



# The Australian Library Journal

Journal of the Australian Library and Information Association

## *Vanishing collections: special issue on cultural heritage*

**Movable heritage in libraries: an introduction to heritage  
and what it means for managing library collections**  
Meg Quinlisk

**An audible voice of the past: the rare printed collections  
of the State Library of New South Wales**  
Maggie Patton

**Collecting against the tide: building a new  
collection of rare books in the digital age**  
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**An enduring presence: special collections of the  
Barr Smith Library at the University of Adelaide**  
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**Heritage book collections in Australian libraries:  
what are they, where are they and why should we care?**  
Matthew Stephens

Guest editor: Matthew Stephens

# Australian Library Journal

## Volume 58 No. 2 May 2009

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## *The Australian Library Journal*

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*The Australian Library Journal* is published quarterly by  
the Australian Library and Information Association Ltd  
ACN 090 953 236  
PO Box 6335 Kingston ACT 2604 Australia  
Phone +61 2 6215 8222 Fax +61 2 6282 2249  
alj@alia.org.au  
<http://www.alia.org.au/publishing/alj/>  
ISSN 0004-9670

Set in Swiss 721 BT 9.5/14.25, original design by Brian Sadgrove.

Typeset by Spectrum Graphics, printed by CanPrint Communications Pty Ltd.

Subscriptions: Current prices are available at <http://www.alia.org.au/publishing/subscriptions.html>

Enquiries and claims: Please contact [enquiry@alia.org.au](mailto:enquiry@alia.org.au)

Advertising: Please contact ALIA, +61 2 6215 8231

*The Australian Library Journal* is indexed in *Australian Education Index*, *Australian Public Affairs Information Service (APAIS)*, *ERIC: Education Resources Information Center*, *Library Literature and Information Science*, *LISA: Library and Information Science Abstracts*, *Library Information Science & Technology Abstracts*, and *Social Sciences Citation Index*.

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Microfilm edition available from National Archive Publishing Company  
PO Box 998, 300 N Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor MI 48106-0998 USA  
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# Editorial

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If you were the editor of a professional journal you would want authors to want to submit papers and be published in your publication. You would also want your journal to be attractively designed, with a physical appearance inviting readers to come inside to enjoy interesting articles across the range of interests of Australian librarians. And you would want your readers to feel pride in belonging to a profession which produced such a reputable publication. We're nearly there.

The re-design began in 2007, and thanks to some generous assistance from one of Australia's foremost designers ([www.sadgrove.com](http://www.sadgrove.com)), our journal's 'look' has been refined issue by issue into the elegant object you are holding right now. The only change we now make is to the colour of the ALIA star on the front cover. Red becomes black when we carry an obituary.

We have also been working on *ALJ*'s academic credentials. On the second page of each issue you will find a list of the indexing and abstracting services that make the work of our authors more widely accessible. You may have noticed that *ERIC: Education Resources Information Center* was recently added to the list. *Ulrich's periodicals directory* already includes *ALJ* in its list of refereed titles. But until recently a major accolade had eluded us. No longer. Following almost two years' of submission and discussion with Thomson Reuters we received the response we so keenly sought: **beginning in calendar 2009 *ALJ* will be indexed in *Social Sciences Citation Index*.**

All this must be working. In the January 2009 survey ([www.alia.org.au/membersurvey2008/](http://www.alia.org.au/membersurvey2008/)) of personal members *ALJ* ranked ninth in the 10 'highest importance variables' and eighth in the 10 'highest performance variables'. Institutional members – easily the largest category of subscribers – ranked *ALJ* tenth for importance and sixth for performance. According to the survey methodology the close correlation found between importance and performance indicates no 'areas of frustration or dissatisfaction for clients [which] represent potential improvement opportunities'. In other words, *ALJ* appears to be doing its job. Now to give it some new jobs.

*ALJ* has always been our journal of record, publishing comprehensively refereed papers written by eminent members of our tribe and charting our voyages and landfalls on the seas of librarianship, and it will continue to do this. But in your editor's view, now that we have 'arrived' (as it were), it is time to encourage

articles from new authors on new topics reflecting the theory and practice of contemporary librarianship. There will be no changes in standards of scholarship (although more editing may be needed), but there will be a renewed intention to showcase the vitality possible when building from such solid foundations.

Radical as it might seem, this special issue considers books; specifically, the formation, status and fate of our heritage collections. Arising from a chance conversation with Matthew Stephens at the Australian Library History Forum held at the State Library of NSW in September 2007 (*ALJ*, Vol. 56, Nos. 3 and 4 November 2007), this issue is devoted to our 'vanishing collections'. Matthew has recruited a knowledgeable and enthusiastic group of authors; he introduces the subject and contributes one of the papers.

**Ian McCallum**

Editor

May 2009

## Guest editorial: vanishing collections

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Early nineteenth century Australian newspapers are littered with advertisements for missing books. Novels, histories, biographies, works of science and religion, all vanished faster than these valuable commodities could be shipped to the colony. Burglars, forgetful friends and lazy library patrons were publicly accused in the classifieds of 'injuring the cause of literature'. In the fate of books there are winners and losers and often our publicly-owned libraries have come out on top. Our library collections are constantly mutating, reforming and articulating changes in community tastes, and the older these collections become the more stories they have to tell.

Anyone who has been privileged to physically share rare book material with library visitors in a reading room or public program knows well the excitement that can be generated from the youngest child to those almost as old as the books themselves. And how often have I heard a researcher proclaim that they must be the only person in the world interested in the subject matter of the 'old book' before them? I don't have the heart to tell them that there have been others or that there is an army of 'niche subject' researchers accessing material few librarians would have thought of interest to anyone only a few years ago. It seems that the facility to access information in the Google world has enabled users to explore like never before what was once considered esoteric and obscure. Often this leads to the less stereotypical researcher, sometimes quite reluctantly, seeking out library material in rare book and special collections which have not been digitised and require physical interaction.

It is a paradox that information seekers are increasingly expecting to access material electronically and yet many also expect libraries to be custodians of the physical artefacts of Australia's cultural heritage. Assuming this trend will continue, libraries face the challenge of providing increased electronic access while ensuring physical heritage collections are maintained. This tension is exacerbated by a combination of rapid technological change and limited resources and raises questions about how integrated the library profession's approach is to these competing demands.

Strategies relating to a combined approach have been articulated by such groups as the US Association of Research Libraries, whose latest report,

*Special Collections in ARL Libraries*<sup>1</sup>, discusses issues relating to collecting and accessing pre-21st century formats along with managing born-digital collections.

In this special Australian issue, library and heritage experts challenge readers to rethink how we should define library heritage collections, where these collections actually reside, how heritage material is being used in different library sectors, how heritage collections are being managed and communicated in a digital environment, who is using this material, and what threats there are to heritage collections now and in the future.

This issue focuses just as much on the future of our heritage collections as it does on their past, and is a call to arms for those who are concerned that some of these collections may be on the road to becoming history.

**Matthew Stephens**

Caroline Simpson Library & Research Collection

Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales

April 2009

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<sup>1</sup> *Special Collections in ARL Libraries: A Discussion Report from the ARL Working Group on Special Collections*, March 2009, <http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/scwg-report.pdf> [accessed April 2009].

# Movable heritage in libraries: an introduction to heritage and what it means for managing library collections

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Meg Quinlisk

**The cultural heritage of library collections and individual items is of importance and interest outside the profession of librarianship. This paper gives an introduction to the concept of 'movable heritage' from the heritage professional's perspective and provides suggestions as to how this concept can be applied to libraries. Identifying what is of cultural heritage significance and how a collection/item is significant is the key to making management decisions which balance the conservation of a library's heritage items with other pressures in library management.**

*Manuscript received April 2009*

*This is a refereed article*

Many people have a notion of what the word 'heritage' means. We encounter heritage places while on holidays, or read about heritage concerns as part of the latest political scuffle over a local development. Most heritage listings and a large part of heritage interest focus primarily on structures or places, such as buildings of all types and sizes, engineering works such as railways and bridges, natural sites such as parks and impressive trees, and other historic sites, such as archaeological remains. However, nearly all of the states and territories in Australia also have legislation in place to identify and protect heritage objects or movable heritage. While 'movable heritage' often applies to items which are intrinsically related to a heritage place, such as a house which retains its original furnishings, the concept of movable heritage can be equally applied to library collections and individual books. This paper outlines the methodology behind identifying and managing objects of heritage value with specific reference to library contents.



It is acknowledged that libraries contain an information resource which itself is of an overarching significance to society. However, this paper focuses on the cultural heritage significance of the physical collections, individual books, documents, and other resources themselves, which is the more traditional territory of the heritage consultant. While such a focus may be akin to telling a winemaker that we're really only interested in the bottles, not the wine contained therein, it is hoped that librarians might find a benefit in the different perspective which is offered by considering their collections within the framework of cultural heritage management.

## Australia's heritage framework

Heritage in Australia is philosophically guided by the Australia ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (the Burra Charter). The Burra Charter sets out a process for identifying the cultural heritage significance of a place. 'Place' is broadly defined as 'site, area, land, landscape, building or other work, group of buildings or other works, and may include components, contents, spaces and views' (Burra Charter Article 1.1). Once the significance is identified, the Burra Charter sets out approaches for conserving the significance of the place or object. In heritage terms, conservation refers to 'all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance' (Burra Charter Article 1.4).

While the state, territory, and Commonwealth governments have adopted the principles of identifying heritage significance using the Burra Charter values of aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual significance, each government has produced its own set of criteria for use in assessing the heritage significance of a place or object. The assessment criteria, without a great deal of adjustment, can be applied to the full gamut of places, including buildings, groups of buildings, structures such as bridges, roads, or railways, objects, landscapes, and collections. The standard heritage assessment criteria are listed below, with a few ideas as to how each criterion could be applied to libraries and their contents.

### *Historical – importance in the course, or pattern, of natural or cultural history*

An historically significant library collection may have been developed over a long period of time, showing the evolution of acquisition priorities over the life of an organisation or collecting institution. Conversely, a library collection which demonstrates particularly well the collection policies of an organisation at a particular period in time, providing a 'snapshot' of library history could be considered significant.

*Research – potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of natural or cultural history*

A library collection or individual book may be of research significance if it can provide information on, for example, binding techniques, early printing processes, or perhaps early or non-traditional cataloguing methods. For example, one of the delights of using the Mitchell Library card catalogue is the evidence, in various styles of handwriting, of cataloguers of the past. Careful study of the catalogue cards themselves could reveal a great deal about the Mitchell Library's past staff, their work, and possibly their priorities.

*Rarity – possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of natural or cultural history*

*Representativeness – ability to demonstrate the principal characteristics of a class of natural or cultural places or environments*

Rarity and representativeness are essentially flip sides of a coin and are often considered together or in contrast. Something which is a good example of a class of items is said to be representative. For example, if a tourist wanted to see a typical example of an Australian public library would a particular library be a good representative of the group? If something is such a good example of a class of items that it is unparalleled by other examples, or if it is the finest collection of a particular type, it could be said to be rare. A collection might be rare if it contains a high degree of completeness of, say, a range of periodicals, or for its depth or breadth in a particular subject area.

*Aesthetic – importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement, or demonstrating particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group*

Certain printing and binding techniques are particularly valued for their aesthetic qualities and the craftsmanship which goes into the production of such volumes. Well-designed book jackets, limited and early editions (before the film companion edition takes over) may also be pleasing to the eye and aesthetically significant. Other documentary items, such as illuminated manuscripts, hand-coloured lithographs, maps, and images also can possess a very high level of aesthetic significance. Other aspects of the physical book itself may be of aesthetic significance, for example, bookplates and marbled endpapers.

*Social – strong or special associations with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural, or spiritual reasons*

One hopes that libraries are frequented by individuals, groups, and communities who see the library as a resource of very great value. Can this attitude be translated into a high level of esteem, whereby library users feel that their identity (professional, cultural, or otherwise) can be seen to rely to an extent on the library

or its collections? Certain scholarly or academic libraries would appear to be of immense social significance to the researchers who use them and alumni who used the collection during their study; likewise other specialised library collections, such as scientific libraries or organisational/corporate libraries. As libraries' acquisition policies increasingly tend to favour digital items, some academics and other researchers may develop a high regard (or nostalgia) for the physical books which formerly characterised the collections they used.

*Association – special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in natural or cultural history*

Was a library collection developed by a person of note in Australia's, the state's, or the local area's history? Is the collection particularly associated with an organisation or corporate entity? For example, the Australian Museum library contains books collected and annotated by many of the Museum's former directors and scientists. Not only are these items associated with important people in the history of the Australian Museum and in the history of scientific pursuits in colonial NSW, the collection is intimately associated with, and forms part of the identity of, the Australian Museum. As the Museum's collections have grown, so has its collection of documentary sources.

It is often the case that multiple criteria apply to a place or object, and it is the combined importance of all of the types of significance a place or object possesses which leads to an overall conclusion that an item is of cultural heritage significance. Criteria may also be applied in a wide variety of contexts. For example, an object of profoundly outstanding significance might be said to be important in the course or pattern of world history. However, the same criteria can be applied to items, objects, or places which are important in the course or pattern of Australia's history, or in the history of a state, region, community, city, or even in the pattern of an organisation's history. Determining the context within which an object or place is significant requires careful comparison with other similar objects or places. Certainly, if a manuscript or early imprint is one of only a small handful known to exist worldwide, then it can be said to be significant in an Australian, or even world, context. However, in most cases, librarians will find that their collections and individual items occupy a more local context. This does not, however, reduce the necessity to consider the heritage significance of an item or collection when making decisions about its care or management.

Heritage professionals regularly use the standard heritage criteria, together with a comparative analysis, to assess the significance of places and objects. The standard criteria are useful as a general framework for understanding exactly why an item is significant. The criteria are broadly worded, allowing every conceivable aspect of significance to be placed against a particular criterion. Items outside the heritage practitioner's usual domain of old buildings and

structures sometimes pose a challenge in fitting into the standard heritage criteria framework. However, with careful consideration, the framework can be applied in any situation where cultural heritage significance is assessed, from modern architecture to living items such as trees, and from collections to individual objects.

## **Constraints and opportunities in managing heritage significance in libraries**

Like more substantial built heritage items, movable heritage objects require care and attention in order to properly preserve them. Most librarians are familiar with the myriad challenges which arise in the care and management of a collection. The usual constraints of space, collection priorities, user expectations, and budget apply equally to heritage and non-heritage components of a collection. Because of the delicate and sometimes ephemeral, non-tangible qualities of heritage objects, they can be more vulnerable to change. In the best of all possible worlds, the heritage significance of an object or collection would occupy equal footing as a consideration in managing a library's holdings as other constraints. Although this may be difficult to achieve, some strategies for approaching the management of a significant object or collection are provided below.

Once it is known what is significant about a place or object, it can be very clearly seen what management options are available for the conservation of that significance. For example, if a library collection is found to be significant because it contains the most complete collection of a particular author's works, and few or no other libraries contain such a complete collection, it naturally follows that it is the presence of all of those works in the single collection which must be maintained and preserved. If a library has received a private collection of books from a notable person, then the bookplates which demonstrate this special association should be retained and preserved.

The challenge for a librarian is to balance decision making for practical purposes with the constraints imposed by looking after a collection of cultural significance. Generally, the Burra Charter recommends the cautious approach of doing as much as necessary and as little as possible in order to maintain the place or object in sound condition and retain its heritage significance. For example, in many cases, heavily used volumes will show physical signs of wear and tear. Rather than send out a finely bound rare volume for rebinding, it may be worth considering having the volume microfilmed or scanned, so that a facsimile copy is readily available for consultation. This allows the fine original volume itself to be preserved and only brought out for those interested in studying its particular binding or manufacture.

Frequently, library collections reside in a purpose-built home. It is inevitably the case that the growth of a library's holdings will dictate a rearrangement of space, culling of some of the collection, or removal of some of the collection to an off-site storage area. Prior to taking this step, it is necessary to consider what exactly is significant about the library's collections. Is there a series of bookshelves which were purpose-made to house a collection? Perhaps it will be impossible to retain these shelves with their collection, but a series of photographs of the books in situ could be taken prior to removal. This would create a lasting record for those interested in the history of the library and the development of its collection. Perhaps two separate collections must be interfiled due to their commonality of subject matter. Consider adding bookplates to individual books so that shelf browsers will be reminded of the historical nature of the collection. An additional guarantee to retain the collection's identity would be a method of indicating on the computer catalogue what collection a book was originally a part of, enabling users who are interested in a particular collection to view a record of all items held in that collection. This would assist, for example, a biographer studying a private library which belonged to the subject of their study, who donated the collection to a public repository.

Before culling items, it should be considered whether the collection was developed by an organisation or corporate body over time. Does it reflect the history of the organisation itself, or contain volumes with handwritten notes by a noted former director of the organisation? For some organisations, the collection built up by members over time now equates to a substantial collection in its own right. For example, a small medical special library of books, periodicals, documents, photographs, and nineteenth century medical equipment may represent decades of collecting, amounting to a significant patrimony for an organisation with otherwise limited assets. While public access to the collection may be restricted by demands on the volunteer librarian's time, is it an appropriate alternative that a State library manages the content of the library?

## Conclusion

There are often no straightforward answers to the challenges raised by heritage objects in a library collection, especially when significance must also be balanced by the numerous other demands of a library collection. While technological preservation may provide an attractive means of providing widespread and easy access to significant objects, such techniques are not without their concomitant problems, such as media corruption, keeping up with changes in media format over time, and balancing fair use with copyright issues. It may also be the case that it is the book or object *itself* which is significant,

evocative of its own history. As libraries in Australia forge the way forward into the next generation, it is essential to maintain a focus on the history of our libraries and their role in research, scholarship, and collecting which make them repositories of a great deal of our communities' cultural heritage.

## References

All websites were accessed in April 2009.

Australia ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (the Burra Charter), 1999:

[www.icomos.org/australia/burra.html](http://www.icomos.org/australia/burra.html)

The NSW Department of Planning, Heritage Branch has a general introduction to movable heritage and principles for its management:

[http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/06\\_subnav\\_04.htm](http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/06_subnav_04.htm)

Links to State and Territory government and non-government heritage organisations:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/organisations/state/index.html>

The Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts provides information on Australia's World, National, and Commonwealth heritage, including an Australia-wide database of heritage items:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/index.html>

The Commonwealth government controls the export of movable heritage objects of Australian significance. This site provides information on export policies and permits, as well as funding sources available to public bodies to import objects of Australian significance:

[http://www.arts.gov.au/movable\\_heritage](http://www.arts.gov.au/movable_heritage)

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# An audible voice of the past: the rare printed collections of the State Library of New South Wales

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## Maggie Patton

**Since 2005 the State Library of New South Wales has provided staff with an opportunity to research aspects of the Library's services and collections through the State Librarian's Staff Fellowship Program. In January 2008, Maggie Patton commenced a project to rediscover and document the development of the rare printed collections at the State Library. This article provides an introduction to these collections, their provenance, and the challenges the acquisition and management of such collections present to their custodians.**

*Manuscript received April 2009*

*This is a refereed article*

## Introduction

In the vestibule of the Mitchell Library, carved in the golden Sydney sandstone, is the following quote from Thomas Carlyle:

In books lies the soul of the whole Past Time; the articulate audible voice of the Past when the body and material substance of it has altogether vanished like a dream. (Carlyle 1840)

The quote is a constant reminder of the intentions of the Library's founders to build a storehouse of knowledge and ideas. It is also a reminder that the Library's vast collections of printed books are in many ways the most tangible witness to the Library's past and the rarest of these books its very soul.

This article aims to describe a recent project to rediscover and document the rare printed collections at the State Library. A wander through the collections, examining volumes bound in well worn calfskin and smooth shiny vellum, spending time investigating how this material came to form part of the Library's collections. On the way, to understand a little more of the history of the Library and the challenges these collections present to their custodians.

## Exploring the collections

Since 2005 the State Library of New South Wales has provided staff with an opportunity to research aspects of the Library's services and collections through the State Librarian's Staff Fellowship Program. Successful Fellows have the opportunity to immerse themselves in an area of the collections or Library activities which would not form a regular aspect of their work. In January 2008, as the most recent State Librarian's Fellow, I commenced a six month project to research the rare printed book collections at the State Library.

The State Library of New South Wales consists of three separate libraries and a number of discrete collections. The State Reference Library is a general reference library of both Australian and overseas material which traces its foundations back to the Australian Subscription Library founded in 1826. The Mitchell Library was opened in 1910 following the magnificent bequest of David Scott Mitchell in 1907. The Dixson Library was established in 1952 with the bequest of Sir William Dixson. The printed book collections of the Mitchell and Dixson Libraries form a world-renowned research collection relating to Australia and especially New South Wales.

The State Library is fortunate to hold an extremely important collection of Australian rare books including a number of Australian firsts: the first book printed in Australia, *The New South Wales general standing orders* 1802, several complete runs of the first newspaper in Australia, *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, and the first illustrated book, *Birds of New South Wales, with their natural history* by John William Lewin, 1813.

Less known about are the extensive collections of overseas material: incunabula, sixteenth century press, numerous volumes of beautifully illustrated travel, costume and natural history publications. Besides his obsession with works on Australia and the Pacific, David Scott Mitchell also collected early printed books, Elizabethan drama and eighteenth century fiction. The Library also holds a number of 'unknown' formed collections on a range of subjects including chess, Judaica, magic, pre-Raphaelite literature, Cervantes, bibles and obstetrics.

The first stage of the Fellowship was spent delving into files held in different depositories across the Library, both unofficial and official, including annual reports, minutes, memos and general correspondence. I was seeking records on the management of rare and special collections, as well as information on the acquisition and provenance of particular items and formed collections. As with many large institutional libraries, there is a great deal of missing information on how collections were developed and how, when and why items were acquired. This applied particularly to the nineteenth century collections.



Despite these absences, information on the management of the rare and special material in the Library's collections was relatively easy to compile. The first indication of a separate management policy was in the Trustees' *Annual Report*, 1899:

It has been found expedient to make two special reserves in the reference Library, and to provide that books included therein may be referred to only on written application, viz: - a) Books of special value demanding exceptional care b) Books which should not be indiscriminately issued to all classes of readers. In the great reference libraries of the Old World no book whatever is issued except on written requisition; and this system has been found to be very useful in helping library authorities to trace damages and losses.

