College and Research Libraries

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Vol. IX, No. 2, April, 1948
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April, 1948
Volume IX, Number II
College and Research Libraries

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College and Research Libraries is the official organ of the Association of College and Reference Libraries, a division of the American Library Association. It includes general articles, official reports, addresses of conference speakers, reviews of selected books, and news from the field of wide professional interest.

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Members of the American Library Association may become members of the Association of College and Reference Libraries by indicating this as the division of their choice when paying A.L.A. dues, without the payment of additional dues. A.L.A. members wishing to belong to more than one division must pay to the A.L.A. an additional 20 per cent of their A.L.A. dues for each additional division.

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A Bow to the Old and the New

At the midwinter meetings in Chicago the board of directors of A.C.R.L. accepted the resignation of Carl M. White as editor-in-chief of College and Research Libraries and, upon his recommendation, placed the mantle and full responsibility of this important editorship on the shoulders of Managing Editor Maurice F. Tauber. Dr. White, in asking to be relieved of his editorial responsibilities, paid tribute to the several managing editors who had assisted him during his six years of editorship, a period which saw the journal firmly established on sound professional lines. He emphasized particularly Dr. Tauber’s work, saying that he had been able, with full confidence, to leave more and more of the details of editing, as well as matters of policy and principle to Dr. Tauber. Now, with everything being handled so competently, and with the journal so well established, he said, he would like to step aside in deference to Dr. Tauber.

This request and recommendation the board unanimously accepted, with a formal expression of thanks to Dr. White, for his excellent services during the formative years of the journal. Dr. Tauber, in accepting the editorship, expressed thanks for the confidence of the board in him. He spoke appreciatively of Dr. White’s editorial contributions to the journal and expressed the hope that he would be able to maintain the same high standards. He also paid tribute to the editorial staff.

A review of the relatively brief history of College and Research Libraries indicates that it has indeed been fortunate in its editors. Dr. A. F. Kuhlman, who, as its first editor played an important part in setting the tone of the journal, launched the first issue with an introductory statement emphasizing the need of a journal of truly professional character. He set forth eight purposes or objectives of such a journal. College and Research Libraries has, under its several editors, fulfilled these soundly conceived purposes in very considerable degree. During the period December 1939 to June 1941 this was done under Dr. Kuhlman’s editorship, without the help of a managing editor. Dr. White, during his period as editor, September 1941 to January 1948, was assisted from September 1941 to September 1943, by E. W. McDiarmid as managing editor. Dr. White carried the editorial responsibilities alone from December 1943 to March 1944. From that time until September 1945, Ernest J. Reece served as managing editor. He was succeeded by Maurice F. Tauber who now becomes editor-in-chief.

For all of these men, editing our journal has been a labor of love, their only compensation the satisfaction of professional contribution, and of work well-done. How well their work was, in fact, done is attested by the seven volumes the journal has now attained. As one thumbs through these issues, and compares their substantial articles and their attractive and readable pages with our earlier more or less hodgepodge and tidbit literature, one gets a real and inspiring realization of professional progress and advance. For much of this we owe our past editors a real debt of gratitude. Under our new editor, and the continuing substantial sponsorship of Columbia University, all of us can look forward to a journal, which through its professional content and excellence of presentation, will assist us in our growth to the stature of a true profession.

William H. Carlson, President
Association of College and Reference Libraries
Dr. Wilson is director of libraries, University of Colorado.

Two of the recommendations included in the 1946 report of the College and University Postwar Planning Committee of the American Library Association and the Association of College and Reference Libraries are of particular concern to us at this moment.2

The first is: "That the Association of College and Reference Libraries periodically review its adopted principles and policies and that at all times it stand ready to revise and alter its program and activities in order to meet effectively the problems of college librarianship in whatever way the needs of the times may require." The second is: "That there be a constant endeavor by those concerned with the policies of A.C.R.L. to relate college library service and standards to the socio-economic trends of the time in such a way that the association will not merely follow the trend but take its part in determining its nature."

We are now completing our first year as an association with Headquarters office and the services of a full-time executive secretary. The A.L.A. has set for itself "Four Year Goals" to be attained in whole or in large measure within the next four years as a means of achieving the main objective set forth in this preamble: "We, the American Library Association, enter our 72nd year of service to the advancement of libraries and librarianship with the firm belief that the critical problems of our time demand a redirection of the services of every library." These "Four Year Goals" are:

1. Programs and types of service which will contribute to the awareness and understanding of the urgent problems.
2. Informational and educational materials in every library adequate in quantity, suitable in quality and variety, and so organized as to serve the purpose stated in the preamble.
3. Good library service for every American.
4. Forward-looking professional librarians, in adequate numbers, eager and competent to perform the public service suggested above.

The Executive Board of the A.L.A. has called upon the divisions to prepare their own specific four year goals within the general framework of the A.L.A. statement, but with such interpretation as may be necessary to meet their own needs. The Fourth Activities Committee is considering fundamental changes in A.L.A. organization. The combination of these three facts makes it particularly appropriate that we review the adopted principles and policies of the A.C.R.L. in the first month of the year 1948.

A constitution and by-laws were adopted by the A.C.R.L. on May 30, 1940, and the A.C.R.L. was accepted as a division of the A.L.A. by the Council on the following day. The program of the association, formulated by its Committee on Policy in 1941, is a comprehensive statement, directed in the broadest sense toward advancing the standards of college and reference library service, and continuing the professional and scholarly growth of all those engaged in

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the work of our libraries. It proposed ten cardinal policies:

1. Build an effective organization.
3. Provide for continuity of leadership.
4. Cultivate mutual understanding between librarians and their colleagues in learned societies and other professional associations.
5. Enlist all career members of college and research library staffs as members of the association.
7. Encourage research and study by librarians.
8. Initiate publications.
9. Sponsor a program of activities in behalf of college, university, and research libraries by:
   a. Furthering the use of educational libraries.
   b. Broadening the basis of cooperation among libraries.
   c. Aiding the scholar.
   d. Cultivating international understanding.

