

CHAPTER THREE

RAPID DEVELOPMENT AND NEW DEMANDS (1956 - 62)

The years immediately following the University's autonomy saw significant changes for the Dixon Library, which in turn gave rise to new pressures and problems. A series of developments took place in rapid succession: a new Librarian was appointed and the Library's staff increased in number and areas of responsibility; the size and scope of the collection were enlarged; and the Library moved - on two occasions - into expanded and specially designed premises. At the same time, this multiple growth generated new demands upon the Dixon Library's traditional ambit of resources and services - demands which called for new approaches to the training of professional staff and the servicing of scholarly needs.

The appointment of the Librarian took place in December 1955. In the preceding two years, the status and salary of the position had been intermittently reviewed. In March 1954, at the first meeting of the University Council, the Librarian had been granted the equivalence of Senior Lecturer and her salary set at the base rate of that grade, £1,430 per annum. Incremental progression, however, was not intended to be automatic but at the Council's discretion.<sup>1</sup> In April 1955, the Council resolved to reclassify the position of Librarian so that it would carry 'the status and emolument of an associate professor'.<sup>2</sup> Since the position had been upgraded, the Council decided at its next

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<sup>1</sup> U.N.E. Council, Minutes, 8 March 1954. The Senior Lecturer scale at that time had a range of £1,430 - £1,710, with annual increments of £55.

<sup>2</sup> U.N.E. Council, Minutes, 15 April 1955.

meeting to advertise for a Chief Librarian at the new level.<sup>3</sup>

The post was offered to an English-born librarian, Mr. Frank Herbert Rogers. He had served in the University of Bristol Library and the wartime British Army and was, by this stage, Librarian of the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand. At the same time as he was considering the New England position, he received a competing offer to become Librarian at the University of Melbourne. His personal preference, however, was for the smaller, ruraly located institution.<sup>4</sup> When he visited Armidale for interview, he was dismayed at the physical plight of the Library, but anticipated that he would find the challenges of the chief position rewarding.<sup>5</sup>

Rogers' acceptance of the New England offer was subject to three conditions: firstly, that a temporary building be provided to meet the Library's urgent needs during the period which would inevitably elapse before the long-proposed permanent structure was available; secondly, that the status and salary of the position be subject to review after two years; and finally, that the Librarian be granted study leave 'when the situation allows'.<sup>6</sup> The University Council agreed to these conditions and a start was made on fulfilling the most pressing one - that of temporary accommodation for the Library - even before Rogers took up his appointment.

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<sup>3</sup> U.N.E. Council, Minutes, 6 June 1955. The Metcalfe-McDonald Report on the Dixson Library in June 1954 had concluded that, in view of the institution's autonomy, the position of University Librarian could be regarded as 'new' and thus subject to advertisement. Metcalfe and McDonald, *op. cit.* The position was advertised as 'Chief Librarian' (e.g., in *Sydney Morning Herald*, 27 August 1955, p. 59), though this title was not later used.

<sup>4</sup> Interview with F.H. Rogers, 11 December 1981.

<sup>5</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> U.N.E. Council, Minutes, 12 December 1955.

By the time the new Librarian arrived in Armidale in May 1956, plans for a temporary structure were well advanced. Rogers had worked on them from New Zealand, basing some of his ideas on sketches provided by Edith Tattersall.<sup>7</sup> Despite the critical space pressures on the Library in *Booloominbah*, Rogers did not favour the construction of a substantial temporary building. He believed that a modest structure would ease the immediate stresses while making clear that it was indeed only a temporary solution which would not suffice beyond five years.<sup>8</sup>

The building was rapidly constructed in the second half of 1956. During this period, Rogers reorganised the Library in *Booloominbah*. Coincidental with his arrival, the Library gained increased accommodation: Tattersall had secured approval from the Board of Studies to have temporary partitions erected in the Hall and Dining Room Annexe (Fig.5).<sup>9</sup> Rogers employed this space to clarify issues of layout and procedure for library users. He created an Acquisitions Department and a Cataloguing and Classification Department; integrated the three card catalogues that had developed under different library regimes over the years; modified student borrowing practices; and established a general reading section for browsing purposes.<sup>10</sup>

Shortly after Rogers' arrival, Edith Tattersall embarked on twelve months' study leave. This had been approved by the University Council over a year before, 'subject to satisfactory staffing arrangements

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<sup>7</sup> Rogers to Tattersall, 16 December 1955. U.N.E.A., A292.

<sup>8</sup> Rogers to Tattersall, 30 January 1956; Rogers to Madgwick, 5 December 1956. U.N.E.A., A292.

<sup>9</sup> U.N.E. Board of Studies, Business Paper, 23 April 1956. U.N.E.A., A352.

<sup>10</sup> U.N.E. Board of Studies, Business Paper, 26 November 1956. U.N.E.A., A352.

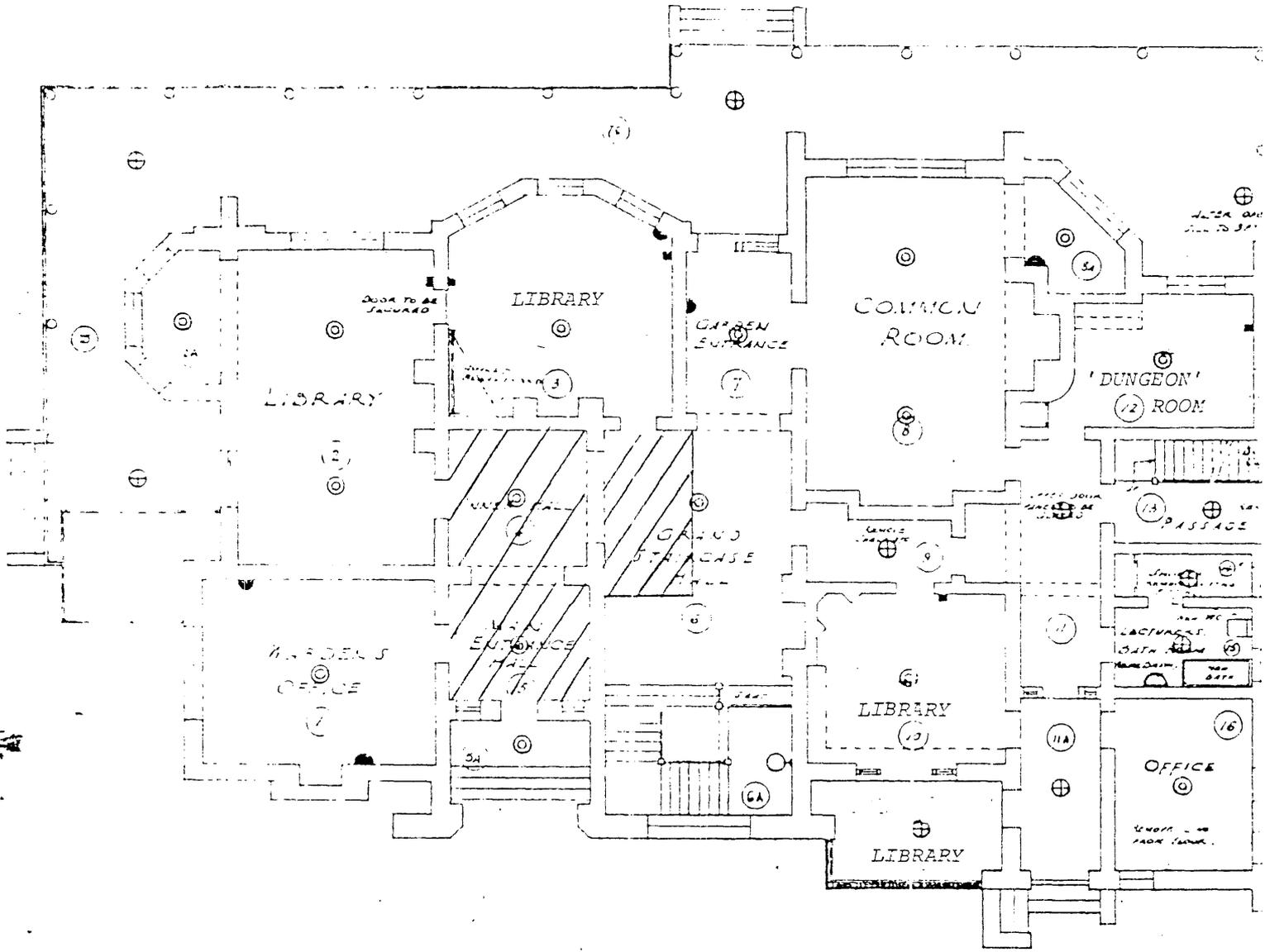


Fig. 5: Hall and Dining Room Annexe Incorporated into Library (marked with diagonal lines)

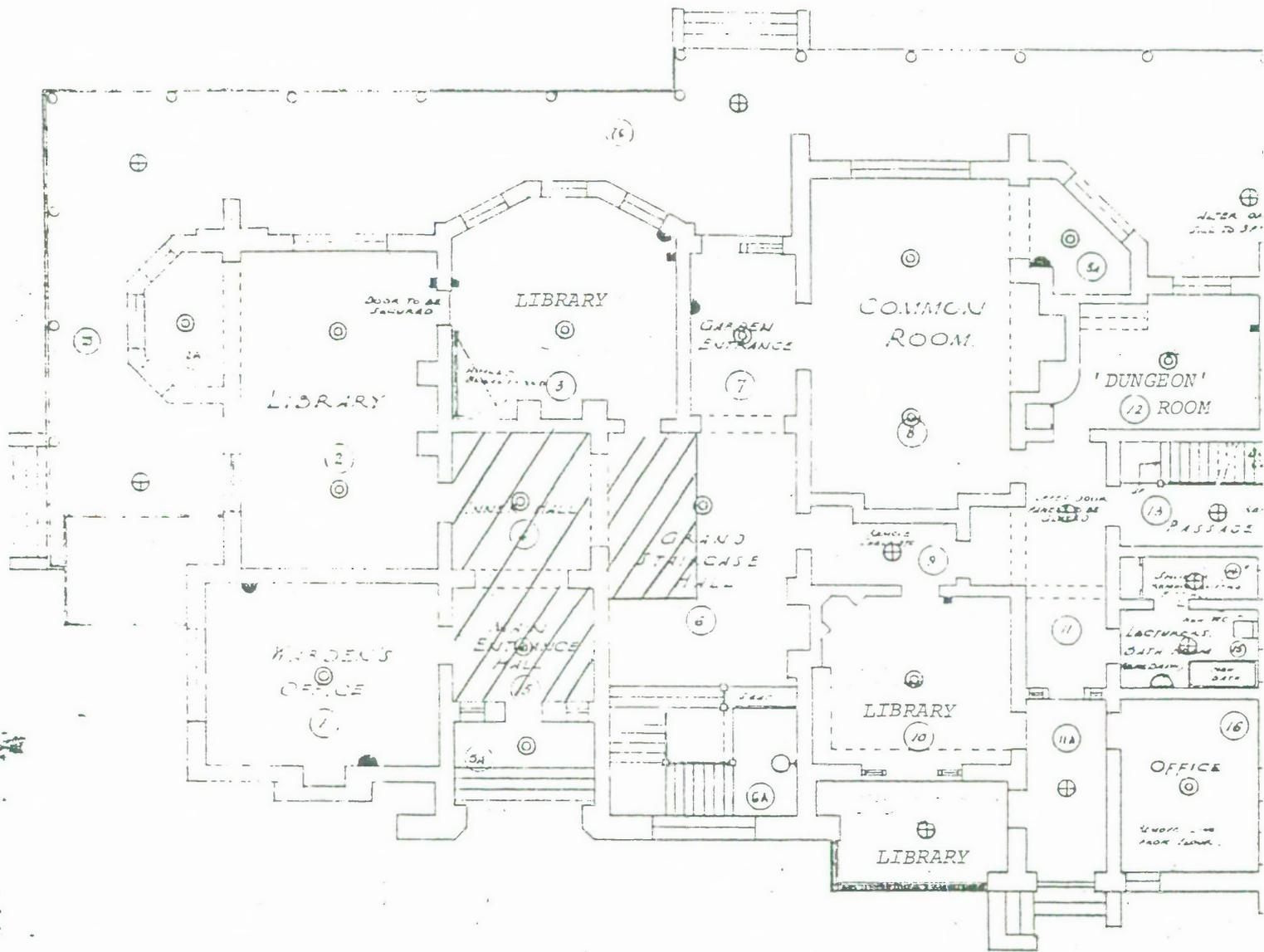


Fig. 5: Hall and Dining Room Annexe Incorporated into Library (marked with diagonal lines)

being made in the Library',<sup>11</sup> but such a condition was only able to be fulfilled when a new Librarian had taken up office. Tattersall spent the bulk of her leave at the Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, working for Mr. Ralph Munn who had left such a deep imprint on modern librarianship in Australia through the report he compiled with Ernest Pitt in 1935.<sup>12</sup> Tattersall was among those Australian librarians who, in the course of the 1950s, gained valuable experience on the American library scene through Munn's assistance.<sup>13</sup>

The temporary building for the Dixon Library was made of brick and timber. U-shaped by design, it afforded nearly 10,000 square feet of floor space.<sup>14</sup> The main floor was essentially one large room of about 7,200 square feet, divided up into various functional areas by the addition of non-bearing walls. It was planned to accommodate a book stock of 55,000 volumes and a seating capacity of 106 readers, which, in relation to the University's internal enrolment of fewer than 400 at that time,<sup>15</sup> represented reasonable study provision. The two wings of the building each contained basements of brick and concrete, comprising areas of 1,700 and 700 square feet respectively, and devoted to such uses as a closed access stack and a staff cloak room. Rogers had specifically requested the basements,<sup>16</sup> since he envisaged that they would allow for a number of initiatives on the Library's part, including the establishment of an in-house bindery and an archives repository for the New England area.