This special reserve system evolved into a formal location area indicated by an 'L' prefix which meant that the item was stored in the Librarian's office. It was not until 1963 that the Special Collections section of the Public Library of New South Wales and the position of Special Collections Librarian were established. The Principal Librarian, G.D. Richardson informed the Trustees in January 1963 that:

Special Collections was subject to the same general regulations that applied to the Mitchell and Dixson Libraries, not with the object of inhibiting proper use of the books in them but in order to ensure that valuable and important property of the trustees is adequately safeguarded and properly cared for.

## Accidental accumulation

More recently, British rare book expert Nicolas Barker reflected on the special collections and rare book libraries he visited in America during the 1970s. He observed that:

The collections themselves were, it seemed to me then, less the result of deliberate acquisition, more often of accidental accumulation... There was not much pattern, still less an acquisitions policy, in evidence. (Barker 2007)

The phrase 'accidental accumulation' seems to fit well with the development of the rare printed collections in the State Reference Library. Much of the material we now designate as rare due to its age, rarity, and monetary, bibliographical or historical significance was originally purchased as part of a working collection acquired from whatever sources or bequests were available to the Trustees.

The foundation collections of the State Library originate from the first Australian Subscription Library formed in 1826, not strictly a public library but open to any

member of the Public with 5 guineas spare for the membership subscription and a further 2 guineas for the annual fee. The Library opened with a collection of around 1,000 titles, many of them generously provided by donations from leading figures in the colony including Governor Darling, Archdeacon Scott and John Thomas Campbell. The Subscription Library had a long history of financial difficulties and in 1853 was incorporated and the name changed to the Australian Library and Literary Institution. A few volumes in the Library's collections contain a faint stamp from this period of the Library's history. After many years of negotiations the Institution building and the collection of over 16,000 volumes was purchased for £1,500 by the New South Wales government. The Free Public Library of Sydney opened on 30 September 1869.

The opening of the Free Public Library was influenced by a significant bequest in 1865. Justice Edward Wise, politician and Judge, was an advocate for education and social justice. In 1861 he was a founder and committee-man of the Sydney Ragged Schools and the Working Men's Book Society and Book-Hawking Society. He was also the first person to systematically collect Australiana and his library contained a number of noteworthy Australian books, pamphlets and manuscripts. The collection of approximately 6,000 items was given on condition that it became part of a Free Public Library. Each book was stamped and then placed in the Australian Museum pending the opening of the proposed library. The Justice Wise collection was particularly significant as, at the time, the trustees of the Australian Library and Literary Institution unashamedly devoted their funds to English and European literature.

Finding a rare first edition of Jane Austen, Elizabeth Gaskell or Charlotte Bronte is unlikely in the State Library's current collections. In 1870 a decision was made to remove all novels from the collections. The Library trustees considered that they were a bad influence on young people and 'time-wasters'. Library files from 1870 contain a list of novels sent to the Asylum at Rozelle for the entertainment of the inmates. The list included the dubious but fascinating titles *Rough and smooth*, *Nanette and her lovers*, *Respectable sinners*, and *Tempter and the tempted*. Also included was the popular tale *The last of the Mohicans* and various Austen novels – *Emma*, *Pride and prejudice* and *Northanger Abbey*. The novels of Sir Walter Scott, however, escaped the ban!

From the 1870s the annual reports and minutes of the Trustees' meetings remain the richest source for information on the acquisition of many significant individual items and formed collections. For example, in 1870

Messrs Trübner & Co. were appointed as the Library's official agents in London. The Library Council papers of 13 June 1879 note that:

A special catalogue of Works on ornithology was submitted through Messrs Trübner & Co. from Mr John Gould giving his nett cash price for these scarce and valuable books. On the motion of Mr Stewart, seconded by Mr Norton, the Librarian was directed to order all of the books mentioned in this catalogue, not already in the library, the nett cash price of which is £309.

Acquisitions in 1885 included 1,200 volumes purchased from the library of solicitor Henry Gürner of Melbourne, a copy of Shakespeare's First Folio presented by Sir Richard Tangye of Birmingham and the purchase of Audubon's *Birds of America* from the London dealer Henry Sotheran for £260.

The Audubon came to the Library via the Australian Museum who felt that this price was much higher than they could afford. A decision they may now regret as these volumes are the most valuable in the printed collections. In 1886, 439 volumes were acquired from Dr Von Lendenfeld's scientific library and in 1891, 1,431 classical and scientific volumes were acquired from Professor William Stephens, Sydney scholar and trustee of the Free Public Library of New South Wales from 1870 to 1890.

## Where are they now?

Could I trace these titles to the current collections? Every year from 1870 through to the early 1920s the *Annual reports* listed the titles of donations but only briefly and with no bibliographical details. We have a printed list of titles in the Justice Wise collection; however lists of individual titles within other formed collections no longer exist. Searching the online catalogue was not a viable option for a number of reasons. Many of our older printed collections do not have electronic records. If electronic records have been created often the record notes do not contain provenance details or are only interim records with minimal information on the title and publisher. Access points for provenance or associations in the old card catalogues are also inconsistent. The only way to locate these items is to painstakingly search the shelves, open the covers and check for signatures and fading stamps.

The challenge of providing access to uncatalogued, unprocessed, or under-processed archival, manuscript, and rare book materials was the focus of a White Paper on 'Hidden collections' issued by the Association of Research Libraries' (ARL) Special Collections Task Force in June 2003.

While statistics show steady and dramatic growth in the use of special collections by diverse groups of users, the status of the backlogged 'hidden collections' has

not changed. Such hidden resources mean that scholarly projects may well be missing some crucial information that could affect research results and the very nature of the project. (Jones 2003)

Another aspect raised in the Paper from the ARL Special Collections Task Force is that:

Access to unprocessed collections is staff-dependent, to the detriment of the institution and the patron. Long-time staff become the source of expertise for these collections; when they move on or retire, that undocumented 'institutional memory' is lost. (Jones 2003)

Spending time delving into the collections, I located some of the material acquired in the nineteenth century and was able to identify some of the unique and lesser known items in the collections. One of the items, purchased from Professor William Stephens in 1891, was a Greek lexicon printed in 1514. From the location number I recognised it was one of the volumes kept in the Librarian's office for safe keeping and, like many of the more valuable volumes, had been acquired in the late nineteenth century. It had been rebound in half kangaroo, with blind tooling on the spine, by Frank Heyner in the Mitchell bindery around 1920. The Library's collections include many beautiful bindings. Items transferred from the general stacks show the evidence of heavy use and David Scott Mitchell often concentrated on content over condition. However, items from Sir William Dixson's collection are often perfect copies with fine contemporary bindings or rebound in crushed morocco with opulent gold tooling and gilt edges.

## **Provenance, description and use**

Yet another aspect of these 'hidden', under-processed collections is the lack of recognition we are giving to the benefactors, collectors and Library trustees who, for over 150 years, have contributed to the development of an incredibly varied and valuable collection. We are not just hiding the intellectual content of the collections but also the provenance of the material and the history of the institution.

In 1926 the Library received a magnificent collection of bibles, manuscripts and early printed books, including a number of rare herbals, from Henry Moore Richardson in England. During the First World War Australian troops were stationed on his property in Weymouth, Dorset. He entertained the army chaplain and many of the officers. As an expression of his gratitude for the support from Australia during the war he decided to donate his collection to a suitable institution

in Australia. The oldest item in the collection is a manuscript of the Book of Isaiah, c.1224. Arguably the most valuable is an Antiphonal from 1328 with illuminations by Neri da Rimini. This is a significant collection represented by only a handful of excellent records and a majority of patchy interim records without subject access which would attract the attention of only the most hardened and knowledgeable researcher.

In June 2008 the State Library received substantial funding from the New South Wales government to commence an electronic records project which will address these 'hidden collections', not just in rare printed books but across all the collections including manuscripts, pictures and maps. This funding was the culmination of over 12 months' work building and refining the substantial business case required to meet the rigorous Treasury review process. It has been estimated that around 70% of our collections do not have an appropriate electronic record. This will be an opportunity to appropriately record and describe our collections and to increase their exposure online.<sup>1</sup>

Exposing these hidden collections through the creation of electronic records will enhance their online presence. However, is this enough to promote their significance and encourage use by the general research community? A recent report on the management of special collections libraries with a focus on rare books, manuscripts, maps, and other historical documents found that:

Most collections suffer from a lack of use and lack of awareness by the largest potential audience – the general public or students. (Rinaldy 2008, p.6)

The report stresses the importance of a strong Web presence, active local programming, and maintaining communication with special interest groups. It also points to the role that staff play in understanding the collections, maintaining communication, working with local interest groups, publicising and making the collections accessible.

Here we are presented with a further challenge beyond providing physical and online presence. We need librarians with an appropriate set of skills to manage, catalogue and provide public access to these collections. This is a challenge not just for the State Library but for many institutions with rare printed collections.

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<sup>1</sup> The Library has recently commenced a major eRecords project which will provide electronic records for rare printed collections as well as manuscripts, pictures and maps. An important aspect will be the recording of provenance details within the record for appropriate heritage collections. A highlight of the work achieved so far is the completion of 342 records for the Nelson Moore Richardson and Helen Morewood Richardson Collection of bibles, herbals and early manuscripts.

## Looking ahead

In 1971 the position of Special Collections Librarian was advertised with the following criteria:

Applicants must be fully qualified librarians with an appropriate degree and should have at least a working knowledge of Greek or Latin and another foreign language.

The position holder would be expected to organise the collections (including acquisitions), care for and maintain the collections and provide services to readers which in the 1970s and 1980s included spending up to an hour a day on valuing items for clients.

There is no mention of the multiple roles that are now expected in the management of rare printed collections. This includes an understanding of Web technologies, digitisation, copyright, fundraising and sponsor management, the ability to develop public outreach programs including exhibition curation and public speaking. The rare printed collections also need to be considered within broader library activities including audit and asset management activities, collection storage, workforce management, reporting and strategic planning.

It takes time to develop this range of skills, knowledge and expertise. Do Library courses introduce students to aspects of special collections work? How are librarians provided with opportunities to develop their knowledge of rare printed collections within their own institutions? We need to encourage recognised experts in our libraries to share their knowledge – the undocumented ‘institutional knowledge’ – which they have accumulated over many years.

In his recent article in *RBM*, James Michalko discusses the role of the memory institutions in our civilisation and how institutions such as libraries, archives and museums collect, maintain, and provide access to the cultural record.

The contents of these institutions are what permit us to reinvent, to innovate, to grow and to progress at all the other layers of civilisation...If part of our accumulated past is inaccessible, then we and future generations are denied resources for innovation and progress. Future generations will suffer because they will be forced to reinvent or rediscover what could have been learned from the past. (Michalko 2007)

This Fellowship has provided an opportunity to recreate the institutional memory of the rare printed collections that has been lost, rediscovering how the State Library’s collections developed into a rare and significant treasure.

The Library's collections contain the records of our Australian memory. They also contain the records of European civilisation that provide a context to our Australian memory. It is important that we raise their profile and manage their future in a manner which they deserve.

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**Maggie Patton** has recently been appointed to manage the State Library's extensive Map collections. Prior to this she spent many years working in the Information Services Division providing access to information and services in the reading rooms and developing her interest and expertise in the rare book collections. Her email address is: [mpatton@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mpatton@sl.nsw.gov.au)



# Collecting against the tide: building a new collection of rare books in the digital age

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Megan Martin

**Most Australian libraries with important collections of rare books, or special collections, have many of their treasures derived from 'legacy' collections, the accumulation of decades of collection building. This paper describes the collection development approach of a relatively young institution with a special interest in the history of house and garden design and interior furnishing. In doing so it outlines some of the ways in which the lens of special interest illuminates areas for collecting that have traditionally fallen outside the scope of larger general institutions.**

*Manuscript received April 2009*

*This is a refereed article*

## Background

The Caroline Simpson Library & Research Collection is the library of the Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales (HHT), a statutory authority within the New South Wales Department of the Arts, Sport and Recreation established by legislation in 1980 and charged with the care of key historic buildings and sites in the state, including houses, gardens and public buildings (Martin & Stephens 2005). The library was set up in 1984 in association with the Lyndhurst Conservation Resource Centre 'in order to disseminate the information and expertise accumulated by the Trust in its conservation of houses'. These two aspects of collecting were amalgamated in 2004 so that the collection comprises material across a wide range of print and object formats. It is open to anyone with an interest in the history of house and garden design and interior furnishing in New South Wales. The collection supports the Historic Houses Trust's work of interpreting and managing places of cultural significance in New South Wales and provides a specialist research resource



for scholars, heritage and conservation practitioners and museum professionals outside the Trust. The scope of the collection is broad, covering houses and gardens of all kinds and ranging from the nineteenth century to the present day.

## Building particularity

From the beginning our emphasis has been on building a collection of nineteenth and twentieth century architectural pattern books, decorators' and upholsterers' manuals, furniture pattern books and manufacturers' trade catalogues. The HHT was able to define a collecting approach that was specific to the HHT as a cultural institution, treading ground not covered in the same way by our sister cultural organisations in New South Wales, particularly the State Library of New South Wales and the Powerhouse Museum. On the other hand, it was territory already explored to some degree by a number of Australian architects and architectural historians with significant private or professional libraries.

Australian architects involved in the conservation movement in the 1970s and early 1980s were looking for evidence of past construction techniques and processes, for information about old building materials, and especially for sources of design. The importance of English architectural pattern books in understanding nineteenth century Australian architectural history was first elaborated by Joan Kerr and James Broadbent in their study of *Gothick taste in the colony of New South Wales*, published in 1980 in association with the Elizabeth Bay House Trust. At that time there were few guides to the literature available to librarians. The most useful was a series of catalogues produced by the London bookseller B. Weinreb Ltd, especially *The small English house: a catalogue of books*, edited by Priscilla Wrightson for Weinreb in 1977. By 1997, when James Broadbent's study of *The Australian colonial house: architecture and society in New South Wales 1788–1842* was published, both librarians and antiquarian booksellers could turn to John Archer's monumental work, *The literature of British domestic architecture, 1715–1842*, published in 1985. Since that time there has been a further contribution to the bibliographical literature (Harris & Savage 1990) and there have been some discursive surveys of American sources, including *Houses from books: treatises, pattern books, and catalogs in American architecture, 1738–1950: a history and guide* (Reiff 2000) and two volumes devoted to American architects and their books (Hafertepe & O'Gorman 2001; Hafertepe & O'Gorman 2007).

Although the majority of architects practising in nineteenth century Australia were British-trained, we know that architectural design sources available in the colonies were not limited to those from Britain. For example, in his

1980 publication *Australian architecture, 1901–1951: sources of modernism* architectural historian Donald Leslie Johnson identified American architectural models, especially the Romanesque revival style of Henry Hobson Richardson, as a source for the genre of warehouse buildings erected in Sydney and Melbourne in the 1890s and early 1900s (Johnson 1980). There were European sources circulating too, works such as E. Viollet-le-Duc's *Entretiens sur l'architecture*, published in Paris in two volumes 1863–72 and translated from the French by Benjamin Bucknall for publication in London 1877–81. This was one of the most valued items in the professional library of Canadian-born, New England trained architect John Horbury Hunt (1838–1904) who arrived in Sydney in 1862 (Reynolds, Muir & Hughes 2002, p.25). Hunt's collection, including English and American as well as European publications translated into English was, at the time of his death according to his obituary published in *Art & Architecture*<sup>1</sup> 'probably the best collection of architectural books in Australia'. It was Hunt's practice to inscribe his name prominently in each of his books. His library was sold by Angus & Robertson in 1905 but a few volumes with his distinctive inscription later found their way into the collection of the University of New South Wales library where they have been identified through a painstaking search of the shelves.

Mostly the professional libraries of our nineteenth century architects have been lost. The HHT has one book that belonged to John Verge (1782–1861), the only title from his library known to have survived.<sup>2</sup> We have one volume that belonged to another important early architect Henry Kitchen (1793?–1822). This book is especially valuable because, although it is inscribed 'H. Kitchen 1822'<sup>3</sup> and carries the later ownership inscription of Messrs. Berry & Wollstonecraft, it was not included among the list of Kitchen's books put up for auction after his death.<sup>4</sup> The auction list itself is valuable of course, serving as a source for acquisitions desiderata. Kitchen owned a copy of 'Soane's Architecture' in a folio volume. This was most likely to be John Soane's *Sketches in architecture*, published in London in 1793. He also had a folio volume of the 'Antiquities of Athens' and five folio volumes of 'Andrea Palladio Architect'. The first was probably one volume of James Stuart and Nicholas Revett's *The antiquities of Athens* published in 4 volumes from 1762 to 1816 and the second may have been *The architecture of A. Palladio: in four books* published

<sup>1</sup> *Art & Architecture*, vol. II, no. I, January 1905, pp.41–2

<sup>2</sup> The book is: Peter Nicholson, *The student's instructor in drawing and working the five orders of architecture*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed., London: J. Taylor, 1823

<sup>3</sup> The book is: Peter Nicholson, *The carpenter's new guide*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed., London, J. Taylor, 1819

<sup>4</sup> *Sydney Gazette*, 21 June 1822 p.2

in 5 volumes in London in 1715, a very rare edition. Forty years after Kitchen's death, Horbury Hunt acquired a copy of 'Stuart and Revett's Athens', part of a consignment of books jointly ordered from London by himself and Colonial Architect James Barnett. This was probably the second edition, published in 4 volumes 1825–30. By 1890 it had become part of the Free Public Library, Sydney<sup>5</sup> and others of Hunt's or Kitchen's or Verge's books may also be part of library collections, their provenance unnoted.

## The evidence of influence: valuing association

The HHT is particularly interested in such signs of ownership. As our collection has grown, so too has our quest for pattern books with provenance. Since we are a research library within a museum organisation which collects other artefacts of material culture such as wallpapers and floor coverings using a criterion of provenance, this interest is almost automatic. And for that reason our definition of provenance has been broader than the idea of association copies used in the rare book trade. In this latter context the idea of association refers to copies of books inscribed by an author or owned by a person of note. Value relates only to association with notable figures, authors or readers who are judged to have a current market value. Rare book cataloguing in libraries has traditionally used a similar definition although recent scholarly interest in the study of the history of book ownership and in the history of copies of books, especially for early published books, has begun to widen the focus on association (Shaw 2005; Shaw 2007).

The value we place on association is, of course, reflected in our catalogue records. We record ownership history as a matter of course in a provenance note (USMARC tag 561) and we add a personal name subject heading with a 'Books and reading' subdivision for identified architects and garden designers and for some others. This practice is not confined to 'rare' books. We have applied it to our copy of the 1864 edition of an American architectural pattern book, Calvert Vaux's *Villas and cottages: a series of designs prepared for execution in the United States* which we classify as a rare book. This copy carries the blind stamp of nineteenth century Australian architect Edward Gell (1818–1899) whose practice was mostly in and around Bathurst in country New South Wales. But we have also applied it to a copy of a book on American gardens published in 1902 which was owned by Sydney architect Harry Budden (1871–1944) and which we shelve in the general collection.

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<sup>5</sup> *Building & Engineering Journal*, 9 August 1890 p.272

We believe that such small evidences of association may build to a larger story of influence for future architectural or garden historians. In a Masters degree thesis on *Sydney houses 1914–1939*, completed in 1972, the late architectural historian Richard Apperly argued that the most powerful influence on Sydney architectural styles in the 1920s and 1930s came from the United States. He found evidence for his argument in the 'large and well-organised private library of the late Silvanus G. Evans, architect, of Major Street, Coogee', citing three examples: *The Spanish house for America* (1927), *New Spanish bungalows* (1931) and a run of the periodical *Architectural Digest* (Apperly 1972 pp.105–6).

## Trade literature

Not all houses are designed by architects. Nor is our interest in the history of house and garden design confined to the externals. We are interested also in the decoration and furnishing of domestic interiors, in the manufacturers or makers of furniture and furnishings and the design as well as the consumption of such manufactures. Our focus on collecting manufacturers' trade catalogues is one aspect of our concern with building a collection of sources in this area. Identifying relevant material for acquisition is problematic and the survival rate of nineteenth century trade literature is very low. Trade catalogues have usually fallen outside the collecting policies of most libraries and the requirements of legal deposit. Not surprisingly, the bibliographic waters for trade literature are barely charted. Lawrence B. Romaine's guide to American trade catalogues, first published in 1960 and reprinted in 1990 is still the standard reference. In the foreword for that publication the then Curator of Prints at the Metropolitan Museum of Art argued that the 'lavish illustrations in catalogues of every country constitute the main historical source for the development of nineteenth century ornamental design'. He went on to suggest that the history of nineteenth century design could not be written until scholars in countries other than the United States imitated Mr Romaine by compiling the bibliographies of the commercial catalogues of their countries. His recommendation seems to have gone unheeded. Theodore R. Crom's historical survey of *Trade catalogues 1542 to 1842* published in 1989 covers both British and American material but his 1842 cut-off date means that the Victorian period, the golden age of trade catalogue publishing (Long 2002), remains unsurveyed.

Our acquisition of individual items of trade literature is often speculative, awaiting research which can make a match between an English or American – or French or German or wherever – manufacturer and an Australian wholesaler

or retailer or private consumer. For example, in June 1837 the *Sydney Herald* carried an advertisement for a selection of architectural decorations modelled in papier mâché – centre flowers for ceilings, cornices, mouldings, etc. – by an eminent manufacturer in London. The advertisement declared that papier mâché had almost entirely superseded the use of plaster for architectural ornament in England and was cheaper and more durable. Although the manufacturer is not named, in itself the advertisement says something about the rapidity with which new manufactures were made available in the Antipodes. There were at least two possibilities in London at that time: Charles F. Bielefeld and Geo. Jackson & Sons, both of whom first published catalogues in 1836.