The years 1941-46 were marked by the efforts of the association to secure the financial support and the single integrative Headquarters agency necessary to make the program effective. These efforts were brought to a focus in 1946 by the activities of the Committee on the Relations of the A.C.R.L. to the A.L.A., which are recorded in its report based upon a questionnaire survey of the membership.3

A recommendation by the A.L.A. Budget Committee providing for an allotment to A.C.R.L. for the office of executive secretary at an annual rate of $10,000 was approved. The allotment, with no conditions attached, was made to take effect Jan. 1, 1947. At the midwinter meeting in December 1946, the A.C.R.L. Committee on Policy submitted a program of ten points, following closely the 1941 program, which was re-examined in connection with current developments. On the basis of opinions expressed by the A.C.R.L. membership, no fundamental changes in the original program appeared to be necessary, and the 1946 revised program was adopted by the association.

An executive secretary was selected and appointed. He assumed his duties in April 1947, in an office located at A.L.A. Headquarters. These duties thus far have consisted mainly in collecting, coordinating, and supplying information, and assisting in getting the president's program, presented in July at the San Francisco conference, organized and under way.

With this brief historical summary in mind, will a review of our adopted principles and policies indicate that our present program and activities are meeting effectively the problems of college and reference librarianship? Are we relating our library service and standards to the socio-economic trends of the time? How does our program fit into the "Four Year Goals" announced by the A.L.A.?

In his statesmanly inaugural address, President Carlson set the course which the A.C.R.L. is following this year with the approval of the board of directors. After discussing the many problems and needs which might be singled out for our special attention—problems and needs closely related to the ten cardinal policies of the association—he declared:

Which of these and other problems should our association select for special emphasis this year? Because our history is what it is; because the events of this past year have been what they have been; because our long quest for a paid secretary at Headquarters has finally come to fruition; because we need group strengthening, integration, and purpose if we are satisfactorily to meet the sharp challenge of the times; I have chosen for the year of my presidency to emphasize and promote, in every way I know how (and

without in any sense forgetting the many problems detailed above), the instruments through which we work: first, ourselves, our personnel in the college and university field, present and prospective; and second, the strengthening, sharpening, and improvement of our association, the agency in which we merge and combine our intelligence and our efforts.  

**Committees Appointed**

To implement this program, the board of directors approved the appointment by the president of four special A.C.R.L. committees, as follows:

1. A committee on membership in the Association of College and Reference Libraries.
2. A committee on recruiting the type of librarian needed in the college, university, and reference fields.
3. A committee to consider the educational preparation and qualifications needed by college, university, and reference librarians; to promote development of these qualifications through in-service training; and to work closely with the library schools to assist them in transmitting to their students the needed qualifications.
4. A committee to consider the financial needs of our association and to suggest a program for their realization.

These committees have been appointed and are now functioning. This top priority which has been placed on membership, recruiting, professional education for librarianship, and financial needs, certainly is justified when we consider that what we do about these things will determine to a considerable extent how strong our association will be, and how well we can meet our responsibilities and carry out our accepted program.

However, the priority assigned for this year to these four aspects of the association’s program means that the majority of the cardinal policies of the association and of the professional activities which members felt were most needed remain to be tackled in the future. Actually, only one of the ten A.C.R.L. policies—that of enlisting career members of college, university, and research library staffs—and only the fourth of A.L.A.’s “Four Year Goals” are covered adequately by our current program.

The first policy of the A.C.R.L. is to build an effective organization. In a sense, all other policies may be considered means to this end.

The whole program of developing A.C.R.L. as a professional organization is based upon this first objective. Members have indicated that they want a combination of leadership in the president, the board of directors, and the executive secretary, with emphasis on work to be done by committees. The executive secretary is to stimulate and coordinate such work. The office of the executive secretary should be the clearing house for college and reference libraries.

A detailed study of the method of operation of such professional associations or learned societies as the American Historical Association, Modern Language Association, Academy of Political and Social Sciences, American Philosophical Society, or the American Political Science Association, might be suggestive and valuable. It appears that the membership does not wish to carry over from the A.L.A. a traditional organization which is to be perpetuated on a smaller and limited scale, but that a new start toward a professional organization is desired.

We should keep clearly in mind the six criteria of professions offered by Abraham Flexner:

First, professions involve essentially intellectual operations accompanied by large individual responsibility. They require the application of the intelligence of a trained and

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informed mind to the mastery of problems and the performance of intricate and socially important services.

Second, professions are learned in nature, and their members constantly turn to the laboratory and seminar for a fresh supply of facts and the discovery of new truths. It requires a steady stream of ideas and new guiding principles emanating from research and experimentation, to keep professions from degenerating into mere routine and from losing their intellectual and responsible character.

Third, they derive their raw materials from science and learning, but use it for practical purposes.

Fourth, the professions possess a technique capable of communication through a highly specialized educational discipline. Through experience and research a body of funded knowledge is acquired upon which the activity rests, including specific kinds of skill that the practitioner of a profession must master through formal education and training.

Fifth, professional groups tend toward self-organization. Common interests and problems develop a group consciousness which expresses itself in an organization of the professional group for its mutual improvement and the improvements of standards and service to the public.

Sixth, professions are becoming increasingly concerned with the achievement of social ends. Their fundamental purpose is not personal profit, but public service. At their best they must become increasingly altruistic.

Certainly the program of the A.C.R.L. and the "Four Year Goals" of the A.L.A. meet these professional criteria. We must not, however, let the tendency toward self-organization become the dominant criterion.

Priority of Future Policies

What policies should be given priority in the year immediately ahead if we are to build an effective organization? We have received from the membership of A.C.R.L. an expression of their opinion on this question.

