

New needs taxing library's resources

by Elissa Barnard

The Dalhousie library system urgently needs an increased budget if it is to adequately support existing and future programmes, according to a report by a Senate Committee on library collections.

Ten years ago the university library system ranked 19th or 20th, relative to other Canadian university libraries. Now it ranks 22nd, the report says.

The committee attributed this decline to decreases in the libraries budgets and erosion of their purchasing power. The libraries' share of the university's operating budget fell from approximately 8 per cent in 1969-1970 to 6 per cent in 1977-78. As well, inflation, which doubled the prices of books and periodicals in the last decade, has cut into real buying power.

The report states that the real purchasing power of the acquisitions' budgets decreased by 10 per cent at the beginning of the 1970's, went down another 10 per cent between 1975-76 and 1976-77 and, because of the fall of the Canadian dollar, dropped by a further 12 per cent in 1977-78.

The Killam and MacDonald libraries have suffered the most, their expenditures on acquisitions lagging 6 per cent per year behind the rate of inflation, while those of the Kellogg lag 3 per cent behind and those of the Dunn are even with inflation.

There is no disagreement

about the financial problem. When up to 75 per cent of the university budget goes to salaries, Dr. Guy MacLean, vice president academic and research, said, there tends to be a lack of money for the library. Expenses for buying and processing books continue to rise, while the university spends less and less, he added.

There has to be an annual increase in the collections budget in order to gain some of the lost buying power, according to Dr. Gayle Garlock, collections librarian for Killam and MacDonald Libraries.

The report recommended expenditures of \$1.4 million for this fiscal year to maintain the 1975-76 levels of purchasing power. The amount provided was \$999,900.

The ad hoc committee compiling the report received complaints from the faculty about deficiencies in research materials for social sciences, history and philosophy at the graduate level, and deficiencies in the government document and journal collections, and in the literature and fine arts collections.

Garlock disagreed that the literature collection is inadequate, saying "External examiners have looked at it and it will support undergraduate and graduate levels of research."

The real problem is periodicals, whose prices rise faster than those of books. Five years ago periodicals

took up 30 per cent of the budget, Garlock said. Now they are eating up 50 per cent. The library is at present on a zero growth policy—for every new periodical ordered, one of equal value must be cancelled.

The problems afflicting the holdings of long established programmes are compounded when new programmes are created without the provision of extra funds for library spending. Within the last 3 years the MPHEC has approved 17 new programmes. Library budgets have not been

large enough to meet the new demands and funds have to be drawn from other subject areas. "We're robbing Peter to pay Paul and everyone is suffering," Dr. Garlock said.

The report recommended that all programmes approved by the MPHEC since 1974—PhD Pharmacy, B.Sc. Physiotherapy, and B.Sc. Occupational Therapy—which still require substantial library expense be discontinued unless external funding is provided, and that no programmes approved by MPHEC since

January 1977 be implemented unless matched by increased library funding.

While it is almost "politically impossible" to cut existing programmes, Garlock said, additional funding should be made available for new programmes before they are implemented. The library cannot reflect the university's priorities unless such additional funds are forthcoming, he said.

The report is presently under consideration and circulating among the faculties concerned.



A Senate report has outlined some of the weaker areas in the University Library collections. Periodicals and some collections have been especially hard hit by reduced acquisition budgets.



are they??

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completely undermine the entire objective. I for one would not care to join any of the other fraternities and will not take this space to explain why.

Getting back to the article in question and the fallacies involved; 1) not all four of the fraternities have a "membership drive this year which will be publicized", as we at Phi Kappa Pi do not publicize our rush but gain new members through personal contact only! 2) "Fraternalism first appeared at Dalhousie in the 1930's". Not true, in fact Phi Kappa Pi's Dalhousie Chapter was originated in 1923 and contrary to your article is not "based on the US chapters."

If you had cared to ask us about our fraternity you would have discovered that it is Canada's only national fraternity and has no affiliations whatsoever with the United States of America. 2) As far as joining a fraternity for "the promise of social benefits" you can ask most anyone at Dalhousie (familiar with the situation) how "socially inclined" we Phi Kaps are and you will gain an appropriate perspective of the situation.

"Altruistic pursuit... mainly involve Alpha Gamma Delta"? You neglected to ask us about one annual crippled children's Halloween party.

I could go on and on about your article which is obvious from my letter thus far. So please, in the future, if you endeavour to publish some "truths" in our paper at Dalhousie, you could at least check all the sources instead of relying on the word of one fraternity (Art Lloyd of Sigma Chi). You did not even spell our name right! Get it together Gazette.

Alan Jeffers
Vice-President
Phi Kappa Pi

A welcome from Wally

To the Gazette;

There were rumors that Kings College was going to ban Dal students from using Kings facilities. This was a retaliatory move. Dal student union decided to deny Kings

New library system

by Nigel Allen

The Dalhousie Library plans to replace its circulation system with one it says is faster and more efficient.

The new system, manufactured by C.L. Systems Inc. of Old Seabrook, Conn., is scheduled to arrive next week, although it won't be placed in service immediately.

Sheilagh Keene, Associate University Librarian, said that the American system was chosen over a Canadian one that didn't have service facilities on the east coast.

Al Smith, University Systems Services director, said the new system won't cause any immediate loss in library jobs. Any long-term job losses will be met through attrition, he said.

students access to the SUB after 6 p.m., unless Kings contributed to the Dal student union. This "contribution" amounted to \$10.00 per student, which is \$7.50 more than any outside institution is required to pay.

Kings College held a referendum on Oct. 10, 1978 and their students decided to use this \$10.00 per student, (approx. \$4,000) to begin construction of their own lounge.

In a recent council meeting on Oct. 22, 1978, Kings Student Union decided that no retaliatory action will be taken and Dal students may con-

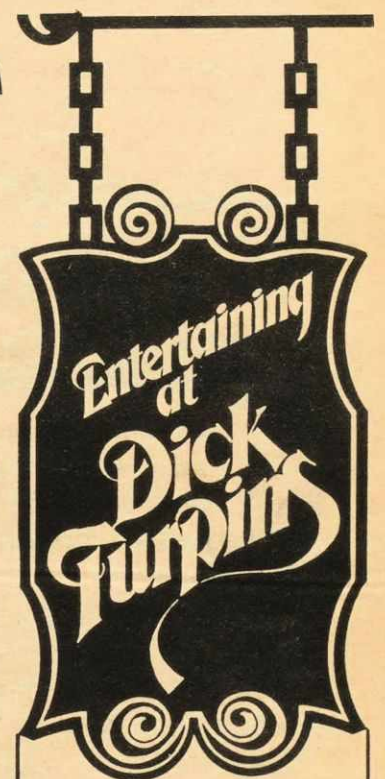
The CLSI system will generate overdue notices automatically. At present, overdue notices are made up manually. The new system can stop an unauthorized user (for example, someone with excessively overdue books) from borrowing.

The present system has been in use for twelve years, and, according to Smith, "we had to make one step forward."

The new system has a life expectancy of 10 to 12 years before it becomes obsolete, he said.

The CLSI system is already in use at university libraries in St. John's, Montreal and Sherbrooke, and at the Edmonton Public Library.

continue to use Kings facilities as in the past. To Dalhousie, WE say Welcome.
Wally Stephen
President
Student Union
University of King's College



this week
Talk of the Town

next week
Miller's Jug

CP Hotels & Chateau Halifax