for incorporation in the Union Catalogue of Scientific Serials or to the National Library of Australia for inclusion in the Union Catalogue of Periodicals in the Social Sciences and the Humanities.

Revision of the printed catalogue has been continued but, whereas in recent years it was possible to revise about half the pages each year, the proportion this year was smaller. There were two reasons for this, both connected with the growth of the catalogue. The first, of course, is that as the catalogue grows the half to be revised also increases and this year had become more than could be managed in the time. The second is that the size of the catalogue had reached a point where it was considered expedient to divide it into two volumes. For this purpose all catalogues in use throughout the service were gradually recalled and at the same time were checked for completeness, missing pages and worn parts being replaced. This reduced to some extent the time available for typing revised pages. In part, the decreased number of revised pages produced by the typist was due to her having to type duplimats of the entries for scores which were being catalogued in the Music Library: this addition to her duties took more of her time than had at first been expected.

Lists of material of interest to farmers and of books likely to be found useful by local government officers have been compiled and sent respectively to the editor of the Journal of the Department of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Institute of Municipal Administration. The scope of the lists of books for farmers has been increased, through the co-operation of the staff of the Library of Business, Science and Technology who have supplied information on pamphlets and serials which do not pass through the Catalogue Section.



Mail trucks take out books to the remote stations from Carnaryon library

Circulation Section

A. T. PUGH, A.L.A., Librarian

Circulation Section is responsible for the supply of books to public libraries and for maintaining records of the whereabouts of every book in the lending service. As a result of the sharp increase in the development programme about two and a half times as many books as last year were supplied to provide the initial stocks of the new libraries.

The year saw the addition of children's sections to three existing country libraries, at Mingenew, Dongara and Mt. Barker. The new building at Kalamunda which will be completed shortly will enable children to be served.

In the first year or two of the Board's work, a number of local authorities were unwilling or unable, due to lack of accommodation, to serve children as well as adults. Children's sections have since been added to most of these, and only four libraries remain where children are deprived of service.

Books despatched and received back in the exchange programme totalled 100,028 (83,018 last year). It is the policy of the Board that all libraries should receive as far as possible equal service related to their size and distance from Perth. It is a duty of Circulation Section to ensure that the natural keenness of the metropolitan and nearby librarians to obtain as many new and attractive books as possible does not prejudice the more distant libraries whose librarians can visit Perth only infrequently, if at all.

The direct loan service to readers in extreme isolation has continued to grow slowly. It is significant that many of these readers are now asking for specific titles of non-fiction and are clearly using the books for purposeful reading as well as for recreation.

STATE LIBRARY

The State Library is the reference division of the Library Service of Western Australia. Its function is not only to meet the needs for information of those who come in person, telephone or write, but also to enrich and strengthen the service of all libraries throughout the State by acting as a strategic reserve of books, bibliographical tools and specialist staff from and by which enquiries or requests of too specialized a nature to be handled locally can be satisfied. By this means the reference service enjoyed by residents of the metropolitan area is extended to all areas in the State where a public library has been established by the local authority concerned.

As Hackett Hall was closed for four months during last year (1960–61) a direct comparison between this year's figures and last year's would be misleading. Therefore the figures are compared with those of two years ago, the latter being shown in brackets. The number of books used by readers was 152,842 (155,250); 23,704 information enquiries were recorded and answered (20,970); 4,684 pages of photocopies or microfilm were produced at readers' requests or for other libraries (7,023).

The number of persons entering the building is not counted; instead the number present who are actually using the library is counted each day at three particular times. The resultant total is therefore statistically reliable but does *not* indicate the total number of persons using the library throughout the day. Users thus counted totalled 49,019 (40,714).

These figures show that 20 per cent. more users consulted 1.6 per cent. less books and made 13 per cent. more enquiries of the staff. The probable conclusion is that the State Library is being used by more people for more serious study and its function as a source of information, as distinct from a repository of books, is becoming more widely known and used.

The reduction in the number of pages photocopied or microfilmed follows from the policy decision explained in last year's Report to

curtail the provision of microfilms in the interest of making faster progress with the filing of West Australian newspapers. Despite the fact that the camera was out of action due to breakdowns for six working weeks the number of reels of newspapers and other local historical material filmed increased as a result of this policy, from 105 to 121.

