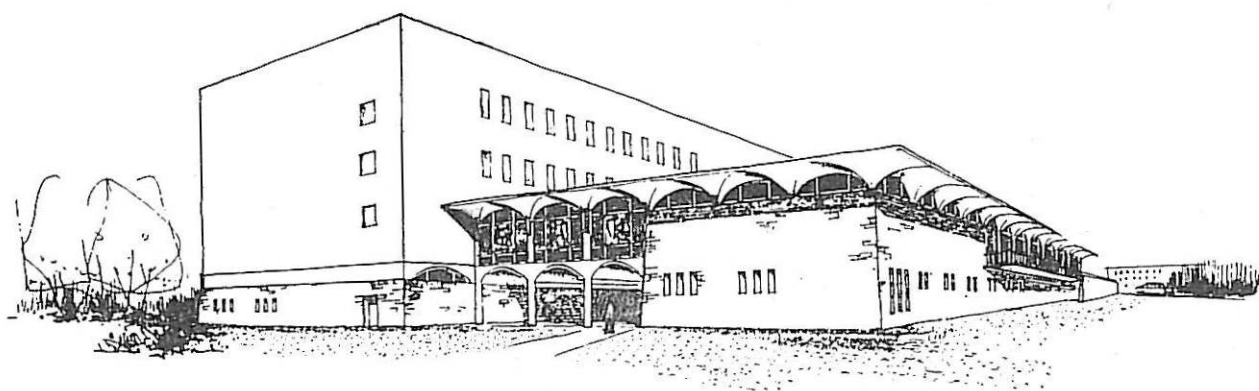


Heritage Management Plan

R.G MENZIES BUILDING

Australian Capital Territory



August 2010

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Objective of the Plan

This Heritage Management Plan was prepared by the Australian National University in 2010. The principal objective of the Plan is to guide management decisions and actions in order to identify, protect, conserve, present and transmit, to all generations, the Commonwealth Heritage values, and other values, of the RG Menzies Building in the Australian Capital Territory.

Management actions under this Plan, including planning and conducting conservation work, will strive to ensure that the RG Menzies Building is valued, protected and understood, particularly in the lead-up to the fiftieth anniversary of its opening in 2013.

1.2 Plan Structure

This Plan determines significance assessments for the RG Menzies Building and outlines site management principles. It provides detailed information on the condition of the heritage values found at the place, and is designed to stand as a blueprint for management decisions regarding the site.

The focus of this plan is less on presentation than on addressing legal obligations, conservation policies and site changes which have arisen since the initial years of University development.

The Heritage Management Plan is structured in accordance with legislative requirements:

1. Introduction
2. Location of the RG Menzies Building
3. History of the RG Menzies Building – Historical overview, description and condition of the place
4. Cultural features of the RG Menzies Building site
5. Heritage Values – Assessment of the RG Menzies Building and the identified Commonwealth, and other, Heritage values
6. Condition of the Commonwealth Heritage Values – Condition and integrity of the Commonwealth Heritage values
7. Management Framework – Statutory legislative requirements, agency mechanisms and other policies governing management of the site
8. Management Requirements, Opportunities & Constraints – Pressures, risks and logistical constraints to the heritage values of the place
9. Management Policies – Specific policies and protocols to guide management of the RG Menzies Building

1.3 Study Area

The RG Menzies Building is located in the centre of the Australian National University (ANU) campus in the Australian Capital Territory. The site is about 2km from the GPO and Canberra City CBD. The old University Administration Area is located to the north across McDonald Place, a gravel carpark is found to the west, and the HC Coombs Building across Fellows Road to the east. The land to the south has been left open, with views across Garran Road to University House. Figure 2.1 illustrates the RG Menzies Building in the Canberra region, and Figures 2.2 and 2.3 illustrate the planning arrangement of the site.

1.4 Limitations

No Heritage Management Plans have previously been prepared for the RG Menzies Building. The ANU Heritage Study (Ratcliffe & Armes 1993-95) provides a general overview of the place, including conservation policies.

1.5 Documentation

Documentary evidence researched during the preparation of this HMP is cited in the bibliography. All photographs were taken by the ANU Heritage Office, unless otherwise stated.

1.6 Definitions

Definitions are reproduced from the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter 1999, as follows:

<i>Place</i>	A site, area, land, landscape, building or other work, group of buildings or other works. May include components, contents, spaces and views.
<i>Cultural Significance</i>	The aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations.
<i>Fabric</i>	The physical material of the place, including components, fixtures, contents and objects.
<i>Conservation</i>	The processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance.
<i>Maintenance</i>	The continuous protective care of the fabric and setting of a place, and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves restoration or reconstruction.
<i>Preservation</i>	Maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration.
<i>Restoration</i>	Returning the existing fabric of a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.

<i>Reconstruction</i>	Returning a place to a known earlier state. Reconstruction is distinguished from restoration by the introduction of materials [new or old] into the fabric.
<i>Adaptation</i>	Modifying a place to suit the existing use or a proposed use.
<i>Use</i>	The functions of a place, as well as the activities and practices that may occur at the place.
<i>Compatible Use</i>	A use which respects the cultural significance of the place. Such a use involves no, or minimal, impact on cultural significance.
<i>Setting</i>	The area around a place, which may include the visual catchment.
<i>Related Place</i>	A place that contributes to the cultural significance of another place.
<i>Related object</i>	An object that contributes to the cultural significance of a place but is not at the place.
<i>Associations</i>	The special connections that exist between people and a place.
<i>Meanings</i>	What a place signifies, indicates, evokes or expresses.
<i>Interpretation</i>	All the ways of presenting the cultural significance of a place.

1.7 Author Identification

This Heritage Management Plan was prepared and written by James Collet, Heritage Project Officer, ANU.

1.8 Acknowledgements

This Heritage Management Plan has been prepared in close consultation with the management of the RG Menzies Building, other departments of the Australian National University and the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA).

The ANU Heritage Office gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the following peoples in the preparation of this HMP:

- Facilities & Services, ANU
- ANU Archives Program
- Staff and management of the RG Menzies Building

2. STUDY AREA

The RG Menzies Building is located on the corner of Garran and Fellows Roads, to the south-west of the Ellery Precinct of the Australian National University campus (Bldg #2). The RG Menzies Building is bounded by McDonald Place to the north and a carpark to the east (rear), and open landscape to the south and east, opening to University House and the HC Coombs Building, respectively. The surrounding landscape is not included in the Commonwealth Heritage List entry for the place, though is included in the curtilage for the study area in the HMP (refer Figure 2.2). The RG Menzies Building was the first purpose-built library constructed at the ANU and is located in the centre of the campus.