From family papers held in the manuscripts collection of the Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales, we know that the products of both manufacturers were used in colonial New South Wales. Drawing on the Scott family papers James Broadbent tells us that in 1840 the brothers Robert and Helenus Scott remodelled the dining room of their Hunter Valley homestead Glendon with 'elaborate papier mâché cornice mouldings and ceiling enrichments of paterae and rosettes, enclosed by a guilloche band'. In discussing these ornaments he cites a letter from Robert Scott to his brother dated 4 May 1840 in which Robert included a sketch of how the mouldings were to be applied. Broadbent observes that this sketch corresponds very closely to a diagram and advice contained in Charles Frederick Bielefeld's catalogue *On the use of the improved papier-mâché in furniture, in the interior decoration of buildings, and in works of art*.<sup>6</sup>

Glendon was demolished in the early twentieth century and none of its decoration survives so no direct comparison can be made with designs from the 1850 edition of Bielefeld's catalogue held in the HHT collection. But a definite match with Bielefeld has been made for a cornice enrichment used by architect Mortimer Lewis (1796–1879) at Fernhill, Mulgoa, built for Edward and Jane Maria Cox in the early 1840s. The Fernhill ornaments are stamped 'C.F. Bielefeld London' on their reverse and two of the patterns can be matched to the Bielefeld catalogue (Broadbent 1997, p.235). Surveyor-General Thomas Livingstone Mitchell was also an enthusiast for papier mâché. We know from his diary in the Mitchell Library that he received direct from London a case of Bielefeld's ornaments for the decoration of his country house Parkhall at East Bargo.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Broadbent 1997, pp.284, 298; ML MSS A2633

<sup>7</sup> Broadbent 1997, pp.292–3; Mitchell Library, SLNSW :ML C61, entry for 16 April 1844

The extent of Geo. Jackson & Sons' market in the Australian colonies is less well explored, although there is one important reference to papier mâché architectural ornaments in the Mort family papers in the Mitchell Library. This is a detailed estimate provided in December 1858 by Geo. Jackson & Sons 'to prepare the whole of the enrichments for ceilings and walls of the Principal Drawing Room and Morning Drawing Room to design, with richly ornamented cornices to walls & pendants in connection with the interlacing mouldings ready to fix' for the Mort house Greenoaks in Darling Point, Sydney.<sup>8</sup> The HHT has copies of trade catalogues published by Geo Jackson & Sons in 1836 and 1849.

We can make similar connections for cast iron and other forms of architectural metal-work. In a series of books published between 1960 and 1977, E. Graeme Robertson recorded the usage of ornamental cast iron in architecture in Australia,<sup>9</sup> including examples of cast iron balconies on buildings in several Australian cities derived from patterns to be found in L.N. Cottingham's *The smith and founder's director*, first published in London in 1823 as the *Ornamental metal workers director*. Another historian of Australia's iron lace, Brian Turner, suggests that the enlarged second edition of Cottingham's book, published in 1824,<sup>10</sup> was the most influential pattern book for decorative cast iron in the first half of the nineteenth century (Turner 1985). Cottingham's designs were intended for copying. Those copies which have been identified in Australia may have been cast locally or imported from England. Robertson found documentation relating to the importation of two complete sets of ironwork for a house in Launceston built in 1831 (Robertson 1973 pp.144–9).

In the second half of the nineteenth century the production of ornamental cast iron was dominated internationally by the Glasgow foundry of Walter Macfarlane & Co. Both Robertson and Turner provide examples of Macfarlane's export business to Australia and Turner has also traced instances of two Adelaide foundries reproducing Macfarlane designs in their own catalogues (Turner 1985, pp.78–80).<sup>11</sup> Robertson cites an example of an Adelaide firm reproducing

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<sup>8</sup> Mitchell Library, SLNSW: ML MSS 7341/3

<sup>9</sup> See, for example, E. Graeme Robertson *Sydney lace: ornamental cast iron in architecture in Sydney*, Melbourne, Georgian House, 1962

<sup>10</sup> The HHT library holds a third edition, also published in 1824: *The smith and founder's director containing a series of designs and patterns for ornamental iron and brasswork*, 3rd ed., London, LN Cottingham, 1824

<sup>11</sup> The HHT library has copies of seven Macfarlane catalogues published between 1863 and 1907 as well as copies of the catalogues of the Adelaide foundries G.E. Fulton & Co. and A.C. Harley & Co. which reproduced Macfarlane designs.

patterns from the catalogue of another large Glasgow manufacturer, McDowall, Steven & Co. (Robertson 1984, pp.158, 224). The HHT's copy of McDowall, Steven & Co's ornamental castings catalogue (McDowall, Steven & Co c.1885) is provenanced to Pont's Foundry at Maitland in regional New South Wales, enabling us to ascribe influence in the absence of a catalogue from Pont's itself.

Other forms of art metal-work used in architecture and in interior decoration included fittings and furnishings made of wrought iron, brass and copper. The Sydney firm James Castle & Sons, art metal workers, began manufacture in King Street, Newtown, Sydney in 1889. The exhibit of their work shown at the first Arts and Crafts Exhibition held in Sydney in October 1892 attracted enthusiastic reviews in the local architectural press. The *Australasian Builder & Contractor's News* (5 November 1892 p.230) suggested that it would come as a surprise to many visitors that 'such high class art work', including brackets and pendants, hanging lamps and candelabra, door-handles and finger-plates, had been produced at this 'Newtown studio-forge' in New South Wales, not imported from London or Birmingham. The HHT library has six art metal-work catalogues from Castle's works, all bearing evidence of a hard life in an industrial environment and all produced by manufacturers in London, Birmingham or Ravensburg in Germany. Castle's manufacture may have been local but its designs were international.

## The transmission of taste

In addition to pattern books and trade catalogues, further sources for understanding the history of interior decoration are the decorators' and upholsterers' manuals once produced for the professional guidance of the trade and serving also as a means of transmitting changes in taste and style to a wider audience. One of the gems of the HHT collection is a set of watercolour designs for curtains, drawn around 1895 by Australian artist Fred Leist (1873–1945) for the Sydney department store David Jones. Leist was trained as a furniture designer at David Jones and also provided illustrations for a David Jones catalogue published around 1895 (David Jones & Co. c.1895). Leist's draperies are elaborate: looped, pleated, fringed, garnished with palm fronds or fans and, in one case, framed by a chinoiserie style pelmet. They are not, however, Leist's own designs but are copied directly from a German decorator's manual, A. & L. Streitenfeld's *Die praxis des tapeziers und decorateurs* published in Berlin around 1888 in three folio volumes (Muthesius 2009, p.87). Leist himself might have owned a copy of the Streitenfeld source but it seems more likely that the volumes were part of the professional library of the 'designer of high repute' engaged by David Jones

from 'one of the leading London upholstery houses' to meet a local demand for fashionable furnishings (Lane & Serle 1990, p.280).

The Streitenfeld folios were published as a set of 24 loose chromolithographed plates, a product of a series of developments in printing techniques that reached a high-point in the second half of the nineteenth century. Owen Jones' *The grammar of ornament*, first published in 1856, was a notable example of this printing revolution, with over 100 chromolithographs. Christopher Dresser's *Studies in design*, published 1874–6, was similarly richly endowed with chromolithographed plates of designs for ceilings, wall and dadoes. The influence of both Dresser and Jones on design and taste was enormous and has been studied in some depth (Whiteway 2004; Flores 2006). But Jones and Dresser were not the only sources for decorators in the nineteenth century. The Audsley brothers, William and George, published important pattern books for painted ornament in the 1880s and 1890s (Audsley & Audsley 1882; Audsley & Audsley 1892). Two of the other nineteenth century pattern books for painted decoration in the HHT library, lavishly illustrated with chromolithographic plates,<sup>12</sup> were awarded as prizes to Henry Rousel, a student at Student Technical College in 1889–1891 during his apprenticeship to a Sydney painter and decorator.<sup>13</sup>

Rousel's prize books, like the Audsley publications and *The grammar of ornament* and Christopher Dresser's *Studies in design*, were expensive, beyond the reach of most apprentices and ordinary journeymen. This larger market was served by trade journals and by part publications produced over a span of years, a form of publication almost as ephemeral as the trade catalogue. We have 36 loose plates from volumes 2–12 of the *Deutsches Maler-Journal*, published in Stuttgart, Germany between 1877 and 1894. They are designs and schemes for decorative painting for ceilings and walls and each plate carries the ownership stamp of 'J. & W. Winter, Signwriters, Grainers &c, 115 Liverpool Street, Sydney'. We have been able to establish that James and William Winter were born and educated in Sydney and to locate them at the Liverpool Street address in 1887. Nothing else is yet known about the circumstances in which they acquired these plates, nor whether they once owned all the plates. The ownership stamp is no more than a hint of influence for the moment.

<sup>12</sup> F. Edward Hulme *Suggestions in floral design*, London: Cassell, Petter & Galpin, 1878–1879 and John Leighton *Suggestions in design: being a comprehensive series of original sketches in various styles of ornament, arranged for application in the decorative and constructive arts*, London, Blackie & Son, 1880

<sup>13</sup> 'Rousel's Studios: a leading signwriting business', *The Decorator & Painter for Australia & New Zealand*, 1 November 1929 p.47



## Domestic advice manuals

As the HHT collection has grown and developed depth we have begun to pay increasing attention to another category of publication that is not technically ephemera but which seems to have shared the same outcast status in most library collections, at least until recent times. These are the manuals on home decoration and domestic economy, aimed at householders, particularly women, and often written by women (Attar 1987). Responding to the growing middle-class interest in interior decoration and furnishing in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, Macmillan issued the cheap 'Art at Home' series in the 1870s, including titles such as *The bedroom and boudoir*, *The drawing room*, *The dining room*, even *The library*. They were small publications in cloth bindings, ranging between 80 and 180 pages with simple black and white engravings as illustrations. Their print runs were substantial but their scarcity today in library collections means that some of them are now rare books.

Even rarer are those titles published for a working-class market, books like 'Sylvia's Home Help Series of Useful Handbooks for Ladies', published by Ward, Lock & Co in the 1870s and 1880s. With cheap paper or card covers, the odds were always stacked against their survival so collecting such sources is especially challenging. A shabby copy of *Sylvia's book of macramé lace*, published in the 1880s, and carrying the blind stamp of a Grafton bookseller, is a treasure in our collection.

## Digitisation and display

*Sylvia's book of macramé lace* is packed with 'many new and original designs, with complete instructions for working, choice of materials, and suggestions for their adaptation'. It deserves to be rescued from obscurity and would certainly find a new audience if it were to be made available as a digital surrogate.

As a research library we take delight in our ever-increasing access to digitised resources and in pointing researchers to those resources. The Smithsonian Institution Libraries have digitised their copy of William Mullingar Higgins' *The house painter, or, decorator's companion* published in London in 1841, containing 30 'plates', hand-coloured examples of wood-graining and marbling. It is, as the Smithsonian explains, 'a splendid example of the kind of trade manual which serves as a primary document in the history of technology, manufacturing, culture, and aesthetic styles'. In an essay accompanying the digital copy, Mel Wachowiak, Senior Furniture Conservator at the Smithsonian Center for Materials Research and Education, adds that it is both a written

and a physical document since the 'plates' are not printed plates such as chromolithographs or photo-reproductions but are actually painted paper grained or marbled by an artist. He notes that the Smithsonian copy is 'one of only 8 known in the world today' and that its digitisation greatly expands access to its contents even though readers of the digital version 'will not experience the book in the fullest sense'.

The 'fullest sense' is important for those engaged in the craft of decorative painting and those highly skilled specialist painters whose work involves the conservation of historic interiors. Our own partial copy of Mullingar Higgins is not the 1841 edition as digitised by the Smithsonian but an edition published in parts in 1857–8. It remains one of the treasures of our collection although we have only 13 parts out of a probable total of 48. We cannot be certain of the bibliographic details since we are unable to find any other copies of this edition listed in union catalogues. While access to the digital version enriches our understanding of the work, not least because of the essays and notes provided as context for the digital copy, it does not lessen the value of the copy in our collection which we can display ourselves or lend for exhibition in whatever interpretive framework a future scholar may explore. Similarly, digitisation of *Sylvia's book of macramé lace* would not alter the evidential value of our particular copy. The digital surrogate does not automatically displace the physical object as a cultural artefact. First collect the artefact.

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# An enduring presence: special collections of the Barr Smith Library at the University of Adelaide

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Cheryl Hoskin

**This paper is a practical and personal perspective on the challenges faced by special collections in an increasingly digital environment, and the strategies employed to promote their unique resources to the academic and wider communities, including the value of promoting heritage through reconstructing collections and the place of expertise in the provision of a high level of service to users. Special collections within research institutions provide enduring value.**

*Manuscript received April 2009*

*This is a refereed article*

## Introduction

University special collections tend to be largely insular, working quietly away in research establishments, and those west of Melbourne receive scant attention from the library world in general.

Special Collections at the Barr Smith Library is a medium sized collection of surprising depth and variety, encompassing five major and a number of minor collections comprising some 70,000 print items and over 100 manuscript collections. It has come about mainly through donation, including several large bequest collections of some quality, and purchases from teaching and research funds. There is no dedicated budget for the growth of Special Collections, although some bequest funds are available for special purchases. It is one of only two closed stack collections within Library, the other being Multimedia. Special Collections does not manage general theses, microform or multi-media collections.

## The Collections

The Rare Book Collection of approximately 40,000 titles is largely comprised of books and journals published before 1840 (or 1900 for Australian works) and other rare, valuable or vulnerable items. The Collection incorporates works (including journals, films, recordings, maps, artworks, realia and ephemera) which because of their age, format, rarity, significance of content or association, cost or vulnerability, require particular care in use and storage. Collection criteria include limited editions of 300 copies or fewer, private press publications, and items sensitive because of their indigenous, erotic or controversial content. Approximately 60% of the Collection is Australiana. The Strong Room Collection houses books printed before 1700, prized items (such as the *Aurora Australis*, the only book printed in Antarctica) and embargoed material. We hold four incunabula, the earliest being Leonardo Bruni's *Epistolarum familiarium* printed in Venice in 1472.

Subject strengths include voyages and travel; English literature; Australian literature, history, politics and culture; British local history; the two World Wars; natural history; and Aboriginal history, culture and languages. These strengths reflect both trends in teaching and research over time and the interests of our many generous donors and benefactors. The magnificent 1916 bequest of 16,000 volumes by Sir Samuel Way (1836–1916), South Australian Chief Justice and Lieutenant-Governor, forms the core of the present Rare Book Collection. His collection, one of the largest and best private libraries in Australia of the time, included many works of rarity and significance, while the donations of Christine Macgregor (of the Barr Smith family, benefactors to the University of Adelaide over many decades) and Kilmeny Symon greatly enhanced our private press holdings. With the introduction of postgraduate studies in art history and gastronomy, we are now actively collecting domestic cookery and exhibition catalogues.

Minor collections include a selection of miniature editions, the Hague Collection on book history and book collecting in memory of a significant donor, a small Pulp Fiction Collection, the Cornell Collection of French language and literature selected from the library of Professor John Cornell, and the recently acquired Simpson Collection described below.

A separate Pacific Collection of more than 8,000 volumes is based on the library acquired in 1972 from Professor H.E. Maude, former British Colonial administrator, head of the Social Development section of the South Pacific Commission, and Professor of Pacific History at the Australian

National University. The Collection includes both books and journals on the history, culture, art, fiction and language of the Pacific islands of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia with greatest emphasis on the central Pacific, and additional strengths in mission history and Pacific anthropology/ethnology journals. Particular strengths reflect Maude's interest in beachcomber literature and his activities as administrator in the island colonies, including schemes for the resettlement of Gilbert and Ellice and Banaban Islanders, and reorganisation of government structures on Pitcairn Island in 1940. It is the only collection consciously augmented through purchase.

The Allan Wilkie – Frediswyde Hunter-Watts Theatre Collection was bequeathed to the Barr Smith Library in 1976 by Miss Angel Symon and at her request was named in honour of the Shakespearean actor-manager Allan Wilkie and his actress wife. The Collection of some 4,000 volumes is strong in play texts and British theatrical history and biography of the later 19<sup>th</sup> and early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, with an emphasis on performance and stage design. A delightful ballet component includes some outstanding illustrated and limited editions, early treatises on dance, and works of ballet critics and historians. A separate collection of over 20,000 programmes covering theatre, ballet and, to a lesser extent, music performances from 1858 to the present is also a valuable resource for theatre historians. Many were collected by Angel and her friends and relations in Britain, Europe and Australia between the 1920s and 1970s, and these have been substantially augmented by many other personal donations.

The University Collection contains publications by past and present members of the University staff and of academic departments, associations and student organisations of the University of Adelaide. It is a reflection of University academic and student life and intellectual heritage since the inauguration of the University in 1874.

The Manuscripts Collection of over 300 linear metres is comprised of the research and personal papers of academic staff and other noted individuals, including the statistician R.A. Fisher; physicist and later Governor of South Australia, Sir Mark Oliphant; former diplomat and Lieutenant Governor of South Australia, Sir Walter Crocker; and poet and publisher Max Harris. The typescripts of anthropologist Daisy Bates on Aboriginal society and culture are augmented by many other smaller collections on anthropology and linguistics. Pacific papers include those of former administrators Harry Maude and H.G.A. Hughes, while the Theatre Collection is supported by the papers of Allan Wilkie and the papers on Australian dance history of Keith Glennon and Alan Brissenden, and others.

Special Collections also maintains the Library Archives, while records concerning University teaching and administration are held by the University of Adelaide Archives, with some overlap in both collections.

## Management and environmental issues

The Special Collections Reading Room is open Monday to Friday afternoons, the limited opening hours being a trade-off for the half-time position of the Special Collections Librarian. A full-time library assistant and additional assistance for two afternoons per week make up the full staff complement. Staffing is very limited, tasks are never ending, and demands on our time are many. The Collections are accessible by University staff, students and community members on production of their Library card, and to non-registered users with identification and supply of their name and address.

We do not have a dedicated conservation budget and, unlike the South Australian public cultural institutions, find that the services of the central conservation agency ArtLab are too expensive for us to use on a routine basis. Many of our books need treatment, but most are useable. As a research institution our focus is more on making our collections accessible than pursuing a conservation imperative. Basically we aim to do no harm, and maintain the collection in its current physical state by boxing, bagging, encapsulating, tying and wrapping with archival materials. The Collections are housed in a secure and clean environment maintained at around 20–21°C with low humidity. Non-flash digital photographs are encouraged and photocopying is permissible unless we judge the item to be at risk. White gloves are not generally used as I believe they hamper sensitive handling. We have rudimentary hand-washing facilities available and counsel users on appropriate handling of vulnerable materials.

## Electronic access

The Library has a strong and proactive technical services team which has embraced the advantages of electronic access through online cataloguing. Online bibliographic records are available for all Special Collections items (except for our collections of palm leaf manuscripts, Scottish vellum deeds and English indentures), with the many minimal level records being upgraded through ongoing retrospective cataloguing. Collections of ephemeral items such as theatre programmes, posters and illustrations are given collection level records and listings when time permits. Manuscript collections have a collection level catalogue entry linked, where possible, to an online finding list.



All manuscript entries have been uploaded to the soon to be phased out Register of Australian Archives and Manuscripts (RAAM: [www.nla.gov.au/raam/](http://www.nla.gov.au/raam/)).

Special Collections maintains its own descriptive webpages, and html manuscript finding aids can also be accessed through the Manuscripts Collections webpage. I decided against adopting the comprehensive Heritage Document Management System (HDMS) favoured by many archives for the simple reason that I did not have the resources to convert all of our listings or the time to devote to learning a new system when our existing pages achieve very high level results from Google searches.

We do have a considerable backlog of unlisted manuscript collections, and many earlier listings had been judged unsatisfactory for Web access. Marie-Louise Ayres and Emma Jolley's (2008) paper 'Silk purse or sow's ear' which described the National Library's move away from full arrangement and description of manuscript collections to maximising access through MARC catalogue records and 'quick and dirty' box listings prompted me to also change direction. My aim is to provide some sort of online listing for all manuscripts by scanning old listings and providing broad level entries for new collections. I am also relinquishing some control and accepting offers from volunteers and interested Library staff to describe collections.

## Digitisation

Digitisation of selected material from the Collections has been a natural extension of the Library's move to provide increased electronic access to resources. Only ten years ago when Special Collections embarked on an in-house pilot digitisation project of Federation pamphlets, there were no recommended national standards for form or size of images, no allocated server space and no confidence that images could be viewed across all platforms. Six years later standards were becoming established and the question was no longer whether or why Special Collections should digitise but which items should be given priority, and a great deal of time was devoted to writing policy and compiling and revising lists of items to be digitised, with preference given to preservation and items needed for teaching. We now have a flat book-edged scanner in Special Collections and access to overhead scanners for larger or vulnerable items, and digitising is a routine task. Scanned texts and low-level images are added to the Special Collections community pages of the Library's Adelaide Research & Scholarship Digital Repository based on the free but not so user friendly D-Space software, which allocates a permanent handle to items for easier linking.

A particularly successful project has been the R.A. Fisher Digital Archive initially launched in 2000 and expanded in October 2004. R.A. Fisher's extraordinary contributions to statistical theory, evolutionary biology and genetics have had far-reaching consequences in many branches of human thought and endeavour. The Digital Archive includes selections from his extensive unpublished correspondence and writings as well as substantial material from Fisher's published texts. Although most of his working life was spent in the United Kingdom, Fisher spent his last three years in Adelaide in close association with his former student, research assistant, colleague and friend, J.H. Bennett, then Professor of Genetics at the University of Adelaide. Fisher's family generously lodged his papers with us and granted the University copyright in his writings. Funding for the R.A. Fisher Digital Archive was made available from the sales of his *Collected Papers*, posthumously edited by Bennett. The launch of the Archive featured as the top news story on the American Statistical Association webpage and achieved University record totals of over 1 million hits on the website. Fisher's papers have continued to attract worldwide research enquiries.

Another successful project using collaborative Library resources was the digitisation of the University of Adelaide student newspaper *On Dit*, the second oldest Australian student newspaper and a heavily used resource. The Library's Digital Resources Management Centre (DRMC), which controls the digital text materials required for teaching, scanned and formatted issues of *On Dit* during periods of low demand. The scanned volumes were added to the Digital Repository by Systems and Special Collections staff.