The J. S. Battye Library and State Archives

MOLLIE LUKIS, B.A., Librarian and Archivist

This year material has continued to flow into the State Archives faster than the staff could process it. Three hundred and seventy-six feet of records have been transferred, of which approximately one-third still remains to be processed. A further one hundred and ten feet of files await transfer from the intermediate repository as soon as time is available to deal with them.

The increased rate of transfer has arisen from the necessity for government departments to survey records when compiling a schedule for their disposal; the survey has focussed attention on material no longer required, and led to the transfer of quantities of files which might otherwise have remained in vaults until lack of space forced a decision about them. Although temporarily an embarrassment, this flood of records will result in material being available for research much sooner than would otherwise have been the case.

Twenty-four departments now have disposal schedules approved for use; in others their compilation is still in progress. In large departments with varied functions a considerable amount of work is involved in their preparation, and it will be some time before all departments and agencies have schedules completed and approved. Problems which arise in making a decision about the disposal of various classes of records have led to frequent calls on archives staff for discussions and advice. Thirty-five departments were visited during the year and in some cases, where a long series of old files were being culled, five or six visits were found necessary to inspect those set aside for destruction.

Notable among the records received this year were a quantity of files of the Child Welfare Department, 1921–1956, containing valuable information on the history of many of the State's institutions; registers and files of the Registrar of Friendly Societies, 1896–1924, which include files dealing with early Trade Unions; and records of the King's Park Board, 1896–1950. Following the abolition of Entertainments Tax, records of its application were made available for preservation. Records of the former State Building Supplies and State Hotels have also been received.

In order to make more room available within the State Library building, another 300 feet of archives, making 1,100 feet in all, were transferred to the Murray Street Annexe. These are brought back to the Battye Library for reference when required. Outstanding among donations of private records this year were the personal papers of Sir Russell Dumas, formerly Director of Works and Co-ordinator of Works and Industries. Such material is of the greatest value for the student as a supplement to official records and it is hoped that other leaders in the State may follow Sir Russell's example on retirement and make their records available. An important collection of documents from early colonial days, the papers of Sir Richard Spencer, the first Government Resident at Albany, were lent for copying by Mr. John Egerton-Warburton of Kojonup. Other notable donations were the Loton records, from Mr. E. Thorley Loton, and letters of Sir Frederick Weld, Governor of Western Australia 1869–1874, presented by Sir John (Shane) Leslie through the Agent-General in London.

Most private records have, in the past, been given as a result of a direct approach to the owner; this year there has been a noticeable increase of unsolicited donations of documents, photographs and reminiscences. This is one way in which the growing interest in local history has manifested itself; another is the increased number, 50 per cent. more than in any previous year, of university and teachers' college students who have elected to do the formal courses in local history. Fortunately this increased interest is also reflected in the number of works on local history mainly sponsored by local authorities, published in the last year. The number of these—five—may not seem impressive to those unfamiliar with the local scene, but it equals the total number of similar works published here in the last ten years. At least four more have been commissioned by local authorities and are now in progress.

About 3,000 pages of private papers were copied on microfilm this year, including one large collection, the papers of Sir Richard Spencer, the first Government Resident at Albany, and over fifty small groups of documents. Microfilming of the *West Australian* has now been completed to 1929 and West Australian Newspapers Ltd. have themselves copied files from 1946 to date, leaving a gap of only 16 years to be covered.

Library of Business, Science and Technology

NORMAN HORROCKS, B.A., F.L.A., Librarian

This year has seen greater use made of the library, more promotional activities carried out, but less "back scenes" work done.

The statistics kept daily show that both the number of books consulted and the enquiries made to the staff are increasing. Twice as many books have been lent to other libraries, mainly within the Library Service of Western Australia. It is significant that this increase of use of relatively advanced and specialized material on technology and science has been apparent equally in the country and the metropolitan libraries. It was always intended that the State Library should act as a strategic reserve for all local libraries. But it was not intended that this should be done in such a way as to impair its function as a

reference library. The position is complicated by the high and still rising cost of technical books. As yet the position does not call for any alarm but it is being closely watched. The Chief Assistant Librarian, who is responsible for the bookstock of the whole service, is now being informed of every book lent from the State Library.

