

NEWS FROM PNG

Lae is the second largest city in Papua New Guinea. There are a number of libraries in Lae, the largest being the Matheson Library at the Papua New Guinea University of Technology, with approximately 65,000 monographs and 1,800 current periodicals titles. The Matheson Library's main strengths are in the fields of engineering, business studies, architecture, agriculture and other technological subjects. The major role of the Library is to provide information to facilitate and promote teaching, learning, research and community development within the University. An important secondary role is to provide information on science and technology throughout the country.

Other libraries here include the Lae Public Library, libraries of the various government departments, businesses and schools, and the library at the Timber Industry Training College, teachers colleges and Lutheran Seminary. The Lae libraries are isolated from the main centre of library activity in Papua New Guinea. Port Moresby is where most librarians live and work, and where most of the professional exchange of ideas such as conferences, workshops, and Papua New Guinea Library Association (PNGLA) meetings take place. However, the disadvantages are overcome by pleasant surroundings, enthusiastic colleagues and the establishment of a Lae Branch of the PNGLA.

In the past there has been little dialogue between the libraries in Lae, but with the recent resurrection of the PNGLA Lae Branch, communication is improving. The PNGLA Lae Branch has recently resumed the printing of a newsletter and regular monthly meetings are being held on topics as varied as the Books for Asia Programme (the Matheson Library is a distributor, and the University Librarian Mr S.A. Patchett the Lae co-ordinator) and small computers in libraries. A full programme of such meetings is planned for the rest of 1985, along with some social events.

The current President of the PNGLA Lae Branch is Selina Mainga who has recently returned from post-graduate study of Canberra College of Advanced Education and who is now acting as Reader Services Librarian for the Matheson Library. The Secretary is Benstead Lovi, the librarian for Bugandi High School. The Treasurer's position is currently vacant, a result of the recent departure of Pat Robinson to the UK.

I am working as Serials Librarian for the Matheson Library for three years (began September 1983) on leave-without-pay from the Armidale College of Advanced Education (ACAE) which has some links with the Matheson Library. Past and present ACAE staff have worked for short periods of time at the Matheson Library, including Joanna Richardson (now at Riverina CAE) and Colin Baker. In addition two Matheson Library staff, at the University of New England for work experience, have spent time at ACAE. They were Lucas Dosung in 1983 and Nicks Maniha earlier in 1985.

Another, perhaps more important, link is that both ACAE and the Matheson Library use the University of New England's VTLS system. While ACAE's procedures are almost fully automated, the Matheson Library's for reasons of distance and cost are not.

To cope with a substantially increased book vote in 1982, and a backlog of approximately 3,000 titles, the Matheson Library was considering measures to control the problem. Up-dated cataloguing procedures has been introduced and BNA cards ordered for the backlog and current acquisitions. However, cataloguers, and the University Librarian, did

not see this as an adequate solution for coping with current acquisitions, let alone the backlog.

In February, 1982, the then University Librarian of the University of New England (Smith Richardson) in his role as Australian Universities International Development Programme consultant to the Matheson Library advocated the conversion of the Matheson Library's card catalogue to a computer output microfiche (COM) catalogue, the process to be carried out jointly by the Matheson Library and the University of New England (UNE).

Copies of order slips are sent to UNE at the time the order is sent to the bookseller. UNE obtains a MARC printout for each item from AMRS, which is then sent to the Matheson Library, and edited if necessary when the book arrives. The printouts are returned to UNE who input the data and send the Matheson Library automatically produced spine and date due labels, and a COM catalogue. If necessary original cataloguing is done on worksheets in a machine readable format.

While there are obvious disadvantages to the system stemming mainly from the distance between UNE and the Matheson Library the advantages to the Matheson Library are considerable. Savings in time and space (the old card catalogue will gradually disappear), the reduction of typing and clerical duties, a speedier turnover of titles, bibliographic consistency, and all the advantages of a portable catalogue make the venture worthwhile.

I have had a most interesting time working in Lae, in a different country, with a different system, and with people from many countries, and hope that others may have a similar opportunity.

1 Riley, A. COM Comes to Unitech, *Tok tok bilong haus buk*, No. 34 (June 1983) pp. 20-27.

Mary Anne Lea
July 1985



LOCAL STUDIES COLLECTIONS

Guidelines and Subject Headings for Organizing and Indexing Resources

By John Flint & Anne Berry
2nd edition

A new edition of this work is in preparation. It has been revised in response to invited comment, with the assistance of other librarians experienced in local history work and in consultation with the Librarians' Committee of historical societies affiliated with the Royal Australian Historical Society. It covers the setting of objectives, arranging and housing materials and indexing problems; it includes a list of subject headings for use in indexing local collections.

The new edition will also provide simplified guidelines for those faced with organizing a collection of materials with little or no experience in the field.

The new edition will be ready shortly and the price will be \$15 to members, \$18 to non-members.

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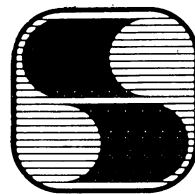
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