Figure 2.1: Site location of the R.G Menzies Building in the ACT

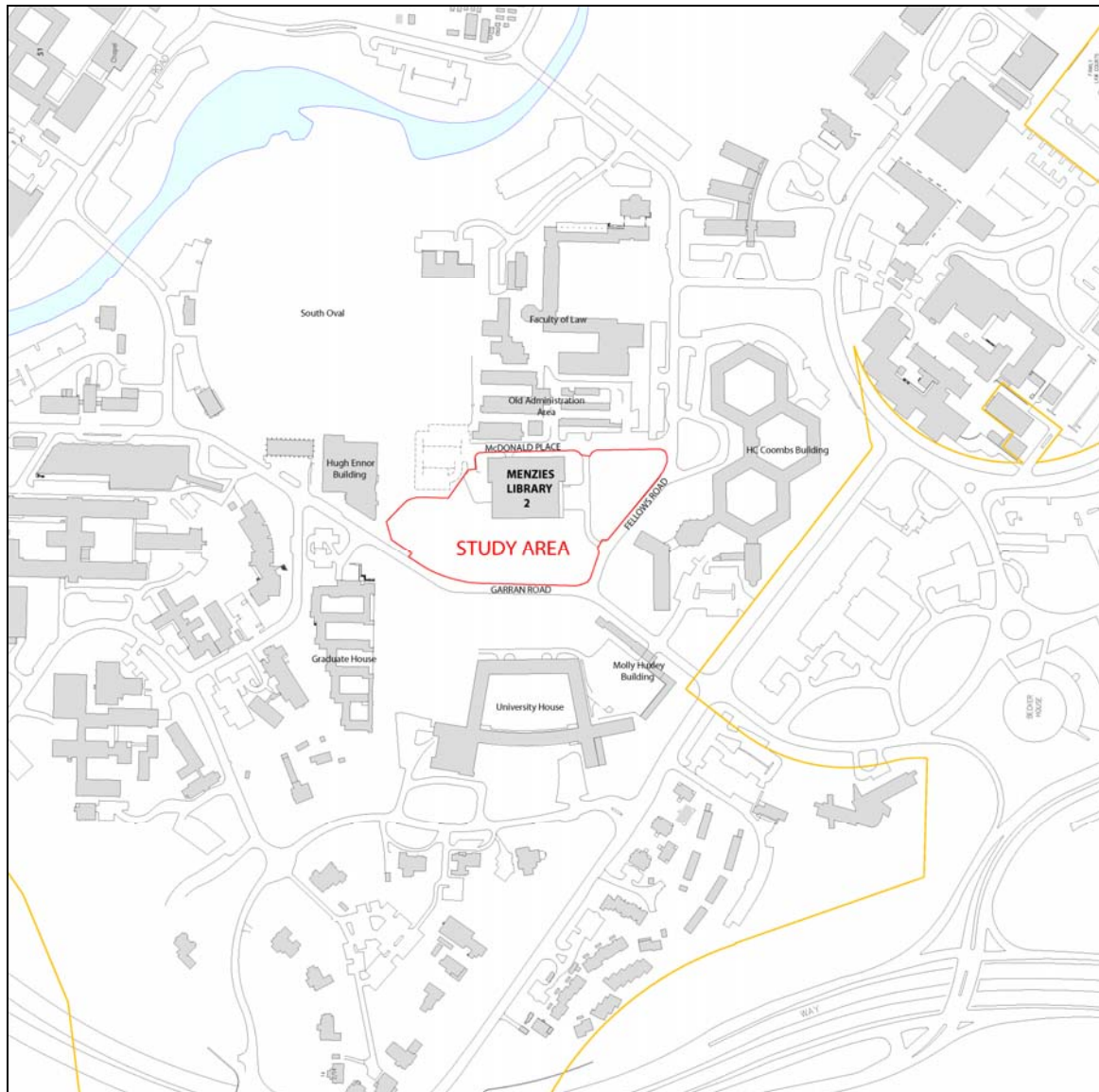


Figure 2.2: RG Menzies Building as part of the ANU campus (ANU Drawing Office 2010)



Figure 2.3: The RG Menzies Building and immediate surrounds. Curtilage includes the landscape to the east, south and west of the building (GoogleMaps 2009).

3. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The following section has been designed to provide a background to the history of the RG Menzies Building in order to identify the cultural significance of the site. It is not considered a complete history of the place.

For an overview of the development of the ANU campus, refer to *The Making of the Australian National University: 1946-1996* by SG Foster & MM Varghese (1996).

3.1 Library services at ANU

It was recognised that a library would be crucial to the effective operation of the ANU from the earliest days of its development. The first meeting of the ANU Interim Council, held on 13 September 1946, discussed the issue of the library and what form it would take. Basic needs were examined, including the provision of funds for the immediate procurement of books and journals and the nature of a permanent repository for the publications¹.

Under the Interim Council, the Library Committee was also founded in September 1946. The Committee originally consisted of Sir Eric Ashby as Chairman, with Professor KH Bailey, Sir Frederick Eggleston and Mr HJ Goodes². The ANU Library was established on 1 May 1948 with the appointment of ALG McDonald as University Librarian. McDonald was able to call on any number of contacts in library and collection channels he had made during his days in military intelligence to secure a firm base for the research collection³. Both he and his deputy, Noel Stockdale, were graduates of the University of Melbourne, and had previously worked in the University Library prior to their transfer to the ANU⁴.

Acquisitions began shortly after, with the first book taken into stock on 24 May 1948. The breadth and scope of the task required a high degree of proficiency and knowledge to envisage the requirements of the different disciplines and make allowances for the organisation of such a collection. McDonald obtained reference lists from the research schools to meet their specific needs, focusing on back-issues of several journals, State and Commonwealth Parliamentary papers, Acts and Law reports; little scope was left for needless or unwanted purchases⁵.

These early acquisitions were built upon a collection of 500 volumes gifted to the ANU from Melbourne University's duplicate stock. They were housed in Melbourne's Wyselaskie Hall until 1950:

Prior to the middle of 1950 the major effort had been directed towards obtaining the nucleus of a collection that would be of immediate use when academic work commenced in Canberra, but it then became apparent that academic staff was arriving at a rate which made it necessary that the collection should be housed in Canberra as soon as possible. By this time, also, the accommodation for books in Wyselaskie Hall was being taxed to its utmost and, by courtesy of the warden of Trinity College, material that could be conveniently packed for eventual transfer to Canberra was housed in the basement of the College⁶.

By the time the collection arrived in Canberra it had grown to over 40,000 volumes, as well as 25,000 volumes accumulated by CP Fitzgerald in Hong Kong the previous year. McDonald and Stockdale had scoured catalogues of

new and second-hand booksellers that had become available since the end of the War, using part of an annual £325,000 University grant to purchase the books⁷.

Upon their arrival in Canberra the collection was placed in a portion of the old Canberra Community Hospital buildings in Acton, shared with the newly established research schools. Off-shoots first appeared in the first two science branch libraries formed by the John Curtin School of Medical Research (JCSMR) in one of the early Administration buildings, and the Research School of Physical Sciences (RSPHysS).

The old Hospital Buildings were never intended as a permanent repository for the collection. Little room was available for readers, and no provision was made for those who required large quantities of specialised material. Two Romney Huts (Nissan Huts – each 96ft x 36ft) were erected to the northwest of the old hospital buildings to provide more room, each used for the storage of bound serials⁸. However, the growing need for space, coupled with the potential fire risk (and possible risk of water damage when fighting the fires), instigated talks of a permanent library building in the Council meetings⁹.