Another kind of loan is also increasing. Two years ago it was reported that much time had been spent on bringing up-to-date the records of the library's holdings of scientific and technical journals for notification to C.S.I.R.O. for inclusion in the publication *Scientific Serials in Australian Libraries*. At the time it was mentioned that this library was the only one in Australia holding certain journals. The value of these holdings being fully recorded has been demonstrated by the fact that this year requests for loans have been received from the Department of Agriculture and the Main Roads Department of New South Wales; Government libraries of South Australia; the Barr Smith Library in the University of Adelaide; the Weapons Research Establishment, South Australia; the Commonwealth Acoustic Laboratories, Sydney, and Cynamid Pty. Ltd., Melbourne. Not only do these loans help libraries and their users in other States but they also enable us to repay the inter-state loans that we receive.

The fact that people in Western Australia can obtain information from outside the State boundaries cannot be too often repeated. Information is obtained for them from other Australian States as a matter of course. Two recent examples show that sources further afield can be tapped. A local firm asked for details of a particular construction process believed to have been used in Germany in the early part of the 1940's. Immediately after the war British and American teams of industrialists were sent to Germany to inspect factories and report on their machinery and methods. There is a complete file in the library of the many hundreds of reports they prepared. One of these reports was produced which described the process required by the enquirer. It stated, however, that the blueprints of the actual machinery had been taken back to England by the investigating team. Through the library's contact with the National Library of Science and Technology in England a photostat set of the blueprints was obtained. A second enquirer wanted references to a chemical process which might be of use in the development of a new industry in the South West. Eight references were provided for him; one American, one Italian, one Indian, one Pakistani and four Russian.

A new type of request has been noticed this year: for details of standard specifications issued in the U.S.A. These are asked for by firms wishing to tender for contracts which specify that the goods must be in accordance with American standards. The library takes many American standards but there are some 300 organizations which issue standards and it is obviously not practicable to subscribe to them all. Efforts are being made, however, to obtain at least the indexes to those standards which are not held so that particular standards may be quickly identified prior to being ordered either direct or by photocopy. It is hoped to compile and circulate a list of all available standard specifications.

The Board's Request and Information Service for local public libraries covers requests for information on a particular subject as well as those for a specific book. These subject requests are referred to the appropriate subject library at the State Library. During the past few years it has been noticed that many could be answered best by references contained in comparatively recent issues of the more popular journals held at the State Library. This meant that either the State Library had to lend its bound file of the particular journal or have a photocopy made of the article required. It was known that many of the frequently cited titles were taken currently by associated libraries in the metropolitan area. In conjunction with the other subject libraries a list of some 20 titles was drawn up. This list was presented to the Chief Assistant Librarian and submitted by him to the fortnightly book selection meeting of metropolitan librarians. was agreed by these librarians that they would draw up a scheme amongst themselves to ensure that subscriptions were placed for the titles listed and files preserved for loan purposes for at least five years.

Another increasingly frequent type of request has been for information on the national dishes of a wide range of countries. These have come not only from housewives but from restaurants and hotels called on to provide appropriate dishes for particular functions. The library's stock of more general recipe and cookery books was unable to meet these demands satisfactorily. Consequently a check was made of the available literature and a further 119 books have been ordered with the aim of providing a much more complete coverage of world recipes.

The practice mentioned in last year's Report of writing articles for local magazines describing books recently added to stock has continued throughout the year. Resulting enquiries seem to indicate that this is a worthwhile practice, as it reaches a directly interested audience. Other promotional activities included the provision and manning of a display stand at the Grocers' Convention held at the end of October. A list of books and journals on the subject was compiled and this was included in the official programme distributed to all delegates. An appropriate selection of books was provided for a residential course on the study of management organised by the Postmaster General's Department in October.