The encouragement of publications directly and chiefly concerning the college and university libraries, and the stimulation of research studies on the functions of college and university libraries, were voted by the membership as being of first and second importance in the ten fields of professional activity. Experimentation, research, and publication cannot be carried on to any considerable extent by the executive secretary until the office becomes well-established and the staff considerably expanded. However, he should be familiar with the movements now taking place in the social sciences, sciences, and humanities. He should also be familiar with the particular problems and needs in the field of librarianship, and should be in a position to suggest, encourage, coordinate, and direct substantial studies and projects. The possibility of securing grants for fellowships that would permit librarians to take the time necessary for study, research, and writing should be pursued.

There is strong and apparently justified feeling that at the outset of our program first consideration should be given to the needs of the small college, teachers college, junior college, agricultural libraries, engineering libraries, and the reference departments of the smaller public libraries. The interests of the larger university and reference libraries are being looked after, to a far greater extent, by special organizations concerned particularly with research functions and activities. These smaller libraries, generally with small staffs, limited resources, and greater need for outside help, constitute the bulk of potential membership in the A.C.R.L. They are concerned primarily with general education and the needs of undergraduate students—the large university libraries also are faced with the problem of providing better service for their thousands of undergraduate students—and assistance with this problem, which

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involves staff, books, support, teaching methods, and practically every phase of librarianship, probably should be a primary objective of the A.C.R.L. program. This is the area in which we could make our significant contribution to the first, second, and third of the "Four Year Goals."

Development of relations with educational associations in the field of higher education, and development of contacts with college presidents, library committees, and professors attained a strong third place in the ten activities of A.C.R.L. as rated by the membership. The executive secretary should maintain close contact with the many associations at work on college and university problems to assure awareness of the place of the library in educational programs. Some of these groups which are particularly important to the various sections are the Association of American Colleges, North Central Association of Colleges, New England Association of Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges, American Association of Junior Colleges, Association of Land Grant Colleges and Universities, American Association of Universities, American Council on Education, American Council of Learned Societies, American Association of Teachers Colleges, American Society for Engineering Education, and the various national library associations.

**Must Support Official Organ**

As the official organ of A.C.R.L., *College and Research Libraries* is preferred, by an overwhelming majority, instead of the *A. L. A. Bulletin* as a part of the membership fee. The journal has continued to be a medium for expression and communication of the best thought in the library world, and its success has been due primarily to the energy and enthusiasm of a group of volunteer workers. It should receive more general support in its development as a scholarly and professional journal. Eventually the executive secretary and the Headquarters office may be in a position to edit the journal if the present arrangement becomes too much of a burden for the volunteer editors.

The ultimate values of significant state, regional, and national conferences in increasing membership and encouraging individual professional growth have not been attained. Numerous comments have been recorded that too often state and regional associations are maintained for and by the public library group, and the minority groups of college and special libraries are not considered a functioning part of the state association. While the desirability of arranging for the executive secretary to attend as many state and regional meetings as possible was rated tenth on the list of activities, it does appear that this activity may well be one of the key factors in building a strong organization, maintaining enthusiasm and interest, and increasing the membership.

**Use of Sectional Directors**

The divisional organization with sections within the division has now resulted in an A.C.R.L., with seven sections, which cannot run of its own accord. The governing body is the board of directors, composed of a president, a vice president (president-elect), retiring president, treasurer, three directors-at-large, seven directors from the respective sections, and the executive secretary and the chairman of each section as ex-officio members. All elective members serve three years on the board, and terms of directors overlap to insure a certain continuity of policy. The size of the board and the infrequency of meetings slow down the pace of its work. The elective members cannot give the time needed to carry on the essential routine ad-
ministrative activities, and at the same time supply the imagination and initiative called for in planning the work of the association.

An executive secretary to manage, under direction of the president and board of directors, the continuing program of activities of the association, should enable the board to concentrate on planning. The continuity of leadership by the executive secretary should stimulate, guide, and integrate, but not substitute for the voluntary services of individuals, committees, and sections. The 1941 recommendation that more use be made of the sectional directors remains valid.

The principle of autonomy in the management of the affairs of the A.C.R.L. has been established and recognized. However, the importance of maximum and effective coordination with the work of the A.L.A. as a whole has not been diminished. There are special interests in college and reference libraries, but there are also many common problems of librarianship which we should face shoulder to shoulder with all other librarians. The Public Library Service Demonstration Bill, for example, should have our whole-hearted support. In the recent statement of preferences by the A.C.R.L. membership, significant numbers indicated that both the A.C.R.L. and the A.L.A.

should function in each of the ten described areas.

Our program for the current year cannot be separated from the work of the A.L.A. Membership in the A.C.R.L. requires membership in A.L.A. Education and training for librarianship and recruiting are major projects in the A.L.A. program. These are problems which have received, are receiving, and must continue to receive emphasis and attention. The problem of financial needs we always have with us. Our association and our membership will continue to make distinctive contributions to the basic and fundamental problems of librarianship which are shared by all types and kinds of libraries.

For the years ahead our special problems and needs as recognized and stated in the cardinal policies of the association must be vigorously attacked. These special interests and problems developed the group consciousness which expressed itself in the organization of the A.C.R.L. for mutual improvement and the improvements of standards and service to the public. If our organization is to justify its existence it must meet these needs. If it meets them, the problems of membership, recruiting, and finances would become of minor importance.

Fellowships at Western Reserve

Western Reserve University School of Library Science will offer for the academic year 1948-49 eight half-tuition fellowships. Graduates of approved colleges who have a better than usual academic record are encouraged to apply. These working programs should appeal to persons who desire to work closely with individual instructors in specific subject fields. For example, several students will be assigned to the fields of cataloging and classification, to reference work, and to school and children’s library service. Service of the individual student will not exceed ten hours of work a week for one semester in return for a half-tuition credit throughout the year. Inquiries should be addressed to Thirza E. Grant, dean, School of Library Science, Western Reserve University, Cleveland 6, Ohio.

