

of the most important books published in New Zealand or about New Zealand. These copies are withdrawn from use, reconditioned where necessary, wrapped and stored for permanent preservation. Other conservation projects to protect unique works of art and manuscripts, newspapers and other works on paper which are known to be in danger have made little progress during the year because of staffing restrictions. The facilities of the Conservation Laboratory continue to be underused.

The pressures on the collections have more than doubled in the last ten years and all indications are that the number of users will increase and that they will use more bound volumes, pictures, maps, photographs and original manuscripts. The highest conservation priority is for a greatly expanded effort to preserve the national collection of newspapers by microfilming. The present newspaper microfilming operation is grossly understaffed and barely capable of maintaining the modest programme inaugurated two years ago.

RELATIONS WITH THE LIBRARY'S PUBLIC

During the year considerable progress was made in defining the objectives of the Library, in identifying the various publics served and in planning the publications and other services most appropriate to each group. As a national research library the Alexander Turnbull Library has responsibilities to a wide range of groups including research workers (whether from academic institutions or not), interested laymen, casual visitors and the general public of New Zealand. Each group has different needs and the Library's policies and services need to be shaped accordingly.

All sections of the Library providing services to the public reported increases in demand this year. The trend towards greater use of illustrations in books and the popularity of volumes composed almost entirely of illustrations have both increased in the past year and placed more pressures on the collections of pictorial materials. Increasing demands coupled with staffing and financial constraints have obliged the Library to reassess its priorities. With considerable reluctance several well-established services were discontinued and others severely curtailed. By these measures and the diversion of staff from other less urgent tasks it was possible to maintain a broad range of services during the year and to keep a reasonable balance between collection building, conservation, bibliographical control and services to the public. The demand for services is beginning to outstrip resources and the Library will have to consider measures to restrain some uses of its collections.

The number of exhibitions in the Library was reduced this year by a third but by extensive use of radio, television, press and local poster publicity the number of viewers was increased. For the first