

## A library not like others

**Evelyn Woodberry, manager of a unique university library**

Bond University was established by an act of Queensland Parliament in 1987 and began its first teaching semester in May 1989. Despite the tumultuous events surrounding its founders, the University has developed from (approx) 300 students in 1989 to in excess of 1600 in 1993. Considering the economic climate in Australia during this period the University's success has been outstanding.

The University Library has also developed steadily since the early days of 1988 and the much touted 'e-Library'. Cathy Tweedie, as the inaugural Manager of Library Services, was well aware of the rare opportunity to establish a university library from scratch and was determined to maximise the 'window of opportunity'. Some of the decisions made in the period 1988-1989, including the purchase of fully processed books and the use of consolidation services for serials proved invaluable in later years when staffing was severely limited. In the client services area, the decision to limit retrospective collecting and offer instead document delivery to all students and staff, was made before the 'access versus ownership' debate gained momentum.

Establishing the Library at the first private university in Australia has had its challenges. Attracting staff, especially those with experience, from the security of a publicly funded system into the uncertainties of private enterprise has proved less difficult than anticipated. The library community in Australia has once again proved its flexibility in responding to new situations by accepting the University Library as a member of the professional associations including CAUL. Without the knowledge and support gained from being part of the broader information community, through membership of committees and attendance at seminars, workshops and conferences, it would have been far more difficult for the Library to develop.

Collection development has resulted in some interesting situations. AGPS has indicated its unwillingness to accept the University as a deposit collection for Commonwealth Gov-

ernment material; however ABS welcomed the opportunity to establish a Regional Dissemination Centre on the Gold Coast. The Japan Foundation has supported the Library since 1989 through its Library Support program, while in 1991 Joyce Ackroyd, formerly Emeritus Professor of Japanese at the University of Queensland, willed her extensive collection to Bond University. Donations of this calibre are rare, and are accepted by the Library with great appreciation.

The Library collections reflect the University's teaching in the broad areas of humanities, social sciences, business, law and information technology with materials available in a range of formats. The 'e-Library' exists only as a compo-



nent of the broader scenario including the paper library and the automated library. As a result of participation in ABN, AARNet and the interlibrary loan network the collections are available Australia-wide.

In the first five years of operation Bond University, including the University Library, has survived obstacles which no one could have anticipated and has emerged as a viable option in tertiary education. ■

## Donor program for Altona



Altona City Library Manager Daniel Ferguson receives the first cheque in this new program from Carole Marple, Member for Altona. The library is seeking book donations, gifts of equipment and money, corporate sponsorship and bequests. This is seen as a way of getting the readers more involved with 'their' library. The first response from the community has been very good, and corporate sponsorship has already brought in \$5 000. The next phase will be a 'recycle-a-book' drive!