APRIL, 1948

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Contribution of the U.S. Office of Education in the Field of College and University Library Statistics: Present and Potential

IN HIS Geography of Reading, Louis R. Wilson writes: "One of the limitations of librarianship today, is that it lacks a fundamental body of data... which can be compared exactly and applied to the solution of problems by which it is beset." Although this statement was made a decade ago, it is still true today.

The purpose of this paper is to take stock of what is being done to remedy this lack of basic statistics, which are needed in the practical operation of college and university libraries and in planning programs for further progress. In order to show the contribution of one agency, we are going to outline the present program of the U. S. Office of Education in the field of college and university library statistics. Since the situation in the federal government is never static—owing to certain factors which will be described later—we shall be somewhat venturesome and discuss also our "potential" program.

At the risk of stating the obvious and of being somewhat academic, we are making at the outset some general observations on the subject of library statistics in institutions of higher education:

1. Statistics are compiled not for the benefit of the collecting agency, but for the use of practitioners of college and university librarianship. They are also for the use of those who wish to measure library progress, note trends, and set goals in relation to the educational program.

2. Statistics cost money, and their cost must be justified. They cost the reporting institutions which fill out the forms; they cost the collecting agency in checking the returns, in clearing up any discrepancies, in making the compilations, in attempting at least some interpretations of the data, and in getting the material printed and distributed.

3. Statistics can be collected only if libraries keep them and are willing to report them.

4. Statistics buried in report forms and files might as well, in many cases, never have been collected. True, they have a potential use, but often that is not high. Provision must be made for getting statistics printed, multilithed, or punched on cards.

5. Statistics to be useful to the practical administrator must be available promptly and be comparable over a period of years.

6. Statistics must be collected according to a carefully planned program. An example of such planning may be seen in the "Plan for the Collection and Dissemination of Library Statistics," prepared in tentative form by the A.L.A. Committee on Statistics and presented by its chairman, G. Flint Purdy, to a con-
ference on statistics held at the Office of Education March 4-5, 1946. The plan provided for: (a) comprehensive research statistics to be collected every five or six years, (b) annual statistics of library trends for a representative sample of libraries, (c) annual statistics of "good" libraries to be used in internal administrative evaluation and campaigns with local authorities, and (d) popular presentations of major library statistics for the purpose of promoting public understanding of libraries.

The present program of the U. S. Office of Education in the field of college and university library statistics calls for at least four major activities, three of which fall primarily within the province of the Service to Libraries Section, and the Research and Statistical Service.

1. Nationwide survey. This involves a comprehensive collection and publication of college and university library statistics once every four years on as uniform a pattern as possible. This means collecting data, if possible, from each of the 1700 institutions of higher education in the United States and its outlying territories. The office will obtain and publish statistics from individual colleges and universities on such items as:

- Number of volumes added during the year
- Number of volumes at end of the year
- Circulation: Home use
- Circulation: Reserved books
- Number of hours open per week (central library)

Staff: Number of professional workers
Staff: Number of subprofessional workers
Staff: Number of clerical workers
Number of students: Undergraduates
Number of students: Graduates
Expenditures for library staff salaries
Expenditures for books and periodicals
Expenditures for binding
Expenditures for audio-visual materials
Expenditures for other purposes, excluding building maintenance.

In addition, there will be available for possible printing in the detailed tables, statistics on such items as:

- Holdings of materials other than print
- Use of such materials insofar as the libraries keep such records
- Number of volumes acquired by purchase
- Number of volumes acquired by other means than purchase
- Number of periodicals currently received
- Number of newspapers currently received
- Number of interlibrary loans (book materials), both borrowed and lent
- Interlibrary transactions in the field of photostats, microfilms, etc.

Breakdown of the staff by positions.

To make all the items just named available through printing, it will be necessary for the office either to have a greatly increased printing budget or else to experience a marked decline in the cost of printing.

As in the College and University Library Statistics, 1939-40, it is planned to have the forthcoming publications carry national summaries, state totals, comparative totals, and distribution tables for the significant items.

Work is now proceeding on the nationwide collection of college and university library statistics for the fiscal year which ended June 30, 1947, or any other time during 1947. The data are being collected on a form designed by the Research and Statistical Service of the Office of Education to facilitate the use of punched cards and machine tabulations. The new form follows closely the one employed for the collection of 1940 statistics, the chief change being the elimination of some little-used items. The libraries will be coded so that similar institutions can be grouped readily for various statistical computations. This machine tabulation should also aid the prompt issuance of the preliminary releases.

2. Preliminary releases. When comprehensive collections of college and university library statistics are made, as is the case this year, our program calls also for the issuance of preliminary releases of uninter-
preted data from selected groups of institutions. This plan was followed successfully in the case of the 1945 public library statistics. Multilithed circulars for certain population groups were ready for mailing within six weeks after the returns were in. We propose to render a similar service to college and university librarians.

3. Salary study. In our program plans for this year, we have included a study of college and university library salaries, to be undertaken early in 1948. This project should yield data similar to those on college faculties for 1939-40, which were published by the Office of Education in its "Circular No. 196." Our library study, as planned, will result in salary distribution tables for specific kinds and grades of positions in selected groups of institutions.

The study should produce such facts as these: In a certain group of universities located in a certain region, 10 chief catalog librarians fall within the $3600-$3999 annual salary bracket; 7 within the $4000-$4399 bracket; 5 within the $4400 to $4799 bracket; etc. Similar information would be ascertained for the directors, for assistant directors, for chief circulation librarians, for professional assistants of different grades, etc.