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<sup>11</sup> U.N.E. Council, Minutes, 9 May 1955.

<sup>12</sup> Munn and Pitt, *op. cit.*

<sup>13</sup> Jean Hagger, 'Ralph Munn - Reminiscence', *A.L.J.*, Vol. 24, May 1975, p. 162.

<sup>14</sup> Details about the building appear in the article by Rogers, *A.L.J.*, July 1957, pp. 103-4.

<sup>15</sup> U.N.E., *Annual Report 1957*.

<sup>16</sup> Interview with Rogers, 11 December 1981.

The Librarian was conscious of the need to consider the location as well as the size and shape of the temporary structure.<sup>17</sup> The location was relevant both to a subsequent move of the Library's stock when a permanent building became available and to the possible future demand for a receipt and despatch department in connection with borrowing by external students.<sup>18</sup>

At this stage, the University was conceiving of library service to externals as an operation separate from the Dixon Library. The N.S.W. Act incorporating the University permitted the establishment of a Department of External Studies to conduct degree-based tuition 'for students who are unable to attend lectures at the University'.<sup>19</sup> External courses for the Bachelor of Arts degree and the Diploma in Education began in 1955 and attracted an initial intake of 363 students.<sup>20</sup> This figure surpassed the internal numbers of 212 in the same year, and set a pattern in the years ahead of externals comprising more than half the University's enrolments.<sup>21</sup>

Although external studies assumed major importance in the University's educational system, the Dixon Library in the late 1950s did not undertake the task of providing a borrowing service. Three considerations in particular seem to have influenced that decision.

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<sup>17</sup> Rogers to Tattersall, 16 December 1955. U.N.E.A., A292.

<sup>18</sup> *ibid.* The possibility of using the temporary building for a future external library service had been independently mooted before Rogers' appointment by a Senior Lecturer in English, Dr. K.A. McKenzie, at a joint meeting of the Library Committee and the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Minutes, 7 July 1955. U.N.E.A., A352.

<sup>19</sup> *University of New England Act 1953* (No. 34), s. 31.

<sup>20</sup> U.N.E., *Annual Report 1955*.

<sup>21</sup> The proportion of external students ranged from 67 per cent in the years 1959-62 to 54 per cent of the total in 1973. U.N.E., *Annual Reports*, various years.

Firstly, it was supposed that the Dixon Library lacked the necessary space to accommodate the number of books - and multiple copies of books - for external student needs. Secondly, Armidale's location was not sufficiently central for the expeditious handling of loans, since the postal system and the railways parcel service were both centred upon Sydney. Thirdly, another library already in existence was centrally situated in Sydney and could claim long experience in this kind of borrowing - namely, the Extension Department of the Public Library of New South Wales.<sup>22</sup>

Despite the force of these factors, the Dixon Library in the period of Rogers' tenure did not remain aloof from the needs of external students. Some months after his arrival in Armidale, Rogers queried for how long the Public Library might continue its special service to New England students, 'in view of increasing enrolments and the possibility that such an activity could become the victim of an economy drive'.<sup>23</sup> He argued that the University should include a campus-based library service for externals in its long-term planning.<sup>24</sup>

After negotiation with the University, the Public Library agreed to establish within its Extension Department a special collection for New England's external students. Since that Department's responsibilities already embraced the lending of books to country residents of N.S.W., this new dimension of service was not an incompatible addition. Moreover, external students were not restricted to borrowing from the New England Collection: even if they lived in the metropolitan Sydney area, they enjoyed access to the entire holdings of the Public Library's

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<sup>22</sup> Interview with Edith Tattersall, 4 May 1982; R.M. McGreal, letter to the author, 17 June 1982.

<sup>23</sup> Rogers to Madgwick, 5 December 1956. U.N.E.A., A292.

<sup>24</sup> *ibid.*

Country Reference Section.<sup>25</sup> Under a joint arrangement between the two institutions, the University met the cost of all books bought for the special collection,<sup>26</sup> while the Extension Department, at its own cost, supplied the necessary staff to process the material and service requests.<sup>27</sup>

Although this arrangement made practical sense at the time, it carried possible significant disadvantages in the long term. It had the effect of obscuring the University's specific responsibility for a library service to its own external students. The obligation was shifted on to other institutions, chiefly public and university libraries, and academic staff members did not have to develop the pedagogical habit of relating their courses to material held by the Dixson Library.

From the outset, the New England Collection contained course-oriented titles in multiple copy.<sup>28</sup> Students could request these books either directly from the Extension Department or through their municipal or shire libraries. The use made of the Collection was not recorded, but successive reports of the then Public Library of New South Wales described the quantity of loans as 'extensive'.<sup>29</sup>

While the Dixson Library did not lend materials to externals during this period, it did offer a reference service. In 1958, the Librarian publicised the Library's willingness to provide such support,

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<sup>25</sup> R.F. Doust, State Librarian, letter to the author, 27 October 1982.

<sup>26</sup> By May 1957, U.N.E. had expended £10,000 on developing the New England Collection, which at that stage comprised 8,000 books. *External Studies Gazette*, Vol. 1, 15 May 1957, p. 7.

<sup>27</sup> Howard Sheath, *Report on External Studies*, Armidale, 1973, p. 25.

<sup>28</sup> *External Studies Gazette*, Vol. 1, 15 April 1957, p. 11.

<sup>29</sup> Trustees of the Public Library of New South Wales, *Report*, various years.

particularly for senior students.<sup>30</sup>

In the period following Rogers' appointment, the Dixson Library experienced dramatic growth in several areas. Firstly, though its collection in 1956 was still under 40,000 volumes, accessions of 6,350 volumes were recorded between July 1956 and April 1957.<sup>31</sup> This material covered books and periodicals in a range of disciplines, which corresponded to the broad expansion of institutional interests - reflected in the formation of new Faculties<sup>32</sup> - as well as to the raising of academic status implied in the creation of various Professorial Chairs following autonomy.<sup>33</sup>

Of the £16,211 spent on library books and periodicals in 1956, approximately two-thirds was devoted to particular subject areas; including, for example, £698.1.10 on books and £46.3.10 on periodicals in the field of English, and £426.14.10 on books and £474.5.7 on periodicals in the field of chemistry.<sup>34</sup> Already apparent was the serious disparity in subscription costs between the sciences and the humanities - an issue that came to absorb urgent attention in the world of academic and research libraries two decades later. Two amounts in the 1956 budget were set aside for 'general' purchases, including background material for the collection and supplementary aid for various subject areas.

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<sup>30</sup> *External Studies Gazette*, vol. 2, 15 August 1958, pp. 3 - 4.

<sup>31</sup> Rogers to A. Grenfell Price, 9 May 1957. U.N.E.A., A292.

<sup>32</sup> The Faculty of Rural Science was established in 1956 and that of Agricultural Economics in 1958.

<sup>33</sup> Between 1954 and 1962, 18 Chairs were created, covering most of the University's academic departments. Australian Council for Educational Research, *Review of Education for Australia, 1955-1962*, Hawthorn, Victoria, 1964, p. 335.

<sup>34</sup> L.A.A.U.L.S., 'University Library Statistics, 1953 - 1960', *News Sheet*, vol. 2, August 1961.

The Library is recorded as spending in its own area £2,228.6.9 on books and £747.8.6 on periodicals. These amounts were far in excess of any individual allocation to a subject field, but the money was directed to the purchase of substantial bibliographical sets which were needed as cataloguing aids.<sup>35</sup> The cost of this material did not constitute a charge against the University's recurrent budget. In February 1956, the Library received an unexpected benefaction of £10,000 from a Sydney businessman, Major W.T. Wood.<sup>36</sup> The Librarian used part of this gift to finance the purchase of these bibliographical sets as well as various back runs of periodicals.<sup>37</sup>

A second manifestation of the Library's growth at this time occurred in the area of staffing. From the beginning of 1956 to May 1957, the staff establishment increased from four to thirteen.<sup>38</sup> Apart from the Librarian, there were two Assistant Librarians (Edith Tattersall and Victor Crittenden),<sup>39</sup> eight Library Assistants, a stenographer and a cleaner. In addition, two vacancies for binders awaited filling. In terms of qualifications, the staff comprised six graduates, five of whom held professional library credentials. Among the Library Assistants, two were studying for the Registration Certificate of the Library Association of Australia and one of these was also reading for a degree.

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<sup>35</sup> F.H. Rogers, Answers to questionnaire from Australian Humanities Research Council, 23 November 1956. U.N.E.A.. A292.

<sup>36</sup> E.T. Edwards, *The University of New England*, Melbourne. [c1956?], unpaginated.

<sup>37</sup> Rogers, *op. cit.*, 23 November 1956.

<sup>38</sup> Staffing data are derived from F.H. Rogers, *A L.J.*, July 1957, p. 104. They do not exactly match the figures submitted to the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics for 1956 and 1957, though the growth rate is similar.

<sup>39</sup> Crittenden joined the Library in May 1957 and was placed in charge of the circulation and reference functions. He subsequently became Associate Librarian to Rogers.

Since the late 1930s, the Australian Institute of Librarians and later the Library Association of Australia<sup>40</sup> had developed a system of professional examination. Qualifications were awarded at two main levels - called the Preliminary Certificate and the Registration Certificate.<sup>41</sup> Moreover, library schools were attached to the National Library in Canberra and the Public Libraries of New South Wales and Victoria, affording means of preparing candidates for these examinations. At this stage, however, no post-graduate library schools had been established in Australian universities, in contrast to the educational pattern of the United States where, by the late 1950s, over thirty accredited library schools were attached to institutions of higher learning.<sup>42</sup>

In the Dixon Library's case, the geographical remoteness of Armidale added a special dimension of difficulty to the issue of hiring trained staff. Professional positions commonly had to be filled from centres outside of Armidale, thereby involving the successful applicants in a range of important changes - not just of jobs, but of places of residence, circles of friends, climatic conditions, schools for children, and so on. Edith Tattersall had experienced this problem as the Library's need for additional staff increased,<sup>43</sup> and Frank Rogers became acutely conscious of it soon after his appointment. He concluded that the only

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<sup>40</sup> The Australian Institute of Librarians was reconstituted in 1949 as the Library Association of Australia.

<sup>41</sup> For an explanation of these qualifications, see Wilma Radford, 'Educating and Training Staff', in Bryan and Greenwood, *op. cit.*, pp. 492 - 494.

<sup>42</sup> A. Grenfell Price (ed.), *The Humanities in Australia: A Survey with Special Reference to the Universities*, Sydney, 1959, p. 123.

<sup>43</sup> Interview with Tattersall, 4 May 1982.

realistic approach was to arrange for the staff he needed to be trained in Armidale.<sup>44</sup> By the end of 1957 he had launched an in-service programme of library education, possibly the first of its type in any Australian university library. It was devoted to a study of basic principles of librarianship leading up to the Library Association's Preliminary Examination.<sup>45</sup>

In May 1958, Rogers organised a residential library school at the University, which was described as 'probably ... the first of its kind to be offered in Australia'. The programme was designed to improve the expertise of 'those engaged in professional library work in any part of Australia', while focusing especially on the needs of candidates for the Registration Examination.<sup>46</sup> The school took place over seven days and attracted fifty participants.<sup>47</sup> It was conducted by a lecturing staff which included Mr. John Metcalfe, at that time Principal Librarian of the Public Library of New South Wales and President of the Library Association of Australia; Mr. R.M. McGreal, Secretary of the Library Board of New South Wales and Honorary General Secretary of the Library Association; and Miss M. Twentyman, Officer-in-Charge of the Library School of the Public Library. Lectures were also given by Rogers and Crittenden as well as by another member of the Dixson Library's staff who had been appointed in June 1955, Miss Alison Meyers.<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> Interview with Rogers, 11 December 1981.

<sup>45</sup> Rogers, *A.L.J.*, July 1957, p. 104; F.H. Rogers, 'The Dixson Library, The University of New England', *A.L.J.*, Vol. 8, April 1959, p. 62.