It was mentioned earlier that less "back-scenes" work had been done this year than had been hoped. This work includes the filing of the many thousands of standard and patent specifications, periodicals and serials received each year; the sorting and collating of the hundreds of periodicals donated to the library; and the production of photocopies of journal articles and extracts from books requested by enquirers. It is this "back-scenes" work which tends to be neglected in favour of the more immediately pressing requests for information from enquirers, but clearly unless it is done regularly and promptly the information service to enquirers will quickly suffer. Staff shortage led to the suspension of much of these activities until January. In February the position was eased further by the appointment of a General Assistant to the State Library as a whole. She took over the whole

of the non-urgent photocopying work and was also able to devote some time to the filing of journals. Her appointment coincided with the work of re-locating the entire portion of the State Library octavo stack falling within the fields of business, science and technology. This work was completed at the beginning of June. It should now be possible to turn attention to two tasks mentioned in last year's Annual There it was stated that it was hoped to arrange systematically the library's collection of pamphlet material inherited from the former Public Library and the early days of the Library Board. Little work in this direction has been possible although current acquisitions have been classified. The handling of journals donated by various local firms, also mentioned last year, has not progressed as far as had been hoped. The stack area re-location mentioned above has meant that all the journals concerned have been brought together in the one area. A limited number of the more immediately important titles have been extracted and added to stock, but much remains to be done.

A notable addition to stock during the year was the 22 volumes of Histoire Naturelle des Poissons by Cuvier and Valenciennes. Published in 1828–49 only 200 copies are thought to exist. It is the standard authority for the identification of a large number of the fishes found off the coast of Western Australia and in surrounding waters. A copy came on to the London market this year priced at £500. Both the W.A. Museum and the Fisheries Department were very anxious to secure it. Following a joint approach by the Minister for Fisheries and the Minister for Education the Premier authorised its purchase on behalf of the Government and its being kept in the State Library.

As is customary a selection of the non-confidential enquiries dealt with during the year is given below:—

To which parts of the Australian coasts do the whales from Antarctica go? It was believed that the whales which come up the West Australian coast come from certain definite areas in Antarctica. Was this so and if so, where are these areas?

Do mosquitoes bite canaries, and if so are the bites harmful?

A diagram was wanted explaining the operating details of a balanced diaphragm type pressure indicator as used in a spherical-bomb method for measuring flame speed.

How is the Engler viscometer used in the testing of the viscosity of bitumen?

What are the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea?

What are the viscosity ranges of S.A.E. 20 lubricating oil at 210° F. on the Centistoke and Redwood scales?

What is the decimal equivalent of American wire gauge 36?

What is the chemical composition of tripe?

Why do clocks often have on their faces IIII rather than IV?

The Library of Social Sciences, Philosophy and Religion ARTHUR ELLIS, F.L.A.

The systematic revision of book stock mentioned last year has continued. The subjects covered during the year were psychology, arms and armour, costume, geography in general and the geography of Europe. Out of print books pose a difficult problem for a library

revising its stock.

The proportion of out of print books to those in print varies from subject to subject; in a "good" subject such as psychology, two out of five of the books wanted were found to be out of print. This naturally makes a balanced revision of stock more difficult, particularly since a library cannot allow too much money to be committed in the second-hand book market, where long delays in the satisfaction of orders are to be expected. Probably the best way of buying second hand books is to snap them up when offered on a dealer's list. This presupposes of course that the librarian is sufficiently experienced to recognize valuable books when he sees them listed. Two important works acquired in this way during the year were the Atlas van Tropisch Nederland and Racinet's Costume historique.

Many books and periodicals are given to the library by firms and other libraries which have no further use for them. Those not needed by this library are offered on exchange lists to other libraries in Australia and overseas. Three such lists were compiled and issued during the year. Three exchange lists of duplicate or unwanted material were issued during the year and books and periodicals were sent to libraries in Hungary, Japan, the United States, and Southern Rhodesia as well as in Australia. Not all duplicate material is necessarily offered. A second set of Australian Parliamentary Papers is now being built up so that the likely heavy future use of this important material can be

met.

It was mentioned in last year's Report that some 30,000 volumes were transferred to the Murray Street Annexe. This year it was possible to move round about half the octavo stack sequence of the Social Science Library, relieving congestion in some places and filling up the empty spaces left by last year's move. Nearly two miles of books were moved and rearranged.

Enquiries quoted in reports sometimes have a somewhat exotic look as they are selected to interest readers by quoting the curious and the wayward. Probably of more use to the community is the help given by the library to people needing information for their work. During the year we were able, for example, to provide useful information on the following comparatively mundane but important subjects:—

Reducing accident rates on the waterfront. Apprenticeship laws of other countries. Placing delinquent boys in employment. The valuation of industrial buildings.