These tabulations will not list, however, specific salaries at specific institutions. They will not show what the director of libraries at university "X" receives for an annual salary. Nor will they show that the library of university "X" has 6 department heads who receive annual salaries ranging from $3400 to $5500, but we should be able to furnish some sound figures for the study of the library salary situation in the college and university library field.

4. Division of Higher Education compilations. The Division of Higher Education of the Office of Education has a program in the field of statistics which is of significance to college and university librarians. There are the biennial surveys of education which contain both detailed and summary tables of statistics on colleges and universities. Of late years, total library expenditures of colleges and universities have been included with other financial data of these institutions. Formerly, the total number of volumes in college and university libraries was given also, but this information has been omitted since detailed reports have been a major responsibility of the Service to Libraries Section. In addition, there are special studies on salaries of college faculties, enrolments, Negro colleges, and various others. At the present time, the statistical program of the Division of Higher Education is being self-examined critically to make its usefulness to college and university administrators still greater.

Potential Program

The foregoing is an account of our present program in the field of college and university library statistics. What about the "potential program?" Here we run into conflicting forces. There are, for example:

1. The expressed requests for library statistics made by administrators, research workers, planners, and others.

2. The efforts of the Service to Libraries Section and Research and Statistical Service to meet these requests as far as possible.

3. The general program of the Office of Education conditioned as it is by its basic law and by available funds.

4. The Bureau of the Budget which exercises control both over recommended appropriations and over question blanks sent to respondents.

5. The Congress of the United States which is the ultimate, determining factor in any federal government activity.

A few words are in order about these forces which have just been enumerated. The requests and recommendations of the librarians are naturally powerful influences.
Some wish only a few items, and the simpler the form, the better; others have recommended that some 300 be collected. But there are also other factors with which to reckon.

The Service to Libraries Section endeavors to be responsive to these expressed requests but it has to work within the framework of the general statistical program of the Office of Education. The Office of Education operates under an 1867 Act of Congress which required it to collect "such statistics and facts as shall show the condition and progress of education in the several States and territories." Ever since 1870, the Office of Education has been doing that, conditioned by the funds made available by the Congress for staff and printing. Recently, the office has been scrutinizing its whole statistical program and has had the benefit of the advice of expert conferees.\(^2\)

The Bureau of the Budget has much to say about the extent of the statistical activity of a federal agency. As previously mentioned, it passes on the budget request which the Office of Education submits through the Federal Security Agency. It is the Bureau of the Budget which finally submits the President's budget to the Congress. Furthermore, the approval of the Bureau of the Budget must be obtained before a report form can be used in obtaining data from more than 9 respondents. The bureau examines these proposed blanks closely. It questions the significance and usefulness of items in the public interest; it seeks to guard taxpayers against wasteful government projects; it endeavors to protect respondents from having questionnaires which are too long, too complicated, or too frequent. This action is not just an optional exercise of authority; it is required by law.

The Congress of the United States was described earlier as a determining factor in the statistical activities of federal agencies. Ample evidence of this may be found in the hearings before the House Subcommittee on Appropriations which was considering the 1945 appropriations for the Office of Education.\(^3\) There, in five printed pages, you will find discussed in vigorous fashion the question of library statistics, especially college and university library statistics.

For instance, a member of the subcommittee, after examining *College and University Library Statistics, 1939-40*, asked: "Who would make use of any such statistics as are contained in this volume?"

The Acting Commissioner of Education explained to the subcommittee how the data would be used not only by college and university librarians, but also by college and university presidents.

The same Congressman then pointed to the detailed statistics in the bulletin and observed:

I just wonder whether we are engaged in a program in which the public has a great significant interest in statistics of that character. I confess, on the face of it, it does not impress me very strongly. You have a lot of statistics as to how many books there are in all the libraries of the country, and that sort of thing.

At this point the Acting Commissioner inserted in the record a letter from William Hugh Carlson, who, as chairman of a post-war committee, had written to ask for more statistics, and also to express his appreciation of the useful data contained in *College and University Library Statistics, 1939-40*.

The Congressman nevertheless continued:

Of course it is a fine thing that we have got

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government agencies staffed to furnish all this information and material. Perhaps it would be possible for someone, some library head, who had a particular problem in mind and wanted to find out what his neighbor was doing, to write a few letters himself and get those facts, without the federal government publishing a great mass of detailed statistical information which I cannot conceive would be of any value to anybody.

The Office of Education witnesses pointed out the difficulties involved in the preceding suggestions, but the Congressman came back to the question of the value of these statistics to the public. Other Congressmen then joined in with questions about the arrangement of the data, and cost.

Our “potential” statistical program is thus impinged upon by some powerful forces. With these in mind, let us consider the direction in which we are moving in the field of library statistics in cooperation with the Research and Statistical Service of the Office of Education:

1. A quadrennial collection and publication of the major significant data from all college and university libraries in the United States and its territories. The number of significant items to be reported upon would be at least 28, not including certain sub-items, needed for auditing purposes, or for derived statistics.

2. An annual collection and publication of the most essential statistics from representative samples of college and university libraries. The number of items to be reported on would be probably 6 to 8. Emphasis would be on prompt availability of the data to the profession.

3. An annual or biennial salary study based on data received from representative samples. The published results would not contain specific salaries paid to specific persons at specific institutions, but rather the salaries, distributed by salary brackets, paid in more or less homogeneous groups of college libraries, for specific classes of positions.

It might contain, for example, the number of salaries in a series of brackets being paid to beginning professional catalogers in the libraries of the medium-sized liberal arts colleges of the Midwest. The groupings might be by: (a) type of control of the institution; (b) by type of institution; (c) by kinds of students served; and (d) possibly, by accredited status. These groupings would be accompanied by: (a) national totals, and (b) regional totals either by political units or accrediting agencies.

