

SLV is on the move

Ken Tuckey of the JTM Group explains how his computer program will help

THE FIRST MAJOR collection relocation with the redevelopment of the State Library of Victoria is about to happen: twelve collections housed in some 3000 bays, most of them going to interim accommodation in the new North Infill. Staff have to be moved, as well!

The Rare Book, Manuscript, Picture and Current Newspaper collections, along with some monographic collections are held in restricted areas. However, access is not the only problem. Planning for future expansion presents an interesting relocation challenge when there are so many collection types and subjects all growing at different rates, with little statistical data available to base calculations on.

Logistics present their own challenge. There are only two small mechanical lifts of limited capacity and several narrow wrought iron spiral staircases.

Statues, busts, display cases and historic paintings are scattered throughout. Shelving varies from new to ancient, imperial to metric, with hundreds of shelf sizes in between. There is no conventional loading dock and egress from the La Trobe Building is via stairs...

The Library has been working closely with the JTM Library Consultant Group in planning the move, which will be facilitated by the Group's unique software program, especially developed for library collection management and relocation planning.

The program is based on software development carried out by Ken Tuckey, who heads up the JTM Group. The program incorporates expansion factor calculations and derives new shelf space and size requirements automatically. It also produces a move plan that minimises

uncertainty and guesswork.

The program had its origin when Ken was engaged by the ABC to relocate ABC Radio in Sydney last year. As well as the radio stations, the relocation involved moving over a thousand personnel, the performance studios, five libraries and a large mainframe. A Price Waterhouse study judged it about as complex a relocation as you can get, since the ABC could not go off the air for any period.

To meet these requirements, a program was developed to plan and track the moves of microphones, furniture, people or books. Its applications in library moves were immediately apparent. The JTM Group is now assisting several New South Wales Libraries in collection management and relocation planning, so giving the program a thorough work-out in preparation for the SLV move. ■

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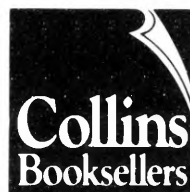
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