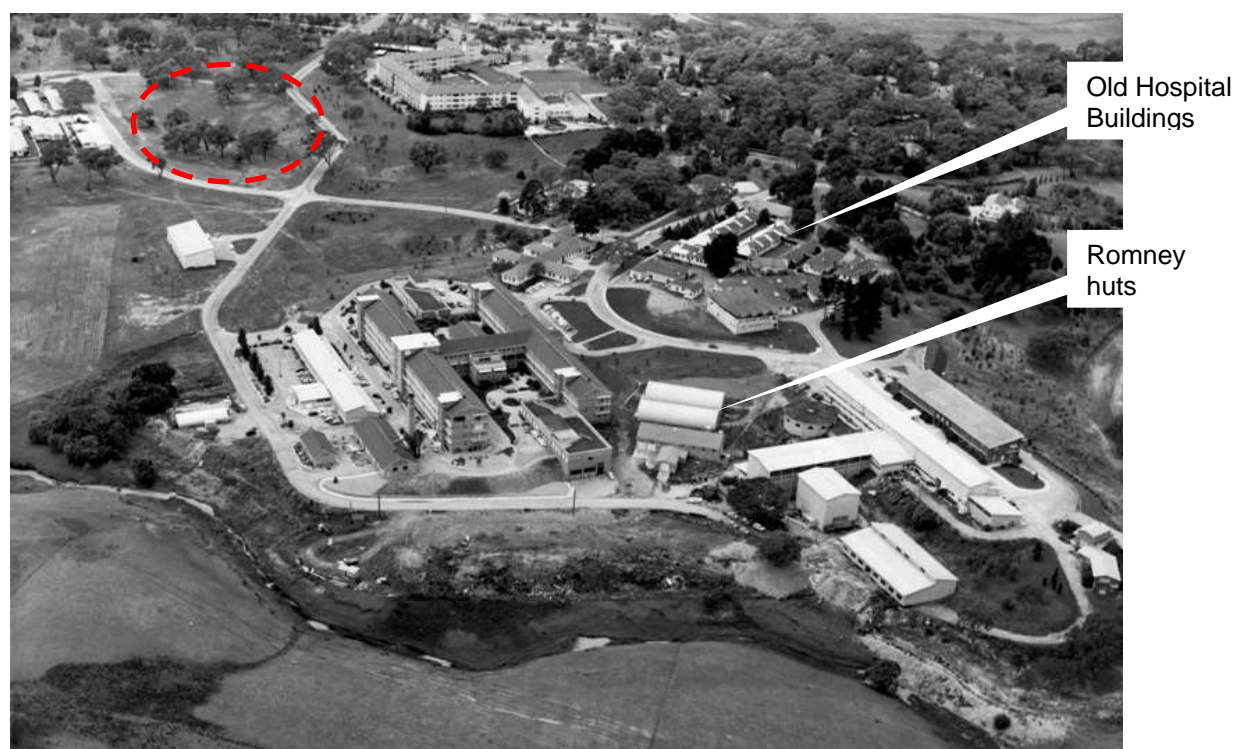


Figure 3.1: The first ANU Library collection was stored in the old Acton Hospital Buildings and two Romney huts to the west. The hatched area is the future site of the Menzies Library (ANUA 12 Jan 1960).

In September 1954 the University site planners, Professor Denis Winston and Grenfell Rudduck, submitted a report on the future development of the University which implicitly stated that the Library should be located on a site to the north of Garran Road, opposite University House. Council approved the recommendation and a firm of Melbourne architects were instructed to

prepare sketch plans for a building to house 300,000 volumes, deemed to be sufficient for 25-30 years¹⁰.

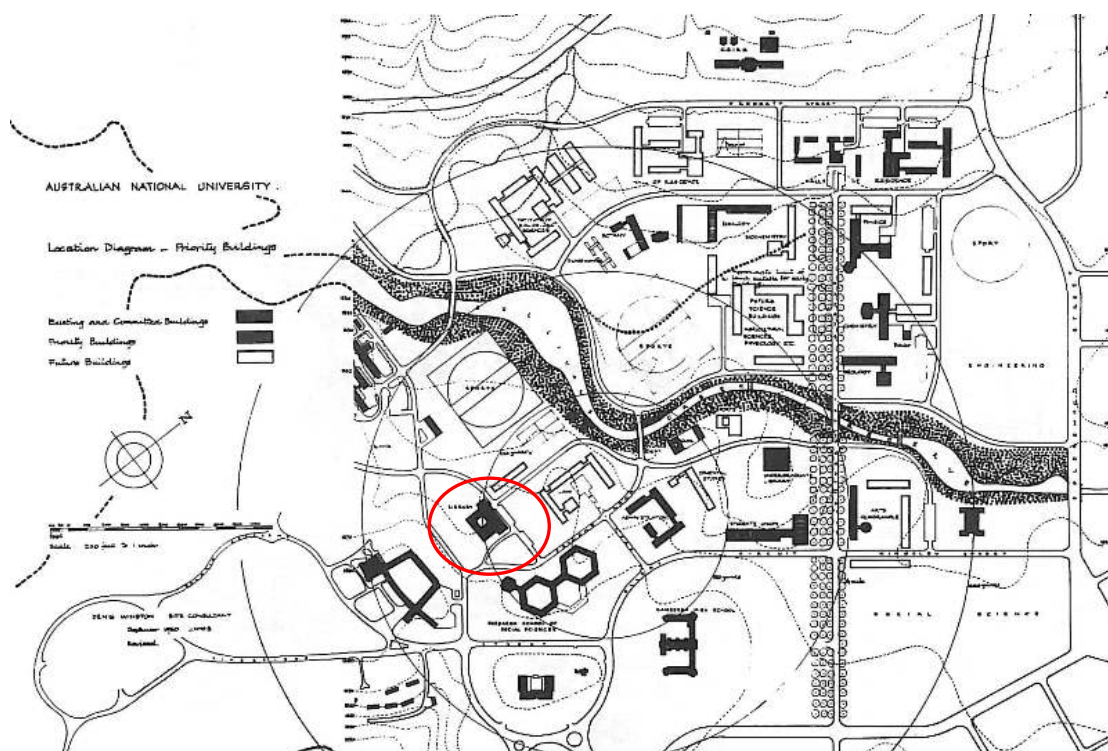


Figure 3.2: The first site plan that illustrated the final form of the Menzies Building was prepared by Professor Denis Winston in September 1960 (ANU F&S 1973, Plate 21).

Throughout the 1950s debate centred around the possible amalgamation of the Canberra University College with the ANU. The CUC had been established in 1929 as a separate institution to the University, and their amalgamation was only brought about through direct instruction from Cabinet in 1960¹¹. The Prime Minister was adamant that both the College and University library collections were to be housed in the one building; a building to be “worthy of the University and the National Capital”¹². The CUC noted that the proposed location was too inconvenient for undergraduate students, and asked for a revision of the site and plans for a separate College library. Original College site plans placed the undergraduate library in the vicinity of the JB Chifley Building of the Library, although these were later revised in line with the development of the University campus to the south. A suggestion was instead made that perhaps the planned research library could be re-sited, more or less where the Chancery buildings are now located, and the undergraduate library placed adjacent to it¹³.

The University was wary of the escalated costs associated with the preparation of new plans and a complete re-siting of the proposed building. The architect, John Scarborough, reminded them that the site had already been selected, and the preliminary plans approved for the new postgraduate library. Any change of location “would call for a careful consideration of a site, new specification and wholly new plans”¹⁴.

In addition, the Vice-Chancellor supported the original location. In his final submission to the Prime Minister, the VC requested that the University “not be subjected to the delays, the expenses, the long arguments and the frustrations of planning a completely new building”. His arguments were not lost on PM Menzies, who was sympathetic to the economic situation of the University:

I am satisfied that for reasons of both time and money the present library plans should be proceeded with forthwith. I regard the matter as urgent. I do not doubt that there would be some advantage to be gained by having a research library and an undergraduate library adjacent to each other. But the reasons now existing for prompt building on the already proposed site should prevail.