Now, faced with the future dominance of Google Books and other extensive online collections, digitisation policy has largely been reduced to preservation and the digitisation of unique texts or those demanded by our users. Recently we scanned our copy of H.A.E. Meyer's *Vocabulary of the language spoken by the Aborigines of the southern and eastern portions of the settled districts of South Australia* (Adelaide, 1843) to support a project to reintroduce local language and grammar to an indigenous community. Sir Mark Oliphant's early memorandum on synchrotron development was added in response to several enquiries and, following repeated requests, we have scanned most of the Daisy Bates photographs and will be adding them to the Repository in the near future.

In 1897 the small Barossa Valley printery of G. Auricht published the *Testamenta marra*, a translation of the New Testament by J.G. Reuther and C. Strehlow into the local indigenous Dieri language, the first translation into an Australian Aboriginal language. Our former Chancellor and major donor,

Sir Samuel Way, took a liking to this rustic text and promptly despatched copies to libraries throughout the world. In February 2008 this rare regional text was digitised by Google Books from an original held by Harvard University. How can we compete with the juggernaut of Google Books? We cannot, but we can give the text context and history, and we will in the near future add the title page from Way's copy to our digital library along with his annotations and inserted newspaper clippings, and tell the story of the book.

Of course the downside to enhanced online access to our Collections is the associated increase in queries from remote researchers who expect rapid response to often complex and time-consuming enquiries. How do we cope with this? I attempt to reply immediately acknowledging the request and then tackle queries assigning a loose priority order to first, our own students and staff, then interstate and overseas university researchers, then other research projects, and if possible refer family historians to the State Library. Requests for more than a few pages of copies are channelled through our Document Delivery/Inter-Library Loan system which has procedures for charging for services. Where possible we use Document Delivery staff to make scans (which we keep to add to the Digital Repository), although often the fragile nature of the material prohibits this.

## Raising awareness

I have been in this position for five years, and have been trying to raise the profile of the Special Collections through any means available. We regularly mount exhibitions on particular themes (bookbinding, lithography, botanical illustration, war literature, garden history, etc.) and displays associated with open days, conferences and seminars. This is my favourite part of the job: very time consuming but rewarding when I can translate knowledge gained from Rare Book Summer Schools and personal research into physical embodiments which also bring pleasure to others. I always plan of course to mount these as virtual exhibitions but have only so far managed to upload Garden History.

I give behind-the-scenes tours to any group that asks. I never turn down requests to write articles or give talks, and provide material for University and local news publications. We don't charge for scans or permissions to reproduce material in academic or research publications but always ask for acknowledgement. To promote student use of resources I host seminars and workshops for specific courses ranging from Return to Study courses on 1970s campus protest movements to postgraduate Art History sessions on Burmese palm leaf and lacquered manuscripts.

Although not limited to Special Collections, The Friends of the University of Adelaide Library provide valuable promotion through their series of Discovery talks where researchers talk about their work based on Library resources. Last year the Friends financed the printing of gift cards featuring images from one of our copies of George French Angas' *South Australia illustrated* (London, 1847). In 2008 the Library also launched the Bill Cowan Barr Smith Library Fellowship which provides financial assistance towards study for postgraduate degrees by research using the collections of the Barr Smith Library.

Networking is important, and I have attempted to foster convivial relations with other heritage collections both intra- and interstate, lending Special Collections material for displays in the Adelaide Botanic Garden, Art Gallery of SA, Adelaide Festival Centre, SA Maritime Museum and the National Library of Australia.

Particularly rewarding in terms of both raising awareness of the Collections and personal satisfaction is collaboration with artistic and research projects. Some years ago I was approached by Mark Salmon (2007) of the Waugal community to assist the Nyungar people of southwest Western Australia recover their traditional legends which had been recorded by Daisy Bates. These rediscovered legends have found expression in artistic interpretations, a short film, and a limited edition print series.

Last year, in support of the ARC Linkage Project 'Reconstructing the Baldwin Spencer and Francis Gillen Collection', we digitised the manuscript notebooks of Francis Gillen which had formed the basis of Spencer and Gillen's *Native Tribes of Central Australia* (London, 1899). The Australian National University, the SA Museum, and Museum Victoria will reconstruct the material record of photographs, film, sound, field notes and artefacts scattered in world collections as an inter-relational digital archive to reveal the richness of Aboriginal society at the turn of the twentieth century

My predecessor, Susan Woodburn, devoted much of her time to the Pacific Collection and the related manuscript collection of Harry Maude, writing a comprehensive guide (Woodburn, 1995) and later writing a biography of Maude (Woodburn, 2003). While the Pacific Collection still attracts regular enquiries and associated donations, most recent research interest has been associated with the Theatre Collection, in particular through 'The Ballets Russes Project'. This four year (2006–2009) ARC-funded research partnership between the University of Adelaide, The Australian Ballet and the National Library of Australia presented a series of ballets, exhibitions, and publications that celebrated the spirit of Diaghilev. Associated research investigated the Diaghilev vision and the profound impact of the Ballets Russes on Australia.

The irony is that the chief investigators were not aware of the existence of the Theatre Collection when the project was conceived. The ballet component of the Theatre Collection and dance related manuscript collections of Keith Glennon and Alan Brissenden on 'Dance in Australia' have now been assessed to be of national significance.

A very special and enjoyable component of my job is working with the Theatre Project Volunteers Group. Our knowledgeable and energetic volunteers date, sort and file theatre programmes and input event and resource information to the AusStage Index of Australian Performing Arts, an online research database on live performance in Australia. The AusStage database also acts as an index to our theatre ephemera collections, linking event information to digitised programmes and resources such as reviews in *On Dit*, and bringing together theatre items housed in separate and often disparate collections, such the 1918–1919 Liverpool German Concentration Camp theatre and music programmes found within the German Settlers in South Australia papers. Special Collections is the largest contributor of resources information to AusStage.

## Unique resources

So much of our attention is directed towards filling demands for online access and resources that at times we forget why we are 'special'. With all scholars having access to the same resources on the Web, I find there is increasing demand for the unique and the obscure; that vital piece of information not available online which will give a paper or a research project an edge. We cannot possibly hope to digitise every scrap of paper in our manuscript collections, but we can put more effort into establishing context and highlighting unique aspects of personal archives. Digitised texts are now commonplace, but the copy specific information – the binding, provenance, annotations and information related to past use of individual volumes – will become more important.

We had already been adding copy information to catalogue records, and I have also invested time in the training of metadata (cataloguing) staff in rare book and 'special' cataloguing. David Pearson's course 'Looking beyond texts: using copy-specific evidence' at the 2009 Dunedin Rare Book Summer School was both inspiring and thought-provoking. It became apparent that, in a Google world, copy-specific information locked up in online library catalogues was not accessible to researchers. We will be experimenting this year with simple online databases of provenance and copy-specific data, including scanning our

photocopied file of bookplates found in the Collections. We will also be more diligent in the future on retaining rather than suppressing heritage information.

## Reconstructing collections

In past years, for staff convenience, many donated collections had been absorbed into the generic Rare Books Collection. Taking advantage of the ease of online collection control, I have been retaining some recent acquisitions as separate collections and slowly reconstructing others to retain historical context and make our community more aware of its heritage, and to encourage future donations.

A small collection of books ranging in date from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and recently purchased at auction has been retained as the Simpson Collection. Many have association with the family of Pearsson Simpson, a Curate from Cumberland in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Several of the works are heavily annotated; the *Book of Common Prayer* (Dublin, 1700) containing birth, death and marriage details from 1681 to 1837, with others used as *aide-mémoires* by F.M. Marbury, a 19<sup>th</sup> century pastor.

An earlier collection came to the Library in 1916 with the Samuel Way bequest. In 1895 Way purchased the Larkin Collection, assembled in the 1880s by E.A. Petherick for Matthias Larkin, a Melbourne auctioneer, real estate agent and financial dealer who in March 1892 was sentenced to six years imprisonment for embezzling nearly £100,000 from the South Melbourne Permanent Building Society (Cannon, 1976). Way paid £500 to £600 for the collection of some 600 volumes including many valuable works of voyages and discovery and Australiana, finely bound in sets relating to the different sections of the catalogue. For many years the significance of the Way bindings was unknown, the books being scattered throughout the Rare Books Collection. Petherick assembled only three collections in his lifetime, his own which formed the basis of the National Library's Australiana collection, the Yorke Gate Library now held by the Royal Geographical Society of SA, and our own Larkin Collection. I hope to soon bring this unique collection back together in honour of two significant Australian book collectors.

To celebrate our heritage, we have for the past year been reconstructing the '1877 Collection', the foundation Library collection as listed in the 1877 University Calendar. Only £200 per year was available for the purchase of Library books, and titles were selected with great care and dedication by the four foundation professors. Surprisingly few of these early works have been lost, despite a lack of supervision in the early days of the Library, and many retain the

distinctive sheepskin binding with the University seal stamped on the front cover. This collection will be displayed in a public area of the Library, possibly adjacent to our new computer friendly but book deficient Student Lounge, along with interpretive signage and descriptive webpage.

## Challenges and satisfactions

I love what I do. I learn something new just about every day. I interact with researchers who are engaged with and passionate about their work. I am blessed with reliable and dedicated staff and with collections inherited from innovative and conscientious custodians. Ideas for projects to exploit and promote the collections under our care are plentiful, but we are hampered by limited staffing which can just about cope with research enquiries and the day-to-day processing of material, with little hope of describing the backlog of manuscript collections. Library colleagues and management are supportive but staffing demands are high elsewhere in the Library, in particular for user education and the reprocessing of material to send to off-site storage. It is also quite difficult to quantify what we do in relation to the rest of the Library. One loan statistic can represent anything from a minute involved in retrieving a book to an hour or a day tracking down the precise reference or image required by a user.

We aim to provide high-level assistance to both local and external researchers, the trade-off being a great deal of personal satisfaction and acknowledgement in publications. I also endeavour to continually improve my knowledge of the Collections in my charge to be able to better assist users – an unpopular notion in some public libraries which seem all too ready to relinquish staff with specialist knowledge and skills. I make no apology for talking about ‘my collections’ or ‘my researchers’ – ownership comes with the territory. I care about the books and manuscripts under my care, just as I care about students and researchers that ask for my help. I have to keep faith that my expertise and knowledge of the collections under my care are valuable assets. Google is great, I use it all the time, but it is not able to make the connections that I can between collection items and user needs. We also aim to make life as easy as possible for researchers. We encourage non-flash digital photographs (so much safer for the item in hand than transporting it to be separately photographed or scanned) and will open the Reading Room for interstate and overseas researchers or anyone who finds our limited opening hours difficult.

Much of my time is also involved in negotiating and communicating with donors, including the bureaucratic demands of the Cultural Gifts Program. Physical space for any expansion of Special Collections is limited, although we continue

to accept quite a high level of donated texts and manuscript collections as academics retire and University departments are reorganised or relocated. I am increasingly reluctant to refuse collections or indeed to cull material which historians and researchers may find of value in the future. I have on several occasions had researchers chasing items which have been discarded in the past. With an increasing emphasis on items as artefacts rather than text or image, I also think it is impossible to predict how users will employ the Collections in the future. Artists are now regular users of Special Collections looking for items such as old photographs – not for the images but for the surrounds – to incorporate into new works.

## The future

So why will the Barr Smith Library continue to support Special Collections despite the high maintenance costs of physical housing, access and processing compared to electronic resources? The Library is currently physically reshaping itself in line with the changing demands of the student population for more laptop facilities and collaborative learning areas. A third of the main collection is being sent to the off-site Joint Library Store (mainly print journals replaced by electronic subscriptions) and book stacks are being lowered and re-spaced to create a more open environment. The Barr Smith used to pride itself on its 19<sup>th</sup> century research collection. We are now re-evaluating the basic concept of a research library and the form it will need to take in the future. It is however recognised that Special Collections will ultimately become the only unique feature of the Barr Smith Library. More staffing and funds will hopefully be directed towards Special Collections as reprocessing of books for Store and new processing of print materials decreases.

The Collections already impart distinction and prestige to the Library, and act as a showcase for important visitors and a focus for donation appeals. I don't believe that maximum value results from locking up a limited number of 'treasures' behind glass walls. It does publicise items from collections but also imparts a 'look but don't touch' mentality which perhaps is becoming embedded in the increasing treatment of books as museum objects rather than research tools. The value for me in maintaining Special Collections in an electronic era is to give users a sense of the real article – to encourage students to experience pamphlets distributed during the French Revolution, complete with wine stains, and to visualise the immediacy of debate that must have occurred in the wine bars and coffee houses; to feel and smell a leaf of vellum and understand the limitations of hand-written and early printed texts;



to understand that before the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century the print world was black and white and not colour; and to recognise that knowledge can have enduring presence and value.

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# Heritage book collections in Australian libraries: what are they, where are they and why should we care?

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Matthew Stephens

**There is a general perception that as librarians, we know what constitutes and defines a rare book, that our heritage book collections are well-documented and their future survival is planned for and secure. This discussion paper asks whether our definitions of heritage material might be too narrow and whether they reflect the reality across all library sectors. While planning for our digital future is a priority at both state and national levels, there is less evidence that the heritage value of many of our book collections has been properly identified, let alone managed. Current practices, policy approaches and the influence of the academy are explored and suggestions for how we could identify and manage this important cultural heritage are put forward.**

*Manuscript received April 2009*

*This is a refereed article*

## Introduction

In 1968 a major university library dispatched as an interlibrary loan one of its early volumes of the *Transactions of the Zoological Society of London*. This 1860s quarto was not returned and lay forgotten on the shelves of the borrowing library until its recent rediscovery. Bound in olive-stained morocco and cloth, the pristine volume's hand-coloured zoological plates are as fresh as the day they had been painted, and the attached bookplate reveals a provenance to the library of Dr George Bennett, the first curator of the Australian Museum and a major contributor to colonial science in New South Wales. This historical oddity may seem to represent little but a procedural breakdown between two libraries, but the fine condition of this book when compared to the set from which it originated tells a cogent story. The university's volumes have been all but destroyed: many of the boards are detached, the text-blocks

broken and numerous signatures separated. Surprisingly, in the age of eBay, the exquisite plates have survived despite some hanging only by a thread. The cause of this disparity in condition is simple: the undamaged volume had been lent out prior to the introduction of open access to the university library's stack in the 1970s and had been protected from the library's policy of unmonitored handling of material and access to photocopiers. There is no doubt that this university has valued some of George Bennett's donations – his set of John Gould's *Birds of Australia* being located in the rare book collection, for example. Other Bennett volumes, however, have fared less well and represent collateral damage in the library profession's drive to improve collection access for users over the last few decades.

I should emphasise that the purpose of telling this story is not to apportion blame but rather to highlight how administrative decisions can have serious physical repercussions for library collections and that every such decision reflects the time and place in which it was made. In the early 1970s, university research library funding was at its peak and printed books and journals were the dominant format and easily replaceable. The consideration of provenance, marginalia, technology of the book, and the book's role in communication, knowledge and culture had yet to be theoretically bundled together under the banner of 'book history' in the academy.

Similarly, the question of the heritage significance of individual objects or movable collections was in its infancy. Regardless of the circumstances behind the decision to provide open access to the stack without segregating material of the quality and value of George Bennett's *Transactions*, this decision proved to be a long-term policy of de-accessioning. If part of George Bennett's library was discovered today in a university or state library, or even the National Library of Australia (NLA), would we value it any differently? More importantly for the purposes of this paper, how would a smaller special library with limited resources cope with such a collection?

Such questions lead on to others well-known to those managing library collections but which are perhaps less often applied specifically to heritage book material. Are we identifying collections appropriately and providing sufficient access to them to satisfy library users? Do our institutions have staff trained to identify, catalogue, communicate and conserve material of heritage value? What funding is available for these tasks? Are libraries collaborating enough in the management of these dispersed but often inter-related collections? Finally, as librarians, are we thinking about the heritage value of books any differently from our colleagues in the 1970s, now that we are living in the digital age?

The more libraries are immersed within the digital context the harder it becomes to think creatively about the formats of the past. Regardless of whether a library is currently engaged in delivering extensive virtual content, or simply

aspiring to do so, there is an inevitable focus on new and exciting ways of providing information. While this digital model requires libraries to reallocate existing resources at a speed that can hamper reflection, the library profession has embraced the rhetoric accompanying this change – characterised as an historically defining moment in which the way we access and exchange information has radically altered.<sup>1</sup> Yet despite our awareness of this moment in history and the evident challenges faced by the book, can we be confident that the decision-makers in our institutions, large and small, are accessing the collection knowledge and expertise necessary to ensure the survival of a significant part of Australia's cultural heritage? In this paper I shall explore how one might identify 'heritage book collections' and assess their importance, and review some of the current approaches to heritage book collections.

## Identifying 'heritage book collections' and considering their importance

Throughout the Australian library system lie pockets of book material bundled together under the generic label of 'rare books', 'special collections' or, more recently, 'heritage collections'. I am focusing particularly on printed material in this article because I think we need to be conscious of the way in which libraries tend to consider even early examples of this format as non-unique, existing in multiples, and replaceable – unlike manuscripts or pictures. The term 'book heritage' is a clumsy one and I hope that in the near future I will not feel a need to accentuate an artificial dichotomy between digitised and significant printed material to draw attention to the latter. In recent years we have become used to the notion of hybrid libraries in which access to information may come in a variety of formats and include printed or digital material.

Having arrived at a point, however, when the challenges of developing and implementing digital policy seem to be consuming much of our time and resources, terms like 'hybrid', 'special collection' or 'legacy collections' act as euphemisms and can help us forget that the 'book' remains an important part of what libraries do. I cannot define where 'book heritage' starts or ends because all of us need to have a say in what we value in our national book collection, though I will be focusing on earlier Australian material in this paper. While my interests lie particularly in library collections reflecting the use of book material in Australia up until the First World War, I am equally mindful of the university history lecturer

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<sup>1</sup> A recent job advertisement for the position of Manager, Access & Information, State Library of NSW, provides an example of this rhetoric: 'In a time of unprecedented change in the way people seek and use a broad range of information sources, this position leads 100 staff in the development of a dynamic information service. *Public Sector Notices*, Issue 38, Wednesday 8 April 2009, p.10, <http://www.jobs.nsw.gov.au/pdf1.pdf> [accessed 11 April 2009]

who recently vented her displeasure at her university library for de-accessioning an incredibly scarce 1970s Indonesian publication she needed, and one she passionately believed should be available in an Australian research collection.

A quick tour of the collection management policies of many of our libraries reveals considerable variation in the criteria used to identify 'rare', 'special' and 'heritage' printed material, and appears to reflect the history and role of each institution. The NLA and state libraries – all of which are deposit libraries with a legislated responsibility for cultural heritage – tend to have proportionally less material categorised in this way. With such rich collections, there is a clear disincentive to attempt segregating large swathes of the collection because of its rarity. As a result, the representation of special collections within the NLA and state libraries makes an interesting comparison with libraries at universities: the University of Melbourne Library lists over twice as many items categorised as 'rare books' or 'special collections' than the State Library of Victoria (MUL 200,000 : VSL 77,000), while Sydney University Library appears to have almost seven times the number of rare book and special collection items than the State Library of NSW (SUL 170,000 : SLNSW 25,157). It may also come as a surprise to some that Monash University Library claims to have more of this type of material than the National Library (Monash Library 100,000 : NLA 75,000).<sup>2</sup> Comparisons between university libraries and special libraries can be equally revealing, with the rare book and special collections of the Australian Museum Research Library (AMRL) only half that of the University of NSW Library (AMRL 5,000 : UNSWL 10,000).<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> The NLA's rare book collection consists only of overseas works (excluding publications in Asian scripts and Pacific Island languages): [http://www.nla.gov.au/policy/cdp/chapter\\_18.html](http://www.nla.gov.au/policy/cdp/chapter_18.html)

<sup>3</sup> Sources for these statistics are: Melbourne University Library, 'Special collections', <http://www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/collections/special/> [accessed 12 April 2009]; State Library of Victoria, 'Australian rare books', Collections & resources development policy [http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/about/information/policies/crdp\\_info/crdp/rare\\_printed/australian\\_rare\\_books.html](http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/about/information/policies/crdp_info/crdp/rare_printed/australian_rare_books.html) [accessed 12 April 2009]; and 'Rare books', Collections & resources development policy [http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/about/information/policies/crdp\\_info/crdp/rare\\_printed/rare\\_books.html](http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/about/information/policies/crdp_info/crdp/rare_printed/rare_books.html) [accessed 12 April 2009]; Sydney University Library, 'Welcome to the rare books & special collections library' <http://www.library.usyd.edu.au/libraries/rare/> [accessed 12 April 2009]; State Library of NSW, Library Council of NSW, '2008 annual report', 61 [http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/annual\\_reports/2008/State\\_Library\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2008.pdf](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/annual_reports/2008/State_Library_Annual_Report_2008.pdf) [accessed 12 April 2009]; Monash University Library, 'Collection overview', <http://www.lib.monash.edu.au/rare/collection.html> [accessed 12 April 2009]; National Library, 'Collection development policy: rare books', [http://www.nla.gov.au/policy/cdp/chapter\\_18.html](http://www.nla.gov.au/policy/cdp/chapter_18.html) [accessed 12 April 2009]; University of NSW Library, 'Collection development policy' <http://info.library.unsw.edu.au/monos/pdf/collectiondevpolicy082006.pdf> [accessed 12 April 2009]; and the Australian Museum Research Library, Leoné Lemmer, Library Manager, pers. com. 14 April 2009.

While many libraries agree that Australian editions printed prior to the turn of the twentieth century require special treatment and that important association and presentation copies should also be treated differently, there is limited consistency when identifying this sort of material. For example, the University of Technology Sydney Library identifies non-Australian editions as 'rare' if published before 1820,<sup>4</sup> Macquarie University Library and the State Library of Victoria segregate similar material published prior to the nineteenth century,<sup>5</sup> the NLA identifies pre-1801 material and selected material up to 1900 as rare,<sup>6</sup> the University of NSW considers non-Australian imprints prior to 1851 rare,<sup>7</sup> while the library of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) identifies items older than 50 years as rare if relating to aspects of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies.<sup>8</sup> In short, attempting to evaluate size, depth and quality of heritage book collections by simply comparing library material identified as 'rare' or 'special' is not particularly helpful. Similarly, any collection comparisons attempted through searches of Australia's national bibliographical database, *Libraries Australia*, are hampered by the continued non-listing of some major early holdings in state, university and special libraries, and the limitations of a database that cannot be searched for provenance.

