

years by an unprecedented rise in demand on the collections. The fastest growing demand is for quality copies of illustrative material for re-publication. The demands being made, especially on the art collections, the collections of illustrated books and periodicals, and the photograph collections, while they have increased the need for more conservation measures, have absorbed what staffing could have been available for such conservation. The result has been that it has not been possible to maintain a planned conservation programme and instead the staff are forced into a situation of responding only to urgent demand. This is an inefficient use of scarce resources and a constant source of irritation to users and staff.

In order to maintain the present minimal levels of conservation measures are under consideration to reduce overall demand to the level of the staffing resources available by adopting some form of rationing of the Library's services.

During the year government made available additional resources to enable an expanded microfilming programme to be implemented. The major effort will be to microfilm older New Zealand newspapers known to be in danger of deterioration. The new Microfilm Unit has been transferred from the control of the Turnbull Library to that of the Administration Section, National Library.

THE USE OF THE COLLECTIONS

Over the past few years the Library has been identifying its various publics, defining its objectives, and shaping its services to meet these objectives. Although the Library's collections and services remain available freely to all members of the public, the major emphasis that has been placed on the Library's role as a research institution has resulted in a perceptible shift in the pattern of demand. A trend has emerged for more research workers to use the Library for long periods and for general demand, as reflected by the number of telephone requests and reference letters, to level off. The Library is pursuing a policy of diverting away from the Library those demands which can be met by other institutions and concentrating on providing these specialist services for which the Library, because of its collections and its trained staff, is uniquely qualified.

The increasing demand on the Maori language collections has made it necessary to develop skills in written and spoken Maori and two staff members have been sent to special language courses at the Wellington Polytechnic during the past year.

The growing research use of the collections has been recognised by the Endowment Trust which has decided to establish a special Turnbull Research Fund to make awards and grants to support