The College grudgingly conceded to the Prime Minister's wishes, and Scarborough's plans were soon finalised. Space was left to the north for the future construction of the undergraduate library (the JB Chifley Building) which was completed shortly after the Menzies Building in 1963¹⁵.

3.2 History of the RG Menzies Building

The inspiration for the Menzies Building was largely provided by Guy Collard, who referred to the work of Frank Lloyd Wright in Arizona and other parts of the United States. Lloyd Wright used various sizes of local stone set in and backed by concrete. His designs provided a certain character and attractiveness, a sort of ‘personal effect’ that characterises Lloyd Wright's work.



Figure 3.3: Frank Lloyd Wright's work in the United States, such as at Taliesin West, Arizona, rely heavily on horizontal lines and the natural desert colours provided by local materials (http://www.greatbuildings.com/buildings/Taliesin_West.html).

Designs of the Menzies building were submitted by May 1959*. They illustrated a structure consisting of two very distinct elements. The northern section, to be finished in sawn free stone, included four floors providing book stacks, with room set aside for readers. The southern section, a ‘cast-in-situ’ concrete shell with a barrel-vaulted roof clad in copper sheeting, consisted of a one-storey block providing reception areas, staff amenities and reader space. The entire building was to sit on a rock-face base, an obvious reference to Lloyd Wright's work, carried to the level of the first storey. The

* Refer Section 3.5 for information on the overall design of the Menzies Building

reinforced frame supported concrete floors beneath a superimposed wide and low-pitched, timber trussed copper roof¹⁶. Important features that were altered in future works included the basement level ('undercroft'), originally open to house an air-conditioning cooling tower, and a central courtyard above that was enclosed to remedy minor structural flaws.

A Clerk of Works was installed to oversee construction and liaise with the University at regular site meetings. Work on the foundations began on 7 January 1960¹⁷ and the local firm Simmie & Co began construction soon after.



Figure 3.4: The construction of the Menzies Building was unavoidably delayed due to the unavailability of materials and labour. The site (top) was cleared of a number of eucalypts, although many have been protected to the south of the building (ANUA15 111 – 15 May 1960)

Lower left: The stones for the base of the building were delivered from Narranderra; the eastern portion of the north block was formed first (UN311/7 – June 1961).

Lower right: The lower roof of the Menzies Building is formed of copper laid on an Oregon frame with Tasmanian hardwood tongue-and-groove boarding (below right) (ANUA 15 UN343/3).

An important element of the design was the plum concrete stone base and the sawn stone facing for the stack block. Narranderra was chosen as the source of the raw material, which was described as having 'strong brown, purple and grey-blue hues'¹⁸. It was of good quality, agreeable colours and fine textures; positive aspects that far outweighed the risk of using virgin material from an unknown source. By the time PM Menzies had laid the foundation stone on 11 May 1961, the stonemasons had begun to form the inner skin of the plum concrete wall. The first of many problems were found with the material soon after. Some pieces were cut too small or not sawn planar; some also displayed unsightly 'rust-spots' and were obviously not properly examined before being carted from the source. The contractors were forced to abandon the initial Narranderra quarry shortly after¹⁹.

The bronze window frames had begun to be fitted in early May 1962²⁰. Five months later the plaster was applied to the walls of the stack areas, as well as the terrazzo finishes to the piers and columns in the vaulted areas. The final delivery of stone was accepted in November and rapidly affixed to form the external façade of the stack block. The builder's sheds were removed in January 1963, and minor works were still being carried out when the building was officially opened by HRH Queen Elizabeth II on 13 March 1963²¹.

The Menzies Library was not officially completed until 30 April 1963, more than 20 months after the original agreed date of construction. The delays were primarily due to inconsistencies in the quality and quantity of the worked stone delivered from Narranderra. After some initial stone deliveries, the manager of the stone-working plant at the quarry died, followed by the resignation of the quarry foreman and the breakdown of the rock-cutting equipment. Back in Canberra, problems were compounded by on-site variations to the initial design, the availability of materials and skilled labour in the region and weeks of inclement weather conditions²².

Major faults were found with the design, materials and nature of construction shortly after the building was occupied. These centred around the use of the basement (undercroft), problems with the copper roof sheeting, design of the central courtyard, and the air-conditioning system.

The Undercroft

The Chinese and Japanese sections of the Oriental Collection were originally housed in the Menzies basement, with some space for undergraduate readers, research facilities and staff offices²³. After the collection was relocated in 1968 the University decided to enclose the undercroft to provide for storage of books and periodicals that were seen to have a 'historic interest', as well as extra room for an efficient air-conditioning system²⁴.

The initial works were to enclose the whole of the basement level to the external wall of the building, although the associated costs required to align the new works with the pre-existing form and stone facing were excessive. The Librarian instead suggested enclosing a smaller space, permitting a cheaper form of construction²⁵. His recommendations were accepted and the work completed by October 1970²⁶.

Unfortunately the benefits of the much-needed space were short-lived. Towards the end of 1971 it became urgently necessary to provide accommodation for the new Univac computer system which was to be housed in the undercroft. Approval for the full enclosure of the basement was given shortly after the Univac computer was transferred to a new location in 1975²⁷. The works, including modifications to the air-conditioning system and the removal of a number of internal partitions, were completed by the end of 1977²⁸. It was seen that the alterations would provide space to house the overflow of volumes for the next three years. The University Site Planner was adamant that any works would adhere to the original architectural scheme, and “not present an unattractive internal view”²⁹.

The copper roof and central courtyard

Faults in the copper roof sheeting were apparent soon after construction. The material began to buckle under Canberra’s fluctuating diurnal ranges, placing stress on the folded seams. Insertion joints were added in 36 places to counter the effects, although these were of the wrong type and soon became inadequate, resulting in the sheets tearing. Poor fall to the downpipes embedded in the structural columns compounded the problem and caused water to pool. The sheets soon tore, and the water, with nowhere else to drain, leaked into the superstructure beneath³⁰.

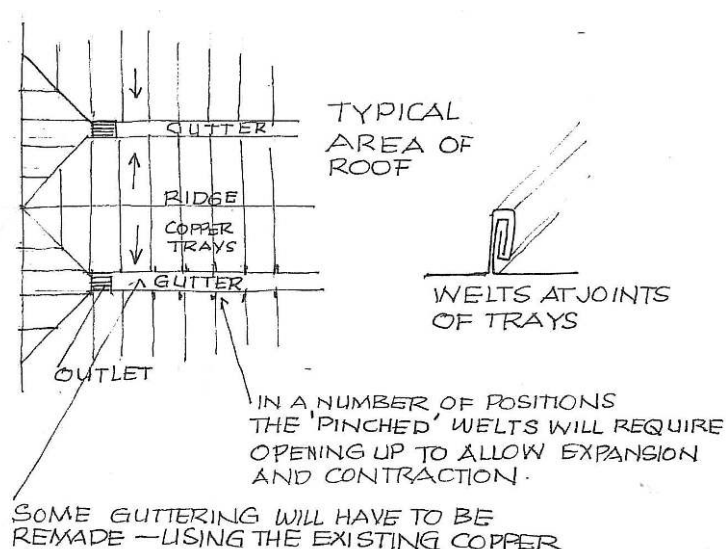


Figure 3.5: Faults with the copper roofing, mid-1970s (ANUA 53 465).

Basic maintenance work, usually masses of silicon poured onto the torn seams, were carried out on the roof to arrest immediate damages. This was nothing more than a temporary solution, however, and the tearing continued. By 1977 the repeated failures had become an acute problem across the entire roof. It was recommended to remove the copper sheets and replace the whole with a modern metal deck platform, set to slope towards new eaves gutters to discharge the water into external downpipes, replacing those in the columns. It was anticipated that the returns for the salvaged metal would more than make up for the costs in replacing the copper³¹.