Not only are we being challenged to come up with a definition of what might belong in a heritage book collection, but we are also facing the difficulty of identifying where this material actually resides. In a state library, for example, where only a small proportion of the book material is labelled rare or special, how do we assess the heritage significance of the rest of the collection? In a recent study identifying volumes from the personal library of Ludwig Leichhardt at the State Library of NSW, it was discovered that most of the books were scattered through the general reference collection and had not been segregated (Stephens 2007a). This was initially surprising because Leichhardt's manuscripts and diaries are considered one of the library's treasures, but is understandable when one is aware of the haphazard way in which such collections can be accessioned, sometimes over a period of decades. While this

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<sup>4</sup> See <http://www.lib.uts.edu.au/about-uts-library/policies-and-rules/rare-books-policy> [accessed 28 April 2009]

<sup>5</sup> See <http://www.lib.mq.edu.au/collections/rare.html> and [http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/about/information/policies/crdp\\_info/crdp/rare\\_printed/rare\\_books.html](http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/about/information/policies/crdp_info/crdp/rare_printed/rare_books.html) [accessed 12 April 2009]

<sup>6</sup> See [http://www.nla.gov.au/policy/cdp/chapter\\_18.html](http://www.nla.gov.au/policy/cdp/chapter_18.html) [accessed 12 April 2009]

<sup>7</sup> See <http://info.library.unsw.edu.au/monos/pdf/collectiondevpolicy082006.pdf> [accessed 12 April 2009]

<sup>8</sup> See [http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/2977/collection\\_policy.pdf](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/2977/collection_policy.pdf), p.11 [accessed 12 April 2009]

small collection has been subsequently relocated to rare books by a responsive cataloguing department, this is undoubtedly the tip of the iceberg and the logistics of identifying, cataloguing and preserving comparable material would be immense. Similar examples can be found in university, special and museum book collections across the country.

In NSW alone, libraries of some of Australia's oldest government institutions, dating back to the 1840s, hold more than half a million monograph and serial volumes.<sup>9</sup> While most of these libraries have identified some items within their collections as rare or special, limited resources make overall evaluations of the collections impossible. Many of these government special libraries, along with the State Library of NSW and University of Sydney Library, share material provenanced to pre-existing book collections of individuals, societies and lending libraries, and yet there is little information about these collection relationships and their potential cultural significance. While Australia's book heritage is predominantly represented in the NLA and state and university libraries, extremely important material lies outside of these institutions and remains little known at a state or national level.

Regardless of whether libraries have special collections formed by previous administrations, specific bequests or donations, or have been developed to meet the needs of contemporary stakeholders, each institution has an individualised approach to its rare book, special and heritage collections. Until relatively recently, any librarian arguing against a more standardised approach to the way we categorise 'heritage book collections' may have had a strong case in voicing concern about the imposition of a state or national definition over individual library needs. The time may have come, however, when we have little choice but to develop a unified approach and establish broader guidelines with input from those in all sectors.

As the electronic delivery of aggregated collections increases – whether it is the NLA's federated discovery services (including Libraries Australia, Picture Australia, Music Australia and Australia Dancing), the various union catalogues accessible through the portal of the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL), the *World Digital Library* from the Library of Congress, or access via Google – Australian collections are being forced to compete in a national and international context. We cannot sit back and allow Google Book Search's accidental scans of Australian content, with non-Australian provenances, to represent the history

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<sup>9</sup> This combined figure is based on published and reported holdings of the Australian Museum Research Library, Botanic Gardens Trust Library, Art Gallery of NSW Library, NSW Parliamentary Library and the Powerhouse Museum Library. For more information about the historical significance of these types of libraries, see Stephens 2007b.

of Australian engagement with the printed word over the last two centuries. While one cannot overestimate the contribution of such projects as the NLA's Australian Newspapers Digitisation Program in enabling greater access to Australian historical research tools, access to information about heritage book collections stored in libraries across the nation remains minimal.

The considerable effort put into developing Australian library and information infrastructure by the NLA and library peak bodies is well-documented (see NLA's 'Key elements of the Australian library and information infrastructure'), and while publications such as the recent strategic plan from National & State Libraries Australasia (NSLA) accentuate 'content discovery', 'digitisation of unique content' and 'collaborative collections' as goals, there appear to be underlying assumptions that may threaten the future of our historically significant book collections. At first glance, the NSLA strategic plan, though limited to a particular sector, might give heart to those working with Australian heritage book collections. There has never been a greater need for library professionals able to assist in the discovery, interpretation and description of heritage book content as libraries try to electronically record the existence of significant book collections in state, special, and even local public libraries and museums.

Yet 'content discovery' assumes that electronic records have already been created, whereas some large heritage libraries and many smaller libraries are struggling in a seriously under-resourced environment and their lack of success in creating records has fallen well below the radar. Similarly, NSLA's call to increase the digitisation of 'unique' heritage content is a worthy call if it includes book material that has been annotated, constitutes interesting physical formats, and contains Australian content ('unique' in the broader global digitised context), but there is certainly a need to clarify whether this term extends to printed book material at all. On first reading, NSLA's articulation of the need for 'collaborative collections' seems to offer the hope of a strategy to ensure a sustained, collaborative and cooperative approach to assessing the nation's book collections and perhaps to the preservation and survival of significant material. The fine print is more concerning:

We work in extremely similar collection environments, providing access to a large body of common material. We select, preserve and manage multiple physical and digital collections with a level of duplication... This project will identify options to reduce the duplication of resources within the context of our collection and access responsibilities. (NSLA 2008 p.12)

How likely is it that, in the quest for 'potential business models that will deliver efficiencies' (NSLA 2008 p.12), we will eventually see pressure placed on these larger libraries to deduplicate printed material common to the consortia



regardless of its integrity within local collections and/or its specific individuality? There is little evidence of libraries electronically documenting the historical relationships between printed objects held within their collections or of particularities of bindings, provenance, plate colouring and other points which give unique status to books of the same titles. Consequently, we lack essential information needed to accurately assess the significance of any 'duplicated' material facing de-accessioning.

No Australian library responsible for significant holdings of heritage book collections should be making long-term decisions about these collections without considering the possible impact on the future understanding of this material and its cultural context. The growth of 'book history' as a multi-disciplinarian approach to print culture has no doubt already impacted upon libraries, particularly those with research collections, and the following definition of 'book history' indicates why researchers are tapping into library resources in new ways:

In the broadest sense, book historians study the influence of manuscript or printed materials on the development and transmission of culture. Usually they concentrate on a group of related topics: authorship, bookselling, printing, publishing, distribution, and reading. A book historian places these activities into economic, technical, and cultural contexts for a particular time and place. The goal is to understand the role of the book in the history of a given society. The book can be examined as an art object, technological artifact, commercial product, or cultural signifier. (West 2003)

The number of monographs specifically exploring the 'history of the book' over the last decade, as listed on *Libraries Australia*, is more than twice that of the previous decade and interest appears to be flourishing. In addition to recent publications from specialised publishers like Oak Knoll Press, we have seen such titles as:

- *A history of the book in Australia 1891–1945: A national culture in a colonised market* (2001)
- *History of the book in Canada* (2004–2007)
- *Printing and book culture in late Imperial China* (2005)
- H.J. Jackson, *Romantic readers: The evidence of marginalia* (2005)
- *Paper empires: A history of the book in Australia 1946–2005* (2006)
- *American architects and their books 1840–1915* (2007)

- *The Edinburgh history of the book in Scotland* (2007)
- *The Cambridge history of the book in Britain* (1990-2008)
- Nathan Garvey, *The celebrated George Barrington: A spurious author; the book trade, and Botany Bay* (2008).

These printed sources are mirroring scholarly interest and research activity around the world in universities, through societies like the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing (SHARP – for courses, conferences and special programs see <http://www.sharpweb.org/>), and database projects such as the *Reading Experience Database, 1450–1945* and CERL's *Heritage of the Printed Book Database* (HPB). In recognition of this interest in the history of the book, some Australian libraries such as the Barr Smith Library at the University of South Australia, the Australian Museum Research Library and the State Library of NSW have been reforming important collections long since dispersed within their larger collections. To celebrate the centenary of the David Scott Mitchell bequest in 2007, the Mitchell Library's project involved the identification, preservation and creation of electronic bibliographic records of DS Mitchell's volumes over a period of four years. A dedicated group of volunteers worked under the guidance of library staff as they hunted for items signed by DS Mitchell on the Library's shelves. As a result, thousands of items were identified and their records are now accessible online. While it was a considerable financial undertaking with an average cataloguing cost of \$38.00 per item, one third of these books had not previously been listed on *Libraries Australia* and have enabled researchers to not only discover rare works held locally in Australia, but also to explore the book world of one of Australia's greatest philanthropists (Ellis 2006). Research benefiting from the project includes the work of 2006–07 CH Currey Memorial Fellow, Eileen Chanin, on David Scott Mitchell and his books, reading and the Australian creative spirit.

While many of our libraries have sections dedicated to rare printed material in their collections, the new digital and 'book history' context is driving us to look beyond these boundaries and to consider what other early book material may be considered valuable as Australian cultural heritage. These collections, while heavily represented in the NLA and state and university libraries, are also dispersed widely between special libraries, museum book collections, archives and some public libraries. Because of the diversity of institutions holding these collections, all sectors should be involved in the development of policy to support the identification of this material, the creation of electronic bibliographic records, preservation, digitisation and recognition of the historical relationships

between some of these collections. Libraries with heritage book collections are already developing projects that recognise the growing importance of book history and are assisting researchers to access what is often the unique raw material of Australia's book culture.

## Some current approaches to heritage book collections

At ALIA's biennial conference *Dreaming 08*, held at Alice Springs, Paul Genoni pulled no punches in his assessment of the handling of Australian legacy collections:

Currently the management of Australia's legacy print collections is proceeding in something of a policy vacuum, with seemingly little desire to tackle the issues around long-term management. ... The challenge for Australia's academic and other research libraries is to ensure that national initiatives are not confined to e-research infrastructure only, and that they can continue to promote the national importance and research value of their legacy print collections (Genoni 2008 p.13).

Genoni has written a number of papers advocating a shared print repository to house the legacy collections (a somewhat ambiguous term) of Australian research libraries. Discounting the broader issue of breaking up groups of physical items and separating them from institutions and communities for which they may have significant meaning, the perceived advantage of removing duplicates in repositories could threaten heritage book collections if there are no agreed criteria protecting material with limited bibliographic records or knowledge about its historical context. Yet Genoni is not alone in voicing his concern for the lack of a sensitive national approach in managing the future of research library collections and, whether or not one is comfortable with combined repositories, an approach to managing our physical collections that considers not only digitisation, but storage, future collaborative collecting strategies and heritage value may have some merit.

In discussions about the future management of heritage book collections, there has been some mention of 'significance' as applied to the built environment. JP McCarthy wonders whether some libraries in the UK – 'a time frozen collection in its original building with all of its original administrative resources still in place' – should be designated in the same way as a national monument (McCarthy 2007 p.353). Perhaps there is a place for a handful of such examples but in the case of Australia there will be few contenders, and the idea is as practical as turning every culturally significant house into a house museum.

Robert Darnton, a seminal player in the new approach to book history, recently wrote a piece in which he pleads for people not to think of research libraries simply as warehouses or museums, but as places of learning 'preserving the past and accumulating energy for the future' (Darnton 2008). While a current engagement with heritage book collections by community stakeholders is essential for the survival of this material, it is also the role of libraries and other organisations to communicate the value of these collections and ensure their survival for future users through a variety of strategies. In Australia, these collections are being communicated through numerous exhibitions and catalogues across all library sectors, publications such as *The World of the Book* (Cowley & Williamson 2007), library blogs, public programs involving rare book material in libraries as large as the NLA and as small as the library of the Sydney Botanic Gardens Trust, and cataloguing projects in which detailed electronic bibliographic records, including provenance, are being created. The museum sector has also been involved in connecting heritage book collections with the community, a recent example being the nineteenth century Historic Houses Trust property of Meroogal, in Nowra, New South Wales. The book collection of this historic house museum is being used as the inspiration for the 2009 Meroogal Women's Arts prize theme of *Books & the world of ideas*, where women are invited to explore the titles in the Meroogal library and use this resource to stimulate ideas for their artwork.<sup>10</sup>

There continue, however, to be gaps in the communication of information about heritage book collections, particularly the challenge of countering the belief that almost everything has been digitised and that there is no future role for physical objects. Such opinions may be present in all institutions caring for this material, but are probably of most immediate concern for those managing Australia's smaller heritage collections. As previously mentioned, some government agencies, societies, archives and local public libraries are responsible for significant heritage book collections; many are held in libraries which are little known, under-resourced and struggling to communicate relevance in the digital environment. Some of these heritage libraries date back to the first half of the nineteenth century and are responsible for collections of state or national significance and yet are funded no differently from any other library in the same sector.

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<sup>10</sup> Meroogal Women's Arts Prize 2009, [http://hht.net.au/museums/meroogal/meroogal\\_womens\\_art\\_prize](http://hht.net.au/museums/meroogal/meroogal_womens_art_prize) [accessed 10 April 2009]

Consequently, a library like the Australian Museum Research Library in Sydney, with a staff of four people, is attempting to provide access to a collection of almost 200,000 volumes, many of which are historically significant and in fragile condition, in addition to delivering reference and online services to its users. This phenomenon of smaller libraries attempting to provide access to nationally important heritage collections was also recently identified in a submission from Oxford University to a British parliamentary review of the museums, galleries, archives and audio-visual sectors. While voicing concerns on behalf of university libraries with nationally significant documentary collections, the University's argument no doubt resonates with some university and smaller Australian special libraries with heritage collections:

We believe that the concept of 'national' collections needs to be readdressed... The University libraries of Oxford and Cambridge receive little in the way of revenue funding directed at supporting preservation and access of these 'national' collections. These *de facto* 'national roles', are often not part of the core function of a university library or archive service, and can be considered as being at risk from insufficient funding to provide these broader functions and services at adequate levels.<sup>11</sup>

In Australia, it is often the combination of rare and unique book material, the subject-specific nature of these smaller heritage libraries and the expertise of their staff that generates demand. Given the level of experience with these specialised book collections and the relationship with such a specific user group, there is scope for these libraries to share this knowledge with holders of similar book heritage in other large or small libraries.

How then, over the longer term, does one recognise and protect heritage book material in libraries which tend to be marginalised from the big players and depend on having appropriately skilled staff and a sympathetic institutional management for their survival. In NSW, there is a mechanism for recognition available, through the NSW Heritage Branch, although this has been rarely applied to heritage book collections and lies outside the library system proper. The first library collection to be listed on the NSW State Heritage Inventory was the Old School of Arts Library Collection, Bathurst, in 2004. Managed by the Bathurst City Council Public Library, the collection consists of 2000 volumes and represents an estimated 7% of the estimated 30,000 books kept at the library's peak, in the 1950s. While much diminished in size and no longer

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<sup>11</sup> Great Britain. Parliament. House of Commons. Culture, Media, and Sport Committee. *Caring for Our Collections: Sixth Report of Session 2006-07*. vol 2, 157.

housed in its original location, the collection was considered significant at a local and state level for a number of reasons, including the survival of a number of catalogues which could be used to contextualise the books that still exist.<sup>12</sup> It has been recently observed that the collection is stored in good environmental conditions, but electronic access is not yet available, though a recommendation was made at the time of listing that the collection be added to *Kinetica* (now *Libraries Australia*).<sup>13</sup>

Parts of the Australian Museum Research Library have also been listed on the NSW State Heritage Inventory. NSW government agencies are required to compile a register of heritage assets (known as a Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register) and the Museum Library and Archives have been included as movable heritage on the Museum's register. The library's large and predominantly scientific collection of books dates back to the sixteenth century and retains most of the Museum's foundation book collection formed in the nineteenth century. The listing includes the rare book collection, special collections and all material accessioned prior to Federation – a proportion of which is discoverable via the AMRL's electronic catalogue and *Libraries Australia*.

As a way of recognising heritage book collections, the NSW State Heritage Inventory is a blunt instrument. It is a tool by which a collection may be tagged as significant, particularly if it is a collection still associated with the building in which it was originally formed, but it does not attempt to engage with the collection as a functioning library other than as a movable collection of objects. Such a listing is not an endorsement of the way in which a library is being managed, catalogued or communicated, although there are a number of local Bathurst websites promoting the Old School of Arts Library Collection as a local cultural attraction. In the end, however, we have been left with few other options if we wish to formally identify a smaller library's significance. As an alternative model, the Designation Scheme in the UK is a program designed specifically for the recognition of museum, library and archive collections and has been established by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. Since 2005, over 50 libraries and archives have been granted designation status and are recognised as belonging to a group with 'pre-eminent collections of national and international importance held

<sup>12</sup> 'Bathurst Old School of Arts Library Collection', State Heritage Inventory, [http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/07\\_subnav\\_01\\_2.cfm?itemid=5053088](http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/07_subnav_01_2.cfm?itemid=5053088) [accessed 12 February 2009]

<sup>13</sup> Elizabeth Robertson, Heritage Branch Librarian, pers. com. 19 March 2009

in England's non-national museums, libraries and archives, based on their quality and significance'. The application process is rigorous and libraries are required to prove not only their significance but that they meet set standards in cataloguing, collection management and services to the public. Libraries which have undergone the process report significant benefits in terms of the internal assessment of how the library manages and provides access to the collection, recognition and a sense of pride within the library's parent organisation, as well as greater external recognition (Sheppard 2008).

While Designation Scheme recognition assists libraries in Britain to raise additional funding, there is little option for smaller heritage libraries in Australia. Although the Collections Council of Australia will be launching its publication *Significance 2.0* in May 2009, it is expected to have only a broad application to libraries and there is no indication that it is intended to support the introduction of a program like the Designation Scheme. Public, community and society libraries are able to apply for small Community Heritage Grants from the NLA and this has enabled societies such as the Royal Society of NSW to commission heritage studies of their significant book collections (Branagan 2006; Tyler 2006). At worst, these grants enable groups to document the significance and state of preservation of key items and identify strategies for future management. However worthwhile the individual benefits of this funding are, the results tend to be piecemeal and do not feed into any overall strategy of care and recognition for these heritage book collections.

An important part of any attempt to coordinate a strategic approach to the future care and management of heritage book collections is collaboration between those holding such material. In February 2008, an inaugural meeting of NSW heritage libraries and archives was held at the NSW Parliamentary Library. Librarians and archivists from the Mitchell Library, NSW Parliament, Art Gallery of NSW, Australian Museum, Botanic Gardens Trust, Historic Houses Trust, and Powerhouse Museum attended a day-long meeting in which collections were described and shared issues identified. A second meeting was hosted by the Historic Houses Trust in August 2008, where common ground was found in a discussion of special collections cataloguing, agreement in sharing information about rare book cataloguing projects, and consideration of how new library and archives graduates could be encouraged to work with rare books and special collections. While it is early days, a third meeting is to be hosted by the Mitchell Library in the near future and it is expected that we will discuss further areas in which there is potential for co-operation or shared projects between our institutions.

## Where to from here?

There is no prescription for how we manage the future of our heritage book collections, but there are issues we should consider along the way:

- Heritage collections of state and national significance are not limited to the NLA, or state and university libraries. Important collections reside in many of our government institution libraries, society libraries, archives and museums.
- As collections are dispersed, is there scope for a census-like estimate of the extent of heritage book collections in Australian libraries, archives and museums? Which body could oversee such an exercise?
- The identification of heritage libraries and book collections needs to be followed by funding to support further management of these collections.
- As we head further into the digital age we should be careful not to limit our identification of cultural heritage to the rare book and special collections of our libraries – the extent is potentially greater and we may be at risk of losing more contemporary material.
- How effectively are we capturing provenance, annotations and other details in bibliographical records of likely book heritage candidates to ensure we are identifying material of significance?
- There may be advantages in managing our collections in a less segmented manner: what are the relationships between digitisation, preservation, storage, cataloguing and the identification of culturally important material? How does a decision for one impact on the others? Does additional funding for the development of Web 2.0, for example, impact on the depth of our catalogue records and our subsequent ability to identify heritage material in the future?
- Might the Designation Scheme be a useful model for recognising significant heritage collections in Australian libraries? Once again, who could oversee such a program?
- Finally, there needs to be a more established information tree by which heritage libraries, archives and museums are able to share knowledge and advice relating to their book collections.

As we saw with George Bennett's book at the opening of this paper, it is the decisions we make every day, big and small, which affect what material is available to pass on to the next generation. Surely it would be better for us to actively manage the future of our book collections and start by collaborating and pooling the extensive expertise we have in Australia. As we try to keep up with technological innovation and change in our libraries, we need to remind



ourselves that we are still responsible for heritage material, some of which we barely know, and we cannot presume to fully understand what significance this material may hold for future generations.

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**Matthew Stephens** is reference librarian at the Caroline Simpson Library & Research Collection, Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales. He is undertaking a PhD in the School of History and Philosophy, University of New South Wales, on the early history of the Australian Museum Library. In 2004, whilst employed at the Australian Museum Research Library, Matthew proposed and researched *John Gould Inc.*, an exhibition celebrating the bicentenary of the birth of the ornithologist and publisher. Matthew's email address is: [matts@hht.net.au](mailto:matts@hht.net.au).



# Book reviews

## Mapping to digital

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***Integrating geographic information systems into library services: a guide for academic libraries.* By John Abresch, Ardis Hanson, Susan Heron and Pete Reehling. Hershey, PA: IGI Global/Information Science Publishing, 2008. 301 pp. US\$99.95 hard cover ISBN 9781599047263.**

Works on geographic information systems (GIS) pervade the natural sciences and particularly the geosciences information domain. But how knowledgeable are today's librarians when it comes to managing this new data form? The move from the paper representation of maps to the multi-layered computerised representations of GIS systems is a paradigm shift for all who work in this domain, and that paradigm needs to be grasped by information professionals who work with GIS.

