

CHINESE LANGUAGE COLLECTION CONSPECTUS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE LIBRARY

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The Chinese language collection at the University of Melbourne Library was assessed using Conspectus in 1996. The objectives of the exercise were: to evaluate the Chinese Collection throughout the University of Melbourne Library; to identify the strengths of the collection and areas for improvement in currency and scope; and, to revise the collection development policy for the Chinese language collection.

THE PROCESS

Assessment was based on the criteria set out in the *Australian Conspectus Manual: a collection assessment guide*.

Following an agreement between the University of Melbourne and Monash University to carry out a Conspectus exercise on their East Asian languages collections using the same tools, the Monash-Melbourne CJKI Conspectus Group was established. A Chinese Notes Subcommittee was then formed to work on recommendations for Chinese Conspectus. The Chinese Notes Subcommittee recommended the following:

1. Adoption of 'CL' for the language code for Chinese language
2. Adoption of Harvard-Yenching Conspectus classification notation
3. Use of a list of Chinese language bibliographies for bibliographical checking (see Appendix 1)
4. Adoption of the preservation codes proposed by the Distributed National Collection (DNC) office at the National Library of Australia.

These methods were employed, as recommended in the *Australian Conspectus Manual*:

- shelf scanning
- list checking
- evaluation by academic staff
(the academic staff of Chinese Studies had evaluated the Conspectus and their comments were taken into account).

Codes Adopted in this document

- CL= Current Collection level
- AC= Acquisition Commitment
- GL= Goal level
- 0= Out of scope
- 1= Minimal, Uneven
- 1a= Minimal with Uneven Coverage
- 1b= Minimal with even coverage
- 2= Basic information
- 2a= Basic or introductory materials
- 2b= Undergraduate course work
- 3= Intermediate
- 3a= Undergraduate course work, more advanced level
- 3b= Masters by course work
- 4= Research level
- 5= Comprehensive

NATURE OF THE COLLECTION

The Chinese collection comprises books, periodicals, newspapers in print and microform in the Chinese language, with China as the subject. It supports Chinese language teaching, China Studies teaching programs and post-graduate studies, as well as research projects.

The collection is the most important Chinese language collection in Victoria. It is mainly housed in the East Asian Collection, third floor of the Baillieu Library. There are also significant parts of the collection in the Kidds Store, Microforms Section (Baillieu Library), Law Library, Medical library, Maps collection and Media Services Library. Chinese materials housed in the East Asian Collection are classified using the Harvard-Yenching classification system. Chinese materials housed outside the East Asian collection are classified according to the parent collection's classification scheme. This is Dewey in most cases but Moys in the Law library. In the Kidds Store, Western and Chinese language materials are intershelved reflecting the nature of the Kidds Store as a storage area, not as a browsing collection.

The University of Melbourne Library began to collect Chinese language materials in 1961. There are 65,000 volumes in the collection. Materials in the collection are mainly published after 1950. Materials published before 1950 rely heavily on reprints in book format published in Taiwan, Mainland China and Hong Kong, as well as on microform published in China, the US and Hong Kong. The majority of recent publications are published in China. There is some unevenness in the collection which means that, although some areas are at research level, the collection as a whole is not. The areas at research level include language, history of China from Ming Dynasty onwards, Buddhism and Taoism, Chinese literature, customs and culture, reference and bibliographies. In addition, certain titles are clearly

research tools and far surpass the 'basic information' or 'undergraduate' levels of the Conspectus. However in some areas important titles are missing. The collection's emphasis on Mainland China's publications at the expense of Taiwanese publications is also a weakness.

RESULTS

The report identified several areas where collection development could be modified in order to better support the University's teaching and research programs. These are listed below, expressed in terms of the Harvard-Yenching classification system.

Areas of the collection which should be maintained at, or upgraded to, research level

Main classes of the Harvard - Yenching classification system

- historical sciences [2000 - 3999]
- social sciences [4000 - 4999]
- language and literature [5000 -5999]
- Generalia and bibliography [9000 -9999]
- databasing and geographical information systems
[not currently included in the Harvard -Yenching
classification system]

Sub-classes of the Harvard-Yenching classification system

- Buddhism, Taoism and China local religions
- Chinese performing art
- Chinese medicine
- Chinese science, technology and material culture
- natural resources and environmental studies
- urbanisation and city life

These are discussed in the section of the report entitled 'Strengths of the Collection and plans for future development'.

