

## PERIODICALS: WHY AREN'T THEY THERE WHEN YOU NEED THEM?

The Library has established a working group to investigate users' complaints that periodicals are often not on the shelves when they are wanted. The group has been asked specifically to determine whether the Library's policy of circulating bound and unbound periodicals contributes to this problem. Bill Watson, the Assistant Librarian for Public Services, Central Libraries, is the chairman of the group. Please call him at 5071 if you have comments or suggestions which you think the committee should consider.

## PERIODICALS: HOW TO FIND THE LATEST INFORMATION

Most inquiries about the Library's periodical holdings can be answered by the widely available Serial List. Now, thanks to programs developed by our systems staff, we are also able to assist those few users who need more up-to-date information and more versatile ways of searching for periodical titles than the Serial List can supply. We can do this by accessing the serial system on-line from a terminal located behind the Information Desk in the Main Library. Other campus libraries will soon be able to offer the same service. These are some of the questions that Information Desk staff can answer by doing an on-line search:

Has the March 7th issue of Aviation Week been received? (A quick search will show the most recent issue received even if it was checked in five minutes earlier. Mind you, it'll be a day or so before that issue arrives in the Main Library. Although we can now move information around with the speed of light, the Library delivery truck still moves at its own pace.)

I can't remember the precise title of the journal I need, but I know it has "pelican" in the title and I think it's published in Edmonton. (On the Serial List the wanted title is listed in only one place, under its correct title, White Pelican. However, on-line we can search the serials file by keywords, combined if necessary with place of publication. A useful aid for those of us who have trouble with titles beginning with unmemorable words like "white" or "international" or "journal of...".)

Is the 1982 volume of Journal of Marriage and the Family back from the bindery yet? (As with current issues, we can discover on-line if a newly bound volume has been checked in even within the last few minutes. Here again there will be a delay in delivery because the volume has to be labelled and records updated before it reaches its final destination. However, these procedures can be speeded up if your need is urgent.)

## PLEASE RETURN OR RENEW ALL BOOKS: END OF TERM IS HERE

Soon after April 8, the Library will send call-in notices for all outstanding books borrowed since August 3, 1982. Please return those books you no longer need and renew all others.

If you are going to be away from campus during the spring and summer, remember that long-term loans are always subject to call-in. Either return all books in case they are needed by others, or make arrangements to have someone check your mail and respond to Library call-ins.

Have you been billed for replacement of books in the past? These books are no longer signed out to you and are totally inaccessible to others. We have assumed they are lost and are attempting to replace them. We would be delighted to have them back.



If you find any of them, bring them to the overdues department of the relevant branch and ask for a cancellation of the replacement charges billed to you.

Outstanding library fines should be paid at the Finance Department, 3rd floor of the new Administration Building. We will not be able to renew library cards for academic year 83/84 for those people (including faculty) who have outstanding fines.

## **THE LIBRARY SPACE SITUATION**

The University's proposal to the Universities Council of B.C. for a new central library was submitted in the Spring of 1981. Since that time the subject has been raised several times, but there has never been any official or final answer to the proposal. It is understood that the state of the economy and the provincial treasury prohibit any positive answer.

The effect of this situation is particularly unfortunate for the Library, since present inaction guarantees that more of the collections are going to be relegated to storage even though library users, particularly researchers, are not happy with this solution to the problem. The reasons are obvious. Storage puts one more barrier between the user and the material he wants, and it prevents him from discovering a book while doing systematic browsing. Librarians object to storage because it is costly and because it further complicates an already complex system.

Lack of an answer to the building proposal adds a further dimension to the space problem. Because it was recommended that most of the Main Library be replaced with new construction, it has not been thought wise to spend all-too-limited funds on upgrading the existing building, even though it is deficient under the building code, contains space now idle because it cannot be used for people until safety deficiencies are made good, is overcrowded, inefficient and expensive to operate, and prevents any restructuring or rationalization of the library's staff organization.

The problem of space is one of the most urgent ones facing the Library today, and it will not go away. Just what the answers to it will be is not altogether clear, but we know that they will involve continued overcrowding, further relegation to storage, and increased costs. If, for the present, the total Library operating budget were to remain steady or to decline, the increased costs of storage and coping with the space shortage would have to be at the expense of other library services. This would certainly impinge on the library user.

The Library is making plans to deal with its space problems, but many factors are beyond its control. Before the decade is ended the entire Library system capacity will be exceeded. Some parts of the system have already reached this point. Space planning and provision consumes long periods of time. There are some bleak years ahead.

## **LIBRARY WITHDRAWS SUPPORT FOR DEPARTMENTAL READING ROOMS**

On March 31, 1983, Library support for departmental reading rooms was curtailed as part of the Library's effort to deal with retrenchment. Faculty members should be aware of the following changes:

No new orders for reading room books have been accepted by the Library since February 15th. Monographs must now be ordered through the University Bookstore and paid for from departmental funds.

The Library will continue to order, renew, and cancel reading room periodical subscriptions, check in and distribute current issues, and claim missing issues. However, departments must now pay for subscriptions from their own funds.

The Library's binding service for reading rooms was discontinued on March 31st. Binding can be arranged through the Purchasing Department and must be paid for from departmental funds.