

this way was the General Assembly Library, but it was not interested, despite a persuasive report written by young Alister McIntosh during his last days as a librarian. Instead, the Country Library Service was set up separately, under G.T. Alley, whose imagination and appreciation of New Zealand's library needs led him over the next few years to accept other tasks which should have been undertaken by older and more established libraries. The National Union Catalogue found a home in the Country Library Service, and the central organisation of an inter-library lending system, and the Book Resources Committee of the New Zealand Library Association, which was assisted by the support that Alley, as Honorary Secretary to the Association and as leader of the Government's most lively library service, was able to give it.

The National Library Centre was created to take charge of all these things that had added themselves to the Country Library Service, but it was not at all clear, at first, where it fitted into the structure. This is not a matter for surprise: very often, it is only long after a development has occurred that one can understand what has happened. What is needed is someone to be in charge who instinctively makes the right decisions at the right times, and acts on them decisively. Alley was such a one, basing his actions on a very clear idea of what was needed to support New Zealand culture. Bagnall, with his bibliographical and historical inclinations, was another. They were not duplicates of each other; they did not always see eye to eye; but they appreciated each other's strengths and they worked well together.

During his time in the National Library Centre, Graham started, or took over and developed, a whole range of important bibliographical services. As Secretary of the Book Resources Committee, and as Librarian of the National Library Centre, he established, with the support of librarians from the major libraries, the solid bibliographical foundation on which the superstructure of national library co-operation was based. He was also responsible for a rationalisation of Government library procedures which irked some librarians later, but was needed at the time, and for the design and production of New Zealand printed catalogue cards. And he became increasingly involved in the administration of the National Library Service.

More elusive was the influence that Graham had on the direction in which the National Library Service itself developed. I have referred to the fact that there was, at the beginning, the question of what the National Library Centre should be. Was it to be simply a bibliographical annex? Or was it (and this was a question that was not formed at that time) to become the core of a future National Library? Early in my time as head of the reference section, I found