*Integrating geographic information systems into library services: a guide for academic libraries* is true to its title, although I might have added 'US', as most examples and case studies used are particular to that environment – yet the advice given in this book can be applied in any GIS library situation. As Patrick McGlamery, well known for his long-standing involvement in map librarianship, offers in his foreword:

... this book provides a vocabulary for discussing how to build and manage digital spatial data collections in libraries, integrating traditional map librarianship and contemporary issues in digital librarianship. Augmenting the services of the map library, GIS, a geospatial database management system, has uses that transcend the paper map.

This title presents a useful approach for the uninitiated in map librarianship, as it traces the technical developments in maps over time. The chapters contain a comprehensive summary of events and the literature thus far, two examples being Chapter 3 (Spatial Databases and Data Infrastructure) and Chapter 4 (Describing Geospatial Information). This approach works well for those of us who want to get to the crux of managing GIS and related spatial data, as the chapter headings speak for themselves and we can quickly skip over those with which we have familiarity, and home in on the particular. Nevertheless, the chapters on reference services, collection management

and library education tend to cover the general in more detail than I believe is necessary, since it is the uniqueness of the GIS and spatial data management and its impact on these three domains that are of most interest to the reader. The authors do get there, but the journey could be shorter.

Many large academic libraries have moved into the GIS world, as the examples given throughout the title show. The authors, all of whom work at the University of South Florida, take the reader on an incremental journey from Geography and Librarianship in Chapter 1 to a final chapter titled 'What the Future Holds'. They use their GIS library experience as a case study in the chapter on collection management.

One of the most refreshing aspects of the book is its seamless integration of this wholly digital domain into the field of librarianship. This is not yet another title about digital copies of books, but about a truly digital approach to an information resource that is valuable, ubiquitous and exciting. As the authors state, '...librarians with their traditional skills of information collection, description, organization, and dissemination, can provide a more holistic experience for the community of digital library users', but they must enter a brave new world to do this.

This title is most comprehensive and provides a necessary learning tool for those who venture into this exciting digital library domain. It is a must for those library schools that provide studies in the digital library area, since it expands considerably on digital library horizons for the library profession.

**Kerry Smith**

Curtin University of Technology

## Reflecting on recordkeeping 2.0

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***Managing the crowd: rethinking records management for the Web 2.0 world.***  
**By Steve Bailey. London: Facet Publishing, 2008. 172 pp. £39.95 hard cover**  
**ISBN 9781856046411.**

This slender volume is a welcome addition to the records management literature. It challenges some preconceptions about records management and questions the appropriateness of existing techniques and methodologies in dealing with Web 2.0 tools such as blogs and wikis. It makes a very refreshing change to read a records management book that is critically reflective of existing

practice, and is prepared to consider alternative approaches. However, a more rigorous theoretical basis would have resulted in a much more credible argument being put forward.

The author is a British records manager, and the intended readership seems to be his fellow records managers in Britain. This context is perhaps responsible for the first jarring note, as the claim is made that the fundamentals of records management theory have not been questioned until now. That, of course, is simply not the case, as the recordkeeping continuum model was developed in response to the need for a new theoretical underpinning for the digital environment.<sup>1</sup> Analysis of the recordkeeping continuum and related information continuum models would perhaps have helped the author avoid falling into the trap of proclaiming that records managers should broaden their scope to encompass the management of all information, not just records. If records managers fail to grasp why their efforts and techniques focus on that particular subset of information, then little progress will be made. Recognition of the existence of other practitioners such as librarians in the Web 2.0 space would really have strengthened and enriched the arguments that are made.

Nevertheless, the ideas discussed in this book deserve wide readership in the records management community and should certainly stimulate debate. In particular the lack of awareness or understanding of user behaviour that is a feature of records management deserves further consideration. As the author points out, there is very little research conducted in this area, and this is a fundamental contributing factor to the absence of genuine progress in developing new methodologies. If some of the concepts debated act as an impetus for further research projects, then this book will have served its purpose well. The style of writing is clear and to the point, which should encourage wide readership. One hopes that this book will act as a catalyst for change, rather than a set of precepts to be taken too literally.

**Gillian Oliver**

Victoria University of Wellington

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<sup>1</sup> Upward, F. (2000). Modelling the continuum as paradigm shift in recordkeeping and archiving process, and beyond - a personal reflection. *Records Management Journal*, 10(3), 115–39.

## Teaching and learning information literacy

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***Navigating information literacy: your information society survival toolkit.***

**By Theo Bothma, Erica Cosjin, Ina Fourie and Celia Penzhorn. Cape Town: Pearson Education South Africa, 2008. 196 pp. US\$45 soft cover ISBN 9781770252219.**

*Navigating information literacy* is a complete toolkit for teachers and students of librarianship and information management. It contains much that is required for the practical teaching of information literacy, collected together in one well set-out, easy to read volume. Its 12 logically arranged chapters follow the adult learning principle of relating what we are learning to what we already know. Beginning with basic definitions, the authors detail information sources and resources – books, periodicals and the Internet, as well as portals, gateways and library websites. The reader is guided through the construction of search queries for the Internet and online databases, together with instruction on organising and retrieving information on our own computers. Copyright issues and the ethical and free use of information are discussed, together with referencing and reference techniques and also the writing of assignments and research reports. Methods of evaluating information and information sources follow, and the book concludes with a chapter on 21<sup>st</sup> century communication. Features of this book are the provision of a list of learning outcomes and a list of key terms at the start of each chapter and a summary, a list of references and some critical thinking questions to stimulate discussion at the conclusion. The book is also extensively indexed.

For those of us who graduated last century, the most useful chapter examines 21<sup>st</sup> century communication. It considers the impact of technology on the modern world of work and leisure, and explains how social software enables the formation of links between members of online communities, thereby facilitating connection and collaboration. It explores the difference between Web 1.0 and Web 2.0 and goes on to define the working of blogs, wikis, the social networks YouTube, MySpace, Facebook, Livejournal and Flickr, as well as the social bookmarking sites del.icio.us, Simpy, Furl and CiteULike. Finally, it examines specialised social applications such as business networks, crowd-sourcing, social libraries and Library 2.0, which encourage users to participate in the provision of library services. The book concludes with a discussion

of the growth of mobile computing and gives valuable tips on evaluating the usefulness of information obtained from Web 2.0.

This work is a key resource for all library people involved in teaching information literacy skills – and isn't that everyone who works with clients and students in every type of modern library? I think so.

Helen Dunford

TAFE Tasmania

## Proven programmes for primary and secondary teacher librarians

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***Leadership for excellence: insights of national school library media Program of the Year award winners.* Ed. by Jo A. Carr for the American Association of School Librarians. Chicago: American Library Association, 2008. 120 pp. US\$39.00 (ALA members US\$35.10) soft cover ISBN 9780838909614.**

This book targets practising teacher librarians in both primary and secondary schools, offering short papers (with an average length of two pages each) on a wide range of specific, practical, achievable programmes and objectives. The contributors were identified as 'Program of the Year' winners (US), and in this book they verbally model exemplary practice to empower school librarians. Each paper focuses on the leadership role of teacher librarians (school library media specialists) but continually emphasises that each operates within a learning community which requires committed collaboration for maximum student-centred outcomes. There can be no effective leaders if there are no effective teams.

There is a short general introductory section which clearly defines the scope of the book and the definition of the editor's vision of leadership for teacher librarians. The primacy of communication, an essential element in collaboration, is never in doubt. All the short papers fit a common scaffold, beginning with a summary of a particular area of focus, objectives for the programme, the teacher librarian's role, the evidence of the contribution to student achievement, funding and evaluation. The 34 papers are short, specific, and focused. Each is different and outlines what works, briefly how it works, why it works and what value it offers.

The book has five sections: a vision of leadership, leadership in teaching and learning, leadership in information access and delivery, leadership in programme administration and a vision for the future. Within each of these is a cluster of relevant papers. In the teaching chapter there is a strategy for a topic in the music curriculum, a unit on keyword searching and a project for special education. In the administration chapter there is a paper on advocacy in the arena of public relations, a strategy to move to flexible scheduling and collaboration, a project focusing on mentoring and partnerships, ideas for attracting and keeping parent volunteers and a unit on integrating technology (even when the technology provision is less than perfect). The writing reminds teacher librarians that they are part of the teaching team with mutual goals, while respecting the individual classroom goals of their teaching partners, as well as being efficient managers of the library service in all its functions.

The appendix contains websites of schools honoured for their library programmes from 2008 back to 1963 – this extensive coverage is probably not really useful but the bibliography labelled 'Resources for Exemplary School Library Media Programs' contains some more recent print material and websites, and this could have some value.

The strengths of this book are the expertise of outstanding teacher librarian practitioners, the brevity and clarity of the papers, the single issue focus of each paper, the broad coverage of topics and the application to many school libraries over the whole spectrum of grades. This is a book for professionals to dip into and be inspired by and motivated to act. It comes highly recommended.

**Heather Fisher**

New England Girls' School

## **Integrating information literacy in academic curricula**

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***An introduction to instructional services in academic libraries.* Ed. by Elizabeth Connor. New York: Routledge, 2008. 288 pp. US\$34.95 hard cover ISBN 9780789037077.**

Successful students are information literate; and today more than ever before librarians in academic libraries are contributing considerable energy, knowledge and leadership to helping students develop the required information literacy skills. Increasingly academic staff are moving away from the one-off, 'show and tell',



library induction session at the start of the year, towards active collaboration with library staff to integrate information literacy into day-to-day class activities. At the same time, librarians are gaining an understanding of pedagogical principles and using active learning approaches such as including problem-solving case studies and small group work requiring critical thinking in their instruction sessions. No longer is information literacy education based on the self-paced workbook so popular with librarians in the 1980s. Instead of working through uninteresting exercises on how to use the catalogue, the periodical indexes and so on before getting to do any 'real' research, students today begin learning transferable skills from the start.

*An Introduction to instructional services in academic libraries* contains 20 case studies written by experienced librarian-instructors from academic libraries throughout Canada and the US. Each study is introduced by a brief description of the library and its institution, goes on to explain the objectives and methods of the project and concludes with the results and an evaluation of the project. Relevant documentation including resource lists, questionnaires and mission statements are included as appendices to some papers, and a section of chapter exercises is provided as a conclusion to the book.

However, the book is more than just a brag book of 'how we did it good in our library' anecdotes. It is a carefully arranged and coherent collection from over 40 contributors projecting a common theme – the integration of information literacy skills in the curricula of all academic learning. Projects presented in the case studies range from the use of personal response devices (clickers) in an interactive instruction session, through problem-based interdisciplinary instruction encouraging collaboration to graded online assignments for distance education students. Underlying themes are the importance of using subject-specific online resources in place of the ubiquitous Google and the vital skill of critically evaluating information, whatever its source. The case studies provide numerous session-planning templates, survey instruments, handouts, active learning exercises and extensive references, making this book the ideal practical resource for all academic educators and academic libraries developing integrated information literacy courses.

**Helen Dunford**  
TAFE Tasmania

## Essential and timely text for business case writers

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***Business cases for info pros: here's why, here's how.* By Ulla De Stricker. Medford, NJ: Information Today, 2008. 107 pp. US\$39.50 soft cover ISBN 9781573873352.**

Writing an effective business case is part art and part science. In *Business cases for info pros* De Stricker shares her experience and explains why, how and when a business case works. This timely book will be particularly useful for information professionals with strengths in qualitative information and needing to build effective quantitative business cases for their ideas. Decision makers are forced during recessions, redundancies and periods of retrenchment, to focus on economic issues. Unless business cases have a compelling cost benefit analysis to enable decision makers to determine the return on investment, good ideas and development opportunities may be overlooked. Numbers are quantifiable and measurable, and expectations by management regarding business communication and methods vary. De Stricker lists key points to cover in developing business cases to gain funding for operational changes or for offering new services that may provide solutions and benefits for organisations.

The first chapter is devoted to exploring the decision-making context, and clarifying terms and approaches to consider in planning. Chapter 2 deals with the essential financial aspects. It is brief and succinct but helps one decide how to best justify a business case in financial terms. Chapter 3 explains what goes into the process of writing the business case. Chapter 4 provides a detailed framework for writing a full business case that includes all the potential components. Depending on the type of organisation, one can adapt and tailor the case to meet different needs and situations. For guidance in deciding on the style and informational content of a business case, read this chapter. Chapter 5 provides instructions for a briefer, three or four page business case in a memo format based on the full business case format for use when an organisation or situation requires. What makes this book particularly useful are the three case studies in Chapter 6, demonstrating how these principles may be applied in typical library and information workplace situations. This is followed by the help provided in Chapter 7 on how to present business cases in person. In Chapter 8 De Stricker provides four different layout versions of the same content of a sample business case to show that the written appearance of a business case matters. The final chapter provides a checklist designed to pick up any errors or omissions.

Reach for this essential book when you next need to write a business case. Tightly written, it will guide you through the time-consuming and detailed process of gathering information, preparing documents and presenting ideas persuasively. Those new to the challenges of writing effective business cases will relish the helpful, practical approach De Stricker offers. Experienced business case writers will gain new perspectives and refresh their skills.

**Lois Robertson**  
Archives New Zealand

## Well worth consulting on consulting

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***Is consulting for you? A primer for information professionals.* By Ulla De Stricker. Chicago: American Library Association, 2008. 144 pp. US\$40.00 (ALA members US\$36.00) soft cover ISBN 13: 9780838909478.**

Libraries employ consultants for all sorts of reasons – managing projects, benchmarking, problem solving, strategic planning and for special expertise and objective advice. De Stricker makes the points that ‘information and knowledge management is the domain of librarians’, and that librarians and information professionals possess skills which are well-suited to consulting. She identifies opportunities for librarians in consulting to libraries and library-like entities (e.g. archives, museums), non-library knowledge-intensive organisations and information and publishing industries.

This is a very practical book, drawing on the author’s experience in the information industry and in running her own consultancy company. She writes in an entertaining way about what consulting is, the realities of life as a consultant, and the personal characteristics needed. For example, she addresses the perceptions (sometimes reality) of being a consultant, including ‘I make a difference’, ‘My experience can benefit many’, ‘I’m in charge of my own schedule’, ‘I’m at home’. She also asks difficult questions to help prospective consultants determine whether consultancy is for them, such as: ‘Do you have patience and emotional detachment?’ ‘Could you work several months at a stretch without a day off if projects pile up?’ ‘Are you comfortable working alone?’ ‘Do you have the experience and courage of conviction to put forward your own recommendations?’ De Stricker also lists pitfalls, such as unpredictable income, uneven schedules, impact on family life, professional

isolation, 'work is all around me', and gives tips on how to deal with these issues. Practical examples illustrate her advice on establishing your business, marketing, writing proposals, dealing with contracts, and fee-setting.

The book is well structured, with tips and examples given throughout; there is a list of background reading (universally useful) on the career outlook for consultants, and a list of resources (mostly North American) for small businesses. The index is excellent – clear, logical and comprehensive. I highly recommend this little book – it is very readable, and it will interest those who hire consultants, those who work as consultants and those who think they might like to try consulting.

**Sherrey Quinn**

Libraries Alive! Pty Ltd

## Mixed bag of archives and records case studies

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***Leading and managing archives and records programs: strategies for success.***  
**Ed. by Bruce W. Dearstyne. London: Facet Publishing, 2008. 346 pp. £44.95 soft cover ISBN 9781856046541.**

The foreword describes this book as 'an all-star lineup of archives and records management leaders sharing stories of success and failure'. The 13 leaders represented have each contributed a chapter, and the reader is given to believe that each chapter will relate personal experience of leadership. Two contributors are British, the remainder from the United States. The editor claims that the book provides 'accumulated wisdom that can be considered and applied by others'. The target audience includes practitioners and students.

As can be expected, the result is very much a mixed bag, and the promise of reflective case studies is not consistently delivered. Some chapters are an uneasy mix of fairly dry discourses on generic leadership qualities coupled with tales of personal achievement. Other chapters include no personal detail at all, and do not seem to have made any attempt even to address the overall theme of the book. The chapter on standards, for instance, provides a useful overview of records management standards but there is no attempt to link this topic to leadership. Similarly, the chapter describing Britain's National Archives' Seamless Flow programme provides some detail that will be of interest to national archival authorities transitioning from a focus on paper to digital records. This is tangentially related to the book's subject matter by referring to

the National Archives' leadership role in digital archiving, but the chapter does not discuss personal leadership at all.

Those contributors who did rise to the challenge, however, are certainly worth reading. In particular, Edie Hedlin, former Director of the Smithsonian Institution Archives, provides a great deal of insight in the account of her career. She not only relates her achievements but also discusses the mistakes that were made. This type of reflection is extremely vivid and effective, and the lessons learned are relevant to anyone in management positions, not just archivists and records managers. Other chapters provide insight into particular contexts. For instance, Peter Emmerson's account of Barclays Bank and Philip Mooney's reflections on archives and the corporation are useful contributions to the sparse literature relating to business archives.

The majority of the contributions definitely do not fulfil the promise of the foreword and preface. There is not much mention of failure, which can be so much more informative and instructive than accounts of success. There is much that is useful in this book, but in most cases this is due to subject matter incidental to the book's primary objective.

**Gillian Oliver**

Victoria University of Wellington

## **Library branding communicates relevance and value**

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***Creating your library brand: communicating your relevance and value to your patrons.* By Elisabeth Doucett. Chicago: American Library Association, 2008. 160 pp. US\$45.00 (ALA members US\$40.50) soft cover ISBN 9780838909621.**

There are very few books published on the topic of library brands – indeed this may well be the first. So it is good to find this book and discover that it is a concise yet eminently practical introduction to branding for librarians. Who will actually read it is less obvious.

Doucett sensibly treats branding as a part of marketing. Branding, she says, is about creating a clear, meaningful, unique message. Brands tell a story about the organisation and communicate the benefits that the organisation can offer. A brand needs constant application by all members of staff, she says, in a point

reiterated several times for effect. The message of the brand emanates from the mission of the organisation, which means that maintaining strategic alignment between the brand and the mission is crucial.

One of the key chapters is Why Brand? It explains why libraries should engage in branding exercises and the benefits that should result. This is no idle task simply because many librarians are sceptical, indeed some are hostile, to an activity they regard as representing some of the worst elements of commerce. The justification given by Doucett is simply practical. In order to justify the money the library takes from the public purse it must communicate its relevance and value to all its stakeholders. That does not just happen through good service, as the corporate world knows; you have to help the process along with the story contained in a brand.

This is a book that seems well-grounded in theory, yet seldom refers to the theory directly. There is no mention, for example, of brand equity. Instead it offers plenty of practical advice on matters as diverse as writing the creative brief, developing a visual identity and performing a brand audit to evaluate the status of the brand. To reinforce the message of practicality there are numerous case studies throughout the book, all of them set in public libraries. There are references in the text to notable brands such as Maxwell House and Nike, but none (except on the back cover) that I could find to McDonald's, surely one of the best developed brands in the world and one that really can work as a good model for libraries.

This work is apparently intended as a form of textbook, though perhaps not one to be used in a classroom. There are end-of-chapter exercises, FAQs throughout the book, and numerous 'tips' and 'suggestions for success'. There is a glossary and a good index - this makes it possible to enter the book at almost any point, depending upon prior knowledge and interest, and still pick up the benefits of the content. It all adds up to a very useful publication, but one that may not have an immediate market. Nevertheless, it should be read by all library managers.

**Philip Calvert**

Victoria University of Wellington

## Refreshing work on learning leadership

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***In the leadership mode: concepts, practices and tools for a different leadership*, by Don Dunoon. Victoria, B.C., Trafford Publishing, 2008. 229 pp. US\$32.50 soft cover ISBN 9781425163761 (available at [www.trafford.com/08-0160](http://www.trafford.com/08-0160))**

This is a highly-readable, thought-provoking, well-organised book about leadership style, and it fits easily into the consensus and evidence-based practice culture of Australian libraries. The author, Don Dunoon, is Australian, formerly internal ombudsman with the ABC, and now runs a Sydney-based organisational development and planning consultancy.

His interest is 'learning-centred leadership', where leadership derives its legitimacy and effectiveness from individual and group learning processes, rather than from authority vested in hierarchy.

The author argues for a different view of leadership which 'involves people working together to inquire into present realities, to develop common understandings about what they want to achieve – allowing that contention may still exist – and to marshal energy to make their preferred futures eventuate.'

Dunoon argues that the benefits of being *In the leadership mode* include:

. . . bringing the mental resources of a greater diversity of people to bear on dealing with contentious problems; allowing more of the available intelligence to be applied to such problems; and establishing a clearer focus on the real work of leadership (rather than using the language of leadership, but enacting management in practice).

The book is divided into two parts with the first introducing the concepts of learning-centred leadership, and the second providing a framework of practices and tools to be used to apply the concepts. Case 'stories' – not case studies – support the narrative and 'illustrate opportunities for action, and challenges faced in the leadership mode.' And yes, as well as comprehensive end notes and a useful index, there **is** a library case story.

Each of the 10 chapters begins and ends with a clear summary and includes 'questions for reflection' intended to reinforce learning. This structure is particularly helpful when the author introduces his 'ARIES Framework', a set of tools and techniques which put into effect a leadership model based on individual and group learning processes – as distinct from task-oriented management practices.

The ARIES acronym covers five learning-leadership practices:

**A**ttending – giving full attention, perceiving holistically, and differentiating between observations and inference

**R**electing – making sense of stakeholder objectives and experience

**I**nquiring – asking questions to build shared meaning and effect ‘deep-reaching’ change

**E**xpressing – framing and presenting personal views in relation to the issue and the views of others

**S**ynthesizing – enabling stakeholders to understand their current realities from fresh perspectives.

Dunoon not only explains his new leadership mode, but also describes how to get into it, all the while mercifully free of a sustained focus on self-awareness, replacing this with a cogent argument for individual contributions to group learning. I thought the book was the most accessible and refreshing text on leadership I’ve read for a long time, and I’ll wager you will too. Highly recommended.

**Ian McCallum**

Libraries Alive! Pty Ltd

## Engaging teenage girls with technology

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***Teen girls and technology: what’s the problem, what’s the solution?* By Lesley Farmer. New York: Teachers College Press; Chicago: American Library Association, 2008. 192 pp. US\$35.00 (ALA members US\$31.50) soft cover ISBN 13: 978083909744.**

When you picture teens and computers, it’s always a boy in the picture. Change the picture to a mobile phone and it’s a girl instead. We have these ideas of how teens and technology fit, which hold true in many instances, especially as girls approach their teens, with studies showing that they fall behind boys at this age. Despite the stereotype of the millennial generation and familiarity with technology, many teen girls lag behind boys in their understanding and use of technology.