<sup>46</sup> 'Residential Library School at the University of New England', *A.L.J.*, Vol. 7, January 1958, p. 225.

<sup>47</sup> Rogers, *A.L.J.*, April 1959, p. 62.

<sup>48</sup> 'Residential Library School ...', *op. cit.*

This school created the climate for the Librarian to broaden and formalise the Library's programme of library education. In 1960, Mrs. Alison Stanton (formerly Alison Meyers) was appointed as a part-time Training Officer. Apart from performing the in-service training of staff, she established a permanent course related to the Library Association's examination system.<sup>49</sup> In its first year, there were seven candidates for the Preliminary Examination and five for the Registration. The programme was not limited to staff of the Dixson Library but open to all local libraries as well as private students. This provision was strengthened by the formation in September 1958 of a New England Regional Group of the Library Association, since the Group - which Frank Rogers had played a leading part in establishing<sup>50</sup> - saw library training in the region as an issue of priority.<sup>51</sup>

These activities highlighted an important professional attitude of Rogers' - namely, his recognition of the need for co-operative action among libraries, particularly in a rural and isolated area. Over a decade before, an ambitious goal had been proposed that the Dixson Library might 'some day ... be the nucleus of a library system serving Northern New South Wales'.<sup>52</sup> While this hope of a formal co-operative scheme involving other local libraries remained beyond realisation, Rogers was intent on developing the University Library in various ways as a regional service.

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<sup>49</sup> Dixson Library, *Annual Report 1960*.

<sup>50</sup> Rogers was elected the first President of the Regional Group. *A.L.J.*, Vol. 9, October 1960, p. 196.

<sup>51</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>52</sup> N.E.U.C., *Report*, 31 March 1946, p. 27.

Rogers possessed a professional background in archives, which disposed him to an interest in the preservation of local history records.<sup>53</sup> In Britain, he had studied palaeography and archives as part of his library training, and applied this knowledge at the University of Bristol Library; in New Zealand, he had undertaken, along with a bibliographer, Mr. Austin Graham Bagnall, a programme of listing local history records.<sup>54</sup>

In designing the Dixson Library's temporary building, Rogers made provision in the southern basement for the creation of an Archives and Records Repository. Subsequently, he installed a power-operated Compactus unit which absorbed 35 per cent of the basement's floor space and was planned to hold 21,000 volumes.<sup>55</sup> The Library had no archives holdings at this stage, but Rogers enlisted the help of a number of honorary archivists from the regional community.<sup>56</sup> By February 1960, he had appointed the first University Archivist, Mr. R.J. McDonald, who began by undertaking a six-month training period in Sydney and Canberra.<sup>57</sup>

The University's remote location afforded a special opportunity and responsibility for an archives department. As McDonald pointed out:

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<sup>53</sup> See F.H. Rogers, 'Local History Collections in Local Libraries', in L.A.A., *Impact: Addresses and Papers Read Before the 12th Biennial Conference, Hobart 1963*, Hobart, 1963, ch. 33.

<sup>54</sup> Interview with Rogers, 11 December 1981.

<sup>55</sup> Rogers, *A.L.J.*, April 1959, p. 62.

<sup>56</sup> Interview with Rogers, 11 December 1981. The honorary archivists included F.D. Vyner and Sir Richard Lane-Poole of Armidale and Dr. Longworth of Lismore. Library Committee, Minutes, 6 August 1959. U.N.E.A., A292.

<sup>57</sup> L.A.A.U.L.S., *News Sheet*, Vol. 1. September 1960, p. 3; December 1960, p. 2.

What is distinctive about the Armidale case is that there was no existing institution with which we would have to compete. To all intents and purposes, if the University had not begun collecting records in this area they would never have been collected.<sup>58</sup>

The creation of the Archives Authority of New South Wales in 1960 provided a stimulus to the development of archives at New England. The Dixson Librarian became a foundation member of the Authority, and the Library itself affirmed its regional links in a new way by being designated as a branch repository for the New England area. Curiously, a major category of material omitted from the Library's archives was the University's administrative records, which, despite the Librarian's preference for incorporating them into the Dixson's Archives, were retained in *Booloominbah*.<sup>59</sup>

In September 1957, a government report appeared which had the kind of impact upon academic libraries in Australia as the Munn-Pitt Report two decades earlier had registered upon libraries in general. The report was the work of the Murray Committee, which had been commissioned by the Commonwealth Government to inquire into the needs of Australian universities.<sup>60</sup> It was prepared in the wake of significant demographic changes in post-war Australia. University enrolments had been rising rapidly - from 28,792 in 1953, for example, to 36,465 in 1957 - and this growth was outstripping the capacity of staff and buildings to cope.<sup>61</sup>

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<sup>58</sup> R.J. McDonald, 'University Archives in New England', *A.L.J.*, Vol. 12, March 1963, p. 26.

<sup>59</sup> F.H. Rogers, letter to the author, 20 October 1982.

<sup>60</sup> Australia, Committee on Australian Universities (Keith A.H. Murray, Chairman), Government Printer, Canberra, 1957.

<sup>61</sup> Murray, *Report*, p.29.

The Committee gave only brief attention to libraries, but it placed particular stress on the inadequacy of library accommodation. Such comment proved of decisive importance, for new library buildings or extensions ranked among the major categories recommended for capital expenditure in the universities.<sup>62</sup>

In New England's case, the Murray Committee recommended a building programme worth £900,000. It commented, simply, that the University 'needs a permanent library building', and it specified a sum of £250,000 for that purpose.<sup>63</sup> Such a building had been envisaged almost from the beginning of the University College, though it had passed through a number of planning episodes. In the years immediately before and after autonomy, sketches were prepared by the N.S.W. Government Architect.<sup>64</sup> They incorporated design principles adopted for the construction of three archetypal university libraries in post-war America - the Firestone Library at Princeton, the Mann Library at Cornell, and above all the Lamont Library at Harvard.<sup>65</sup> These buildings embodied the flexibility needed for modern academic conditions of rapid change and diversification.

The local source of advice on these overseas libraries was the University Registrar, Mr. W.M. Robb. Following a lengthy overseas trip in 1952, he reported that he was 'very greatly impressed' by a number of modern university libraries, and in particular the Lamont which seemed to him 'to have features of design most suitable to our present conditions

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<sup>62</sup> Murray, *Report*, p. 112.

<sup>63</sup> *ibid.*, pp. 51, 112.

<sup>64</sup> *U.N.E. Bulletin*, February 1962, p. 11.

<sup>65</sup> Madgwick to E.C. Daum, 4 October 1955. U.N.E. Administrative Records, 'Library - Buildings'.

and future prospects'.<sup>66</sup> Robb evidently received particular help from Dr. Andrew Osborn, an Australian who was at that time an Associate Librarian at Harvard and later Fisher Librarian at the University of Sydney (1958-62).<sup>67</sup> In response to Robb's request, Harvard University made available to the N.S.W. Government Architect all the ground-plans and technical data connected with the erection of the Lamont, and this information formed the basis of the plans of the new Dixson Library.<sup>68</sup>

To the cursory observer, the design of the building in Australia's New England bore a certain resemblance to that in America's (see Figs. 6 and 7). Both libraries contained three floors for public use and, being built on a slope, had their respective entrances on the middle floor - a feature which, incidentally, provided for economy of movement within the building.<sup>69</sup> The interior floors were paved with brown cork which, with the use of acoustical ceilings, helped to deaden sound. Fluorescent lighting was adopted throughout both buildings, giving an impression of daylight brightness.<sup>70</sup>

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<sup>66</sup> Robb to Mr. D.M. Little, Secretary, Harvard University, 16 October 1952. U.N.E. Administrative Records, 'Library - Buildings'.

<sup>67</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>68</sup> Madgwick to Daum, *op. cit.*

<sup>69</sup> This feature also marked the design of the new Fisher Library building at the University of Sydney. See Harrison Bryan, 'The New Fisher Library at the University of Sydney', *A.L.J.*, vol. 12, June 1963, p. 67. The University of Sydney had consulted with senior library staff at Harvard on the planning of the new Fisher building. See Jean P. Whyte, *op. cit.*, p. 289.

<sup>70</sup> Henry R. Shepley, 'The Lamont Library: Design', *Harvard Library Bulletin*, vol. 3, Winter 1949, pp. 5 - 11. F.H. Rogers, 'The University of New England Library', *A.L.J.*, vol. 11, October 1962, pp. 199 - 203.

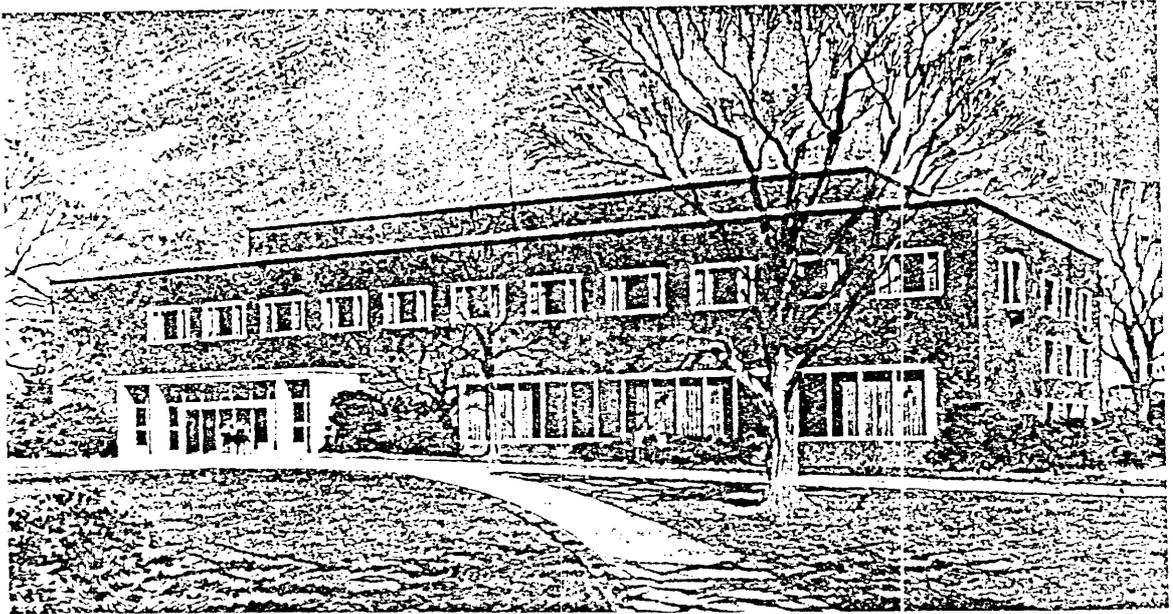


Fig. 6: Drawing of Lamont Library, Harvard University, 1949  
Source: *Architectural Record*, vol. 105, June 1949, p. 36.

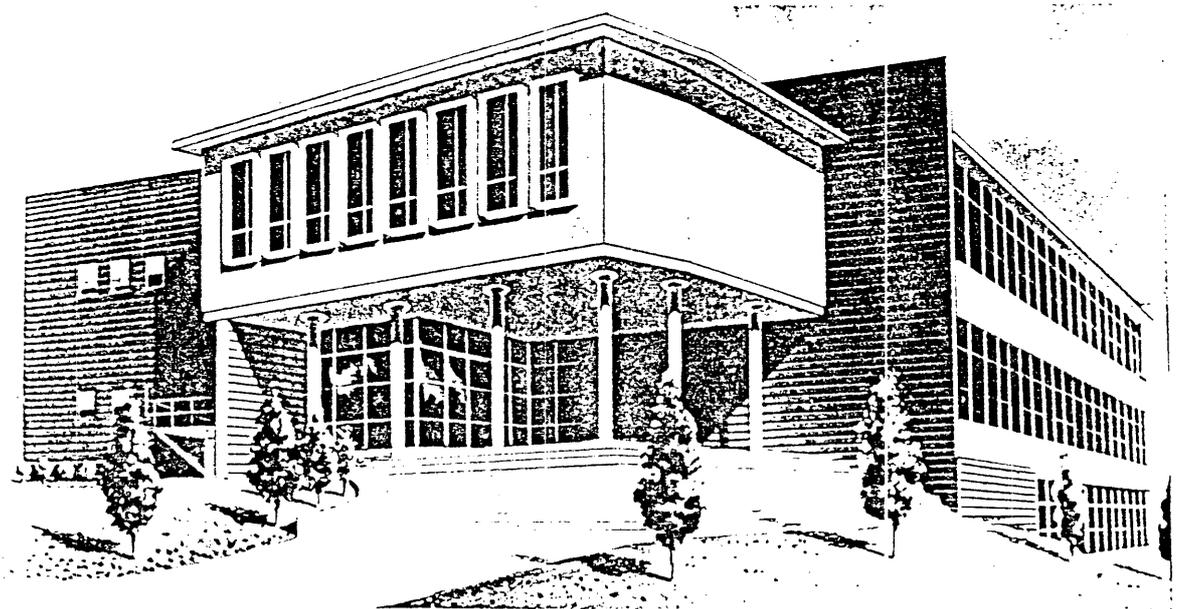


Fig. 7: Drawing of Dixon Library (Stage I),  
University of New England, c.1956.  
Source: [E.T. Edwards], *The University of New England*,  
Armidale, c.1956.