4. Special studies involving the collection of data on specific phases of library administration from a limited number of different types of institutions willing to cooperate in keeping special records such as:

a. Detailed statistics of library use
b. Detailed statistics on sources of additions to book stock
c. Detailed statistics on interlibrary loans
d. Detailed statistics on cataloging operations in college libraries
e. Detailed statistics on the delivery and nondelivery of items requested at the loan desk
f. Sources of income of college and university libraries
g. Cost studies of library operations.

Please note that the preceding statistical studies are, in the main, potential and not actual. How many of these can be put into effect depends upon the various forces bearing down upon the statistical program.

Since data gathered by the Division of Higher Education have significance for college and university librarians, we should take into account also the proposed statistical program of that unit of the Office of Education. It is proposed, for example, to collect and publish annually general enrollment statistics for the autumn quarter or semester, and for the summer session. Biennially and quadrennially, more detailed enrollment figures would be asked for. For instance, in the quadrennial collection, the number of students preparing for various
professional fields would be ascertained, if possible, and the number enrolled in specific subjects.

The Division of Higher Education of the Office of Education is giving consideration to a plan for obtaining reports on the college and university staff at annual, biennial, and quadrennial intervals. Annually, for example, the number of college level instructors would be asked for. Biennially, the number of academic staff would be enumerated in detail by type of activity (instruction, research, etc.). A biennial salary survey is being considered covering such items as salary, academic rank, extent of annual service, etc. Quadrrennially, a similar study might cover nonacademic staff members. At a similar interval, the qualifications of the instructional staff (especially as to degrees) might be studied.

The Division of Higher Education also proposes to call for annual and biennial reports on the finances of colleges and universities. Biennially, the schedule provides for data on additions to capital funds, current income by source, expenditures by function, and fund and plant values. On a sampling basis, it is proposed to ask annually in the spring for statistics giving the economic outlook for higher education, covering estimates of income for current educational and general purposes by sources. The volume of estimated change in income and expenditures for the coming academic year might be sought. Specific estimates in expenditures for libraries and faculty salaries might be included here. In this report, too, any estimated change in student enrolment could be asked for.

Finally, every four years, the Office of Education would like to study the plant facilities of colleges and universities throughout the nation, specifically as to floor space devoted to various types of use, dates and types of construction, the existing capacity for the accommodation of students (including library reading rooms and study halls, classrooms, laboratories, etc.) and the provision for faculty offices.

An authoritative and detailed analysis of the present and potential college and university statistical program of the Office of Education, may be found in the published statement of Dr. John Dale Russell, director of the Division of Higher Education, to the American Association of Collegiate Registrars.4

The Service to Libraries Section of the U. S. Office of Education aims to carry on a statistical program which will build up that "fundamental body of data which can be applied to the solution of problems by which librarianship is beset." We, therefore, make the following recommendations:

1. We need an official body, representative of the profession, to which we can turn, as occasion may arise, for authoritative advice and guidance in planning statistical activities and projects in the field of college and university librarianship to be undertaken by the Office of Education.

2. We need an authoritative professional source for library terminology and definitions which the Office of Education can use with assurance that it represents the best current thought and practice on college and university librarianship.

3. We need to explore the possibility of co-operative arrangements with state library agencies which are charged by state law with the collection of college and university library statistics.

4. We need a continued understanding of the mutual responsibilities and limitations of a federal agency on the one hand and professional organizations on the other. The government is especially fitted for certain statistical activities; a nongovernment organization, for others.

5. We need a clear recognition of the fact that a material expansion of library statistics and related facts in the Office of Education can be justified only by the demonstrated needs of our professional and lay constituency.

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The A.C.R.L. and the Statistics Program of the Office of Education

Dr. Purdy is librarian, Wayne University.

In his presidential address at the St. Louis Conference of the A.L.A. in 1889 Charles A. Cutter said:

I cannot help regretting the amount of time that is wasted on statistics. They are interesting, but they are costly to prepare and to print, and I would rather see the time spent on making the library more useful.²

Like most quotations out of context, this one is unfair to its author, who went on to qualify his position. I exhume it for you because it summarizes succinctly an attitude with which most of us here today are familiar, and even more or less sympathetic, notwithstanding the attention we devote to statistics, and the enlarged meaning of the term. To Mr. Cutter, the word meant simply numerical facts about libraries. To us it means both the quantitative facts and the mathematical techniques for determining and describing their meaning—techniques largely unknown in 1889.

It cannot be denied that our generation of librarians as well as Mr. Cutter’s, has reason to view statistics with skepticism. Statisticians, or rather pseudo statisticians, in the social sciences have given statistics a bad name which the technique, or science if you will, does not deserve. They have naively claimed, or implied, that nothing which is not measurable is real; that even facts which can be defined quantitatively are meaningless except as raw materials with which to think, and hence that statistically-achieved conclusions are determined no less by the statistician’s assumptions and inferences than by the nature of his facts and the technical analysis to which he subjects them.

But to admit the human fallibility of statisticians is not to deny the necessity of measuring the significant phenomena which are measurable or of using the logical techniques which the mathematicians have given us, as well as other logical methods, in our effort to understand their meaning. Many facts about libraries and librarians, about library service and the people whom libraries exist to serve, can be described accurately in terms of quantitative units. In short, at least a few of the phenomena which librarians need to understand are measurable. We cannot hope to grow in social effectiveness unless we try to understand these phenomena, as well as the admittedly

more important facts and assumptions which fall, for example, in the realm of values.

There is nothing new in this position, of course. From their genesis, the A.L.A. and its affiliated organizations have recognized the potential value of quantitative facts pertinent to the valuation and improvement of library service. Many hours of intelligent effort have been devoted to the identification of those data which are most useful, and to their standardization—not to mention collection and reporting. In 1877 the A.L.A. Cooperation Committee said, in its fifth report:

The great diversity in the arrangement of library statistics, as presented in the annual reports of the . . . libraries of the country, suggests to every inquirer into the "true inwardness" of these institutions the advantages that would accrue to all interested parties from the adoption by all libraries of uniform tables for statement of receipts and expenses, and also the statistics of circulation, accession, and general library work. Uniformity of headings is necessary for comparison between libraries, as well as to obtain true averages in various departments of work. With this in view, the following model for statistical reports has been prepared, as covering, to a great extent, the principal features of library work."