Areas of the collection not required to reach research level

Main classes of the Harvard - Yenching classification system

- Classics [0000 - 0999]
- Fine and recreative arts [6000 -6999]
- Natural sciences [7000 - 7999]
- Agriculture and technology [8000 - 8999]

It should be noted, however, that there are a number of sub-classes within these main classes which do not need to be maintained at, or upgraded to, research levels. These are identified in the accompanying worksheets.

STRENGTHS OF THE COLLECTION AND PLANS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

These areas are considered to be at research level (level 4) and which will be maintained as such:

Chinese philology

Harry Simon, the Foundation Professor for Oriental Studies at the University of Melbourne, specialised in language studies. As a result the Collection emphasises Chinese philology and its related fields. Important acquisitions are the *Kao Pen-han*, *Tzu shu chi cheng*, fine editions of classical Chinese work on philology as well as traditional literary works in block print form. Access to Chinese linguistics World Wide Web (WWW) sites is available via the East Asian Collection homepage.

In this area, the collection will continue to maintain a research level. It will also broaden its scope in the following areas: historical phonology, dialectology, syntax of classical and early modern and modern Chinese, and non-Chinese languages of China (especially Tai).

History of China: from Ming Dynasty onwards

The Collection focuses on the history of China from the Ming Dynasty onwards in regard to primary sources (reprinted in book format) as well as secondary resources. The monograph collection is supplemented by the microform collection and the WWW Internet full text databases.

Major acquisitions are *Jen shou pen Erh shih ssu shih*, *Ming shih lu*, *Ming Ch'ing tang an*, *Ch'ing shih lu*, *Ch'ing shih kao*, *Kung chung tang Kuang-hsü ch'ao tsou che*, *Chin tai Chung-kuo shih liao ts'ung shu*, *Hung wei ping tzu liao*, *Records of the Guangzhou/Wuhan National Government* (microfilm), *Records of the Generalissimo's supreme headquarters* (microfilm), *Shih sou tzu liao shih kung fei tzu liao* (microfilm). Material on Chinese history is also available in the *Ts'ung shu : shih pu* (General collections: History section). Recent acquisitions include the *Chinese Archives in Optical* to a research level. Increased emphasis will be extended to the pre-Ming history of China and to contemporary China, including the history of Chinese Communist Party.

Religions in China

In the area of Buddhism and Taoism the collection is on a research level. Important acquisitions are the *Tripitaka*, *Tao tsang*, *Tao tsang chi yao*. Access to the full text database of Buddhism is available via the East Asian Collection WWW homepage. Materials on Chinese religions is also available in the *Tsung shu: tzu pu* (General collections: Philosophy section). The collection will be maintained at a research level. Increased emphases will be given to indigenous religions to keep abreast of the rapid growth of this field of studies.

Chinese literature

Modern Chinese literature is at a research level. It contains all major writers' complete works and major works of literary criticism. The Collection is supplemented by a good microform collection which contains major 1920s literary works and periodicals. Classical literature is also at a research level. Access to Chinese literature WWW sites is available via the East Asian Collection WWW homepage. The aim is to maintain classical and post-May-fourth literature at a research level.

Chinese cultural and historical geography

Chinese local history (gazetteers) and yearbooks of individual provinces are well covered, in particular the following provinces: Chiang-su, Fu-chien, Kuang-tung, Kuang-hsi, Che-chiang, Hu-nan and Ho-nan. There are also local gazetteers on microform. The Collection has recently purchased a complete set of local gazetteers, new series. The Collection will be maintained at a research level.

Chinese customs, social structure, rural and urban

China folklore, social customs and social life, women in China in early twentieth century, China Youth movement, Chinese secret societies are well covered. Materials in microform cover the periodicals published in the early 1900s and the newspaper clippings of the Union Research Collection. These areas will be maintained at a research level.

Chinese Politics

Chinese politics covers China political thought and history from ancient periods to contemporary; China government from Ming Dynasty onwards, and local governments; material on the Chinese Communist Party; material relating to legislation and laws from ancient periods onwards are housed at the East Asian Collection. The collection will be maintained at a research level, however, there is a demand to acquire key texts in Chinese to balance the undergraduate and research resources.

