

## Review of library services underway

- by Sylvia Newcombe

A review of the library services on campus is underway. This review, set up by the library and approved by the Board of Governors, has two objectives: 1) to assess how far present library services meet the needs of the University for library service over the next decade, 2) to recommend on the level of resources required to deliver effective library service through the 1980's.

Two outside consultants, Dr. William Birdsall, Chief Librarian at the Dalhousie Library and Mr. Merrett C.ockett, Chief Librarian at U.P.E.I., were appointed and they will present their final report at the end of March.

A series of public meetings were held during the third week in February on various topics. This article is a summary of the articles discussed during these meetings.

The topic of the first meeting, held February 15, was Library Resources. Money was the answer to the problem of the need for more books, said Bates, Chief Librarian, outlined a few solutions to this problem: (1) Get the library's total budget increased, (2) Increase the percentage of the library's budget spent on books, (3) Redistribute funds in certain departments and (4) Improved cooperation with sister libraries.

Bates said that the ever rising cost of materials was making even more important the improvement of cooperation between libraries. Book and journal sharing with other libraries will mean that there will be access to a great range of materials. The success of sharing depends on the efficiency of the Inter-Library Loan system and this will soon be greatly improved by the projected implementation of a courier service to and from Dalhousie University twice a week.

The Canadiana collection was the topic of some discussion as it was felt that the location of many works of Canadian literature is confusing as some works of the same author were upstairs in the stocks while the rest stayed in the cage. Bates explained that when the collection was established in the 1920's the volume of Canadian publishing was such that it was possible to include all Canadian works in the collection. As the number of books published increased it was soon necessary to limit additions to the collection to Maritime works. So now all Canadian books published prior to 1933 and Maritime books are kept in the cage. The problem occurs with Canadian writers because there's also another rule

that an author is put where a preponderance of his/her works are.

The second topic of the afternoon was Technical Services. Concern was expressed over the time it took from when a book was received by the library and when it arrived on the shelf. The library had no data on the amount of time taken but felt that the two year figure suggested was generally an overestimate. Bates said the situation "spurs us to do better" and that the library was dedicated to speeding the process up.

Processing books is a very labour intensive procedure and a book often costs more to process than to buy. It costs \$5.11-89 to order a book and \$13 to catalogue it.

Faculty members mentioned that they liked seeing the accessions list; a service that is no longer available.

There was a discussion about what should be done when a department's share of money for books runs out. Should the requests be kept in the orders department until the money starts again or should they be turned to the appropriate department to give them a chance to reconsider?

Some of the faculty members at the meeting expressed pleasure at the service the library was providing, noting especially the assistance received from the staff.

The second day of meetings was February 16 and the first topic was public service. It was asked how Acadia stood in terms of length of hours open. Bates replied that Acadia was third with approximately ninety hours while Mt. Allison remained open for approximately one hundred hours per week. Actually the difference between the libraries in second to fifth spot was small.

The cost of Inter-Library Loans is going up because it is a very labour intensive task. Acadia is lucky because it receives more material than it lends and it costs more to send material than to receive it. A recent cost sharing agreement between the Atlantic Universities charges \$3 per book borrowed but the Acadia library subsidizes this cost, only charging the student if there are any photocopying costs.

There was a discussion on the ability of students to utilise the library and it was felt that most students didn't know how to use the library well enough. The library staff want to remedy this by instituting measures of user education. Some of the proposals include seminars designed for special needs of each department, tours and audiovisual instruction packages. A committee will be established to



determine what things should be implemented.

Physical facilities was the first topic of the last public meeting on February 18. The main topic was expansion. The Vaughan Library will reach its saturation point by 1985-6 while the Science Library has been saturated since shortly after its construction.

There are two proposals as to any expansion east to the Vaughan. (1) Expansion east to connect with the BAC. The drawbacks to this proposal are that the added space would not be great and that there would be another entrance that would have to be staffed. (2) The other proposal is expansion to the north and west.

Two other ideas to provide more space in the Vaughan are using the SUB basement which is now used for storage and storing little used materials somewhere else on campus. These materials would have a twenty-four hour retrieval time. Students have complained about the lack of seminar rooms for group work and there are also a few faculty carrels.

The Science Library is badly in need of expansion. Expansion would be possible to the west. It needs space about equivalent to two floors of the Vaughan.

The rest of the time was spent discussing general concerns. A better library/faculty liaison was

desired because closer contact in a number of areas would make things work better and more effectively.

A disaster plan is in the works for the library because it has no planned course of action after the people are removed from the building. A procedure must be established to deal with the problems of saving the book collection from destruction.

The Acadia library has become

## Acadia produces public awareness radio programs

Acadia University has embarked on a new program to produce a series of two-minute radio programs which will provide listening audiences in Nova Scotia with interesting comments and discussion on a variety of subjects.

Research and commentary is being done by students or faculty at the University with production of tapes carried out at the Antikville facilities of the Antikville Valley Radio Network. A.V.R. general manager Tom Fredericks is donating his time and station facilities for production and to date is very pleased with the results.

"It is very encouraging to see these students and faculty involved in a project to make available to the public such useful and

valuable information," he commented. "The information is very topical and, quite simply, it would be very difficult for our staff to research the material as these people have."

The first series, which began broadcasting over the Valley network the week of February 28, dealt with consumer and nutritional information as prepared by students and faculty of Acadia's School of Home Economics. Topics will range from generic nutrition to fad diets, the proper use of spices to new developments in food. Subsequent programs will deal with such topics as local history, religion and exercise. Within weeks the series will be made available to other radio stations in the Maritime region.