The library also continued to serve as the centre for background information on current events and news: White Australia policy; Australia, Britain and the Common Market; Indonesia and Dutch

New Guinea have kept us busy throughout most of the year. They will probably do so next year also. Nowhere else can West Australians get this sort of knowledge that enables them to judge and discuss important issues with understanding.

A carefully selected book list on juvenile delinquency was published during the year and several hundred copies of it were distributed

to interested people and organisations.

Library of Literature and the Arts

RONALD WRIGHT, B.A.

During the year this library has continued to satisfy the manysided demands made by enquirers in the metropolitan area and throughout the country.

It is sometimes interesting to learn the reasons prompting enquiries. A Junior Farmer, attending a course in Perth, heard a talk on the library service. Subsequently he came to the library to request the words of a poem, The Green Eye of the Little Yellow God. He explained that it is his practice to learn the words of poems while driving the tractor on his farm at Wyalkatchem. An insurance assessor consulted the "Book Auction Records" to assist him in valuing some books which had been damaged by fire.

As in former years the architecture and home-building sections have been much in demand. A contemporary note was seen in many of the requests. Promoters of motels at Southern Cross and other centres asked for material which would assist in the designing of their projects. The increased tempo in the building of office accommodation has occasioned demands from architects and company executives for contemporary trends in this type of construction. Several requests were received during the year for information on the design of atomic shelters.

A significant development has been the increased use of the library by students. This has been particularly noticeable in the case of the Art Classes at the Technical College in James Street. Architecture students have used the library's comprehensive collection of books and periodicals and appropriate bibliographical aids to assist them in their research. The Morawetz Prize of £800 was awarded to one of these students, Mr. Peter Hunt, for his project on Children's Homes.

In addition to the large number of Asian students who regularly use the library's resources, newly-arrived immigrants from overseas have shown an interest in the service. A young man whose father had played the game of Novus in Latvia, came in to enquire about the dimensions of the board and the rules.

Among the many telephone enquiries received during the year was one from an insurance manager to ask the Gaelic for "Good health". A request was received for the spelling of the "pushmi pullyu" in Hugh Lofting's *The Story of Dr. Doolittle*. This information was required for a scientific paper. Another telephone enquirer made an urgent request for a summary of T. S. Eliot's *The Cocktail Party*.

With the Commonwealth Games due to commence in Perth on November 22nd there has been an increased number of queries concerning sport. A number of local firms have requested various types of sporting motifs appropriate for inclusion in the publicity for their products. There have been requests by speakers for the history and significance of the Games and the potential of the 1962 Games in publicising and developing Western Australia.

An indication of the popularity of play reading among clubs and fellowships is to be seen in the increasing number of requests for play sets from both country and metropolitan libraries. Members of clubs and fellowships who find they enjoy reading the parts in a play themselves, are often enthusiastic for further readings. The revised catalogue of the Drama Library, distributed last year, has proved helpful

to play-reading organisers in selecting suitable plays.

There have been a number of important additions to Arts Library during the year. Among them is the 1961 edition of *The Encyclopedia Americana* in 30 volumes. Another is *Enciclopedia dello spettacolo*. published in Italian in 8 volumes from 1954–1961, with a ninth and final volume yet to be published. These large volumes, of some 1,500 pages each, deal comprehensively with the theatre, opera and moving pictures. The set contains many fine illustrations in colour and black and white. A notable accession to the architecture collection is *Forms and Functions of Twentieth-Century Architecture*; edited by Talbot Hamlin. This 4-volume work was prepared under the auspices of the School of Architecture of Columbia University. The first two volumes outline the elements of building and the principles of composition, while the remaining volumes cover building types.

Information Centre

REX PRICE

The Information Centre has during the year continued its main function to supply the immediate answer to phone enquiries and to people calling at the State Library. This year it has been interesting to note how current events have influenced the nature of the enquiries and how articles appearing in the press have caused the public to seek further information.

Assistance to newspapers and newpaper reporters, business men, debating groups and school children has been maintained, a short list of the enquiries gives an indication of their variety.

What date in 1961 did Japan place restrictions on Australian imports?

Names of the countries of the Common Market (E.E.C.) and the European Free Trade Association (E.F.T.A.).

Names of Japanese firms exporting musical instruments.

Agent for Niele washing machines.

Who was Secretary-General of the United Nations before Dag Hammarskjold?

