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NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION

Law Library

The University of Wollongong has joined the growing number of universities to have a law faculty. The foundation dean, Professor Jack Goldring, who will take up his appointment in June, is currently with the NSW Law Reform Commission and was previously at Macquarie University.

The desirability of establishing another law faculty was investigated carefully before the University proceeded. There is a demand for legal training that is not satisfied by the existing schools. Moreover, there is a need for a wider range of joint degrees than presently offered. It is in this area that Wollongong will concentrate and a distinctive feature of the Wollongong program will be the opportunity to combine law with subjects as diverse as engineering and journalism. The Wollongong student will master not only substantive law but will be required to understand the contexts in which it exists and operates.

While legal studies courses have been taught at the University since 1976, the emphasis has been on commercial law and this is reflected in the library collections. With the assistance of John Rodwell from the University of NSW Law Library, the information needs of the Faculty have been assessed. Over the next 3 years, special funding will be allocated for the development of a substantial law library which will use the Moys classification.

The University will not be seeking, however, to duplicate the holdings of established law library collections. Although core materials will be duplicated, collection development will be related closely to teaching requirements

and to the support of a limited number of research programs.

At the undergraduate level, the faculty will offer those subjects which are needed for admission to practice as a barrister or solicitor. Teaching needs will form the first priority for the acquisition of library materials. It is intended that students should have all of their course work needs satisfied from the Library's collections.

The University recognises that it cannot support the diversified research programs available at the major metropolitan law schools. Consequently, three areas of specialisation have been identified—industrial law, natural resources and mining law, and the policy and practice of court administration. The library will aim to satisfy 60 to 80 per cent of the information requests from staff and postgraduate students undertaking research in one of the specialised areas.

This specialisation is beneficial to the library as it permits the optimum use of resources. It allows the library to set priorities for the acquisition of materials and to assess easily whether donated material should be included in the collection. To acquire for the sake of developing a numerically large collection is not viable in these times of space shortage. Quality not quantity will continue to be the guiding principle of the library's collection development policy.

The development of a law library will be a major undertaking for the University Library over the next 5 years. The position of Law Librarian has been established and support positions will be provided in 1991. Planning has commenced for a separate law facility with contiguous library, faculty office and teaching areas. For the first 3 years, the law library will be located in the Main Library building.

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Library



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A·L·I·A 1990

1st Biennial Conference

Perth - Western Australia

September 30-October 5, 1990

at the Perth Concert Hall