Fig. 6: Drawing of Lamont Library, Harvard University, 1949  
Source: *Architectural Record*, vol. 105, June 1949, p. 86.

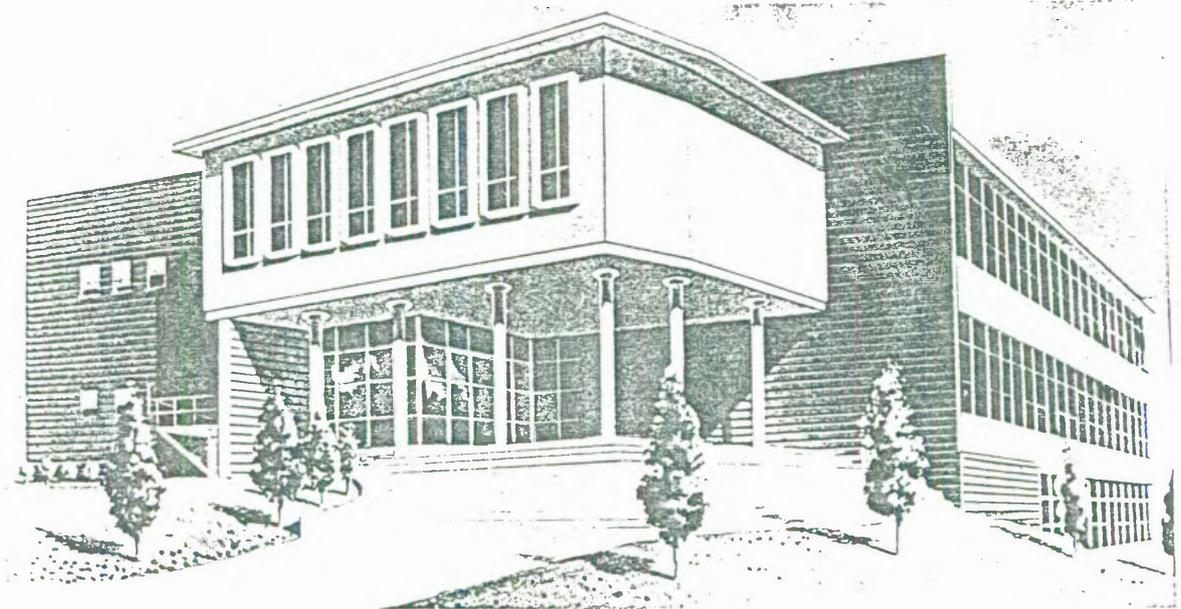


Fig. 7: Drawing of Dixon Library (Stage I),  
University of New England, c.1956.  
Source: [E.T. Edwards], *The University of New England*,  
Armidale, c.1956.

As well as links at the administrative level between the University of New England and Harvard, an important contact took place among librarians. On 8 September 1958, Keyes Metcalfe, former Director of Libraries at Harvard, came to Armidale in the course of an Australian visit.<sup>71</sup> Apart from addressing the inaugural meeting of the Library Association's New England Regional Group, he was consulted on the plans of the proposed Dixon Library Building.<sup>72</sup>

Construction began in July 1959 and was undertaken by R. & B. Constructions Pty. Ltd. of Lismore.<sup>73</sup> The building, measuring 160 feet in length and 88 feet wide, was of modular design; each of the three floors was of reinforced concrete supported on concrete-encased steel beams and stanchions. It was designed to accommodate 278,000 volumes and reading space for about 190 readers. Provision was made for a fourth floor to be added during the 1967-69 funding triennium, which would boost the Library's capacity by a further 150,000 volumes; but this plan became superseded by a programme of adjoining stages.

The building had been scheduled for completion by the end of 1960, but construction delays postponed the move into the new library until May 1961. By that date Frank Rogers had departed on study leave - for the purpose of investigating university libraries and library

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<sup>71</sup> *A.L.J.*, vol. 7, October 1958, p. 155.

<sup>72</sup> F.H. Rogers, letter to the author, 20 October 1982.

<sup>73</sup> Details on the new building are drawn from *U.N.E. Bulletin*, February 1962, pp. 11 - 12; *L.A.A.U.L.S., News Sheet*, vol. 1, September 1960, pp. 6 - 7; Rogers, *A.L.J.*, October 1962, pp. 199 - 203.

organisation in the U.S.A., Canada and the U.K.<sup>74</sup> - but he had prepared plans beforehand for the transfer of facilities. The move involved a collection of more than 110,000 volumes<sup>75</sup> and sundry furniture and equipment including the Bindery. It was supervised by the Associate Librarian, Victor Crittenden, who was, in Rogers' absence, Acting Librarian. Services were maintained during the fortnight of the move, and material was available for borrowing from two circulation desks, one in the temporary building, the other in the new library.<sup>76</sup>

Externally, the structure embodied two main design features. Firstly, the north and south walls were framed with aluminium curtain walling with large blocks of glass; on the north and south facades, the floor slabs were cantilevered out over the perimeter stanchions and beams. Secondly, the east and west walls were faced with painted brick work.

Internally, the three levels of the building incorporated different functions. The central floor off the entrance was given over to the major part of the monographs collection, the public card catalogue and current periodicals, together with the reference and circulation desks and the Library's technical services departments (acquisitions and cataloguing). The lower ground floor housed the periodicals collection, archives, a photographic laboratory and the bindery. The possibility of including a photographic facility in the Library had been raised by Edith Tattersall in March 1954, at the time when the newly

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<sup>74</sup> *U.N.E. Bulletin*, August 1960, p. 19; *L.A.A.U.L.S. News Sheet*, vol. 2, November 1961, p. 6.

<sup>75</sup> Commonwealth Bureau of Census & Statistics, *University Statistics*, 1960.

<sup>76</sup> *L.A.A.U.L.S., News Sheet*, vol. 2, August 1961, pp. 13 - 14.

independent University was contemplating the establishment of a central photographic service.<sup>77</sup> Rogers endorsed this proposal on the ground that a library photographic laboratory could undertake the microfilming of country newspapers (which had long been acquired as part of a regional collecting programme),<sup>78</sup> and of the theses and dissertations now beginning to emanate from the University's development in post-graduate research.

The top floor of the new building was shared by the Library with the Department of Adult Education (later renamed University Extension). This arrangement did not impinge on the Library's immediate space requirements: it afforded use of half the floor to the Library, which accommodated government documents and study carrels, while leaving the remainder to the Department for lecturing and office purposes.

The inclusion of Adult Education was due partly to the acute demand for space on the campus, especially in the wake of the destruction through fire of the Belshaw Block in 1958,<sup>79</sup> and partly to a readiness on the part of the Vice-Chancellor and the Librarian to accommodate a university department with explicit community concerns.<sup>80</sup>

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<sup>77</sup> Tattersall, *op. cit.*, 31 March 1954. U.N.E.A., A292.

<sup>78</sup> As early as the mid-1940s, the Library received free copies of 'about 45 of the newspapers published in northern New South Wales'. Tattersall to Robb, 7 July 1950. U.N.E.A., A292.

<sup>79</sup> T.C. Lamble, 'The University's Building Programme', *External Studies Gazette*, vol. 4, 15 December 1960, pp. 4 - 5.

<sup>80</sup> The Librarian's readiness evidently had a more pragmatic basis than the Vice-Chancellor's. Madgwick wished to find more central and desirable premises for a university function that was close to his heart (namely, adult education); but Rogers recognised that, when the Library eventually needed more space, it would be easier to dislodge a special department than one which had vested curricular interests. Interview with Mr. A.J.A. Nelson, 29 July 1982.

The occupation of the Library's first permanent building, twenty years after it had been originally envisaged, was not only significant in terms of physical provision. It also represented a psychological boost to the University community, and especially to the Library's staff. One member commented that it was 'an extremely pleasant place in which to work - especially during the rigours of winter on the Northern Tablelands!' <sup>81</sup> She even remarked benignly on the eccentricities of the air-conditioning plant - a matter which in later years was regarded with less sympathy by staff. <sup>82</sup> Sheila Apted saw the prominent position of the new Library with a poet's eye: at night the building, when seen from the township of Armidale to the south-east, 'shines like a golden ship riding a dark sea'. <sup>83</sup>

The sense of excitement, however, was presently tempered by the realisation of several disadvantages of design. The major one was the concentration of plate glass on the northern side of the building, which caused excessive heat for those within. The Library staff were predominantly stationed along this side and their initial reaction was to cover the glass with brown paper. This measure was rejected on aesthetic grounds and the Librarian was given approval to erect venetian blinds along the entire length of the northern wall. <sup>84</sup> A second design feature that posed problems was the cantilevered portion of each floor on the northern and southern sides of the building. These areas could not carry undue weight (such as that imposed by book stacks): the limitation grew more significant as the Library became fuller and needed all available floor space for expansion. <sup>85</sup>

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<sup>81</sup> L.A.A.U.L.S., *News Sheet*, vol. 2, August 1961, p. 14.

<sup>82</sup> Interview with Mr. Ron Ray, 30 July 1982.

<sup>83</sup> L.A.A.U.L.S., *News Sheet*, vol. 3, March 1962, p. 2.

<sup>84</sup> Rogers, *A.L.J.*, October 1962, p. 203.

<sup>85</sup> Interview with Ron Ray, 30 July 1982.

Apart from its impact on building space, the Murray Report of 1957 had a second, though less direct, consequence for Australia's academic libraries. It focused attention on the rapid growth of secondary industry in the post-war period, and pointed out the national role of universities in supplying graduates and undertaking research. This twofold need was especially evident in the dearth of higher degree students at Australian universities: the Committee noted, for example, that Australia produced only one-quarter of the Ph.Ds of British universities and one-fifth of those of the United States or Russia. It argued for a general strengthening of post-graduate study and academic research.<sup>86</sup>

The ramifications of this increased government aid at New England were, firstly, a marked rise in post-graduate enrolments - from 5 in 1954 to 140 in 1965;<sup>87</sup> and secondly, a growth in funds for research as well as a diversification of their sources. In 1954, for example, a total of £5,286 was spent on research, of which £4,368 was from the University's budget and £918 from other sources; in 1965, research expenditure amounted to £180,834, of which £51,328 came from University funds and £129,506 from other sources.<sup>88</sup>

The principal effects on academic libraries of the Murray Committee's focus on research were an increasing consciousness of the need for national planning, an expansion of co-operative activity, and a rise in staff and acquisition levels in individual institutions.<sup>89</sup>

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<sup>86</sup> Murray, *Report*, pp. 13 - 15, 42 - 43.

<sup>87</sup> Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, *University Statistics*, 1954, 1965.

<sup>88</sup> R.B. Madgwick, 'The University of New England in Retrospect', *U.N.E. Bulletin*, December 1966, p. 4.

<sup>89</sup> Bryan, 'The Development of Academic and Research Libraries ...', in Bryan and Greenwood, *op. cit.*, pp. 17, 20.

These changes formed a major part of the educational milieu in which the Dixson Library functioned from the late 1950s onwards. It set in train a transformation that acquired greater significance in subsequent decades - namely, a shift of the Australian university library from autonomy to interdependence; from a period in which it pursued policies of local self-sufficiency to an era of mutual co-operation between institutions.

A tangible sign of this shift was the formation in 1960 of the Committee of Australian University Librarians (CAUL). This body had the dual purpose of serving as a channel of information among librarians and as a vehicle of professional communication with other bodies (such as the Australian Universities Commission).<sup>90</sup> Soon afterwards, an American library consultant, Professor Maurice Tauber of the School of Library Service at Columbia University, undertook a survey of Australian library resources. He outlined existing strengths but identified the collective weaknesses of research collections. He stressed the need for 'a single national library system' and a 'national programme of co-operation in which there are no weak links'.<sup>91</sup>

For his own part, Rogers was strongly insistent on inter-library co-operation in support of education. His background of experience dissuaded him from a strictly national view of co-operation. In reviewing a published survey of New Zealand library resources,<sup>92</sup> he emphasised the value of an Australasian approach:

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<sup>90</sup> *ibid.*, p. 22.

<sup>91</sup> M.F. Tauber, *Resources of Australian Libraries*, Canberra, 1963, p. 31.

<sup>92</sup> A.D. Osborn, *New Zealand Library Resources*, Wellington, 1960.