Agents in Perth for aluminium foil. Who buys sandalwood in Perth and how much is it worth? Weights and measures used in Indonesia. Name of newspaper in Rawalpindi.

All Western Australian and a representative collection of overseas and interstate newspapers and periodicals are kept in the Information Centre and have been extensively used by local people, interstate and overseas visitors.

Stock revision has continued to keep the reference books up-to-date ensuring that the latest information is available: a notable addition is the *African Recorder*, a fortnightly record of African events, which started on 1st January, 1962.

Bibliographical Centre

HELEN M. GRIFFITH

The opening of new libraries during the past year has naturally caused an increase in the use of the Request and Information Service. There has also been an increase in the number of requests received from libraries already established, particularly those situated in the metropolitan area. This year a total of 14,343 requests was received (11,520 last year). Ninety-three per cent. were satisfied; 88 per cent. (12,669 volumes) were supplied from the Board's own stock; 2 per cent. (310 volumes) were borrowed within the State; 1 per cent. (147 volumes) were borrowed from other States. One thousand and forty-nine pages of photocopies were obtained from other States or overseas; while four works were borrowed from overseas. Two hundred and twenty-six volumes were lent inter- and intra-State, and one volume was lent to the State Library of Pretoria.

It was decided to move the subject catalogue from the Bibliographical Centre area into Hackett Hall where it is closer to the subject libraries and is more readily available for members of the public to consult whilst studying. This seems to be proving quite successful.

Letters have been sent to all libraries and organisations in Western Australia contributing to the Union Catalogue of Serials, asking them for any additions or deletions that may have occurred since their original entries were sent in, so that the entries in the catalogue can be brought up to date.

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

At the beginning of 1962 the Library Association of Australia introduced a new syllabus of professional examinations. The former Preliminary and Registration examinations have been discontinued and replaced by a new Registration examination consisting of nine units. This is intended to be both of higher standard and better balanced than the former examination.

Evening classes for the new examination, as for the old, will be held at Perth Technical College, opposite the State Library, by the Education Department in association with the Board.

Mr. F. A. Sharr continued to sit on the Board of Examination and Certification of Librarians of the Library Association of Australia. Messrs. J. Hammond, I. D. Tweedie, A. Ellis and G. A. Stafford are examiners for the professional examinations of the Association.

Seven members of the staff sat for 18 papers of the old Registration examination in November last and five passed in a total of nine papers. Miss Valerie Creasey completed the Registration Examination.

With the aim of stimulating the professional development of Assistant Librarians and Graduate Student Librarians monthly seminars have been held by the State Librarian at which the following papers have been read and discussed. Some of these papers have been published in the Newsletter, and two, at least, those by Miss Medcalf and Mr. Zalums, have been considered worthy of inclusion in Library Science Abstracts, published in London.

Mr.	P.	Biskup,	B.A.	 	The nature of	professional	librar-
					ianship.		

Miss	M.	L.	Medcalf,	B.A.,	Lending lil	brary	organi.	sation	in
Dip	Ed.				Australia	a exc	luding	West	ern
					Australia	<i>a</i> .			

Mr. E. Zalums, B.A.	4.	Advantages	and disadvantages
		of subject	departmentalized
		organizatio	n.

Mr.	Α.	Ellis.	F.L.A.		Theory	of	reference	work.
TATE.	T F.	111109	T . T.T.	 	1100019	U	rejerence	WOIIV.

Miss Margaret Medcalf was granted nine months' leave without pay to follow her normal long service leave for the purpose of gaining further experience of archive management in Europe and Britain.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

With the expansion of the service the number of persons and bodies to whom the Board would wish to express its appreciation for help, co-operation or donations has grown beyond the reasonable limits of this Report.

To all of them individual thanks have been tendered at appropriate times but some should be particularly recorded: the Lord Mayor and the City of Perth for continued hospitality in placing a committee room at the Board's disposal; the Government's London Office for unfailing efficiency and courtesy in handling overseas business; and the librarians of other libraries who have assisted the service by the loan of books and in other ways.

CONCLUSION

It is generally accepted that Western Australia is on the threshold of great development and progress. The library service has a signifi-

cant, indeed a vital, role to play at such a time.

