



<p>Interviewee: Robin Davis and Carolyn Rowlinson (nee Jamie)</p> <p>UoS Dates: RD: 1966 (appointed) – 2006. CR: 1968 - 2012</p> <p>Role(s): RD: Assistant Librarian, latterly Deputy Director, Information Services CR: Senior Library Assistant, latterly Deputy Director, Information Services</p>		
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Interview summary:

Start 00:14 – RD came from Liverpool University. Interviewed for the position in May 1966 in the Albert Halls in Stirling. The panel was made up of University Librarian John Stirling and Secretary Harry Donnelly. Started on 1st of September 1966. Library was then located in Ivy Cottage at Logie, Estates and Services were upstairs and the Library downstairs. The Library staff consisted of Librarian John Stirling, Sub-Librarian [P] Gordon Peacock and two Assistant Librarians, RD and Geoff Hargreaves. Only books at that time were two textbooks written by Tom Cottrell. Early days were exciting and everyone aimed to quickly build a big library.

03:46 – By November a prefab building had gone up and the Library moved in to it. Huge challenges as there was a lot to acquire, lots of going through Blackwells catalogues, asking academics what they wanted, coping with gifts and cataloguing as quickly as possible. John Stirling had particular ideas about how the books were to be arranged.

05:32 – One or two academics at that time including Tommy Dunn. Most came on day visits. There was no sense of librarians being lesser than the academics, little hierarchy.

06:59 – Tom Cottrell, Harry Donnelly and other admin staff were based in Garden Cottage, the Library staff were based in Ivy Cottage and accountants Bob McIntosh and Bob Bomont were in another building near the prefab.

07:43 – John Stirling was keeping up with what was happening at York University and other new universities. He and Gordon Peacock were drawing up the plans for the library building which was to come later. It was to be adaptable.

09:06 – Had a basic idea of what subjects were to be taught, knew it was to be Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities but didn't know what the individual departments were to be until later on.

09:38 – Airthrey Castle was still a maternity hospital and Library staff used spare rooms in the Nurses' Annexe to store books they didn't have room for. They were stored in a bath.

11:04 – Appeal for money and donations to the library. Books were offered before there were any staff. Gifts came from all over. In the first year the staff would go and visit people who had books to donate. This also gave them an opportunity to publicise the university.

14:11 – CR was appointed in 1968 and started in September. It was the second academic year and the student body had doubled in size to around 400. Previously a library student at Queen's University Belfast. Interview was with John Stirling, Harry Donnelly and Gordon Peacock.

15:34 – CR started at the issue desk. The Library was in four sections: a work room with a bindery, a reading room, the Library which stored the majority of the books and an upstairs which held microfilm and rare books collections.. This part of Pathfoot is now block C.

17:11 – Students and staff doubled in numbers. There were no money problems. Library had a capital grant of £60,000 to buy books and this was considerable. By 1970 the government was getting worried about the money the

UGC was giving out. First real squeeze in 1973.

19:01 – RD felt the Library was more aware of its connection with the community than other departments. The Librarian visited Dunblane to meet with the minister and become familiar with the Cathedral Library. Wanted to make the library accessible to the community. Library helped sixth formers with the transition to university and CR worked with school librarians.

20:55 – Approaches and Methods. CR remembers the yellow, glossy paperback that went with it. It was an attempt by the University to have a learning services approach to help students with the basics of academia. The Library was involved with this. A half unit took place in the Library. Students weren't motivated and it fell away. Some, like Frank Bradbury were very keen on it but others felt it interfered with their methods. It drew attention to the Library. For many years after Approaches and Methods another skills module would be brought up and the idea would be recycled.

24:01 – There were teething problems. Pathfoot filled up and Cottrell was delayed so it was very crowded. People had come to Stirling as they wanted something different but were finding it wasn't that different in places. Some people wanted a staff club. Students didn't like the idea and there were protests. CR can remember Michael Connarty with a megaphone outside the library.

26:14 – Harry Donnelly had a view that came from his background in the Civil Service and it had to be pointed out that a University was different.

27:10 – Pathfoot was open in time for the first academic year, CR can remember stories of Tom Cottrell sweeping the stairs the night before it opened. For the first two or three years Pathfoot was the only building.

29:02 – The Library building was delayed as it was a difficult site to work on. It opened a year late in 1971. John Stirling had left to go to Exeter University just before it opened and Gordon Peacock who was Acting Librarian had to organise the move from Pathfoot to Cottrell.

31:10 – The new building had four floors. The Hinman Collator, Press Room with printing presses, and rare books were in the basement. The ground floor housed the issue desk. Upstairs the books were kept. John Stirling had implemented his own organisational system. John Hatton, the science librarian contributed. There was debate around how to organise the books. Some cataloguing problems.

34:23 – Some experimenting with IT. Prided themselves in the first few years on being ahead in IT. John Stirling had insisted on lots of power points as he knew electronic technology was coming along. At that time the profession itself was making great leaps.

36:45 – There were two printing presses in the basement which English Studies used for Bibliography classes. In hindsight they wouldn't have used a Stirling classification scheme but there were benefits. The top floor held carrels for students. CR was in charge of inter-library loans which were very important for a new university.

38:46 – Other universities were very hospitable to Stirling. Good relationships with the National Library of Scotland too.

39:38 – The University of St Andrews was considering building a new library and Dougal McArthur brought the whole staff to Stirling to see the new Library. It was through St Andrews that Stirling acquired the Burt Eddy Taylor bequest which was a collection of first editions of Walter Scott.

[Ends 41:01]

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