At the same time leaking beneath the central courtyard had also become a problem, with water dissipating into the sub-basement level around pavement light fittings and in-built plantation boxes. Some leaks may also have resulted from corrosion in the downpipes in the structural columns. As there was no difference between the ground levels of the courtyard and the adjacent

internal areas, water was also easily able to seep under the doors and window sills of the ground floor. The falls to the grated sumps in the courtyard base were inadequate for even a minor downpour, and it was seen that “any further attempts to correct this situation would never be successful – in the light of all previous and unsuccessful attempts”³². By roofing the courtyard an important architectural feature was lost, though some faults in the design were remedied and additional book stack space created at the same time.



Figure 3.6: The courtyard provided light and helped to create an open atmosphere to the ground floor and foyer. The stone feature wall of the McDonald Room was continued to become the west wall of the courtyard (ANUA15 111 - L43366 1965).

The decision to roof the courtyard was not undertaken lightly; though the ANU Standing Committee approved the works in February 1970, the courtyard was not enclosed until 1979. The University Registrar, David Dexter, “felt a little disappointed in it as a courtyard, yet the University as a body would not wish to dispense with it out of hand”³³. Part of the works included the demolition of the courtyard fountain and the transfer of the water sculpture to the Arts Centre, where it remains today. It was to be a costly conversion, but was considered more important than replacing the copper roof. The works put a stop to leaking in the sub-basement level and University maintenance were to continue patching the lower copper roof as necessary.

Recent works (2009) at the Menzies Building included the installation of a flexible PVC membrane atop the original copper roof of the southern block. Though the design problems with the original fabrics remain, the membrane has provided a sealed lid to the roof and the leaking has stopped.

The air-conditioning system

Immediately after construction the air distribution system was found to be unbalanced and the internal temperature controls inadequate for the building, with the ductwork making loud 'clanking noises' in isolated locations³⁴. Small modifications were carried out as necessary, though the problems continued for the next ten years. Works were proposed for the early 1970s which, it was anticipated, would correct several 'dead zones' of the building³⁵.

Over the 1972 summer break the climate control system 'tripped out' on several occasions, which not only inconvenienced readers and staff, but also affected the operations of the Univac computer in the basement. A larger cooling tower was installed to the rear of the building to improve the efficiency of the central chiller and was later enclosed³⁶.

The 'great hardship and discomfort' experienced by the users of the building prompted the Health and Research Employees' Association to determine the specific cause of the complaints and assess the inherent danger³⁷. The Association believed that the poor air-conditioning system, coupled with cramped conditions, had aggravated 'personnel problems'³⁸. These problems did not go unnoticed by the University. The Librarian, Mr Simms, was especially concerned about the general unhappiness of the staff body. He believed that an expansion of space, through the enclosure of the sub-basement level, and repairs to the climate-control system would be a great boost to staff and student morale³⁹.

Despite the closure of the basement, however, the problems with the air-conditioning system continued. In January 1986 it was reported that cold draughts from vents caused a number of sinus infections, ear aches and stiffness pains in necks and arms of staff members⁴⁰. Three years later the building had come to be regarded as the 'worst major building in regard to air-conditioning'; many of the original conditioning units had finally failed, and the controls had become completely inadequate. The University funded the replacement of the major damper systems and oil bath filters, and carried out a major service of the electrostatic filters. Modern microprocessor-based controls were installed, similar to those in the Chifley Library⁴¹.



Figure 3.7: The air-conditioning system was designed for the original configuration of the building. The system has been re-balanced a number of times to account for the change of use in certain areas and the diminishing book stock, which acted as a 'heat-sink' for the building (ANUA15 111 – UN343/14 1965)

There has been a slight change of use that has seen masses of printed material replaced with open reading areas or computer laboratories, and this has affected the way the climate control system operates. In the past, the books have acted as a 'heat-sink' for the building and the system has been

adjusted as necessary for this situation. The current system requires a re-balance to account for the latest changes and removal of printed material.

Other minor issues have also been found with poor installation of services or materials. Some floor tiles began to lift soon after construction, and a number were damaged by female staff wearing stiletto heels⁴². Problems with poor wiring installations resulted in a small fire near a light fitting in November 1964. The investigation found that the cause was faulty contacts between the lamps and holders, coupled with an 'unusual set of circumstances'. Subsequent examinations found that at least one more fitting was in danger of igniting; the result of a hurried installation that was expensive to remedy⁴³.

3.3 Function and Use of the RG Menzies Building

Three months after the formal opening of the Menzies Library the building was handed over to the University. Books and periodicals were transferred from the Old Hospital Buildings and its supplementary stores with a minimum of disturbance to reader services. After an initial period of adjustment and adaptation all departments of the Library were soon functioning smoothly and efficiently⁴⁴.

The readers, however, were slow to take advantage of the services the new building offered. The Library was still considered little more than a book repository rather than a library with full facilities for study and research. This attitude gradually changed over the next few years, with the construction of the nearby HC Coombs Building and longer Library opening hours⁴⁵. The University library collection amounted to more than 310,000 volumes when the Menzies Building was opened⁴⁶.

In addition to being a functional research library, the Menzies Building was also an important tourist attraction in the Canberra region for the first few years after its construction. A succession of distinguished visitors, including the Governor-General, the Prime Minister, members of Diplomatic Corps and many peripatetic academics from different parts of the world were impressed by the architectural (and bibliothecal) features of the building⁴⁷.

The lower ground floor originally comprised library stack areas, bindery room and rooms set aside for university publications, receiving and packing rooms, staff common rooms, the main electrical switch room and the continuation of the plant ventilation room. The large timber front doors of the ground floor opened to the main lobby and foyer, with space set aside for unbound serials, preparation and cataloguing area, Librarians' offices, microfilm rooms, the Oriental Collection and seminar rooms. The northern stack block housed rows of book shelving, with typing and store rooms.

The public rooms of the ground floor have been used for exhibitions of various kinds. Originally the ALG McDonald Room was the permanent location for a display of rare books, though this was later changed to an ad-hoc seminar/exhibition space. In its first year, the Library hosted a display of Italian art books, organised by the Italian Institute in Melbourne and opened by the Italian Ambassador; books in English printed in the Netherlands, organised by the Association of Dutch Publishers and opened by the Netherlands

Ambassador; and of archaeological books, photographs and objects, organised by the Department of Archaeology of the University of Sydney and the ANU, and opened by Professor Cambitoglou of the University of Sydney⁴⁸.

During the first few years a substantial number of exhibitions were organised and attracted considerable attention. The criteria for acceptance of display material was defined as sponsorship by an official body such as the Arts Council and/or direct relevance to the work of one or more academic departments of the University. Exhibitions ranged from the works of British potters and paperback publishing, to the art of Japanese flower arrangement and a display of Antarctic paintings by Sydney Nolan. In 1968 the McDonald Room was first used by ANU Press for the launch of newly published books. Seminars appear to have been held there from the early 1970s; it was also used for a public lecture, a poetry reading and the launching of Professor AD Hope's book *A Midsummer Eve's Dream* in the same year.

