

Research Notes

The National Library building opened to the public on 1 July 1987. Unfortunately not all of the Turnbull areas were fully operational; some collections were still in storage in other buildings and others could not be unpacked. Despite these shortcomings the main services of the Library were available to readers on the first day. To mark the opening to the public of the Turnbull in its new home after 14 years in temporary accommodation around Wellington, the first day readers were issued with numbered certificates, printed on the Library's hand press by Rachel Salmond, rewarding them for their loyalty and patience by admitting them to membership of the Alexandrian Club.

The publications sales section of the Library has now closed down and in future all Turnbull publications, whether issued by the Library, the Endowment Trust Board or the Friends, will be on sale from the National Library Bookshop on the ground floor of the National Library building on Molesworth Street. The bookshop will handle counter sales, postal orders, and trade orders. The traditional discounts for Friends and for the trade will be maintained. A new catalogue of the Library's wide range of publications is in preparation and will be available later this year from the National Library Bookshop.

A number of the card catalogues maintained by the National Library have been microfilmed and are being made available for sale as microfiche, including the two main Turnbull public catalogues (the New Zealand and Pacific book catalogue, and the catalogue of general books). The Turnbull's users, so long accustomed to the delights of hand written, typed and mimeographed records on cards in those comforting ranges of rimu cabinets, will now have to grapple with the micro revolution which has transformed so many overseas libraries. We are not proposing to follow the example of the New York Public Library and hold a party to farewell the card catalogues, just to shed a tear or two in private.

The catalogue records for the book collections (apart from the special catalogue of early printed books), are now available to users only as microfiche and the cards have gone into storage awaiting a rigorous check of the quality and completeness of the microfiche copies. New microfiche readers have been purchased to provide users with the best quality images possible from the fiche. The main advantage of the new microfiche catalogue records is their wide availability both within the National Library building and in other libraries in New Zealand and overseas.

Penny Griffith, who has been associated with the *Record* since 1977, first as assistant editor and then from 1983 as joint editor, has resigned from the editorial staff on her transfer to the position of Deputy Director in the Reference and Interloan Service of the National Library. Her edito-