

## **Site Insight : Leon Morris Library Ridley College, Parkville, Victoria**

Ridley College is one of two Anglican theological colleges in Melbourne. There are currently about 300 theological students enrolled in the College. Only a small number of these are Anglican ordinands, and most Protestant denominations are represented in the student body. Ridley is also a University of Melbourne residential college and is home to about 85 university students. The library has a small collection of books for the residentials, but most of these only frequent the library during swot vac and exam periods, when they can be found there at all hours of the night and day!

The library is housed in a spacious building which was opened in 1984. The only part of the library where lack of space is a problem is in the librarians' office which is very cramped. The library is staffed by myself (I work 4 days per week), another librarian who works 2 days per week, and 3 library assistants who are employed for a total of 13 hours per week during semester. The collection contains around 36000 books and 140 current journal subscriptions. We commenced automation using the Dynix system in the summer of 1994-1995, and expect to upgrade the system in late 1999.

Recent challenges for the library have been the introduction of the Bachelor of Ministries course, and the development of a Masters courses. These new courses have increased demands on both library staff and the collection. Generally, however, this is a relatively stable time for the library following the massive changes associated with library automation. My greatest and ongoing challenge and frustration, probably shared by many of you, is that there is never enough time to do all I need and want to in the library.

Perhaps the most "interesting" thing which has happened in the library in the last year is that one evening late last year, not long before exam time, the library was struck by lightning. Thankfully no-one was hurt, but there were serious repercussions in that our hardware was damaged and our automated system was down for several days at a busy time of the year (I was encouraged, though, that I could find many of the books people were after, without the help of an OPAC!) There was, of course, tremendous noise associated with the storm. The fire alarms were set off and the residential students dutifully assembled outside. The clock on the mezzanine level of the library fell off the wall. In the midst of all this, what did two of our theological students working away on the mezzanine level do? They just kept on studying!!

*Ruth Millard  
College Librarian*