Reference materials and bibliographies

This section contains dictionaries, encyclopedias, concordances, directories, collected biographies, subject bibliographies in the field of Arts and Humanities, library catalogues of major Chinese collections, subject yearbooks since 1980 and provincial yearbooks since 1990. This area will be maintained at a research level.

Newspaper Collection

The collection has acquired backsets of newspaper published from 1900 to 1994, in microform and in hardcopy including the following titles: *Shen*

pao, *I shih pao*, *Jen min jih pao* (1946-) and index (CD-ROM), *Hsin hua jih pao*, *Kuang ming jih pao*, *Lien Ho Pao so yin pen* (1951-1980), *Tai Kung pao*, *Wen hui pao so yin pen*, etc. A complete listing of Chinese newspaper holdings of the East Asian Collection and an electronic version of Chinese newspapers are available via the East Asian Collection homepage. It is planned to purchase the text of *Jen min jih pao* from 1996 onwards in CD-ROM version.

Ts'ung shu ('General Collections')

The following are important general collections: 1. *Ssu pu ts'ung kan*, 2. *Ssu pu pei yao*, 3. *Ku chin t'u shu chi cheng*, 4. *Yung-le ta tien*, 5. *Ssu k'u ch'uan shu chen pen*: 13 chi. 6. *Kuo hsüeh chi pen ts'ung shu*, 7. *Wan yu wen k'u hui yao*, 8. *Pei-ching t'u shu kuan ku chi chen pen ts'ung k'an* (on standing order). Tsung-shu contain essential primary resources for all China related studies and research. It is intended to maintain this area at a research level by purchasing two recently published titles: *Ssu k'u ch'uan shu ts'un mu ts'ung shu*; *Ts'ung shu chi cheng hsü pien*, etc. These works are important 20th century publications and should be considered for purchase. Special funding from the Library will be required to fulfil the purchase. It is important that 'general collections' are accessible because their individual titles cannot easily be catalogued.

Upgrading to research level

In order to provide for new undergraduate and postgraduate programs and research demands, a number of areas which have been neglected in the past due to insufficient funding ought to be upgraded. The areas listed below require upgrading to research level.

Economics

Economics and Economic history of China is considered to be at Level Three primarily because of the unevenness of the collection. It does have some holdings which are quality research materials. The collection consists of material related to economics and economic history from 1911 onwards, Chinese modern economic reforms, economic survey, land and agricultural economics, industry. Major economical zones and regional economics, rural and urban, are well covered. Major provinces include Chiang-su, Che-chiang, Kuang-hsi, Kuang-tung, Hong Kong and Taiwan. WWW sites of China economics and business are available via the East Asian Collection WWW homepage. The collection needs to be built to research level. More needs to be done to collect through photocopying or the exchange of materials such as agricultural resources. We should also attempt to be comprehensive in all national and provincial-level statistical yearbooks, and in special yearbooks on trade, labour, the rural economy and key industry sectors. Besides, material relating to foreign investment and growth in China, Food consumption, and Income levels should also be targeted. Indexes, large statistical compilations and reissues of journals on

CD-ROM will be a means to build the collection retrospectively, and a great space saver as well as time saver for searching.

Chinese law

Materials relating to current law and legislation of Chinese and topical laws are housed at the Law library. Chinese and Taiwanese law full text databases are available via the East Asian Collection WWW homepage. The collection of law materials since 1949, and especially since 1979, is patchy. The direction to build up law material is as follows:

1. Collect broadly in law areas, historical material as well as contemporary. It is necessary to collect broadly across all categories of law
2. Place more emphasis upon collecting some of the quality law-related journals, such as university law school journals, official journals of the judicial and other law school journals, as well as official journals of the judicial and organs (such as Gongan yanjiu)
3. Focus on the acquisition of CD-ROM laws and regulations which are also regularly updated
4. Acquire year books such as the Law Year Book and the Procuratorial Yearbook, official documents (including the CCP ones) and the Gazettes from the important law making and judicial bodies such as NPC Standing Committee, State Council, Supreme Court, Supreme Procuratorate, and some Ministries now have these like MOFTEC (Ministry of foreign Trade and Economic co-operation)
5. Ensure a comprehensive collection. Law research draws heavily on social science materials generally and on political and economic material in particular. It is important then for there to be a comprehensive collection of material in these areas.