What can we do to help the girls make up this gap? Farmer’s book begins by looking at the real situation, away from the stereotypes. She outlines



developmental, millennial and 21<sup>st</sup> century views and looks at how girls are interacting with technology, including, specifically, girls and gaming.

She then examines the problem, including societal messages and issues relating to family, society, economy, government and education and how they make an impact. It is not all bad news though, as Farmer shows there are solutions, coming from local and international sources, which can make a positive impact on the problem. However, Farmer also shows that if these strategies are to succeed and we are to see girls as comfortable with technology as boys are, then adults will have to play a significant role, as will the technological resources used, the different types of access to the technology and the different ways girls can use it.

Farmer gives the reader a great start on this journey by including a comprehensive section of technology-enhanced learning activities. These are based on the appropriate environments, which include school-based, community-based and family-based. She covers how these groups can engage teens and includes examples of activities.

The author gives a comprehensive overview of the issue, illustrating to the reader the real situation, the issues involved and the solutions for those who are willing to make a commitment to the problem, whether education, community or home. Although not aimed at library staff, there is something here for anyone working with teen girls and technology, but particularly for those working in school or public libraries. There are some great and timely ideas on how to engage girls with technology.

**Michelle McLean**

Casey-Cardinia Library Corporation

## Books on books

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***Burning books.* By Matthew Fishburn. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008. 256 pp. US\$59.95 hard cover ISBN 13: 9780230553286.**

***Books: a memoir.* By Larry McMurtry. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2008. 259 pp. US\$35.00 hard cover ISBN 9781416583349.**

Burning and collecting books are at the opposite ends of the biblio-spectrum. Matthew Fishburn, a specialist with Hordern House Books in Sydney, originally began a PhD on fire in literature but soon found that the subject was so vast it

overwhelmed him, 'but as I talked to people about my research, I found many assumed that I meant burning books and I became fascinated with the subject. At the time I was working on a catalogue of books about imaginary voyages and utopias and I discovered book burning regularly featured in both.'

The fascinating and learned text of *Burning books* reflects the chronology of Fishburn's original thesis, focusing on the background of the book burnings in Nazi Germany, although his introduction, opening chapter and the postscript provide wider historical contexts. The postscript highlights the publication of Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* in 1953. Although Bradbury has said that the book burnings in *Fahrenheit 451* were inspired by the 1933 Nazi book burnings, he affirmed in 2007 that the book itself was not about censorship: 'the culprit in *Fahrenheit 451* is not the state — it is the people.' Bradbury saw television as a major threat to reading books. Suppressing ideas by burning books has appealed to totalitarian regimes throughout history, but was perhaps given most recognition by the Nazi book burnings. Fishburn says that:

one of the things that I found in researching this book was that you see a certain suite of famous events being discussed or mentioned constantly. So you see the Nazi burning of the books, you see Rushdie's book being burnt, being mentioned all the time, but you very rarely see that other submerged history. ... If there's a regime of the censor and there's a police state, people will cleanse their own libraries.

Fishburn concludes that he has sought to study 'this tension between proscription and desire, rather than resolve it' and that 'our relationship with books and language is never a simple one'. According to Fishburn, many writers have 'reserved the idea of burning books as a possible, maybe even a necessary act of redemption'.

Fishburn notes that deliberate book burnings have declined, unlike accidental library or bookshop fires, although pulping of books, particularly by libraries and publishers, has increased. Fishburn lists the well-known book losses/burnings as the Library at Alexandria, the Library of Congress by the British, the loss of Louvain Library in 1914, the attacks on Salman Rushdie, the bombardment of the library in Sarajevo in 1992 and the National Library and Archives destruction in Baghdad in 2004. Fishburn has established a website (<http://burningbookspalgrave.blogspot.com/>) because 'there were many images and even more quotes and references that did not make the cut' in his book, providing an essential supplement to *Burning books*. Did you know that novelist Ford Madox Ford used bacon rashers as bookmarks while at the breakfast table?

Pulitzer Prize winner Larry McMurtry began collecting books when he was a student at Rice University in Houston in the late 1950s, a few years before his novels brought him literary fame. McMurtry, the author of some 40 books, including *The last picture show*, *Lonesome dove* and *Terms of endearment*, has been a writer and bookseller, or as he terms it a 'book wrangler', since the early 1960s. He describes *Books: a memoir* as a 'hasty account of my life with books', and it certainly reveals an overall lack of form. McMurtry pre-empts criticism of his approach, citing that the antiquarian book trade itself is as 'an anecdotal culture'. *Books: a memoir* resembles some of the long-gone bookshops McMurtry describes – rambling, disorganised yet with bibliophilic jewels still to be found.

McMurtry deliberately avoids, which on one level is a pity, 'personality-driven comments, such as 'should Warren Howell have bought that last suspect bunch of books? Did Johnny Jenkins gamble unwisely? Was H.P. Kraus ever friendly?' McMurtry is also frustratingly brief in many of his 109 short chapters, some of which are less than a page long. 'Ought Dealers to Collect?' deserved more text, and bold statements, such as in Chapter 69 ('many bookmen...rarely, if ever, read') are not followed through.

Maybe part of the problem is that McMurtry has already written about his early life and bookselling elsewhere, notably in his 1999 book *Walter Benjamin at the Dairy Queen*. In the section of that book titled 'Book Scouting' McMurtry recalls his life as a book scout and collector, growing up in Archer City, a remote part of Texas, 'a bookless part of a bookless state'. McMurtry later transformed Archer City into a booktown, buying up old buildings in an attempt to make it into a 'musty Mecca for bibliomaniacs' (see <http://www.bookedupac.com/>). His Booked Up shops there now contain 400,000 books in five buildings around the Archer City courthouse square. McMurtry says the only books not stocked are his own, partly because he doesn't want to be asked to sign them!

McMurtry's website indicated in late 2007 that he might temporarily close his shops for economic reasons, but happily this has not occurred. He acknowledges, however, that 'there are certainly better ways to make money than selling second-hand books'. McMurtry ranges over the many booksellers he has known, from California to Washington, and laments the bookshops which have disappeared largely due to high city rents, the Internet and ageing book buyers. McMurtry notes his Archer City customers are all over 45.

Age will not weary in the short term those book buyers, but the bookshop's infinite variety has certainly gone into cyberspace for better or for worse. The destruction of virtual libraries is perhaps a future topic for Mathew Fishburn when 'the machine stops'.

**Colin Steele**

Australian National University

## Home-schooling relies on public libraries

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***Helping homeschoolers in the library.* By Andrienne Furness. Chicago: American Library Association, 2008. 144 pp. US\$35.00 (ALA members US\$31.50) soft cover ISBN 13: 9780838909553 (available from *InBooks*).**

As home-schooling is becoming part of the mainstream, it is increasingly important for librarians to acquaint themselves with ways to provide services for these heavy public library users. Research from the National Center of Education Statistics shows that 1.1 million students are being home-schooled in the US alone, with 78 per cent of the parents relying on public libraries as their main providers of resources.

Furness writes as an experienced head librarian in the Children and Family Services Department at the Webster Public Library in Webster, New York. She was also the administrator of a home-schooling grant from 2005 to 2007.

The way in which this book is structured enables a librarian or a home-schooling parent to pick it up and dip into the practical suggestions which are most helpful. In the first section Furness describes the different reasons people choose to home school or 'unschool'. Resource lists are tailored specifically to a number of different groups of home-schoolers. There are resources recommended especially for those of particular faiths, those who are catering to students with special needs and those with a variety of educational philosophies. The second part is an invaluable reference for librarians or home-schoolers which suggests many websites, magazines, books, catalogues and other print and electronic resources.

As well as an overwhelming number of useful websites, Furness also writes a blog to keep librarians and home-schoolers up to date on developments in this field. Even the electronic discussion lists and groups suggested are highly

recommended in order that librarians might not just provide information, but also assist with supporting those who can be feeling isolated from others in similar situations. Tips for librarians wishing to connect with groups of home-schoolers are also included as is information on designing programmes, displays and building special collections. The author quotes Mary Price, who reminds us that 'librarians would do well to remember that the home-schooler they see today could be a public schooler or private schooler tomorrow...and the public or private schooler they see today could be a home-schooler tomorrow'.

Librarians will undoubtedly enjoy the profiles which serve to illustrate ways in which home-schoolers connect with librarians, but the book is set out in such a user-friendly manner that it can be skimmed quickly and easily for those who require it as a quick reference guide to tips and ideas for assisting home-schoolers. Although the examples and statistics in this book are primarily American, it would certainly be of interest to all librarians, especially those working in children's services, as the number of students being home-schooled continues to climb.

Sarah Cooper  
Spring Farm, NSW

## Useful tips for creating a career

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***What's the alternative? Career options for librarians and info pros.* By Rachel Singer Gordon. Medford, NJ: Information Today, 2008. 272 pp. US\$35.00 soft cover ISBN 9781573873338.**

*What's the alternative?* is accurately categorised by subject headings in its own CIP information as 'vocational guidance' for both 'library science' and 'information science'. This is a decent vocational primer of North American provenance, which is fairly easy to digest. It is pitched at most permutations of the modern information professional. Author Rachel Singer Gordon is described as 'Consulting Editor, Information Today, Inc., Book Publishing Division, and Webmaster, LISjobs.com.' She has written several books on similar themes, also regularly presenting on career development issues for librarians.

Being concerned with career development options for 'librarians and info pros' Singer Gordon's book is likely to be of more than fleeting interest for many. It is an effective marriage of various elements, including modern anecdotes

and histories from those working in diverse settings who have traversed (or forged) alternative career paths. These illustrations appear as 'sidebars' within the textual sequence. There are frequent references to the mandatory American MLS qualification throughout, although the author legitimately aims her book at all library workers. Transitions from what has traditionally been perceived as 'a fairly stable profession' into other fields are also documented in a supporting bibliography of books and articles from the last couple of decades.

Content is logically structured into chapters dealing with appropriate topics. These include: 'making the leap' (preparatory investigations), 'organizations similar to (and those serving) libraries and librarians' (for instance vendors, LIS schools, publishers, bookstores, archives, nonprofits, government), 'striking out on your own' (and) 'building a business', 'information work' (including, but not limited to, competitive intelligence, knowledge management and information architecture) and 'working in IT outside of libraries'. The style of writing is almost conversational, flowing naturally while also integrating concise arrays of focal points, websites and endnotes within the text.

The practicality of Singer Gordon's subject content and her great scope, especially in sampling many non-traditional library and information-related careers, are arguably the most attractive facets of the book. While synthesising introductory-level data about a significant range of alternative careers and suggesting appraisals of personal skills within the perennial life-work dynamic, she provides enough detail to encourage deeper research by readers.

*What's the alternative?* traverses a series of shared personal career histories and strategic career checklists – documenting one's strengths; pragmatic financial planning; identifying transferable skills and qualities; entrepreneurial or freelance work; commercial, public or non-profit environments; teaching, public speaking and research and writing skills. Using such foci, the author lends universality to a book that has been written for a North American readership and career contexts. The global nature of modern life, the international presence of publishers, vendors, media and other stakeholders and the proliferation of library, information and communications careers legitimately positions this useful resource for a wider readership.

**Michael Cullen**

University of Notre Dame Australia – Sydney

## Useful tips for creating a business plan (2)

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***Creating your library's business plan: a how-to-do-it manual with samples on CD-ROM.* By Joy HP Harriman. London: Facet Publishing, 2008. 280 pp. £64.95 soft cover ISBN 9781856046565.**

A business plan is an essential tool for libraries, to help set clear strategies and objectives for operating an efficient and effective service. While business planning is a key role for all library managers, creating a meaningful business plan from scratch can sometimes seem like a daunting task. This practical guide dispels the fear around business planning and presents a straightforward approach to creating a business plan within a library context. The author breaks down the material into manageable segments to make the task of creating the plan much less overwhelming.

This reader-friendly guide is divided into 10 chapters which follow a step-by-step process for creating the plan. Initial chapters deal with the reasons for and functions of a business plan and outline the essential components of a quality plan. Following this general overview, further chapters focus on specific elements of the plan, including: describing the service concept; vision and mission; conducting assessments and situational analysis; formulating objectives; determining strategies and action plan; and creating a marketing plan. The final chapters focus on evaluating the success of the plan, financial planning, and methods for communicating the plan.

The volume is structured so that the reader may follow the process from start to finish creating a business plan in full, or jumping to a section of choice and focusing on specific elements, e.g. a marketing plan. If a business plan already exists (as would be the case for most libraries), then skipping sections will not affect overall understanding, as the chapters are quite self-contained. This one-stop resource incorporates the literature on the topic and provides case study examples which put into context the concepts covered. This makes the material much easier to digest when looking at practical examples from a range of libraries, including Australian examples.

It is a hands-on guide, with a very strong focus on 'doing'. This is not a volume to read through from start to finish and put back on the shelf, but rather to read and act on as you are going through the planning process. It is designed for prompting action, and the author provides practical guidance and poses questions to consider during the planning process. Over 30 worksheets throughout the text provide an immediate starting point, and these are all

featured on the CD in Microsoft Word format, ready to be adapted to your library's needs. The CD also contains copies of the sample library plans referred to in the text, including public, academic and special library plans in their entirety with original formatting. The CD has a Web interface for browsing, or can be browsed through folders.

Overall, this is a useful, practical guide that prompts the review and revision of current business planning practices. It would be particularly useful for library managers and marketing personnel, both for those new to business planning and as a refresher for more experienced planners. From a special library perspective, the templates are particularly useful and save reinventing the wheel.

**Troy Watson**

Emergency Management Australia

## Academic library relevance

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***Defining relevancy: managing the new academic library.* Ed. by Janet McN. Hurlbert. Libraries Unlimited Library Management Collection. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2008. 274 pp. £25.95 soft cover ISBN 9781591584193.**

'Defining relevancy'? Now there's an error, you say (as did I). Surely it should be 'Defining relevance'. However, upon consulting my trusty Macquarie, I have to say it is not an error – either word is acceptable.

So what is relevant to the management of the modern academic library? The academic environment is evolving rapidly as knowledge, technology and consumer behaviour interact to amplify change. Among the challenges identified for academic libraries involved in this are the educational preparation of academic librarians, information literacy instruction, distance education, digital resources and social software, competition, collaboration and defining the library as its own 'place'.

Janet Hurlbert has assembled papers from 24 recognised experts in their fields, and the papers focus on these and other issues confronting the academic library manager when setting strategic directions. Divided into six broad subject categories, the book concludes with a seventh section – a bibliographic essay on issues and challenges for the future, which directs the reader towards a very broad range of print and electronic resources.



The two papers in the first section analyse the library's users and discuss the changing demographics of coming generations of students and their increasing use of social software for sharing information. Section 2 then looks at 'place planning' and the library's physical building and its services. Collaboration for Learning, the third section, contains three papers which examine opportunities for library staff to collaborate with academic staff in developing courses which promote information literacy. Section 4 (Promoting the Library) examines the nature of the competition faced by the campus library. This section explores opportunities for forming campus and community partnerships which can benefit the library, the institution and the community. The final sections deal with issues of staffing, service levels, assessment tools, technical services and areas in which the library can aim and take on new directions for the future.

Some of the papers contain case studies and models which can be adapted by the reader to suit individual situations. There are also planners, checklists and templates which can be used when preparing reports or planning strategic directions. This book maintains a primary focus on the institution's purpose – education and learning, within the context of the multiple factors which the library manager must consider and act upon. It offers an optimistic and enthusiastic approach which will serve library managers well to make libraries ever more relevant to their many stakeholders.

**Helen Dunford**

TAFE Tasmania

## **Matched pair on preparing persuasive project proposals**

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***From idea to funded project: grant proposals for the Digital Age.* 5th ed. By Julia M. Jacobsen and Jan F. Kress. Westport, CT: Praeger Publishers, 2008. 157 pp. US\$34.95 soft cover ISBN 9780275990879.**

***Library project funding: a guide to planning and writing proposals.* By Julie Carpenter. Chandos Information Professional Series. Oxford: Chandos Publishing, 2008. 217 pp. \$111.05 soft cover ISBN 9781843343806.**

Contemporary libraries, archives, and information management environments operate with changing funding structures and strategic management practices. Emphasis is placed on accountability, performance measures and evaluation.

Increasingly, development of resources or services is the end result of writing effective project proposals. Many of these projects involve partnerships with external stakeholders and applications for funding from external funding agencies.

Jacobsen and Kress are familiar with developing successful project proposals for non-profit organisations in the US funding environment. Their guide focuses on what external funding agencies expect, and how applicants can take their idea, write a successful project proposal and turn it into a funded project. This book is primarily a workbook, presented in two parts.

Part 1, half of the book, guides the reader through the process of developing the idea into a project. It starts with the origin and early development of the idea, outlines the roles and responsibilities of both the institution and the originator, and lists specific people and their tasks. It then moves on to the process of writing the proposal, giving an explanation of each component part to be considered. The authors stress that every funding source has its particular requirements for submission of a proposal, and advice on matching a project to a funding source is given. Guidelines are included for analysing a proposal and testing the soundness to meet criteria set by external funding agencies. Jacobsen and Kress caution the necessity of following the funding guidelines to the letter and give helpful examples to prevent a proposal from being rejected on technicalities. The section on grant administration will be particularly useful for institutions without staff responsible for managing grant funds. It provides advice on responding to sponsors, checklists for securing and spending awarded funds, advice on negotiating an agreement when full funding has not been awarded for a project, what to do if a proposal is rejected, and recordkeeping relating to the grant funding. Part 1 concludes with a section on minimising risk and planning effective evaluation to meet the various needs of the sponsors and end users. Evaluation during and on completion of a project is seen as a learning process integral to the project and providing useful outcomes. Whether a project fails or succeeds, analysis of what went right or wrong, what unexpected internal or external factors affected the project, and the final impact of the project is essential.

Part 2 covers basic resources, including useful acronyms, essential basic information sources, sources for assistance and training, forms and required information and an annotated bibliography. It concludes with an index that is particularly helpful in locating the 38 exhibits, including examples, models, tables and case studies that support the text.

The content, style and presentation of this publication reflect its US origin. It is generously supplied with examples of forms and advice for applications to external funding agencies based on information relating to requirements in the United States in 2007. The principles in this guide can easily be applied to a range of projects and institutions. Although it is aimed at applications to external funding agencies, the forms make excellent models for project proposals within an organisation to improve its processes and records for managing projects.

Compared with Jacobsen and Kress, Carpenter's approach is broader and reflects the European environment from which it emerges. Her book outlines principles to apply to a range of projects. Like Jacobsen and Kress, Carpenter stresses the importance of getting the details right, providing the evidence required and matching the proposal to the funding criteria. Carpenter also provides checklists to assist with the process, figures and tables with explanatory diagrams and charts, and samples for the reader. In the first chapter Carpenter defines what a project is, describes key terms, and outlines the steps in planning and writing proposals that she elaborates on in subsequent chapters.

Chapter 2 covers the initial steps in developing and defining an idea into a project proposal. It focuses on determining what a project is for, who will be involved, how long the project is likely to take and cost, and the importance of identifying a project champion. Chapter 3 gives advice on matching project ideas to funding opportunities, deciding where to search for funding and whether the project might fit external funding criteria. Deciding to search for funding by the focus of the project or the relevant sector may depend on exactly what kind of funding is required (e.g. equipment, seeding, research) and who will be the beneficiaries of the project. Building partnerships, the costs and benefits of partnerships, working in partnerships, and the roles and responsibilities of project partners is covered in Chapter 4. Chapter 5 outlines different types of supporting information and evidence needed for internal or external funding from environment scanning, SWOT analysis, business cases and cost-benefit analysis, socio-economic assessment, business planning, and market research for evidence of benefit to end users.

Chapter 6 helps the reader set out project aims, breaks objectives down into activities and tasks, inputs and outputs, and expectations - so that people understand exactly what outcomes will be delivered, and what impact the project will have. Chapter 7 covers project planning activities from reviewing the project objectives, describing work content and task analysis, duration and effort required, scheduling and timetabling, and the gnarly problem of estimating costs and setting budgets, to risk assessment and analysis - that is,

considering what happens if the project does not go to plan. This is followed in Chapter 8 by project planning techniques and tools for project management, project definition and objective setting, logical frameworks, and a risk checklist. It also includes the use of Gantt charts to show timelines, and network analysis to plot how project events and activities relate to each other and the project as a whole and how these tools and techniques support scheduling and resource allocation. Chapter 9 concentrates on the importance of monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment, establishing measurable indicators and how these can be measured by a survey, interviews, observation or focus group discussion. The concluding chapter covers the components of a typical project proposal, provides useful tips for writing successful project proposals and examples of how to present the required information. Carpenter emphasises that a proposal must meet the funder's requirements and be clear and unambiguous for assessors.

Both of these books present the most current information available about the processes and requirements for writing successful proposals for internal or external project funding. Both can be either used as step-by-step guides or dipped into as required. They provide clear guidelines and tools for developing ideas into successful project proposals, and securing the necessary support and funding to see them become reality, and then planning to manage to achieve the intended outcomes that serve the needs of the project originators or their institutions. Information in both books can be applied to project proposals for small, unit-based, internal projects or large, complex projects with external stakeholders.

Each book takes a slightly different route through the same territory, reflecting the wealth of experience held by the respective authors. Taken separately, either book proves a rich source of current information about project funding. Taken together, they offer greater insights into processes and possibilities to consider when establishing projects. Both will prove invaluable for those undertaking their very first project proposal as well as those with many years' experience of successful proposals.

**Lois Robertson**

Archives New Zealand  
Dunedin Regional Office

## Strong work on security and safety

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***The library security and safety guide to prevention, planning and response.***

**By Miriam B. Kahn. Chicago: American Library Association, 2008. 130 pp.**

**US\$45.00 (ALA members US\$40.50) soft cover ISBN 9780838909492.**

Picture this: a library with no locks, where anyone can walk in at any time and help themselves to whatever they want. Ridiculous, of course. No one really wants that, not even the hard-core libertarians who make a point of striding out the 'In' door just because they can. Libraries are a shared resource and cannot operate as such without imposing restrictions on individual users. As librarians (curators and archivists too), we have an obligation to ensure that our resources are available for future users and not just current ones.

