

Mouldy tomes at university library

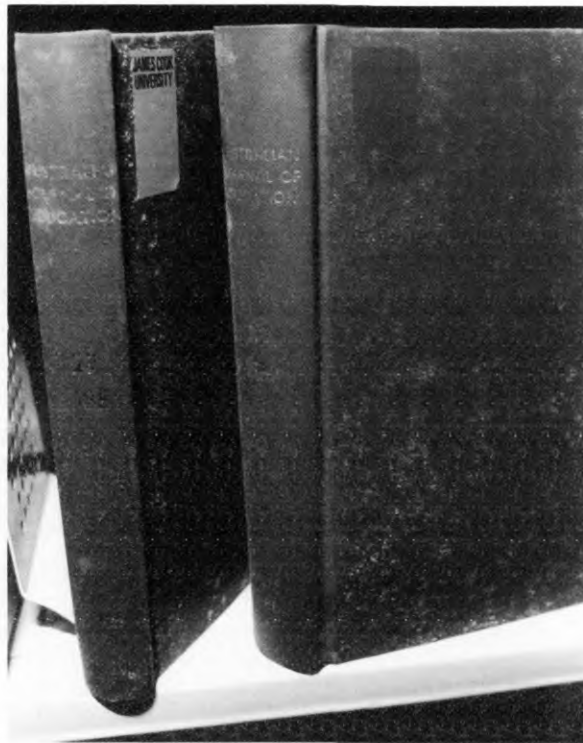
Judith Clark, James Cook University, Cairns campus

In January 1996 mould became evident throughout the James Cook University Cairns library collection. The problem presented as a whitish furry growth, evident on bindings in all parts of the collection, but particularly affecting buckram-bound volumes. Many books felt damp to the touch and covers were swelling and curving.

The problem seemed to be caused by *Aspergillus* mould, which thrives in seventy to one hundred per cent humidity with low air circulation.

A workplace health and safety inspector recommended that the affected books be vacuumed with high-efficiency cleaners using special filters to prevent spores from being released. He also suggested that the work be carried out in isolation by workers wearing protective dust masks. All hard surfaces were to be wiped down with anti-fungal cleaners, airconditioning filters were to be replaced, and the airconditioning system was to be treated with biocide.

Minor adjustments to the airconditioning were made and the result in terms of humidity levels closely monitored. When it seemed that humidity had stabilised at about sixty-eight per cent, a team of professional cleaners were engaged to clean the collection. The job was less than perfect as the books were cleaned *in situ* and traces of mould could still be seen along the tops of bindings and on front and back covers. However, by orientation week in mid-February, the infestation seemed to be under control.



Some of the affected books in the James Cook University library

The lessons of this experience will not be lost in the planning of the future library building. Given that the collection is mostly a lending collection, mould growth will remain a potential problem. In most homes in the Far North, conditions are perfect for *Aspergillus* almost all year round! The only control available is to ensure that conditions within the library are such that discourage its growth. The cost is high, but it is essential both for the health of those using the books and to prevent any further unnecessary deterioration of the collection. ■



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ing 5.30pm, Room G2, Alexander Library Building. Contact: Deanne Barrett, ph (09) 222 7904.

• **25/10 WA specials section.** Visit to Fremantle. Venue: Notre Dame Uni Library. Contact Tracy Gerritsen, ph (09) 481 0129 for details.

NATIONAL

4-16/8 International summer school on the digital library. Contact: Ticer BV, PO Box 4194, 5004 JD, Tilberg, The Netherlands. Ph 0011 31 13 4668310, fax 0015 31 13 466383, e-mail Ticer@kub.nl

21-22/8 Hong Kong Library and Information Association — Pre IFLA 1996 programme. The Hong Kong library and information network: a virtual gateway to China. Venue: Hong Kong, City Hall, High Block. Contact: Grace Cheng, fax 0015 852 2882 4378, e-mail chenggeyt@ha.org.hk.

25-31/8 IFLA general conference. The challenge of change: Libraries and economic development. Venue: Beijing International Conference Centre in North Beijing, China. Contact: The Secretariat, China Organising Committee of '96 IFLA General Conference, ph 0011 84 16347 or 0011 84 19560, fax 0015 84 19271, e-mail cjsun@sun.ihep.ac.cn.

25-27/8 Edutech 96, Sydney Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour. An exhibition of education and training technology, over eight exhibitors will be present. 10% of participants in 1995 were librarians. If you are attending the exhibition on any day, please call into the ALIA stand — n° 600.

1-4/9 International symposium on development in libraries in the 21st century. Contact: Shanghai Jiaotong Uni Library, 1954 Huashan Road, Shanghai 200030, PRC, fax 0015 96 21 4330892.

2-7/9 XIII International Congress on archives, Beijing Archives at the end of the century: taking stock and looking ahead. Contact: The organising committee, ph 0011 86 10 66171413, fax 0015 86 70 66173675.

30/9-3/10 Information at work — Te mahi panui. Keynote speakers: Dale Spender, Cliff Bunning and Cheryl Metoyer-Duran. Lakeland Hotel, Queenstown. Contact co-convenors for registration brochures: Penny Carnaby, ph 64 3 3649089, fax 64 3 3745346, e-mail carnabyp@lb.chchp.ac.nz or Philip Casey, ph 64 3 2088898, fax 64 3 2081210. Late registration fees apply after 19/7/96.

4-6/10 ARLIS/ANZ (Art Libraries Society, Australian and New Zealand) Conference fin-de-siecle. Art Libraries: dynamic or decadent? Venue: La Trobe Uni and National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne. Cost: \$110. Contact: Jennifer Durran, ph (03) 9905 4219, e-mail jennifer.durran@arts.monash.edu.au.

19-20/10 Joint Council heritage conference to promote heritage awareness. Venue: City of Mitcham Council Chambers, Belair Road, Lower Mitcham. Cost: \$30 per day, \$50 both days. For further information and bookings contact: Maggie Rag-

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MOBILE LIBRARY FOR SALE

Gladstone City Council

Tenders are being called for the sale of a complete **MOBILE LIBRARY** consisting of

1. **Prime Mover:** Mitsubishi FK475F RGCM 13.6 tonnes: 38,000 kilometers: purchased 1990
 2. **Mobile Library Trailer:** Stocks 5000 books; online radio linked computer; manufactured by Superior Industries 1983 completely refurbished 1992
- Offers for individual units will also be considered

Closing date: Thursday 5th September 1996

For further information please contact The Supply Manager

Gladstone City Council; PH: (079) 722 022 FAX: (079) 723 173