Australian and New Zealand librarians must begin to come together, to think together, and to work together.<sup>93</sup>

Rogers also reviewed the Tauber survey for the main professional library journal of the time, expressing the hope that the survey would 'prove a most significant yardstick in the years to come, now that Australia has begun to recognise the importance (and, I trust, the paucity) of its library resources'.<sup>94</sup> At the same time, he noted with satisfaction that Tauber had identified the strong holdings of the Dixon Library in general bibliography.<sup>95</sup>

While the incorporation of Adult Education in the new Library building was apparently due to pragmatic rather than educational reasons, it did provide coincidental evidence of a major change taking place at that time in library philosophy. In Australia, academic librarians were placing increasing emphasis on their teaching function in the university. Emphasis was shifting from the library as a repository of books reserved for scholarly use to the library as an active mechanism in the transmission and expansion of knowledge.<sup>96</sup> To a significant extent, this shift was evident from the beginning at New England, as a result of the small and intimate nature of the campus and of the emphasis on a 'students' library'. In the late 1950s, however, the shift found expression in a growing attention to services which rendered on-the-spot reference assistance to readers and mounted formal programmes of instruction on

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<sup>93</sup> Rogers, 'New Zealand Libraries After Twenty-five Years', *A.L.J.*, vol. 9, July 1960, p. 145.

<sup>94</sup> Rogers, 'The Tauber Report: a Review', *A.L.J.*, vol. 13, March 1964, p. 37.

<sup>95</sup> Tauber, *op. cit.*, p. 17. Interview with Rogers, 11 December 1981.

<sup>96</sup> L. Jolley, 'The Teaching Function of the University Library', *Vestes*, vol. 6, September 1963, pp. 202 - 208.

the use of library resources.<sup>97</sup>

It is important to assess the impact on the Dixson Library of this re-orientation of library services towards concern for the reader. The evidence suggests a paradox of administration during this period. On the one hand, the Librarian acknowledged the desirability of educating students and staff in the use of the library. He believed that 'the potential of a library as a teaching instrument, particularly if it is largely open-access, cannot be over-estimated'. The type of approach he favoured consisted, not so much in the answering of specific questions, as in the process 'of showing readers where to look for themselves'.<sup>98</sup>

Rogers moved during this period to develop the position of Training Officer, which he had created originally with the sole aim of providing education for library staff. In September 1961, following the resignation of Alison Stanton, Miss Sheila Apted was appointed as part-time Training Officer. She harboured a special interest in children's literature<sup>99</sup> - having served previously as Children's Library Officer for the Free Library Service Board of Victoria<sup>100</sup> - but she also set importance on the needs of library users in general.<sup>101</sup> Her duties

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<sup>97</sup> Beatrice P. Wines, 'The Undergraduate and the Services He Needs', *A.L.J.*, vol. 6, October 1957, pp. 169 - 174.

<sup>98</sup> Rogers, *A.L.J.*, July 1957, p. 104.

<sup>99</sup> For example, see S. Apted, 'Library Work with Children in Country Districts', *A.L.J.*, vol. 12, September 1963, pp. 111 - 112.

<sup>100</sup> *A.L.J.*, vol. 11, January 1962, p. 51.

<sup>101</sup> See Apted's M.A.(Librarianship) thesis, *The University Library User and His Information Needs*, London, 1970.

as Training Officer soon extended to the education of the students who used the Dixon Library as well as of the staff who served them. In 1962, she elaborated a substantial programme of library education for students at New England, giving two compulsory lectures - one on the use of the library, the other on reference books - to all first-year undergraduates in groups of twenty-five.<sup>102</sup> Finding these sessions to be 'unsatisfactory, largely because they contained too much matter, did not actively involve the students, and were not related to the students' immediate work', she changed her methods of instruction to overcome these weaknesses.<sup>103</sup> However, her techniques were consistently directed to the educational needs of library users - an approach reflected in her being granted academic status in 1963 as Lecturer in Bibliography and Library Service.<sup>104</sup>

On the other hand, the priority given by the Dixon Library to reader services is observably less than that accorded by other Australian university libraries in this period. During the years 1961 - 1965, for example, only 25-30 per cent of the Dixon Library's staff occupied the category of 'Services to Readers'; the remainder worked in the technical services departments of Acquisitions, Serials and Cataloguing. On average, this ratio placed New England lowest among the ten university libraries in existence at that time. By comparison, Fisher Library at the University of Sydney allocated 50-57 per cent of its staff to reader services over the same period, and the University of Western Australia Library, 41-51 per cent.<sup>105</sup>

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<sup>102</sup> L.A.A.U.L.S., *News Sheet*, vol. 4, April 1963, p. 6.

<sup>103</sup> S. Apted, 'Teaching the Use of the Library: an Account of Work in this Field at NUNE', L.A.A.U.L.S., *News Sheet*, vol. 10, February 1969, pp. 10 - 11.

<sup>104</sup> *A.L.J.*, vol. 12, June 1963, p. 107.

<sup>105</sup> Proportions calculated from the statistical returns in L.A.A.U.L.S., *News Sheet*, various years.

It is indeed the case that an academic library in its embryonic stages must devote the bulk of its funds to collection building and processing. New England's purchase in 1956 of substantial bibliographical material and periodical back sets - a purchase largely made possible by the £10,000 gift of Major W.T. Wood - suggests that the building of the Library's collection, like the expansion of Australian universities in general, had not been sufficiently funded to keep pace with post-war growth. Responding in 1956 to a national survey of the humanities, the Librarian pointed to 'considerable deficiencies' in that area of the collection. He commented that the Library 'cannot be described as adequate' for either under-graduates and teaching staff or for the purposes of research.<sup>106</sup>

In 1962, following his overseas study visit, Frank Rogers compared the Dixson Library unfavourably with several American academic libraries. His conclusion was that the level of library funding at New England made it 'extremely difficult to support current research emphasis and meet teaching demands'.<sup>107</sup> This opinion was partly echoed several years later by Sir Robert Madgwick who, upon retiring as Vice-Chancellor, observed that the Dixson Library 'can now provide an effective service to staff and students, although I would be the first to admit that the funds we make available for its development are insufficient for a University of our present size'.<sup>108</sup>

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<sup>106</sup> F.H. Rogers, Answers to Questionnaire ..., *op. cit.*. The results of the survey were published in Grenfell Price, *op. cit.*

<sup>107</sup> F.H. Rogers, 'Library Resources in America - A Sampling', *U.N.E. Bulletin*, February 1962, p. 5.

<sup>108</sup> Madgwick, *U.N.E. Bulletin*, December 1966, pp. 4 - 5.

At the same time, the figures denoting the proportion of institutional funds spent by each university library do not support the belief that the Dixon Library was relatively worse off than the other nine academic libraries. In 1962, for instance, it attracted 5.2 per cent of the University of New England's budget, placing it at the half-way point in the table.<sup>109</sup> On balance, the dissatisfaction with funding levels may have related less to the priorities observed within the University of New England than to the fact that ordinary financial provision could not accommodate the range of library needs associated with rapid academic expansion during this period. Such developments as the creation of Chairs and the coverage of new subject areas raised significant needs which average spending could not realistically handle.

The deficiencies highlighted by the national survey of the humanities were not limited to New England. The survey report described research provision in most libraries as 'hopelessly inadequate'.<sup>110</sup> although Rogers publicly criticised the report for being 'obsessed with size and numbers' and attempting 'no qualitative evaluation' of resources.<sup>111</sup> At the same time, other university libraries found it possible to assign greater importance than the Dixon to reader services, particularly when the benefits of increased government funding began to be realised following the Murray Report. By comparison with New England, Monash University Library increased the proportion of its staff in reader services from 16 per cent in 1961 (its inaugural year of operation) to 39 per cent by 1963.<sup>112</sup> Even in long-established libraries, where reader services

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<sup>109</sup> L.A.A.U.L.S., 'University Library Statistics for 1962', col. 69.

<sup>110</sup> Grenfell Price, *op. cit.*, p. 124.

<sup>111</sup> L.A.A.U.L.S., *News Sheet*, vol. 1, June 1960, p. 9.

<sup>112</sup> L.A.A.U.L.S., 'University Library Statistics', various years.

claimed at least half the staff during the early 1960s, this condition was not necessarily deemed acceptable. In 1961, for example, the Librarian at the University of Queensland commented:

One of the most serious shortcomings in service has been the lack of staff to give assistance to readers and enquirers making use of the Library. The first appointment to the position of Reference Librarian was only made late in 1959 and there is still an entirely inadequate staff associated directly with reader services.<sup>113</sup>

By comparison, at the Dixson Library, the Associate Librarian, Victor Crittenden, served also as Reference Librarian, occupying an office on the ground floor near the Circulation Desk.<sup>114</sup> It was not until 1967, however, that a special desk was professionally staffed for a part of each day to assist readers in using the Library;<sup>115</sup> and not until the early 1970s that a specific position of Reference Librarian was created in the reader services area.<sup>116</sup>

In March 1960, the Librarian at Sydney University, Andrew Osborn, declared that the decade then opening would represent a turning point for the university libraries of Australia. Either they would undergo a period of forced growth or else they would fail to develop the necessary resources to support higher education.<sup>117</sup> In the years

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<sup>113</sup> Scott, *A.L.J.*, April 1961, p. 87.

<sup>114</sup> Rogers, *A.L.J.*, October 1962, p. 201.

<sup>115</sup> Apted, *L.A.A.U.L.S.*, *New Sheet*, February 1969, p. 11.

<sup>116</sup> Interview with Smith Richardson, 9 July 1982.

<sup>117</sup> A.D. Osborn, 'The Turning Point for University Libraries', *Vestes*, vol. 3, March 1960, pp. 24 - 25.

1956 - 1962, the Dixon Library developed resources at a rapid rate. Its collection expanded from 30,982 to 141,767 volumes; its staff grew from 6 to 27<sup>2/3</sup>.<sup>118</sup> The importance of these two types of growth, which were essentially due to the large injection of Commonwealth funds into universities after the Murray Report, was enhanced by two factors at New England - the leadership of a new Librarian, and the Library's occupation of special premises; at first, a structure which, though temporary, was expressly designed for library use, and later, a permanent building.

The Dixon Library's pattern of growth during the late 1950s and early 1960s reflected the rapid expansion then taking place in Australian universities - and was thus a microcosm of the benefits and burdens associated with that expansion. Undergraduate enrolments multiplied - at New England, by a factor of three between 1956 and 1962<sup>119</sup> - and courses began to diversify; post-graduate study developed; building extension took place on a large scale; and universities became, to an increasing extent, nationally planned and funded institutions. The Dixon Library sought to respond to the new educational needs which these developments signified; in one respect - that of institutional co-operation in a national context - the Library was actually in advance of developments at this time. However, the process of change - in regard to such factors as the systematic collection of research-level material and the adaptation to a reader-oriented service - involved demands and expectations which the Library was only partly able to meet during this period.

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<sup>118</sup> L.A.A.U.L.S., 'University Library Statistics', various years.

<sup>119</sup> U.N.E., *Annual Reports*, various years.

CHAPTER FOUR

CHANGING NEEDS, CHANGING TECHNOLOGY (1963 - 1973)

In July 1963, the Dixon Librarian, F.H. Rogers, presented an appraisal of contemporary trends in Australian libraries for a readership in New Zealand, the land in which he had professionally served a decade earlier. His conclusion was optimistic:

Unlike earlier times in Australia, this is a period of university library development. There is a population explosion to cope with at university entrance level and, at this stage, there is little doubt that Australia as a nation is prepared to back tertiary education in a way in which it has not been supported before.<sup>1</sup>

Such an assessment was amply borne out by the library growth that had taken place from the late 1950s. However, by the early 1960s, Australian universities were on the threshold of a change which would qualify the nature of government support for tertiary education and pose new challenges to the operation of academic libraries.

In 1964, the first two parts appeared of a Commonwealth-sponsored study into the future of Australian tertiary education.<sup>2</sup> This study, known as the Martin Report, envisaged a continuation of the recent expansion in universities, but its essential thrust was to recommend a strengthening of tertiary education outside the universities. It

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<sup>1</sup> F.H. Rogers, 'Library Trends in Australia 1960 - 1962', *New Zealand Libraries*, vol. 26, July 1963, p. 167.

<sup>2</sup> Australian Universities Commission, Committee on the Future of Tertiary Education in Australia (Report, L.H. Martin, Chairman), *Tertiary Education in Australia*, vols. I and II, Government Printer, Canberra, 1964. Volume III of the Report was published in 1965.

confirmed the practice, developed from the late nineteenth century, of examining universities in a hierarchical educational context, composed of primary and secondary schooling as well as university studies. At the same time, it developed a new, 'horizontal' context in which universities were to be considered: the sphere of tertiary education was broadened to include types of institutions other than universities - in particular, vocational training centres which came to be called Colleges of Advanced Education.