The chain of public libraries extending from the Pilbara to Esperance, each one linked to every other and to the Board's Headquarters and the State Library in Perth, is like a vast reticulation system piping ideas throughout the length and breadth of the State. Ideas are as vital to progress as water is to life. The reticulation system now exists in this State; true it needs further extension and development, but the system has been proved to work. The thirst of the public is clearly apparent, despite many sceptics in the early days and some today. By world standards the use of their libraries by West Australians is extraordinarily high. The pipes are there, the thirst is there; will the water run through the pipes to quench the thirst, water in sufficient quantity and of high enough quality? That is a matter of finance.

We talk glibly of progress, but progress towards what? Presumably towards a happier, fuller and richer life for everybody. But happiness and a full, rich life are not assured by mere wealth and material possessions. They depend on the things of the mind. Prosperity offers the opportunity to acquire and develop mental and aesthetic interests as well as material possessions. If the opportunity is not taken economic improvement brings only hollow dissatisfaction,

as many people have found out, too late.

Thus we need libraries not only to speed our progress but to help

us fully to enjoy it.

A major cause of both alcoholism and juvenile delinquency is boredom, and boredom comes from an empty mind. The cheapest and most convenient way of injecting ideas into the community and so helping to fill these empty minds is the public library. It does not and probably never will attract everybody, but it attracts a growing number and particularly of young people. One of the characteristic results of urbanisation and industrialisation is the growth of the evils which come from emptiness of mind. Is it better to attack a developed social evil or to remove the causes of its growth?

The greater the likelihood of major industrial development in Western Australia, the greater and the more urgent is the need for public libraries, to speed our progress, to help us fully to enjoy it and to check the growth of social evils which elsewhere have always attended industrial development.

"Early to bed and early to rise Makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise."

These are the three things that make up a good life for civilized man: health, wealth and wisdom. All three are necessary. It is the function of the public library to contribute towards wisdom. Without it, economic progress is an empty prospect.

FRED ALEXANDER, Chairman. F. A. SHARR, State Librarian.

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 - Dividing a catalogue in Western Australia by A. Ellis in Library Resources & Technical Services. Vol. 3, No. 4, 1959, pp. 289-292.
 - The library service of Western Australia: a study in the application of state aid to public libraries, by F. A. Sharr in Libri. Vol. 11, No. 2, 1961, pp. 159-180.
 - Library service for sparsely populated areas, adapted and condensed by Unesco staff from a paper by F. A. Sharr in Unesco Bulletin for Libraries. Vol. XVI, No. 3, May/June, 1962, pp. 127-135.

APPENDIX

Towns or districts in which public libraries operate in association with the Board :=

Metropolitan—
Armadale
Canning Bridge
Claremont
Fremantle (a)
Kalamunda
Kelmscott
Kwinana
Perth (City)
Rockingham
Scarborough
South Perth

Tuart Hill (Osborne Central)

Wanneroo

South-West— Balingup Bridgetown Boyup Brook Busselton Donnybrook Margaret River Waroona

Great Southern—
Beverley
Broomehill
Darkan
Kojonup
Lake Grace
Mount Barker
Narrogin (b)
Nyabing
Pingelly
Wagin

Williams

Bruce Rock
Dowerin
Goomalling
Kondinin
Merredin (c)
Narembeen
Quairading

Central Wheatbelt-

Quairadin Tammin Toodyay Trayning York (d)