Extensions were planned for the Menzies Building only a few years after its construction; the lack of space was largely attributed to the hurried amalgamation of CUC and ANU in 1960 and the pressure to accommodate both collections in the building designed for only one. The extension was designed as an additional stack building across McDonald Road to the north and joined to the original stack block by a bridging link. It was seen that the new block would accommodate all the University's research materials, except for the existing science branch libraries⁴⁹.

The original exhibition space was subsumed in a ground floor office extension in 1973. By this time the number of exhibitions had gradually tapered off and little attention was given to the final displays. Recent works have seen the foyer and ground area opened out once again, with semi-permanent publication and artefact displays re-established.



Figure 3.8: The McDonald Room (above left) was originally used for exhibitions and seminars, though today is mainly used for the latter. The display cabinets were original Fred Ward designs and are still used in the foyer and other open spaces of the building. Light filtered into the McDonald Room from the courtyard, which was enclosed in the late 1970s. (ANUA15 111 – L43365 1965).

Right: The book stacks were very basic frames and spread throughout the northern block. These shelves were installed in April 1963, shortly after the building was opened (ANUA15 111 – UN363/7 April 1963).

By 1975 the plans for an extension had been dropped in favour of a wholly new building to be erected immediately to the northwest of the Chancelry. This was to become the research holding, with the Menzies Building to remain focused on the Asian collection and Chifley on undergraduate services. The research material holding facility never eventuated as the Federal Government of the day cut that type of capital funding in the Budget for 1975⁵⁰.

Minor alterations have been carried out to the Menzies Building over time. Some were to improve readers' amenities and facilities, increase stack space or to comply with Australian building regulations. The foyer layout has been upgraded and opened out, with the most obvious change the location and type of modern loans desk that has been installed.

In 1989 a temporary disabled ramp was added to the front of the building and was later replaced by a permanent ramp that aligned with DDA codes. Shortly after minor problems with sandstone facing surfaced, and it was found that the windows were not properly sealed, largely as a result of weathering to the rubber seals.

Information Technology at the Menzies Library

Increasing attention was given to the development of computerised networks and mechanised systems of library management in the early 1960s. Interest in mechanisation grew from the need for overcoming cataloguing bottlenecks, delays regarding orders and the shelving of material, and in the overall reduction of operating costs. By 1965 'extremely interesting and potentially vastly important work' was being carried out on the application of library computer techniques in America, though it was clear that Australia still had far to go. The United States held the necessary financial resources to carry the enormous expense of development, as well as the breadth of institutional support⁵¹.

In 1966 a senior member of the library staff, K. Bernie, was chosen for a reconnaissance mission to the US to investigate technological advances of library processes and techniques. Within the next few years considerable progress was made with plans for automating various library processes in accordance with Bernie's recommendations and a plan that had been submitted by a systems analyst⁵². While the encouragement and interest were there, however, hopes were soon dashed by the difficulties experienced by the Library in gaining a regular allocation of computer time (a modest 1% of its capacity) needed to complete and carry out its operations⁵³.

In 1971 the University of Canberra (at the time the Canberra College of Advanced Education) provided some relief after they allowed the ANU ready access to their computer facilities. A variety of print-outs relating to reserve books and current serials acquisition were soon ready for use. Two other projects were also under development: a semi-automated control of staff and postgraduate loans and a comprehensive acquisitions record⁵⁴.

The Univac 1108 computer that was housed in the Menzies basement until 1975 was used for mathematics, medical and other research on the campus, rather than investigations into technological processes in the library. More

importantly for the development of library mechanisation, however, were negotiations and contract with Libramatic Systems Pty Ltd (ADAPS) to provide a computer-based cataloguing system⁵⁵. A year later online bibliographic services were available through NLA and CSIRO, emphasising the marked shift of libraries to becoming key access points of information, rather than focused on acquiring and managing databases⁵⁶.

By the mid-1980s technology had come far; innovations such as personal computers fueled the mechanisation process and library systems around the world were converting to automated cataloguing and referencing systems. The URICA system was introduced to ANU in 1984, adopted because of its integrated form, and ran very successfully (with incremental modifications) until its replacement with the INNOPAC system in 1995⁵⁷. These systems represented important steps in the technology process; by the end of 1985 over 600,000 records were processed by URICA, and access was soon available from terminals within the library's buildings. At the same time they were able to take account of the geographically dispersed disciplinary groups over the Acton campus⁵⁸. By 1996 it was possible for each academic and postgraduate student to enter the system through the computer in their office.

In 1994 the Victorian Association awarded the ANU Library the national VALA Award to the Computing & Networking Centre in recognition of its highly innovative and creative work. In 1995 Colin Steele, the then Librarian, was the first Australian (and non-American) to be invited to the UK to give the prestigious Follett Lectures on Information Technology and Libraries⁵⁹.

ANU Archives Program

The Noel Butlin and ANU Archives offices and reading rooms are accommodated in the southwest corner of the ground floor. The actual archives, largely consisting of Australian business and labour records, University archives and other collections, are kept in the Acton Underhill Tunnel located to the south of the Menzies Building.

Archives are accessed via the ground floor Reading Room in the Menzies Library, which also serves as the rare book reading room. Exhibitions from the Archives are also held in this space, and are changed at regular intervals (about every 6 months).

Furniture and Finishes

From the early 1950s the University Design Section, under Fred Ward, designed much of the furniture, decorations and even internal finishes of buildings around the campus. Ward's legacy is embodied largely in University House, for which he designed furniture for all bedrooms, offices and other spaces.

Initial book stack designs for the Menzies Library appear to have been a unique composition, with specific lighting for the individual stack units. This design was later abandoned before the building was constructed in lieu of fixed ceiling lighting (Figure 3.8).

In 1959 Ward examined the plans of the Library and developed sketches for furniture throughout. These included drawings of:

- Bookshelves and cupboards for the Librarian and Assistant Librarian
- Stationery cupboard for the Secretary
- An enquiries counter and a partition for the Department Chiefs in the Staff Working Area
- Benches and storage for the Contura and Microfilm rooms
- 35ft of specific shelving for the Reference Section
- Screens and a bench in the typing room on the first and second floors, as well as specific reading benches in the Government Publications Room on the second floor
- A cloak rack and loans counter in the entrance hall and a coat rack, lockers and benches in the locker rooms; and
- A first-aid cupboard in the rest-room.

Finishes were to be walnut in the public areas, blackwood in some 'special areas', along with Mountain Ash or Tasmanian Oak in other areas. Brass and bronze trims were added to the loans counter, main stair balustrading, door handles and elsewhere in the building. The Design Section were to also look after carpets and furniture.

Not all items listed above were made for the building, and the location of furniture changed as the functions of the rooms were altered over time. Today certain original Ward items have been retained. Of note, these include in-built shelving in the foyer, Meeting Room (old Librarian's Room) and other rooms and original Ward chairs and tables. Much of the wood and other original finishes have been retained, with fragments of brass trims remaining. Of the furniture that has since been removed, those retained have included banks of card access trays, large atlas desks and other miscellaneous pieces. All Ward furniture is considered part of the University Art Collection and is stored in the Acton Tunnel.