The Martin Report, many of whose recommendations were implemented, marked the introduction of a new demand on Australian universities - and on their libraries. Not only did it make clear their continuing accountability to changing social conditions, but it introduced direct rivals for the educational funds disbursed by government. This dissipation of Commonwealth support did not halt but only moderated the growth of the Dixon Library. The increasing quantity of published material available found correspondence in the increasing size of the Library. However, while the collection doubled in the course of a decade (1963 - 1972), the main experience was that the rate of development slowed, for it occurred against a pattern of extraordinary growth in the preceding period when the collection had doubled in a span of four years (1956-60).<sup>3</sup>

The continuing expansion of academic libraries during the 1960s was not only governed by the newly competitive financial environment in which universities functioned. It was also subject to the pressure of rising costs. In the Dixon Library's case, these costs were most discernible in the sphere of periodical subscriptions. In one report, for example, the Librarian noted that subscription prices between 1963 and 1964

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<sup>3</sup> Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, *University Statistics*, various years.

increased by 17%; and, between 1964 and 1965, by 15%; at a time when general price inflation was only 2 to 3 percent a year.<sup>4</sup>

A third factor underlying the growth of university libraries was the undergraduate expansion taking place in Australian universities during the 1960s, chiefly as a result of demographic changes. At New England, undergraduate numbers virtually doubled between 1963 and 1973; and more than half of the enrolments were external, a feature that lent complexity to the statistical fact of expansion.

The realities of growth and mounting expense gave rise to new demands and new policies in various spheres. On the one hand, it occasioned the need for increased space to accommodate expanding collections and services, and produced adjustments to policies of arrangement and access in the library. The planning of building extensions became common, and the ways in which scholarly information was organized and made available in libraries began to be re-examined. Should the growing collections of periodicals, for example, be allowed to be borrowed as books had long been? Were the differing needs of undergraduate students and research scholars better served by divided or integrated collections? Such issues attracted considerable attention in the Dixson Library during the decade under review.

On the other hand, the combination of institutional growth and expense prompted the search for new methods to facilitate library service and curb cost increases. University librarianship began to develop

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<sup>4</sup> Rogers to University Accountant, 30 September 1965. U.N.E., A292. In 1972, the Australian Universities Commission gave special consideration to the inordinate rises in the prices of library materials, which it estimated were revealing a compound rate of growth of 9.5 per cent per annum. Australian Universities Commission, *Fifth Report*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1972, p. 14.

technological and managerial dimensions, as libraries faced the pressure of economic accountability from treasurers and administrators, as well as diverse educational demands from students and academic staff.

The first stage in the Library's acquisition of additional space was to gain access to that section of the permanent building occupied by the Department of Adult Education. In the first half of the 1960s, the Department's occupation of part of the top floor was gradually reduced. By September 1966, the Library acquired, for the first time, full use of the entire building.

The area vacated by Adult Education provided three substantial rooms which were given over to individual functions (Fig. 8). One became an office and seminar room for the Library School conducted by the Lecturer in Bibliography and Library Service, Sheila Apted. The second was used as a reading room; and, since outside access was afforded by an adjoining stairway, the facility served for late-night study following closing time. The third room was assigned to house a new collection - that of rare books and special Australiana. The Library had long been acquiring, by gift or purchase, books of particular value on account of their rarity or historical importance. It now determined to bring these materials together and house them in specially constructed glass-fronted bookcases.<sup>5</sup>

The expansion afforded by the departure of Adult Education did not yield prolonged space relief. The Library had soon to consider the alternative options of a building extension or the occupation of a nearby

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<sup>5</sup> L.A.A.U.L.S., *News Sheet*, vol. 7, November 1966, p. 90; V. Crittenden, 'Rare Books and Special Australiana Room in the University Library', *UNE Bulletin*, August 1967, pp. 8 - 9.

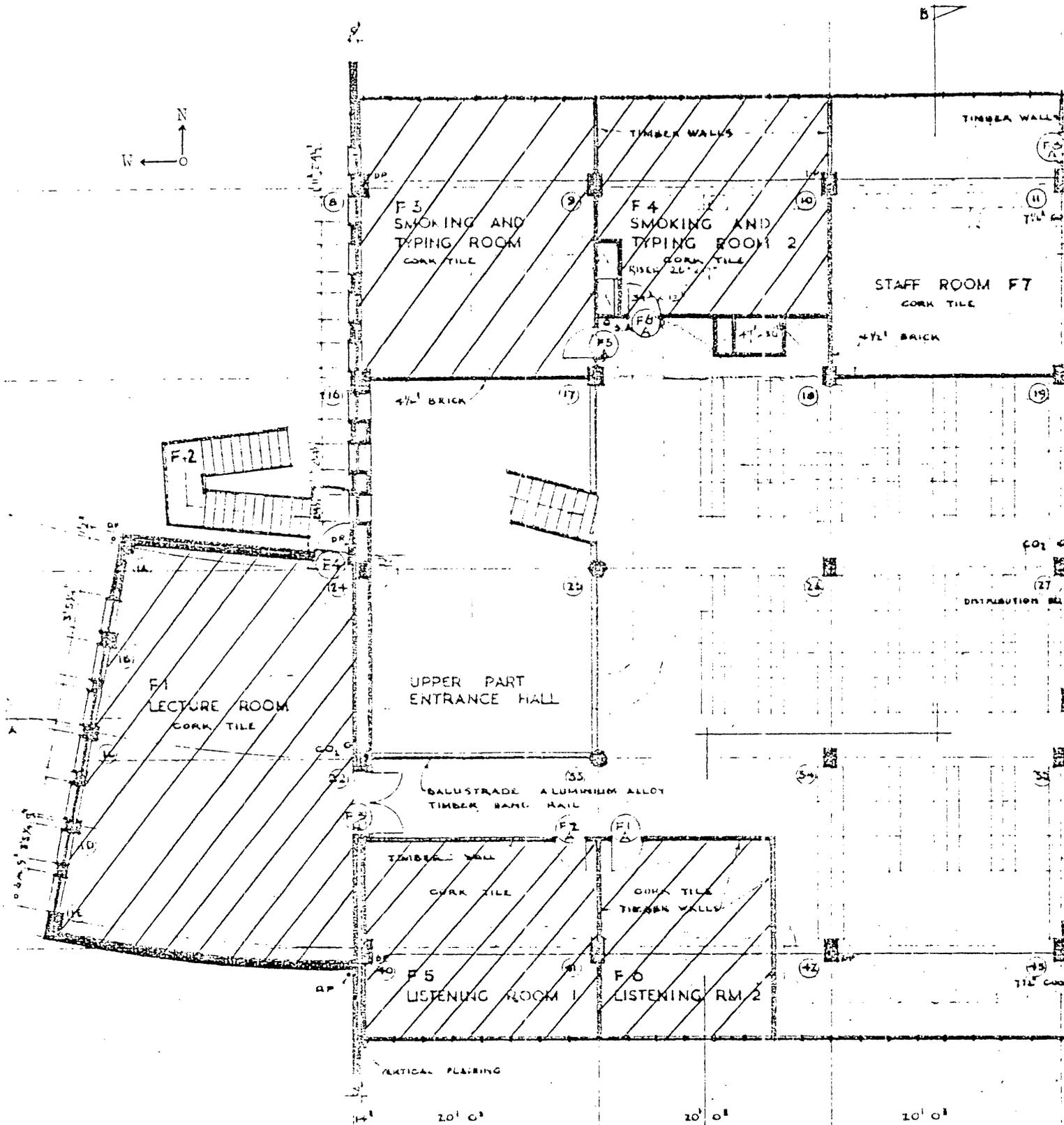


Fig. 8: Rooms on Library's First Floor Vacated by the Department of Adult Education in the 1960s (marked with diagonal lines)

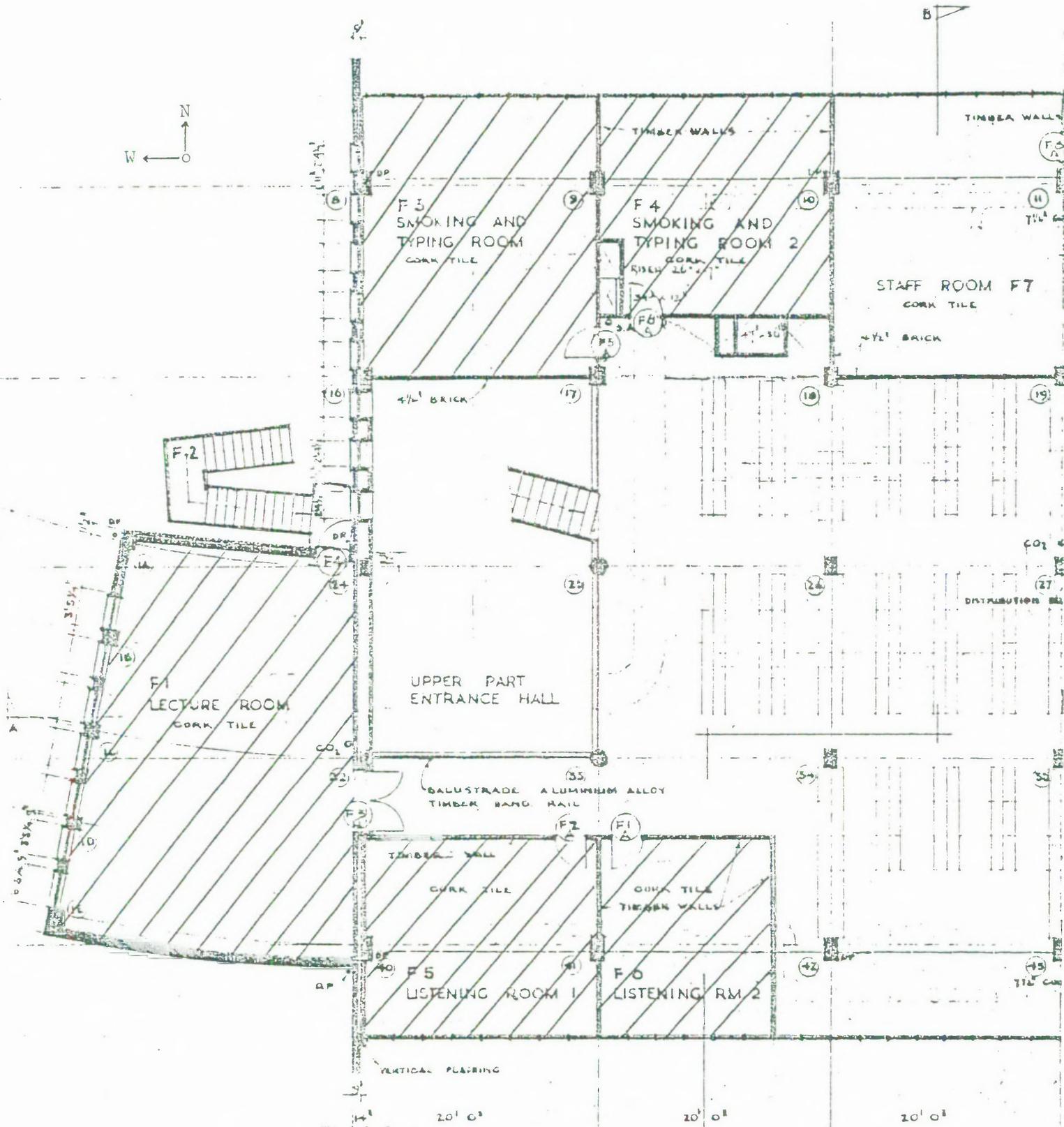


Fig. 8: Rooms on Library's First Floor Vacated by the Department of Adult Education in the 1960s (marked with diagonal lines)

structure for the purpose of storage. The major need was for general study areas. As the Library's collection and user population enlarged, the dilemma of housing material in association with adequate reading facilities became acute. The permanent Library had been built to accommodate 278,000 volumes and 190 study carrels. By 1966, the Librarian estimated that spare shelving remained for only 30,000 volumes but seating had had to be made available for 337 readers.<sup>6</sup>

In the early months of 1967, Frank Rogers explored the feasibility of fulfilling the original plan to add a fourth floor to the building.<sup>7</sup> A year later, the building of an extension at the north-eastern corner of the Library was considered by the Library Committee, the purpose being to provide a temporary reading room.<sup>8</sup> Subsequently, the University's Planning Committee rejected these proposals, preferring to focus on the construction of a major extension to the south of the existing building.<sup>9</sup> At the same time, the Library continued to draw upon the southern basement of the Marshall Building (which had been originally constructed as a temporary facility in the 1950s) and, in late 1968, took over a small structure (called the 'Bank Building') on the eastern side of the Library.<sup>10</sup>

The process of planning an extension served to reveal the impact of new pressures on the Library's collection. These pressures took three main forms. The first was occasioned by the expansion of post-graduate study and academic research in the years following the Murray

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<sup>6</sup> Library Committee, Minutes, 9 May 1966.

<sup>7</sup> Library Committee, Minutes, 8 May 1967.

<sup>8</sup> Library Committee, Minutes, 13 May 1968.