The list which followed was surprisingly comprehensive. It included most of the data collected on recent A.L.A. and Office of Education forms, with no little additional detail. In September of the same year the proposed form was adopted by the A.L.A., with some modification. In 1903 to 1906 the Committee on Library Administration developed a new form, or rather three forms, which were printed in the proceedings of the 1906 conference. A revised form was adopted in 1915. In each instance uniformity was the chief objective.

In November of 1928 Charles B. Shaw read a paper at the fifteenth conference of eastern college librarians, in which he deplored the lack of uniformity in library statistics and recommended the appointment of a committee of the A.L.A. to deal with the problem. The College and Reference Section appointed such a committee, under the chairmanship of Julian S. Fowler. This committee reported the following May at the West Baden meeting with copies of a proposed form for collecting college and university library statistics, which was subsequently used to collect the facts reported in the first and second yearbooks of the College and Reference Section. The following year a radically different form was used.

At the Washington conference in 1929, the A.L.A. Council adopted a resolution:

Recognizing the need of a research and statistical department in the A.L.A. . . . the Council recommends that the Executive Board take action looking toward such establishment at the earliest possible time. . . . (The Survey Committee in December 1929, had adopted a similar resolution.)

In December of 1933 George F. Bowerman, in his capacity as chairman of the Committee on Library Research Bureau at Headquarters, presented a specific proposal and budget which resulted in the addition of a statistical assistant to the Headquarters staff in 1934. A modest statistical service was maintained there for eight years—until wartime pressures upon the A.L.A. budget, combined with shrinking revenues, allegedly necessitated first curtailment and later discontinuance of the service. We are all too familiar with the result.

For at least three years the A.L.A. Sta-
stistics Committee has sought other means of making available to librarians the quantitative facts which they want and need. For approximately two years the committee has awaited the formulation of a definite program by the U. S. Office of Education, since a coordinated program appeared to be an obvious necessity. That Office of Education program, insofar as it is concerned with college and university library statistics, has been described to us in the preceding paper. We are now in a position to consider a complementary program.

The first "major activity" described by Mr. Dunbar is "a comprehensive collection and publication of college and university library statistics once every four years on as uniform a pattern as possible." The word "comprehensive" obviously refers to the institutions to be covered rather than to the facts to be collected or published. The form to be used will be essentially the same in content as that used for the collection of 1939-40 data and for recent annual A.L.A. collections. A few additions and omissions are contemplated. Specifically, questions concerning audio-visual materials (holdings, use, and expenditures) have been added and the following items have been dropped: breakdown of holdings by branch, income data, daily schedule breakdown, staff training data, and special enrolment data (extension and correspondence students). I see little reason to regret any of these proposed omissions.

No salary data will be collected in the quadrennial survey, but a special salary study is projected for the immediate future. Thus the facts collected each fourth year will be essentially the same as those which the A.L.A. has collected annually. The coverage of libraries will be comprehensive, which is a vast improvement, but the facts to be published will be fewer than those heretofore published in the A.L.A. Bulletin and, more recently, in College and Research Libraries. If the A.L.A. and the A.C.R.L. were to rely entirely upon the Office of Education, the net result would be a gain in research data available (by reason of comprehensive coverage) but a serious loss to library administrators, at least for the present, in frequency and in scope of information published.

The preliminary releases will be invaluable, as were those covering public libraries last year, but likewise inadequate in inclusion of facts and in frequency of appearance. The projected salary study will also be invaluable. The proposed technique represents a vast improvement, in every respect, I submit, over that used in collecting and reporting the traditional A.L.A. salary statistics. But again, the facts which will be made available are facts which should be collected and published every year, particularly in periods of rapid economic change. It is possible that the Office of Education may be able to collect them annually, or biennially, but we cannot count on them at this stage.

The facts collected and reported in the biennial survey in the past are of relatively little use to librarians. Occasional special studies of the Division of Higher Education will be useful, and doubtless we should encourage more of them.

The potential statistical program which Mr. Dunbar has described demonstrates a real grasp of the total problem and genuine vision in projecting a solution. After listening to Mr. Dunbar's account of the difficulties involved in executing such a program, I must confess that I am pessimistic about the immediate prospect. I think I have learned from Mr. Dunbar and Mr. Mishoff that the total job is, at present, too big for any one existing agency. Indeed, I began to realize two years ago that this is the case. The present program of the
Office of Education provides us with a reasonably clear picture of the job which remains to be done: We need certain quantitative facts annually and promptly following the period which they describe. We may be able eventually to persuade those who control the Office of Education budget to make it possible for the Service to Libraries Section to do the whole job for us, but meantime, if we want annual statistics we will probably have to collect and publish them.

I therefore suggest that the A.C.R.L. appoint immediately a committee on statistics, whether entirely autonomous or conceived as a subcommittee of the A.L.A. Statistics Committee, to draft a concrete plan for a statistics program for the association, for presentation at Atlantic City. Any plan which such a committee may present will necessarily be supplementary to and carefully integrated with the program of the Office of Education. If I may presume to outline the task of such a committee, I should suggest the following steps:

1. The compilation of comprehensive checklists of useful statistics for university, college, junior college, and reference libraries. Some such lists have been compiled and their revision for a specific purpose would not be too difficult.

2. The submission of these checklists to librarians for their vote as to those required annually, biennially, etc., and those more suitable for occasional special studies rather than for regular collection.

3. The construction of a tentative form for the annual collection, for each type of libraries or for all types of libraries represented in the A.C.R.L.—also perhaps forms for less frequent or irregular or special collection.