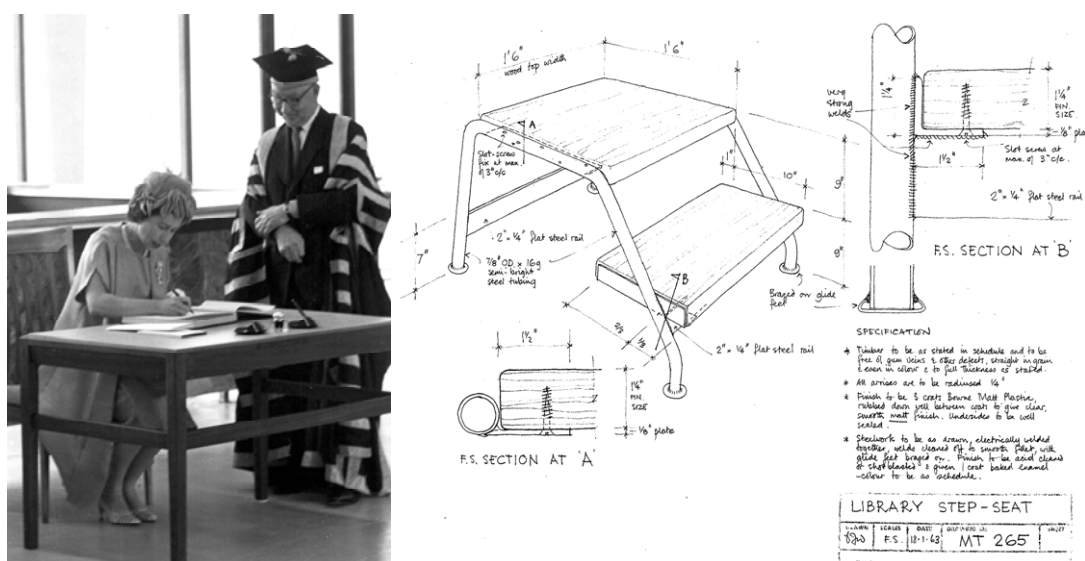


Figure 3.9: Much of the early ANU furniture was designed and manufactured by Fred Ward and the ANU Design Section. His pieces had a contemporary Australian feel and included chairs and tables, such as the ones used by HRH Queen Elizabeth II to sign the guest register (above left), and more utilitarian pieces, such as the library step-seat (ANUA15/14-23 & ANU F&S Drawing Office).

Artworks

Artworks are an important part of the Menzies Building, and were a carefully considered aspect of the design.

In May 1960 the nationally-renowned artist, Lyndon Dadswell, was requisitioned to produce eleven screens for the external façade of the south wing of the Menzies Building (to cost £13,000). Dadswell fashioned the pieces, appropriately titled 'Screens', based loosely on the large artwork screen by Harry Bertoia that was installed in the New York Bank on 510 Fifth Street. Each screen on the Menzies Building is 13'6" x 6'6", and serve as both an artwork and a functional sunscreen for the lower storey windows.



Figure 3.10: The south block windows prior to the installation of the Dadswell 'Screens', August 1962 (ANUA15 111 – UN343/8 16 Aug 1962).

The shelter above the roof was a temporary measure to protect the interior during the formation of the courtyard.

Shortly after the Screens were approved, plans for the central courtyard fountain and water feature were also prepared. These consisted of a shallow pool, with a fountain-sculpture that was to loosely correlate to the Dadswell Screens. They were described as a "series of copper sheets ... grouped to form a 'hedge' through and over which, carefully directed streams of water will cascade". Despite its scale, it was foreseen that the fountain would cost no more than £3,000. After the courtyard was enclosed in the late 1970s the water sculpture was transferred to the ANU Arts Centre, and today sits nestled amongst plants in the central courtyard.

Changes in Use and Function of the Menzies Building

Since its inception the provision of information has been a primary function of the ANU Library, as well as the acquisition, cataloguing and conservation of material. By the early 1980s the proposed principle that governed the development of the library was that any major growth should be in relation to the three major buildings (Menzies, Chifley and Hancock Libraries) and that there must be a realisation of material within these buildings. Material was to be placed in accordance with similar materials, predicted use of acquired material and access to collections. As was regular practice at the University, a series of committees formulated the necessary policies. There was a committee 'to formulate guidelines for collection building and location in the Social Science and Humanities', the 'acquisition of storage space on campus', and a committee for the development of a rationalisation programme with the NLA, CSIRO, University of Canberra, Schools of Art and Music, National

Gallery and specialised Government libraries. There also remained the question of 'libraries' that were not part of the main system; an issue that gradually sorted itself out over the next decade.

Published in 1982, the *Report of the Review Committee of the Australian National University Library* urged the rationalisation of collections. The Menzies Building was to contain the Asian collection and the preponderance of the Social Sciences; JB Chifley Building housed the Humanities and balance of Social Sciences, and the Crawford (later Hancock) Library accommodated the Science collections. The rationalisation process took place over the next eighteen months, and was preceded by thorough and widespread University community consultation. The process included a standardising of short loan materials in Chifley, Crawford and Law Libraries, and regular opening hours of all main library buildings⁶⁰.

As the collections grew space once again became highly sought after. Relief came in 1990 with the refurbished use of the Hancock Library basement. There was also further refining of the collection so that Menzies Library came to have as its focus Asian Studies and official documents (now ANU Archives) with some Social Science material; the Chifley Library became the major Social Science and Humanities holding, with a primarily Australian focus, and the Hancock Library carried general science, Geology, Life Sciences, and History of Science and also served as the central repository for science serial back issues.

The University library collections are today still very much in a state of flux. Although the general collections have been retained for each of the library buildings as they were in the 1990s, much of the permanent book collection has since been transferred to a separate book repository in Hume, about 16km to the southeast of the ANU campus. This move freed up much space in the library buildings for reader services, including a number of open teaching areas fitted with banks of computer terminals. The books themselves are retrieved via electronic request for each publication and are usually delivered to the campus on a daily basis.

Including the Menzies Library, there are currently twelve library facilities at the ANU, all providing book stack space and computer access. They include:

- RG Menzies Building (including the Acton 'Underhill' Tunnel used as the Noel Butlin and ANU Archives repository), consisting of Asian and Pacific Studies, Official Documents (Asia, the Pacific, United Nations), rare books and special collections and ANU theses
- JB Chifley Building, consisting of Social Sciences, Humanities and official Documents (Australia including ABS material, New Zealand, North & South America, Europe and Africa)
- WK Hancock Building, consisting of Sciences, Engineering and Mathematics
- Art Library, School of Art, largely consisting of written works related to the study of fine arts, as well as other published materials
- Music Library, School of Music, consisting of music scores and recordings (ANU staff and students only) and other published material, including local Canberra history

- Law Library, Faculty of Law, consisting of written and other works related to the study of law
- Chemistry Library, Birch Building, consisting of written and other works related to the study of Chemistry and similar sciences
- Earth Sciences Library, Jaeger Building, consisting of written and other works related to the study of earth sciences
- Medical School Library, JCSMR, consisting of written and other works related to medical research
- University House Library, University House, consisting of a large collection of written works gifted to the House by academics and visiting scholars
- Astronomy Library, Mount Stromlo Observatory, consisting of books related to Astronomy and Astrophysics research (part of this collection was transferred to the Hancock Library after the 2003 bushfires)
- Honorary mention: Wood Library, Forestry School, consisting of one of the largest collection of wood samples in Australia and a small number of written works
- Honorary mention: Classics Reading Room, AD Hope Building, consisting of reproductions of ancient texts, interpretations and plans

Online services provided by the ANU Library include past exam papers, electronic journals and learning materials (e-reserve), digital PhD dissertations and other e-resources and databases (more than 200, including ABI/Inform and Web of Knowledge indexes and census data).