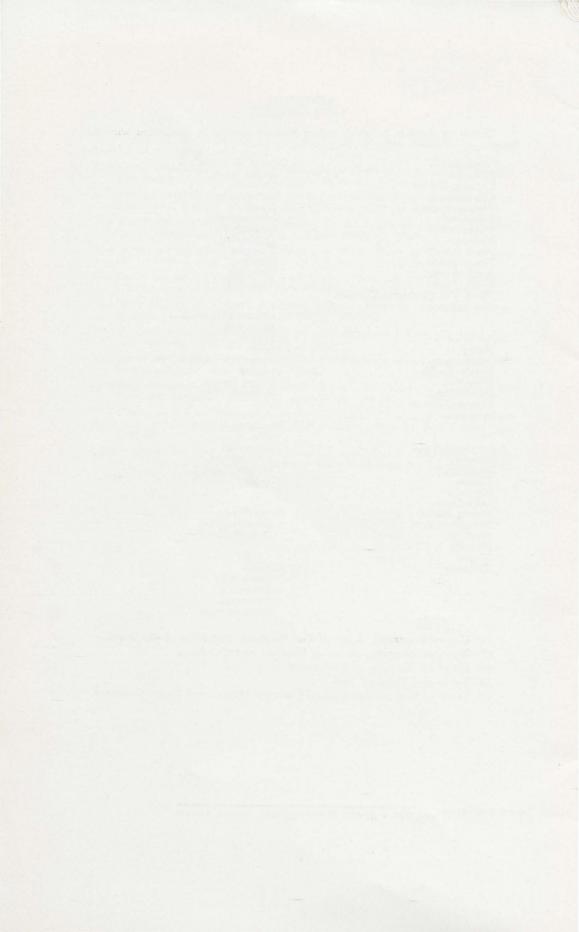
Northern Wheatbelt—
Carnamah
Gingin
Irwin
Mingenew
Moora
Three Springs
Wongan Hills

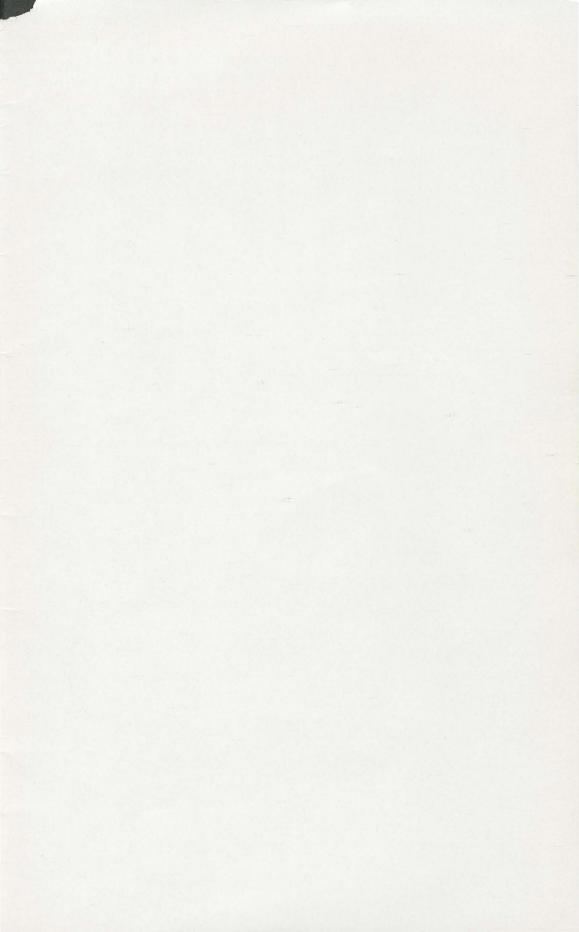
Murchison—
Cue
Laverton
Meekatharra
Mount Magnet
Yalgoo

North-West— Carnarvon (e) Port Hedland

Other— Coolgardie Esperance Norseman Ravensthorpe

- (a) City of Fremantle, Town of East Fremantle and Shire of Cockburn.
- (b) Town of Narrogin, Shires of Narrogin and Cuballing.
- (c) Shires of Merredin and Westonia.
- (d) Town and Shire of York.
- (e) Town of Carnarvon, Shires of Gascoyne-Minilya and Upper Gascoyne.





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The design on the cover of the Report was executed by Miss Mary B. Devlin of the Government Lithographic Staff. The design is based on orchids of Western Australia.

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- (1) Purple Enamel Orchid—Glossodia Brunonis.
- (2) & (3) Spider Orchids—Caladenia Patersonii.
- (4) Blue Lady Orchid—Thelymitra crinita.
- (5) Donkey Orchid-Diuris longifolia.
- (6) Red Beak Orchid or Potato Orchid-Lyperanthus nigricans.
- (7) Cowslip Orchid or Primrose Orchid—Caladenia flava.
- (8) Vanilla Orchid or Lemon Orchid-Thelymitra antennifera.
- (9) Pink Fairy Orchid—Caladenia latifolia.
- (10) Bird Greenhood Orchid-Pterostylis turfosa.
- (11) Blue Fairy Orchid-Caladenia deformis.
- (12) Rabbit Orchid-Caladenia Menziesii.