As Miriam Kahn puts it: 'The very nature and concept of cultural institutions make their collections vulnerable to theft and their staff open to harm.' Kahn is writing primarily for 'cultural institutions' (state and university libraries, archives, art galleries, museums) with unique and valuable objects to protect, but much of what she writes is relevant across all sectors. 'In the course of our working day ... how can we reduce the risk of damage, loss and theft to our collections and therefore reduce the need for restriction?'

Kahn's book is a product of nearly 20 years' experience in disaster preparedness and response in cultural institutions, and in the broader area of preservation. (It is useful to distinguish 'preservation' – which takes in the whole circumstances of storage, retrieval, and usage, with a view to ensuring that resources remain available for as long as they are needed – from 'conservation', the care and repair of individual items.)

Kahn offers a step-by-step guide to identifying a library's weak spots and developing strategies to strengthen them. Part 1 deals with building security and takes one through exteriors and grounds before examining staff and public areas inside. Part 2 analyses security for collections and equipment, addressing the divergent needs of general collections, special collections and archives, art works and objects, exhibitions, off-site storage facilities, computer equipment, electronic data and websites, and property and personal insurance. Part 3 deals with safety issues, for staff and for the public. Some details are US-specific ('check your state's law code to determine the exact wording on the signs prohibiting concealed weapons'), but there is remarkably little that does not have universal application.

Most valuable of all, Kahn provides a wealth of checklists and sample forms, all of which translate very easily. Indeed, the only substantial section of this book that is of no practical use outside North America is the list of resource

organisations – but even that is at least a prompt to create a local list and a model for organising it in useful ways. Kahn's *Library security and safety guide* is a concise, intelligent, pragmatic handbook that deserves to become a standard text.

**Ian Morrison**

State Library of Tasmania

## Survival strategies for small public libraries

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***The small public library survival guide: thriving on less.* By Herbert B. Landau. Chicago: American Library Association, 2008. 168 pp. US\$38.00 (ALA members US\$34.20) soft cover ISBN: 9780838935750.**

Public libraries face many challenges these days. Benefits are gained from working in consortia or regional library systems, but not all libraries have these advantages. What can small public libraries do to not only survive, but to see growth in their users and use?

Landau has created this guide to help libraries serving populations of less than 25,000 to survive and grow in these changing times. He sees this happening through attracting local support, building partnerships, obtaining funding, planning, service design, resourcing and promotion.

He begins with the case for this book, outlining why libraries need help to survive and grow. Although based in the US, the scenarios are universal: funding decreases, the impact of the Internet, socioeconomic conditions and the move away from reading activities in society. Landau also outlines how libraries will have to change their thinking to be able to tap into new resources if they are to thrive.

The following chapters take the reader through working out what the library's role is in the community, the use of marketing tools (including analysis of data the library already holds), surveys which may include questionnaires, focus groups and interviews, demographics, using community resources, identifying the competition and evaluating them. This information is then used to create a strategic plan, including the library's mission statement, short and long term goals, measurable objectives and the strategies to achieve them.

Landau spends considerable time on support, both financial and other, with the next four chapters dealing with funding the strategic plan, running fundraising benefits, how to obtain non-financial support from the community and learning

how to win grants. A comprehensive chapter on marketing covers the audience, the message, finding and using the best tools, follow-up and evaluation.

The closing chapters discuss innovative programming ideas, staffing and getting the best out of library funding and conclude with a brief reflection on whether all this is worth doing. The book is well supported by comprehensive appendices, which include sources for information, sample survey questions, sample letters, forms and procedures, press release guidelines, sample Friends Group by-laws and a good representative bibliography.

Although US-based, there is much here that Australian public libraries can benefit from, regardless of size. As public libraries here also start experiencing increased financial pressure, Landau's ideas could benefit them. Although the programme ideas, marketing suggestions and the basics of defining the library service within its community are core to what public libraries are trying to do, it is helpful to be reminded of their importance and how to create and maintain services and messages that are relevant. I recommend this title to library staff working in small libraries of any type – or in public libraries of any size.

**Michelle McLean**

Casey-Cardinia Library Corporation

## Quality comes from within

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***The quality library: a guide to staff-driven improvement, better efficiency and happier customers.* By Sara Laughlin and Ray W. Wilson. Chicago: American Library Association, 2008. 146 pp. A\$89.95 soft cover ISBN 9780838909522 (available from Inbooks).**

Sara Laughlin and Ray Wilson begin by acknowledging a debt to the paradigm-shifting work of the acknowledged business guru, W. Edwards Deming. Deming's principles of continuous improvement have been successfully applied in business, industry, government and education and in *The quality library* we are shown how the same principles can be applied in libraries. A library should be understood as a system, made up of interrelated processes which account for the results produced and which can be continually improved. Such improvement can best be carried out by the people who work within the system, not by outside consultants or by applying expensive technological fixes. However, in order to improve processes, workers need strategies and tools to help them identify, study and make changes to the processes. *The quality library* supplies these tools.

Working from a flowchart of process improvement for libraries, the reader is guided step-by-step through identifying, assessing, measuring and improving each process. Forty-two broad processes are identified, along with the tasks which make up each process (for example, the process 'circulate materials' is made up of 16 discrete tasks, while 'catalogue materials' has only seven tasks). Suggestions are provided for statistical techniques for measuring each process and determining whether an improvement has in fact resulted from any given change. The library is shown to benefit from process improvements by empowering employees to participate in the decisions. As a result, changes can be implemented without fostering resistance, training time for new employees can be shortened and managers can be freed from daily fire-fighting to undertake more important tasks. Finally, the issue of leadership is considered – process improvement can change the way a library operates by fully engaging teams in pleasing customers, but it will not happen without the support and participation of the library's management.

This book is a companion volume to Laughlin and Wilson's 2003 publication, *The library's continuous improvement fieldbook*. It is well indexed and provides a glossary of terms and a list of references for further study. Each chapter is well supplied with case studies, clear diagrams and sample worksheets which can be adapted for use in any library. The book will be a valuable tool for library managers and administrators, helping them to better understand their suppliers and customers. It will also help library workers discover the hidden talent, passion and pride in their library, encouraging them to adopt the best way of doing things and then continue to measure and improve on what they do.

**Helen Dunford**

TAFE Tasmania

## Ethics essays for librarians

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***Questioning library neutrality: essays from Progressive Librarian*. Ed. by Alison Lewis. Duluth, MN: Library Juice Press, 2008. 149 pp. US\$18.00 soft cover ISBN 9780997861774.**

Eleven provocative essays from the journal *Progressive Librarian* focus on various aspects of 'neutrality' in librarianship. Censorship is one major theme in these essays, which represent a firmly committed leftist view of life; the following excerpt from British contributors, Durrani and Smallwood, expresses a view that all contributors would probably endorse:



As custodians of information, librarians everywhere have a role to play in eliminating the root causes of poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and inequality. It is no longer acceptable for libraries and librarians to refuse to acknowledge this social responsibility.

The essays are challenges to the mind as well as the sensibilities of the reader. Social responsibility and defence of human rights are, not surprisingly, strong themes. Several contributors recount personal experiences of hardship and prejudice encountered in library work and offer striking insights into unappealing aspects of American professional life. Disputes within the American Library Association on matters such as gay rights and the provision of alternative literature catering for minority groups show the internal strains between 'head office' in Chicago and workers in 'the field'. These seem to be two different worlds, although the plethora of special interest groups within ALA reflects a growing vitality in activism. This dichotomy within ALA is brought out in Peter McDonald's 'Corporate Inroads and Librarianship'. This piece contains a useful account of the Hawaii State Library's outsourcing contract with wholesalers Baker and Taylor which led to much trouble there without any of 'ALA's vaunted championing of First Amendment Rights'. The author then asks about that 'corporate-dominated behemoth', OCLC, 'whose structure, governance, and business practices are indistinguishable from any Fortune 500 company'. Australian librarians would find some food for reflection here.

The long piece by Ann Sparanese ('Activist Librarianship: Heritage or Heresy?') explains what motivated her to defend and facilitate the publication of Michael Moore's *Stupid White Men*. Through the use of email she encouraged librarians to intervene with HarperCollins, who had decided not to proceed with the publication of Moore's book. This was a case of self-censorship where HarperCollins badly miscalculated public reaction to a book which went on to achieve great success. Sparanese mentions Eric Moon's considerable influence on the social conscience of American public librarians and on herself, stating 'I consider myself in the Moon school of library activism'. Another recurring name is that of Sanford Berman, whose invaluable *Alternative Library Literature* is now sadly defunct.

'Information Criticism: Where Is It?' by J. Andersen asks what is the role of the librarian as 'information critic' or 'public intellectual'. Andersen, from the Royal School of Librarianship in Copenhagen, offers a critique of current LIS, which he finds 'filled with technical and managerial language, and technical and managerial perspectives and writings'. This language 'does not invite critical consciousness and analysis as it stands at a distance towards the objects it is talking about'. There is much in this article which is novel and intriguing. This is material that LIS teachers need to grapple with and which the profession cannot afford to ignore.

The articles reprinted in this compilation vary in depth and quality. Some require better editing, and some misprints should be removed ('gold bouillon' instead of 'gold bullion' is one). There is a variety of styles and tones which make this an easy compilation to enjoy. It is worth a place in any respectable professional collection seeking to shake up readers. The Library Juice Press in Duluth, Minnesota is certainly worth keeping an eye on.

R. L. Cope  
Sydney

## Patchy on public library practice

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***Current practices in public libraries.* Ed. by William Miller and Rita M. Pellen. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Information Press, 2007. 232 pp. US\$85.00 hard cover ISBN 9780789036070 (also published as *Public library quarterly* 25, 1/2).**

Public librarians have an unmet need for good quality, practical research which can be readily applied to day-to-day work. What research is conducted tends to be either excessively parochial in nature, or insufficiently applicable to the real world. Collections of essays such as this one generally contain a high proportion of blather, but there are usually some nuggets worth unearthing. In this volume of 15 essays the stand-out contribution is Kristin McDonough and Madeleine Cohen's 'Open for Business', a description of the New York Public Library's Science, Industry and Business Library and its mission to support small local business development. This is the sort of service which should be offered by any large-scale public or state library. The authors describe the challenge posed by competition such as Google-type services, and they provide case studies, backed by some impressive statistics, to justify their pride in their library.

Also of more than passing interest is Denise Davis' exhaustive examination of US Public Library funding 2003–2005, which reveals 'mixed results'. Apparently only 10 per cent of public libraries in 2005 anticipated further budget reductions! Against the evidence, the author concludes that 'the economic recovery has begun to take hold', ignoring the enormous financial cost to the US of the war on terror. In fairness, Davis does quote numerous tales of woe from library budget directors. Just because his wife was a librarian does not mean that George Jnr has any fondness for them!

Other essays in this collection deliver few surprises: factors which contribute to high levels of Internet connectivity and access are adequate budget, staff training and staffing levels. See, no surprises! Factors which contribute to

the closing of a branch library are funding cuts, changing demographics and decrepit buildings. Hit me over the head with the obvious mallet, please.

There is an essay on creating advocates for your public library, which would be quite useful if the author gave tips on how to go about it, but again the advice is unsurprising. A further essay suggests that we need a worldwide network of advocates for public libraries, which sounds like a job for UNESCO.

Three contributors describe a model of leadership that is non-hierarchical. Nowadays, it is asserted, new staff are likely to be more clued-up on technological advances than library managers, so it is up to the managers to swallow their pride, and ask to be shown the ropes. This paints an amusing but implausible picture.

All in all, this is an uneven collection, unnecessarily published in hardback. Connoisseurs of nouns-used-as-verbs will find 'lowball', 'keynote' and 'ballpark' in these pages, as well as a highly quotable reference to librarians as 'the ultimate search engines'.

**John MacRitchie**

Manly Library

## Attracting teens

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***Crash course in teen services.* By Donna P. Miller. Crash Course [Series]. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2008. 140 pp. US\$30.00 soft cover ISBN 9781591585657.**

If you want to inspire and encourage young adults to use your public library, then *Crash course in teen services* is for you. Donna Miller has tackled what some would consider a rather difficult issue – attracting teenagers to the public library, retaining their business and providing innovative programmes and resources to suit their needs. This inspirational and practical resource will spur many library staff to create or improve library activities thus improving teen patronage.

Miller provides a 'one stop' resource that assists library staff to understand the importance of providing relevant information services and resources to young adults. Useful suggestions on topics such as teen reference services, collection development, programming, information technology, and creating a teen-friendly environment are discussed, as well as the importance of

networking with teachers and school librarians to promote libraries among teens. Of particular use are the citations at the end of each chapter which note useful reference resources for further research.

Each chapter has been written with a focus on a specific subject area so that readers can use the book 'at the point of need'. There are even reference interview scenarios that illustrate techniques suitable for conversing with teenagers. However, it is Miller's chapter, 'The World of Today's Teens', that is perhaps the most influential, as it discusses teen culture, issues, language, behaviour and, of most importance, communication with teens. As Miller explains:

Talk to teens in a way that is friendly but professional, respectful, nonjudgmental, and interested. Above all, library staff must be genuine, as teens are definitely savvy and will spot insincerity immediately.

Miller continues to discuss relationship values between teenagers and library staff, highlighting that, when positive, this creates the impetus for mutual respect and an open communication process.

Though this book is targeted at those library staff who are new to teen services, it is a valuable tool in updating more experienced staff in new techniques and information methods. With the aid of *Crash course in teen services*, any librarian can create vibrant and innovative programmes that will ensure the future life of our public libraries.

**Michelle Jones**

Australian Customs Service Library

## Reference works reviewed, but best for US

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***Reference sources for small and medium-sized libraries, 7th ed.* Ed. by Jack O'Gorman. Chicago: American Library Association, 2008. 320 pp. US\$80.00 (ALA members US\$72.00) soft cover ISBN 9780838909430.**

Could you encapsulate *LexisNexis academic* or the *Grove dictionary of art* in a hundred words? The task faced by O'Gorman, a former chair of the editorial board of *Reference books bulletin*, and his team of subject specialists is to compile nutshell reviews of the most useful works of reference. On the whole, they manage this with no sense of strain, even with a certain pizzazz.

*Reference sources* is primarily a buying guide for librarians looking to improve their reference collections. The guide indicates whether a selected work is

budget price, mid-price or more expensive; hideously expensive works suitable only for the larger library are generally excluded from consideration. There are nearly 1700 entries, arranged in 20 chapters roughly reflecting the major divisions of Dewey.

This work is deservedly successful in America, but for our purposes it falls down in its parochial coverage, which limits its usefulness. Of the 68 titles listed under Education, for example, fewer than a dozen would have much relevance outside North America (and for that matter, none of the dozen titles we would use most in this subject area are listed at all). I have previously made a similar point about the British publication, *Know it all, find it fast*, and it is of interest to note that very few titles are selected by both publications. This simply reflects the different needs of our enquirers.

The opening chapter on general reference materials is the most relevant to librarians outside the US. The websites, bibliographies, directories and databases listed here are sources we should all be acquainted with. Science and technology, and visual arts, are also largely exempt from the charge of parochial coverage.

Possibly for historical reasons few reference collections cater well for the practical arts – subjects such as carpentry, metal-working, crafts, cookery. The section on Households lists a short range of titles, noting that many are also suitable for lending collections. If there is one area of the book that could be expanded it might be here, particularly by inclusion of web-based resources, perhaps at the expense of Literature, which always hogs too much of the reference limelight! Elsewhere, balance is generally good, although 18 entries on Judaism and four on Islam gives pause for thought. Quirky entries include *The ultimate encyclopedia of spells*, described as ‘essentially a practical workbook’. Perhaps a work on scepticism should be included as a counter-balance.

To qualify for the guide, a work has to be of high quality. O’Gorman praises the sheer excellence of reference works now available, going so far as to call it ‘a golden age of reference publishing’. He’s absolutely right.

**John MacRitchie**  
Manly Library

## Australian digital copyright text

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***Digital copyright and the consumer revolution: hands off my iPod.* By Matthew Rimmer. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2008. 368 pp. A\$79.95 hard cover ISBN 978 1 8452 948 5.**

Dr Matthew Rimmer is a senior lecturer in law at the Australian National University and a frequent commentator in the media on cyber copyright issues. *Digital copyright and the consumer revolution* is an important and timely book. While aimed primarily at the specialist reader, Rimmer's lengthy introduction and conclusion provide clear overviews of the issues in regard to the 'consumer revolution against digital copyright laws particularly as they are represented by the Sonny Bono Act and the Digital Millennium Copyright Act'.

Rimmer uses the iPod as his symbol for the 'larger consumer interests in relation to battles over copyright laws' and notes in his introduction that there has been a 'concerted intellectual effort to reconceptualize the role of the consumer in copyright law'. He believes that Australia made a mistake in following the United States in lengthening copyright terms from life plus 50 years to life plus 70 years.

Is the Australia–United States Free Trade Agreement of 2004 therefore an inappropriate model? Rimmer's sections on the Walt Disney Company – a digital Darth Vader? – and the implications of its protection of its copyright images have profound effects in the multimedia environment. How does one balance the individual copyright of a creative artist with the sledgehammer tactics of multimedia companies?

Historical frameworks were ill-prepared to confront the societal and technological impact of Internet services such as YouTube, MySpace, Wikipedia, Flickr, etc. and the 'growing resistance and opposition by consumers to digital copyright in the United States'. Rimmer provides a 'practical and theoretical contribution to the debate over digital copyright law by reconceptualizing the role of the user in copyright jurisprudence'. He examines the 'intersection of power, culture and technology' within copyright debates but does not see copyright law as a formal set of rules. Rather he tackles the issues in the broader social context of copyright law.

The new technologies that Rimmer alludes to, and which the law has to both accommodate and regulate within appropriate frameworks, includes electronic publishing. The chapter by Rimmer on Creative Commons, and in particular its relationship to scientific publishing, will be of particular interest to librarians. Creative Commons provides, as Rimmer states, 'an alternative to

the polar extremes of the proprietary culture of the copyright industries and the “free for all” of the users of peer-to-peer networks’.

In the context of libraries and scholarly communication, the issues regarding local and global access to knowledge have been highlighted in the US in 2008 with large multinational publishers, who make large profits from freely provided academic research, trying to overturn in Congress the provision of public access to research funded by the National Institutes of Health.

Open access and open innovation recommendations in the 2008 Cutler Report, *Venturous Australia: building strength in innovation*, may also see local lobbying by the same publishing multinationals if past experience counts. In the context of libraries, the work of the government-funded Oak Law Project (<http://www.oaklaw.qut.edu.au>) has been highly significant in providing guidance to help academics and universities in establishing copyright frameworks in a digital environment.

The topic that Rimmer tackles is a fast moving one, even since publication. The digital age certainly poses global challenges in achieving appropriate balance. Dame Lynne Brindley, Chief Executive of the British Library, said, on the release in 2008 of its intellectual property survey, that ‘striking the right balance on IP in the digital age is essential to support an innovative knowledge economy’. *Digital copyright and the consumer revolution* effectively highlights the issues both generally and within detailed legal contexts, and is a crucial vade mecum on the ever-evolving ‘global maze of case law and copyright reform’.

Colin Steele

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## Searching second edition invaluable to researchers

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***How to find information: a guide for researchers*. 2nd ed. By Sally Rumsey. Open UP Study Skills [Series]. Maidenhead: Open University Press/McGraw-Hill Education, 2008. 223 pp. US\$52.95 soft cover ISBN-13: 9780335226313.**

‘Finding information is one thing: working out what information is required in the first place, knowing where to look for it, how to recognise it when it is discovered and then what to do with it are equally necessary’, Sally Rumsey tells us in the preface of *How to find information*. In line with this statement she has succeeded in producing an amazingly comprehensive examination of all these aspects of

the information search and the use of information for academic, public sector and commercial research. This second edition has been thoroughly updated to reflect the use of new technology in research as well as changes to regulations regarding intellectual property.

Immediately debunking the common belief that everything we need to know about anything will be found on the Web, Rumsey begins by defining the purpose and scope of an information search and setting up a campaign plan for seeking the information. First she sends the reader to his or her institution library, explaining how to make the best use of the library and its staff as a means of self-orientation to the world of information about the chosen topic and for deciding on the most likely places to begin the search. Obviously the first step is to find out what has been done and what is being done on the topic. Otherwise time will be wasted repeating work, at best, or charges of plagiarism and theft of ideas will be raised, at worst. For this the uses of abstracts, indexes, catalogues and bibliographies are explained along with citation searching and cross-referencing.

When searching online, the importance of planning a search strategy well and then carefully evaluating what has been located for provenance, content and relevance are emphasised. Correct methods of citing references and the construction and maintenance of accurate records of works consulted occupy two linked chapters, which also give a good coverage of the availability and use of bibliographic or 'reference management' software. Especially relevant for postgraduate researchers is the chapter on intellectual property and plagiarism. The final chapters give an overview of the research community, current awareness services and what directions are likely for the future management, preservation and dissemination of research results.

With appendices on using a library and formats of information sources, a glossary, a comprehensive bibliography and list of Web addresses, this book will prove invaluable to everyone engaged in any form of research, to librarians and to tutors and lecturers seeking to impart good information-seeking habits to their students.

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# Guidelines for authors

*The Australian Library Journal* welcomes contributions documenting developments in research and professional practice as well as more general articles on issues relevant to librarians and libraries.

Most articles are peer reviewed. These include substantial pieces and articles whose authors request review.

Preferred length is 3500–5000 words, and the preferred format for submission is an MS Word (Arial, 12 point, double spaced, left justified) attachment to an email sent to the Editor at:

ian.mccallum@alianet.alia.org.au

Articles should be accompanied by an abstract of up to 150 words, plus brief biographical details of the author(s).

All submissions will be acknowledged, and when accepted will be the subject of a formal shared agreement on copyright with ALIA.

The Commonwealth's *Style manual for authors, editors and printers*, sixth edition 2002 (ISBN 0 7016 3648 3) should be used where choices need to be made.

Reference style should follow the *ALJ*'s current practice.

A print quality black and white photograph of the author would also be appreciated.

Contributions are equally welcome from established and beginning authors.