- ¹ *Notes of the Report of the University Council: 1946-1949.* (8). ANU Archives.
- ² Vidot, P.A. 1996. *The History of the Australian National University Library: 1946-1996.* (2). National Capital Printing, Canberra.
- ³ *Notes of the Report of the University Council: 1946-1949.* (8). ANU Archives.
- ⁴ McDonald, ALG. 1960. *The New Library.* Unpublished ANU report.
- ⁵ McDonald, ALG. 1960. *The New Library.* Unpublished ANU report.
- ⁶ *Annual Report of the Interim Council: 1946-June 1951.* (13). ANU Archives
- ⁷ Vidot, P.A. 1996. *The History of the Australian National University Library: 1946-1996.* (7). National Capital Printing, Canberra.
- ⁸ *Annual Report of the Interim Council: 1946-June 1951.* (13). ANU Archives
- ⁹ *Annual Report of the Council: 1952.* (35). ANU Archives.
- ¹⁰ *Annual Report of the Council: 1952.* (35). ANU Archives.
- ¹¹ Foster, SG & Varghese, MM. 1996. *The Making of the Australian National University: 1946-1996.* (155). Allen & Unwin.
- ¹² Menzies Library Archives (ANU Archives): ANUA 53 (11.2.1.OA – 22 April 1960)
- ¹³ Vidot 1996:23-24.
- ¹⁴ Vidot 1996:21.
- ¹⁵ Vidot 1996:23-24.
- ¹⁶ Menzies Library Archives (ANU Archives): ANU 53 (11.2.1.OA – 14 May 1959)
- ¹⁷ Menzies Library Archives (ANU Archives): ANUA 53 (11.2.1.OA – 21 Dec 1959)
- ¹⁸ Ibid, ANUA 53 (11.2.1.OA – 14 Sep 1959)
- ¹⁹ Ibid, ANUA 53 (11.2.1.OA – correspondence 1960-61)
- ²⁰ Ibid, ANUA 53 (11.2.1.OA – 3 May 1962)
- ²¹ Ibid, ANUA 53 (11.2.1.OA – 1962-63)
- ²² Ibid (no specific reference)
- ²³ Ibid, ANUA 53 (11.2.1.OA – 9 Dec 1963)
- ²⁴ Ibid, ANUA 53 (11.2.1.OA – 9 Sep 1968)
- ²⁵ Ibid, ANUA 53 (11.2.1.OA – 2 Jun 1970)
- ²⁶ Ibid, ANUA 53 (11.2.1.OA – 2 Oct 1970)
- ²⁷ Ibid, ANUA 53 (11.2.1.OA – 20 Nov 1972; 25 May 1976)
- ²⁸ Ibid, ANUA 53 (11.2.1.OA – 2 Dec 1976)
- ²⁹ Ibid, ANUA 53 (11.2.1.OA – 20 Aug 1976)
- ³⁰ Ibid, ANUA 53 (11.2.1.OA – 26 Jul 1963; correspondence 1963)
- ³¹ Ibid, ANUA 53 (11.2.1.OA – 4 Apr 1977)
- ³² Ibid, ANUA 53 (11.2.1.OA – 4 Apr 1977)
- ³³ Ibid, ANUA 53 (11.2.1.OA – 26 Nov 1970)
- ³⁴ Ibid, ANUA 53 (11.2.1.OA – 8 Jul 1963; 11 Sep 1963)
- ³⁵ Ibid, ANUA 53 (11.2.1.OA – 9 Nov 1972)
- ³⁶ Ibid, ANUA 53 (11.2.1.OA – 13 Jul 1973)
- ³⁷ Ibid, ANUA 53 (11.2.1.OA – 26 Jan 1975)
- ³⁸ Ibid, ANUA 53 (11.2.1.OA – 11 Jan 1977)
- ³⁹ Ibid, ANUA 53 (11.2.1.OA – 18 Jan 1977)
- ⁴⁰ Ibid, ANUA 53 (11.2.1.OA – 30 Sep 1987)
- ⁴¹ Ibid, ANUA 53 (11.2.1.OA – 18 Jul 1989)
- ⁴² Ibid, ANUA 53 (11.2.1.OA – 22 Jul 1963)
- ⁴³ Ibid, ANUA 53 (11.2.1.OA – 16 Nov 1964)
- ⁴⁴ *Annual Report of the Council: 1963.* (76). ANU Archives
- ⁴⁵ Ibid.
- ⁴⁶ Ibid, (77).
- ⁴⁷ *Annual Report of the Council: 1964* (ANU Archives)
- ⁴⁸ *Annual Report of the Council: 1963.* p.78.
- ⁴⁹ Vidot 1996:38.
- ⁵⁰ Vidot 1996:55.
- ⁵¹ Vidot 1996:39.
- ⁵² Vidot 1996:38.
- ⁵³ *Annual Report of the Council, 1970.* (184).
- ⁵⁴ *Annual Report of the Council: 1971.* (201).
- ⁵⁵ Vidot 1996:55.
- ⁵⁶ Vidot 1996:56.
- ⁵⁷ Vidot 1996:63-64.
- ⁵⁸ Vidot 1996:63-64.
- ⁵⁹ Vidot 1996:69.
- ⁶⁰ Vidot 1996:60.

3.4 Visual Analysis

This section concentrates on identification and assessment of significant views from, into and within the defined curtilage area of the RG Menzies Building. The objective is to evaluate the significant visual qualities of the landscape and their relation to the RG Menzies Building and nearby buildings. It is important to understand the role that the aesthetic and visual qualities of the landscape have played in the development of the place. The significant views have been identified based upon original planning documents and the relationship of sites in the historical record.

Characteristics of the Views and Vistas

The RG Menzies Building is located in the centre of the Acton campus. The landscape to the south of the building consists of remnant eucalyptus species and open grassland. Open landscape has also been left to the east and west of the building. The east landscape surrounds an ungraded surface carpark for Library staff and students; that to the west forms a traffic island between the Menzies Library and HC Coombs Building.

The original views both from and of the building have largely been conserved. Views along the roads and paths are important considerations of planning at ANU. Their significance is strengthened by other artificial and natural landscape features, such as the connection with the wider Canberra landscape (e.g Black Mountain) or the Acton Ridge Axis, which forms the southwest boundary of the curtilage and to which the Menzies Building is aligned.

View Character		View Connection	Significance	Image
1	View west of the front of the Menzies Building (from HC Coombs Building)	The front of the building showcases both elements of the complex. The high stack block is immediately identifiable and the south block helps to nestle the building within the surrounding vegetation. Black Mountain can be seen in the background	The front façade of the building, as seen from Coombs. The open area (traffic island) serves to fully establish the building in the campus landscape	
2	View north of the Menzies Building (from University House)	The south façade displays both elements of the building and its relationship to the landscape. The differences between the two blocks, especially the change of fabrics, are obvious.	This view helps to properly establish the building within the Australian landscape. The wide open areas were an important consideration of the original design and serve as a pleasant 'buffer' between University House and the Menzies Building	
3	View east of the Menzies Building (from the Hugh Ennor Facility)	The rear of the building is obscured by the maturing vegetation in parts. The earthen tones and surrounding vegetation help to properly establish the building within the landscape	This view again helps to establish the building within the landscape, a consideration of the original architectural scheme.	
4	View southwest of the northern block (from Fellows Road/ Old Administration Area)	The north block is the most obvious part of the building. The stone plinth is an important connecting element between the two blocks (see also view #2) and the earthen tones help to set the building into the landscape.	This view helps to define the clear distinction between both blocks of the building. The north block is the most obvious element of the site and is an arresting contrast to the southern block	