Chinese philosophy

The collection covers Ancient Chinese philosophy, Confucianism, Taoism, collected works, Sung Dynasty, modern and contemporary philosophy, *Yearbook of Chinese Philosophy* for 1983 onwards; an incomplete set of *Chung-kuo che hsüeh* (series); Standard secondary material from the PRC. Weakness in this area: no material from Ma wang tui; poor coverage of material of the period Post-Han to Pre-Sung; the Ming period should be better covered, because the historical material emphasises this period. This collection will be built up to level 4.

Chinese performing arts

(choreography, musicology, history of Chinese theatre, theatre and ritual)

Chinese performing arts are a main research interest of Professor David Holm, Professor of Chinese and Head of the Department of Japanese and Chinese. His interest not only creates a need for a comprehensive set of research material but also a demand from undergraduate and postgraduate students. At present the collection is only at undergraduate level. Recent

acquisition commitment has been centred on these areas including the complete set of the Ten large scale surveys in the areas of theatre, art song, proverbs, folk songs, folk dance, folklore, dramatic music and instrumental music.

China: Education

Dr. Jane Orton is currently working and will be working and also drawing in postgraduate students doing research in the following areas:

- Intercultural communication
 - Computer assisted language learning
 - Systemic functional grammar/linguistics.
- The collection has no material in these areas to support the research.

They should be built up to research level.

Social/demographic areas

These areas include population, migration, floating population, pension, aging, etc. Dr. Mark Wang is currently doing research in these fields. The collection has only limited material in such areas to support the research. They should be built up to research level.

Periodical collection

Journal titles published after 1960 are in book format. Journals published between 1900 to 1960 are mostly on microform. *Fu yin pao k'an tzu liao* for some subjects are on subscription since 1990. Bound periodicals published before 1987 are stored at the Kidds Store because of space problems. Recent orders cover a copy of the *Chinese periodical index, 1978-1995* on CD-ROM. Some full text electronic journals and *Chung-hua min kuo Ch'i k'an lun wen so yin* online (Periodical index online) of the National Central Library, Taiwan, are available via the East Asian Collection homepage. There are also links from the East Asian Collection homepage to serials document delivery homepages, such as the ANU Chinese Serials database, which provides contents information for over 100 Chinese serials titles not held in Australia, on Uncover, etc. The allocation for serials has been very tight in the past. As a result, the collection is not able to obtain new periodical titles even though they are essential for research. Thus, a number of yearbooks and annuals are acquired from the monograph's allocation to meet current research needs. The periodical collection overall is relatively weak. To improve the situation, the Library has recently provided special funding to purchase a copy of the *Chinese periodical index, 1978-1995* on CD-ROM and a copy of full text reprints of journal articles in economics, CD-ROM version.

Additional funding should be sought and back issues should be obtained as well as subscriptions to essential titles. Library staff should continue to look for document delivery services for Chinese journals not housed in

Australia. Newly published subject yearbooks, statistical yearbooks, provincial yearbooks, periodical indexes and important journal titles of each subjects should also be purchased.

Chinese medicine

Chinese medicine and pharmacology are at an intermediate level collection. The collection contains in reprint major works from the Ming Dynasty onwards. There are links to Chinese medicine WWW sites via the East Asian Collection homepage. This area should be built up to research level.

Chinese science, technology and material culture

There are 200 volumes in the Collection. The current materials are inadequate to support student research in such areas. The new acquisitions commitment should be emphasised to bring it to research level.

Natural Resources/Energy and Environmental Studies

This is a new area. The collection has no material to support the research and teaching program conducted by Dr. Mark Wang. The collection should be upgraded to research level.

Urbanisation and city life

The collection has limited material in these areas to support the research and teaching program conducted by Dr. Mark Wang. The collection should be upgraded to research level.

Databasing and geographical information systems

This is a new area. Professor David Holm, Dr. Stephen Morgan, and Dr. Mark Wang are researching in the areas of China local surveys, China economics, China statistical surveys. Materials are needed for the development of GIS spatially related databases requiring much improved map coverage, local gazetteers, etc. Recent publications on CD-ROM relating to these areas are available and will be evaluated and purchased if they meet our research needs.