<sup>9</sup> Library Committee, Minutes, 5 August 1968.

<sup>10</sup> Library Committee, Minutes, 13 May 1968.

Report (1957), which highlighted the different methods of library use adopted by undergraduate students and advanced researchers. Hitherto the arrangement and layout of the Dixon Library had been largely governed by the necessities of undergraduate study - partly on account of the relative smallness of the Library's collection, and partly because of an expressed desire to provide suitable conditions for students. In the 1960s, however, the growth and diversification of library needs prompted the Librarian to propose a division of the collection. He noted that the permanent building had been based on the design of a specifically undergraduate library, the Lamont, which performed the role of basic service effectively - at least for internal undergraduates though not, at this stage, for external students - but did not cater for the sophisticated bibliographic needs of researchers. In a paper prepared in 1968 at the request of the Professorial Board, Rogers recommended that the Dixon's collection be split into an 'Undergraduate Collection' (comprising one-third of the Library's holdings) and a 'Research Materials Centre' (containing two-thirds of the volumes). Quoting extensively from two professional articles,<sup>11</sup> the Librarian pointed out that the separation of materials was designed to allow the distinct library needs of students and researchers to be satisfied more effectively: undergraduates would have to reckon only with a collection geared to their course requirements, while higher degree students and scholars could undertake research without the intrusions of undergraduate use. Rogers emphasised that separate buildings and services were not envisaged, and that the Library's users would not be segregated. Undergraduates would be free to enter the Research Materials

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<sup>11</sup> B.S. Page, 'Library Provision for Undergraduates in England', and Stephen A. McCarthy, 'In the United States', *College & Research Libraries*, vol. 26, May 1965, pp. 219 - 224.

Centre, and materials could be transferred from one collection to another in the light of experience.<sup>12</sup>

The merits of a divided collection were debated at length within the University. The Faculties were substantially in favour of the proposal, as was the Professorial Board. However, the Faculty of Arts and the Students' Representative Council opposed it. This division revealed another aspect of the debate - namely, that a marked difference in teaching technique existed between Arts-based departments (in which over 40 percent of students were enrolled) and the others. By comparison with the Science areas where learning continued to involve laboratory work and textbook usage, the pattern of undergraduate teaching in Arts became increasingly library-oriented in the 1960s. There were weekly tutorials as well as lectures, heavier reading demands on students for tutorials and essays, reliance on journal articles and wider use of books. In one sense, therefore, the debate over the division of the Library turned on a key difference of approach between Arts and Science.

The issue finally came to the University Council for consideration more than a year after it had first been raised on the campus. At the May 1969 meeting of Council, a letter from various Professors in the Faculty of Arts argued that the proposed separation of the collection would 'introduce an artificial and arbitrary division of the University's library resources which is quite unnecessary at this stage of the University's development'; in addition, it would 'increase the difficulties of the student in locating material and discourage all but the very talented student from using the Library's resources to the fullest extent possible'.<sup>13</sup> The Council finally agreed to the division of the Library but proposed that the two sections be called the 'General Library' and the

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<sup>12</sup> Professorial Board, Minutes, 23 February 1968.

<sup>13</sup> U.N.E. Council, Addendum to Business Paper, 12 May 1969.

'Research Library' - a recommendation which the Library Committee supported.<sup>14</sup>

The work of preparing the collection for division involved a comprehensive bibliographic survey of the Dixson Library's holdings, which resulted in an identification of undergraduate-level titles for the General Library, and the acquisition of appropriate material not held. The work proceeded very slowly, chiefly on account of staffing shortages.<sup>15</sup> Finally it was abandoned in the form proposed, not only owing to a lack of preparatory staff, but because, as will be discussed at a later point, the Library acquired responsibility in 1971 for an additional undergraduate-level collection - the New England Collection developed in the Public Library of New South Wales.

A second indication of the Library's continuing growth was the perceived need to strengthen the security of the collection. In May 1965, Frank Rogers suggested to the Library Committee that spot checks of users leaving the building were now warranted. While he did not believe that book losses were of a serious magnitude, he reported that several hundred volumes which had not been charged out were returned to the Library during the previous Term.<sup>16</sup> No immediate action ensued, but in July 1969, the Library Committee resolved that turnstiles be installed at the public exit as part of a regular inspection system. Library attendants were employed in this role from the beginning of Third Term 1970.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Library Committee, Minutes, 10 November 1969.

<sup>15</sup> Dixson Library, *Annual Report 1970*.

<sup>16</sup> Library Committee, Minutes, 10 May 1965.

<sup>17</sup> Library Committee, Minutes, 14 July 1969; interview with Smith Richardson, 29 November 1982.

A third manifestation of pressure on the Library's collection during this period was discussion of the lending of journals. Journals represented a class of material distinct from books. Not only did they raise special issues of collection and preservation - as they characteristically appeared in unbound parts which were finally assembled into unit volumes - but they tended to contain various articles unrelated by theme. The latter feature in particular posed a considerable problem of accessibility. On the one hand, the typical user required only a minor part of any journal issue or volume but perforce borrowed a physical item containing many unconnected articles of potential interest to different users. On the other hand, the journal itself was an increasingly important agent of scholarly communication in the changing state of knowledge in the post-war world - and thus increasingly relied on by users of an academic library.<sup>18</sup>

The debate over the lending of journals highlighted an important attitude on the part of academic librarians. While they generally supported the principle of open access to material, they were inclined to favour, on the same grounds of accessibility, the restricted borrowing of journals.<sup>19</sup> In short, their professional concern, as a leading Australian librarian noted, was 'not just a medium or vehicle such as the manuscript or printed book, but what is conveyed in the vehicle'.<sup>20</sup> The desire to

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<sup>18</sup> *Scholarly Communication: the Report of the National Enquiry*, Baltimore, 1979, chapter 2.

<sup>19</sup> Tattersall to Robb, 18 September 1950. U.N.E.A., A292. An exchange of letters among Australian university librarians in 1975 on the subject of journal borrowing suggested a consensus of opinion against the practice. See correspondence of Committee of Australian University Librarians, Administrative Files of Dixson Librarian, 1975.

<sup>20</sup> J. Metcalfe, 'The Profession of Librarianship'. *A.L.J.*, vol. 6, October 1957, p. 153.

make information available, and not simply the form in which it was communicated, lay behind the dominant professional attitude on journal lending.

At New England, the Library Committee began in 1967 to look seriously at the problem of the unavailability of journals on account of lax borrowing habits. On several occasions in subsequent years, the Committee considered ways in which access to journals might be improved - namely, more tightly enforced loan periods, the designation of certain journal titles for use only within the Library, the prohibition of journal borrowing in its entirety.<sup>21</sup> The Committee proved decidedly ambivalent in the application of controls, thereby reflecting a possible division of opinion in the academic community over methods of journal use: at one extreme, the Science-based users finding access to articles by systematic means (such as subject indexes) and, to a large extent, working in disparate disciplines; while, at the other, the Arts-based readers being cross-disciplinary and more devoted to browsing and the value of serendipity. As in the case of the proposed division of the Library's collection, a difference of approach between Arts and Science exercised a major influence on the discussion.

In November 1969, the Library Committee approved the principle of non-circulation of journals but, a year and a half later, reversed its attitude and permitted the borrowing of bound or unbound journals for 28-day periods. After yet a further two years, the Committee resolved that all journal lending be disallowed.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> Library Committee, Minutes, various years.

<sup>22</sup> Library Committee, Minutes, 8 November 1969 and 7 June 1971.

A major reason for this oscillation of opinion was the relative novelty of technological development in Australian academic libraries throughout the 1960s and early 1970s. In the area of journal lending, a key instrument was the photocopier, since it could function as a means of providing a substitute for borrowing. During this period, however, the supply of photocopiers was limited. The first installation in the Dixson Library took place in 1963 when a Xerox 914 was provided for use by Library staff; only after the turn of the decade was a second machine introduced as a coin-operated facility for Library users.<sup>23</sup> In terms of performance, the Xerox 914 was described by a librarian at the University of Melbourne as 'one of the most efficient and economical copying processes yet made available to libraries ...', though he noted such deficiencies of operation as an inability to reproduce faithfully half-tone illustrations and an occasional tendency to scorch the paper.<sup>24</sup>

The photocopier was a major sign of the application of technology to library services, which began to develop in Australian university libraries in the course of the 1960s. Like other instruments of technological change, the photocopier influenced methods of university teaching, research and study, and in time transformed the patterns of library use. Firstly, it enabled users to obtain a personal copy of virtually any document, thereby obviating the practical need - as well as eliminating the intellectual exercise - of transcribing information in summary form. Secondly, by serving as an alternative to borrowing, the photocopier affected the policies of individual libraries as well as the practice of

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<sup>23</sup> L.A.A.U.L.S., *News Sheet*, vol. 4, April 1963, p. 6; Library Committee, Minutes, 7 April 1972.

<sup>24</sup> G.J. MacFarlan, 'The Xerox 914 Copier ... a Cost Analysis and an Appraisal', *A.L.J.*, vol. 11, October 1962, pp. 208-9.

inter-library loans: it allowed requested material to be supplied in photocopied form, which had the dual advantage of leaving the original in the library for consultation by others and of providing the requester with a copy for retention. Thirdly, the advent of photocopying posed new threats to the preservation of library materials - on the one hand, through the damage caused by the photocopying process; and, on the other, by reason of the heightened incidence of theft and mutilation in cases where the option of photocopying proved unavailable.<sup>25</sup> In compensation, the photocopier also gave libraries a means of replacing lost or mutilated parts of their collections, usually through the mechanism of inter-library loans. Finally, the photocopier imposed new demands of service on the librarian. It called for the acquisition of technical knowledge and skill - a need which intensified with the subsequent introduction of the computer - and it put pressure on the librarian to become a legal authority in the complex area of copyright.

The application of technological processes attracted growing attention in the Dixon Library from the mid-1960s. In August 1966, a residential school was held at the University on the subject of 'Automation and libraries'. Organised by the Department of University Extension, the school was designed as a practical workshop on the present and future use of computerisation in libraries. It was attended by thirty-seven people, almost half of whom worked in various university libraries.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> See, for example, C. Hendrick and M.E. Murfin, 'Project Library Ripoff: a Study of Periodical Mutilation in a University Library', *College & Research Libraries*, vol. 35, November 1974, pp. 402 - 411; and M.E. Murfin and C. Hendrick, 'Ripoffs Tell their Story: Interviews with Mutilators in a University Library', *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, vol. 1, May 1975, pp. 8 - 12.

<sup>26</sup> Sheila Apted, 'Workshop on Automation and Libraries Held at NUNE, 21-26 August 1966', L.A.A.U.L.S., *News Sheet*, vol. 7, November 1966, p. 86.

The school proved to be a prelude to the consideration of automation in the Dixson Library. Among the reports given on automated schemes then underway, one was presented on an automated catalogue produced at Sydney University for its undergraduate library. Another form of automated control being developed in Sydney University during this period was a circulation system at the Fisher Library.<sup>27</sup> In August 1968, the Library Committee at New England received a recommendation from the Librarian that a special committee be established on the subject of automated circulation. Comprising Miss J. Kriesel and Mr. P. Beaton from the Library staff and Mr. R. Lyons, Manager of the Data Processing Centre, the Committee's purpose was to study the Dixson Library's manual circulation system and assess the prospective advantage of adopting the automated scheme then operating at Sydney University.<sup>28</sup>

An important issue which the Committee considered was the availability of technical equipment and expertise at the University. Self-sufficiency on an isolated campus was central to the viability of technological applications. The problem of prolonged breakdowns had already become manifest in the photocopying area: the Library's machine failed periodically and could only be serviced to a limited extent by a technician from the University's Physics Department; any significant fault required a visit by a Xerox mechanic from a metropolitan centre (chiefly Newcastle).<sup>29</sup> In the new sphere of computerisation, therefore, the Library was concerned to take account of equipment in use or proposed for adoption elsewhere on campus. In November 1968, the Librarian

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<sup>27</sup> See Neil A. Radford and Joan E. Barry, 'I.B.M. Punched Card Circulation at Sydney University Library', *A.L.J.*, vol. 15, December 1966, pp. 228 - 234.

<sup>28</sup> Library Committee, Minutes, 5 August 1968.

<sup>29</sup> Interview with Peggy McClenaghan, Library Photographic Technician, 29 November 1982.

reported that the IBM Company had developed a circulation system (called the 'IBM 357'), which would use equipment compatible with that expected to be installed in the University's administrative departments.<sup>30</sup>

In presenting an estimate of the costs involved, the Librarian indicated that equipment and implementation would constitute the major charge. Staff costs, at least in the Library, as distinct from those incurred in the data processing area, would be minimal; since, in the main, the existing staff would be retrained for duties connected with the new system.<sup>31</sup> This line of argument became characteristic of computerised developments in libraries - partly because the need was intensifying to curb costs in universities (and computerisation addressed the major component of costs, namely staffing); and partly because libraries could gain easier access to university resources for equipment than for staffing, on the grounds that equipment was assumed to be a single or at least terminal commitment of funds, and the Commonwealth Government provided a special grant for this purpose separate from normal recurrent allocations.

