

Practice elsewhere varies but it would seem that the maximum use results from half-day visits to each service point with at least two visits per week in most cases. However a little trial-and-error at the outset to determine the optimum deployment is not costly with a mobile service.

The capital cost of a bookmobile would be in the region of \$20,000 and a staff of two would be required to staff it and service the bookstock. But for an outlay equivalent to the cost of one small branch library at least five unserved suburbs could be given an interim service by the one means.

It is considered that the provision of a bookmobile should have priority over any further capital expenditure on suburban library buildings.

The analysis of suburban library statistics at the end of this report gives an indication of the unevenness of service provided. It shows the relative success of the newer libraries which have adopted free and rental terms and the economy with which they can operate. Enough evidence has been accumulated to indicate the libraries which are most deserving of further assistance and to serve as a guide to the areas in which future development should take place.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS :

FINANCE: The need for the development of the City's library services, has, it is hoped, been clearly stated in this report, but development cannot take place without increased expenditure. In comparison with other centres the City's expenditure on libraries is extremely low and this is reflected in the low standards of service particularly in the suburbs. A Library Rate of a similar proportion of the General Rate as it was in the late fifties would restore Library finances to a reasonable level and allow for expansion and development.

BUILDING: The services from the Central Library are hampered by the physical restrictions of the building. Within the existing walls the only apparent extension that is possible is the construction of a mezzanine floor at the west end of the Lending Division. It is estimated that this would cost \$6,000 and it is recommended that it be proceeded with in the coming financial year. Planning for a new building should begin now and a sub-committee should be set up to go into the problem of location, size of building, finance and timing.

STAFF: Staff growth at the assistant level has not kept pace with growth of demand so that far too much professional staff time is required to maintain essential services normally manned by assistants. As a result professional duties such as book selection, revision of stock and research work are not receiving proper attention. An additional assistant in each of the three main divisions of the Library would help to alleviate this situation and it is recommended that three additional junior assistants be appointed at six-monthly intervals during the next year.

REFERENCE SERVICES: These should be strengthened particularly in the technical and commercial fields and a full report on the steps to be taken to achieve this will be prepared in the near future.

SUBURBAN LIBRARIES: Apart from the problem of accommodation at the Central Library, Council's main concern should now be with the poor standard of service in the suburbs.