Materials housed outside the East Asian Collection

Kidds Store

A total of 9,481 items of Chinese language materials are stored at the Kidds Store. Some of this material is unique in Victoria and some unique to Australia. This material is essential to maintain the collection at a research level. The Chinese Conspectus Group reported that their subject area's Acquisition Commitment as well as Goal Level are mainly classified at level 3b (Masters by course work) and level 4 (research level).

Microform Collection (Baillieu)

Chinese language materials on microform are housed at the Microforms of the Baillieu. These consist mainly of newspaper back sets, periodical titles published among 1900 to 1960s, local gazetteers, and materials relating mainly to Chinese literature and the modern history of China.

Law Library

Current statutes and codes, legislation of Chinese law and topical law, are housed in the Law Library.

Media Services Library

Chinese language cassette tapes and video tapes are housed at the Media Services Library. The quantity is limited.

Medical Library

There are several hundred uncatalogued items on Chinese medicine temporarily housed at the Medical Library. They are donations from a Chinese herbal physician family from Bendigo. The physician came to Australia during the Gold Rush Period. The material covers general medicine and Chinese herbal medicine which were published in China in the early 1920s.

Baillieu general collection

A few English-Chinese bilingual books on art are found in the general Baillieu Collection.

Maps Collection

There are 100 maps and 8 Atlases in the Maps Collection. They are uncatalogued. This Collection is inadequate to support existing research projects in the areas of fieldwork in China, geography and economics.

Education Resource Library

There are 108 volumes Chinese language books in the text book collection, 10 volumes on shelves, 25 volumes in the B collection, and 5 language kits.

Uncatalogued backlog:

There are over 4,000 volumes of uncatalogued Chinese materials. The Backlog has accumulated since 1987. It is not available on open shelves or on the library database.

Chinese Studies WWW Virtual Library
via the East Asian Collection homepage

The Chinese Studies WWW Virtual Library is maintained by Bick-har Yeung. This homepage divides Chinese Studies into 28 subjects, mainly in arts and humanities. It is a electronic collection which serves as a supplement to the book collection. It has links to online reference tools, online fulltext databases, on-line periodical indexes and document delivery. The URL is: <http://www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/collections/asian/chihp.html>

Bibliographic list checking

The bibliographies used for the Chinese Conspectus bibliographic checklist are set out below with the results.

Erh shih shih chi Chung-kuo hsüeh shu yao chi ta tzu tien
(Translated title: Dictionary of important Chinese publications in the twentieth century) Pei-ching : Chung kung chung yang tang hsiao ch'u pan she, 1993. (UniM Baill EA 9519 E244)

Bibliographic checking results were as follows:

Conspectus line #	Subjects	Total items checked	Held	Not held	Held%
HYP1	Chinese philosophy	196	93	103	47.4
HYP64	Ethics	38	6	32	15.8
HYP56	Religion and local religion	15	5	10	33.3
HYP73	Buddhism	18	8	10	44.4
HYP87	Taoism	17	11	6	64.7
HYH6	China Archaeology	87	44	43	50.6
HYH20	Ethnology	51	22	29	43.1
HYH87	China: History	203	139	64	68.5
HYS18	Sociology	234	65	166	39.2
HYS51	China: economics	48	20	29	41.7
HYG0	China: Politics	78	33	45	42.3
	China: Education	42	9	33	27.3
HYL14-22	Chinese language	71	59	11	83.1
HYL25-66	Chinese literature	168	97	71	57.8
HYF0	Fine and recreative arts	154	61	92	39.6
HYN1	Natural science in general	125	42	83	33.6

Comments

Results of the bibliographic checking range from 15.8 percent to 83.1 percent. The Bibliography itself covers works published in the twentieth century. The Chinese Collection started in 1960s. As a result, publications held in the collection are published mainly from 1950s to the present. Thus the 'held%' figures in the Chinese collection reflect only publications of this period.

Chung wen ts'an k'ao tu shu mu lu

(Translated title: Bibliography of Chinese reference). Compiled and published by the Taiwan Branch, National Central Library, 1988.