The proposed IBM 357 system operated by bringing together two machine-readable records - one, in the form of a punched card representing the book borrowed; the other, an identification badge representing the borrower. In early 1969, the preparatory work began of converting the Library's current loan file into machine-readable form;<sup>32</sup> by July, about three-quarters of the records had been treated.<sup>33</sup> The other segment of the system, that of special reader badges, was adopted,

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<sup>30</sup> Library Committee, Minutes, 11 November 1968.

<sup>31</sup> U.N.E. Council, Business Paper, 9 December 1968.

<sup>32</sup> U.N.E. Council, Business Paper, 10 March 1969; Library Committee, Minutes, 12 May 1969.

<sup>33</sup> Library Committee, Minutes, 14 July 1969.

though only after lengthy debate among faculty members and students, since identification cards had not previously been used within the University.<sup>34</sup>

As preparations took place for the operation of the new circulation system, a significant staffing change occurred in the Library. In July 1968, Victor Crittenden, who had served as Associate Librarian since January 1960, resigned to accept the position of Librarian at the Canberra College of Advanced Education.<sup>35</sup> No immediate replacement was made but, in July 1969, Mr. Smith Richardson was appointed as Associate Librarian. Born and educated in the U.S.A., he had most recently been Director of Libraries at Wisconsin State University in Superior.

Richardson's arrival marked a strengthening of emphasis in the areas of technological application, reader-oriented services, and cost-saving management. This emphasis was manifested in the computerisation programme already initiated by the Library, in a series of changes introduced in technical services departments, and in the preparation of a new building extension.

In the first place, Richardson possessed a special interest and expertise in the sphere of library automation. He had had direct experience with the IBM 357 system which was being implemented in the Dixon Library.<sup>36</sup> This experience proved especially timely since the Librarian was away overseas on study leave for most of 1970, and Richardson, as Acting Librarian, had to maintain the momentum of preparation for the

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<sup>34</sup> Profesorial Board, Minutes, 24 February 1969.

<sup>35</sup> *U.N.E. Bulletin*, September 1968, p. 10.

<sup>36</sup> *U.N.E. Bulletin*, May 1973, p. 22; interview with Smith Richardson, 26 November 1982.

new circulation system.<sup>37</sup>

By mid-1970, the delivery of the plastic identification badges and the IBM equipment was thought imminent;<sup>38</sup> but delays intervened and a test run of the system did not take place until 1971.<sup>39</sup>

The major problem confronting the new system was not the unforeseen delays in implementation but the lack of adequate technical support. The Library's choice of system had been decisively influenced by the expectation that the University would purchase an IBM computer. By June 1971, when a different machine was selected, maintenance problems with the Library's system grew serious. Several months later, the Librarian noted that '... the absence of skilled maintenance staff locally is a constant worry'.<sup>40</sup> This handicap finally proved the undoing of the system at New England, though it was successfully installed in other Australian university libraries.<sup>41</sup> The automated system was withdrawn almost four years after implementation, and the Library reverted to a manual operation.<sup>42</sup>

In the second place, the new Associate Librarian recognised a need to update the processes of acquisition and cataloguing in the

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<sup>37</sup> *U.N.E. Bulletin*, August 1961, p. 16; February 1962, p. 17.

<sup>38</sup> Library Committee, Minutes, 22 July 1970.

<sup>39</sup> Dixson Library, *Annual Report 1971*.

<sup>40</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>41</sup> See, for example, D. Peake and K. Jordan, 'Systems Design of the IBM 357 Operating at the University of New South Wales Library', *LASIE*, vol. 2, September-October 1971, pp. 2 - 27.

<sup>42</sup> Interview with Smith Richardson, 26 November 1982.

Dixson Library. The principal changes introduced from 1970 onwards were, firstly, a new measure of co-operative activity between the Acquisitions and Cataloguing Departments - with the process of checking order cards now being organized as a preparation for subsequent cataloguing, and not simply as an acquisitions function; and, secondly, a greatly increased reliance on cataloguing records produced by authoritative sources (such as America's Library of Congress). The purpose of these changes, in Richardson's mind, was twofold - to reduce the high proportion of staff costs associated with a technical services operation based on original cataloguing, and to provide latitude within the Library for deployment of staff to reader services areas.<sup>43</sup>

The costs associated with technology and library acquisitions acquired a new dimension during this period as a result of publishing innovations. The development of facsimile reproduction and microfilming programmes made available to libraries a range of primary source material formerly scattered or else held in only one institution. In 1969, the Dixson Library became interested in buying a monumental set in facsimile of British Parliamentary Papers of the nineteenth century. After consulting with a number of academic departments, the Librarian placed an order for the material, which was scheduled to be delivered over a period of seven years. However, within a short time both the publication rate and the price of the set rose sharply. The Dixson Library, in company with various Australian libraries, had to make special credit arrangements in order to prevent gross overexpenditure.<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>43</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>44</sup> Library Committee, Minutes, 9 November 1970.

The incident had a number of consequences. Most immediately, it induced the University to limit the Librarian's discretionary power to purchase substantial sets (in excess of \$5,000) without prior reference to the Library Committee.<sup>45</sup> At a deeper level, it served to alert the University to a development which represented a new academic opportunity and a new institutional problem - namely, that a vast amount of significant research material was now being published, which fell into what the Vice-Chancellor of the time, Alec Lazenby, called the category of 'high cost, low use'.<sup>46</sup> This development stimulated new ventures in co-operative acquisition among academic libraries, though mainly in metropolitan areas where the libraries were geographically close and their respective users could travel between the co-operating institutions to consult the material.

Another professional sphere in which Smith Richardson had recent experience was that of library buildings. He had been responsible for planning and bringing to completion a new library structure at the university in Wisconsin where he previously worked.<sup>47</sup> As early as 1965, the Australian Universities Commission had been requested to approve extensions to the Dixon Library;<sup>48</sup> but it was not until 1969 that the Commission supported the construction of a second stage, at a projected cost of \$730,000, in the 1970-72 triennium.<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>45</sup> Library Committee, Minutes, 17 May 1971.

<sup>46</sup> Lazenby to Smith Richardson, Acting Librarian, 3 November 1970. U.N.E.A., A292.

<sup>47</sup> Interview with Richardson, 26 November 1982.

<sup>48</sup> Library Committee, Minutes, 10 May 1965.

<sup>49</sup> Australian Universities Commission, *Fourth Report*, Commonwealth Government Printing Office, Canberra, 1969, p. 50.

The new stage was designed to be four storeys high and linked to the southern side of the existing building. A colonnade on the western side at the ground level would link it up with the existing public entrance. The extension would double the Library's floor space and accommodate 390,000 volumes (in relation to the 1969 holdings of 250,000 volumes) and 552 study carrels (an increase of more than 200 seats over the 1969 figure). The preparation of this stage was marked by a key difference from that of the building to which it was to be attached. The original structure was conceived in the 1950s as providing for the Dixson Library's needs indefinitely, but the second stage was seen as an intermediate and even provisional extension: a third stage, which would consist of a five storey block on the Library's eastern side, was anticipated within a further seven to ten years; and a fourth stage was planned for the year 2000 as a central tower eight to ten storeys high.<sup>50</sup>

Although the proposed extension was substantial, the Librarian calculated that it would accommodate the Library's needs only to 1975. This projection was based on an annual accessions of 20,000 volumes.<sup>51</sup> At this stage of planning, however, the extension did not include provision for a special collection and service which had previously been located off-campus. The New England Collection for external students had been housed by the Public Library of New South Wales since 1955. By 1970, it comprised over 40,000 volumes and was placing severe stress on the storage capacity of the Public Library. In April of that year, the Library Council advised the University that 'it would be unable to provide accommodation for the library service to external students

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<sup>50</sup> *U.N.E. Bulletin*, December 1969, p. 3.

<sup>51</sup> Library Committee, Minutes, 14 July 1969.

after January, 1971.<sup>52</sup> Accordingly, the collection was transferred to Armidale in that month and its administration came under the Dixon Library.<sup>53</sup>

Such a move had value as a means of integrating library materials and services, along the lines envisaged almost two decades earlier by a former Librarian, Edith Tattersall.<sup>54</sup> In particular, it served to incorporate into the Dixon Library a great range of books in multiple copy, as well as a sudden increase in staff (ten new positions). However, in the short term, it represented a setback to the space provision expected from Stage II. In July 1970, the Acting Librarian, Smith Richardson, reported that the incorporation of the External Studies Collection (thus renamed from the New England Collection) would absorb space projected for reader seating as well as the future expansion of the collection.<sup>55</sup> For the time being, however, as the construction of Stage II had not yet commenced, alternative premises were needed for the Collection, and the Alluna building to the east of the Dixon Library was chosen.<sup>56</sup>

Even prior to the arrival of the External Studies Collection in Armidale, the prospect was raised of extending its accessibility to internal students.<sup>57</sup> From the outset the University had synchronised

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<sup>52</sup> The Library of New South Wales [formerly the Public Library of New South Wales], *Annual Report 1970*, p. 10.

<sup>53</sup> The Library of New South Wales, *Annual Report 1971*, p. 10.

<sup>54</sup> See E.M. Tattersall, Preliminary Report on Requirements for the Dixon Library ..., April 1953.

<sup>55</sup> Library Committee, Minutes, 22 July 1970.

<sup>56</sup> Library Committee, Minutes, 9 November 1970.

<sup>57</sup> *ibid.*

its external and internal degree programmes in terms of lecturing staff employed, courses offered, and assessment standards applied.<sup>58</sup> As a consequence, the books included in the External Studies Collection would be of potential use to internal students. In November 1970, the question was raised before the Library Committee of whether seating might be made available in the Alluna building so that internal students could use the External Studies Collection. At a later time, when the Collection moved into the extended Dixson Library building, this direction of development was indeed followed. For the moment, however, a lack of space for study seating in Alluna, combined with a belief on the part of the Acting Librarian that the Dixson Library should gain experience in using this collection for external students before access were widened to internal students, resulted in a maintenance of the service as it had operated in Sydney.<sup>59</sup> A subsequent survey of student opinion in certain towns in the north-west of N.S.W., conducted by officers of the Department of External Studies, revealed satisfaction with the relocated lending service.<sup>60</sup>

The building of the Library's second stage revealed a number of problems, most of which were due to an inadequacy of funds for the needs perceived. A major delay occurred prior to construction when tenders submitted for the extension exceeded the budget. The work of erection finally began in May 1971 and was completed near the end of 1972.<sup>61</sup> The transfer of the collection and services took place during

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<sup>58</sup> See Howard Sheach, 'The System Evolves', in Kevin C. Smith (ed.), *External Studies at New England: A Silver Jubilee Review, 1955-1979*, Armidale, 1979.

<sup>59</sup> Library Committee, Minutes, 9 November 1970.

<sup>60</sup> Library Committee, Minutes, 7 April 1972.

<sup>61</sup> U.N.E., *Annual Report 1971*; Dixson Library, *Annual Report 1972*.

the end-of-year vacation period.

The main weaknesses in the new extension were the lack of a lift (the building of which the budget could not embrace at that time, though a lift well was included in the structure),<sup>62</sup> and poor lighting (caused by diagonally placed fluorescent tubes which did not correspond to reader pathways between the book stacks). At the same time, the new stage did provide urgently needed space, though not sufficient to cope for long with the continuing expansion of the Library's resources.

The opening of the extension coincided with the retirement of F.H. Rogers as Librarian. He had presided over the Dixon Library's development for almost two decades, during which its collection and staff - as well as the buildings they occupied - underwent pronounced change and expansion. In the period 1963 -1973, this change was of a qualitative as well as quantitative kind. Clearly, substantial growth occurred in the Library's collection (from 152,726 volumes in 1963 to 334,900 in 1973) and in its staff numbers (from 34 to 61.5 over the same years).<sup>63</sup> But in addition, new cost pressures and technological opportunities served to introduce different kinds of changes. They modified traditional library policies (for example, in regard to borrowing conditions and cataloguing methods), as well as encouraged innovative approaches (such as computerisation).

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<sup>62</sup> A lift was subsequently installed in Stage II.

<sup>63</sup> L.A.A.U.L.S., *News Sheet*, and *Australian Academic & Research Libraries*, statistical supplements, various years.

At the end of the period, these pressures and opportunities were leading the Dixson Library to elaborate a broader conception of its role as a source and instrument of knowledge in an academic environment. It continued to serve as a repository of books and a study hall; but it was increasingly conscious that an academic library service required not only an openness to the growth of collections, but a professional response to technological growth and administrative complexity, and a harnessing of the energies and skills flowing from these developments.