Bibliographic checking results were as follows:

Conspectus line #	Subjects	Total items checked	Held	Not held	Held%
HYC0	Chinese classics	17	5	12	29.4
HYP1	Chinese philosophy	22	15	7	68.1
HYP73	Buddhism	33	4	29	12.12
HYP87	Taoism	3	0	3	0
HYH6	China; archaeology	26	9	17	34.6
HYH87	China: History	77	43	34	55.84
HYH151	China: geography and local gazetteers	38	2	36	0.05
HYS1	China: statistics	13	0	13	0
HYS18	Sociology	10	0	10	0
HYS51	China: economics	92	4	88	4.3
HYG0	China: Politics	39	11	28	28.2
	China: law	54	9	43	16.6
	China: Education	29	3	26	10.35
HYL14-22	Chinese language	19	7	12	36.84
HYL25-66	Chinese literature	55	31	24	56.36
HYF0	Fine and recreative arts	62	4	58	6.5
HYG57	China: subject bibliography	314	77	237	24.5

Comments

This bibliography consists of major reference works published in Taiwan. The result of bibliographic checking indicated that the number of Taiwanese publications in the collection was weak, except for Chinese history and literature.

Tsung ho hsing wen ko chung yao ch'i k'an piao
 (translated title: Core Arts and humanities journal list of the Peking
 University Library). Pei-ching: Pei-ching ta hsüeh t'u shu kuan, [1990?].

Bibliographic checking results were as follows:

Conspectus line #	Subjects	Total items checked	Held	Not held	Held%
HYP1	Chinese philosophy	7	2	5	28.5%
HYP56	Religion and local religion	4	0	4	0%
HYH6	China Archaeology	6	5	1	83.3%
HYH20	Ethnology	18	3	15	16.67%
HYH87	China: History	22	9	13	40.90%
HYS18	Sociology	19	5	14	26.31%
HYS51	China: economics	33	4	29	12%
HYG0	China: Politics and law	49	11	38	22.45%
HYL14-22	Chinese language	25	11	14	44%
HYL25-66	Chinese literature	46	28	18	60.86%
HYF0	Fine and recreative arts	23	6	17	26%
HYG16	Chinese periodicals in general	45	19	26	42%

Comments

Results indicate that the level of periodical titles published in China was relatively weak except for archaeology, history of China, language and literature.

National Taiwan University List of serials in Chinese, Japanese and Korean languages

Compiled and published by National Taiwan University Library, 1985.

Bibliographic checking results:

Conspectus line #	Subjects	Total items checked	Held	Not held	Held%
HYC0	Chinese classics	12	4	8	33.3
HYP1	Chinese philosophy	25	2	23	8
HYP64	Ethics	5	0	5	0
HYP73	Buddhism	12	1	11	8.3
HYH6	China; archaeology	4	1	3	25
HYH20	Ethnology	9	2	7	22.2
HYH87	China: History	31	13	18	41.9
HYH151	China: geography and local gazetteers	36	2	34	5
HYS1	China: statistics	28	7	14	25
HYS18	Sociology	50	0	50	0
HYS51	China: economics	81	5	79	6.17
HYG0	China: Politics	64	11	53	17.1
	China: law	41	2	39	9
	China: Education	25	3	22	12
HYL14-22	Chinese language	3	1	2	33.3
HYL25-66	Chinese literature	50	3	47	6
HYF0	Fine and recreative arts	15	0	15	0
HYG16	General periodicals	106	18	88	17

Comments

This bibliography consists of Chinese periodicals mainly published in Taiwan. Results suggest that the level of Taiwan periodicals in the Chinese Collection is weak.

Acknowledgments

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The file server is majordomo@coombs.anu.edu.au
(send messages to the list and subscribe/unsubscribe commands to the file server, eg, subscribe asia-libr-group-l <your email address>)

The Gopher address is:

Name=Search the "ANU-EAsia-Libr-Group-L" database
Type=7
Port=70
Path=waissrc:/Coombs-db/ANU-EAsia-Libr-Group-L.src
Host=cheops.anu.edu.au

The World Wide Web page is:

<http://coombs.anu.edu.au/SpecialProj/NLA/EALRGA/AboutEALRGA.html>

Opinions expressed in newsletter articles are those of individual authors and not necessarily those of the EALRGA Committee.

The membership fee is currently A\$15 per annum. Inquiries concerning membership and the purchase of back issues should be directed to the Secretary, and contributions to the Newsletter should be directed to the Editor.

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