4. Consultation with Office of Education and other government officials to determine how much of the job, beyond its present program, that office can do for us.

5. Revision of forms to eliminate duplication.

6. The construction of lists of libraries to which the proposed forms should be regularly sent.

7. Formulation of a concrete and practicable plan for collecting, compiling, analyzing, and publishing the required facts.

The last step is the difficult one, of course, but presents no insoluble problem, I am convinced. Assuming that publication in College and Research Libraries is practicable, the remainder of the job can be done on a cooperative, volunteer basis, if necessary.

The proposed committee may also want to consider the practicability of a self-supporting statistics service maintained on a subscription basis. The A.L.A. Council suggested such a plan for the collection and publication of statistics for all types of libraries in 1929. In 1945 the A.L.A. Publishing Department and the A.L.A. Statistics Committee drafted a proposal for such a self-supporting subscription-basis service, which proposal was shelved pending definition of the U. S. Office of Education program. Personally, I doubt the practicability of a self-supporting service, but possibly your committee, if one is appointed, can find a way to make one work.

In short, the proposed committee would serve two important purposes: Implementation of the potential program of the Service to Libraries Section of the Office of Education, and development of a short-term and a long-term complementary program for the A.C.R.L.
By VERNER W. CLAPP

The Library of Congress and the Other Scholarly Libraries of the Nation

Mr. Clapp is assistant librarian, Library of Congress.

In order to supply a text for what follows, I am going to quote, with permission, from the letter which John E. Burchard, the chairman of your program committee, wrote to Dr. Evans last September, in which he suggested the topic for this discussion.

You, of course, also are well aware of the uncertainty which exists in the minds of the directors of the private library resources of the nation and especially of the East as to the full ambitions of the principal Federal collections and especially those in Washington, as to the extent to which the ambitions are likely to be realized and as to the bearing which these things have on the responsibilities of the private reference collections and on the relations of the private libraries to the Federal ones. I have felt that discussion of this subject has always been something less than forthright and that it is perhaps time that we got down to brass tacks, if this can be dared.

I can give an immediate and categorical assurance on one or two of the points raised in this formulation of the topic. I can assure you that we at the Library of Congress have no desire to hide any of our pretensions or ambitions; we have every desire that discussion of any subject in which the Library of Congress is involved should be completely forthright; and we are prepared at any time to get down to brass tacks.

Actually, however, I should remind you that this is not a new question. At least since 1879, when the A.L.A., by official action recognized "the importance of providing the National Library of Congress with new and convenient quarters, worthy of its national importance," the question of the place of the Library of Congress in the national library economy has come up at frequent intervals. The question was thoroughly canvassed before a committee of Congress in 1896, when the transfer of the library from the Capitol to the then new building was under contemplation. Herbert Putnam's Waukesha address is still a fairly comprehensive statement on the subject; and Archibald MacLeish touched on the salient points of the question in his annual report for 1940. Finally, the question has been considered in detail in the report of the Library of Congress Planning Committee as recently as last March.

There are really two kinds of ambitions involved here: the ambitions which the Library of Congress has for itself, and the ambitions which the library world has for it. These are not always identical, nor have they always been completely reconciled. For example: it has long been the officially adopted view of the organized American library world that the Library of Congress should possess a copy of every publication which appears in the United States, and this is an ambition which is cultivated—with some reservations—by the library it-

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1 Abridgement of a paper presented at the Conference of Eastern College Librarians, Columbia University, Nov. 29, 1947.

2 Library Journal 1: 303, July-August 1879.
But when, as it does with particular categories, the library refuses to lend certain materials in interlibrary loan, the fruit of the attainment of this ambition is denied to many of those who supported it. Again, with printed catalog cards: the library's ambition is, of course, to get its own books cataloged; and the card distribution system rests legally upon the theory that they are a by-product of the library's domestic operations. On the other hand, the equally natural ambition of other libraries is to have the printed cards serve their uses as fully as possible. Thus, we have had to ask ourselves, for whom are we cataloging—for ourselves or for other libraries? But instances of such oppositions are not too numerous, nor do I believe them to be unresolvable.

At this point I want to make a general observation, the implications of which ought to be interesting, but which I cannot here pursue to their ultimate conclusion. This is that the functions and responsibilities of the Library of Congress derive from its collections, rather than the other way about.

First Collections—Then Functions

Those of you who have read David Mearns' *The Story up to Now* in Dr. Evans' 1946 report (also issued as a separate) know that the Library of Congress was never even really established; it became. We trace our foundation from the law of Apr. 24, 1800; but that law did not mention a Library of Congress; it merely authorized the purchase of a collection of books "for the use of both Houses of Congress and the members thereof;" and the name "Library of Congress" was not mentioned in legislation until five years later. However—and this is the important thing—as soon as the collection was organized, its functions were extended beyond the original restricted purpose; and this is what has happened consistently ever since.

It was not until after the middle of the century, however, that the use of the library became a matter of general public concern. An act of 1846 had given the library a share in the deposits under the copyright laws. Finally, by an act of 1866, the library became the depository of the twenty-year old library of the Smithsonian Institution, with its rich and continuing collections of scientific and other materials secured as the result of exchanges with academies and learned societies all over the world. It was logical that at that moment the service of the library should be extended still further; and the same act of 1866 consequently provided that the "public shall have access . . . for purposes of consultation on every ordinary weekday except during one month of the year, in the recess of Congress, when it may be closed for renovation." By this enactment the library, though it remained the Library of Congress, became genuinely a national library in the sense of public ownership and public access.

In 1870 responsibility for the performance of "all acts and duties required by law touching copyrights," was assigned to the Librarian of Congress, who thenceforth received, in compensation for the administrative burden, copies of every article registered for copyright, not only books, but also periodicals, picture-postcards, circus posters, and labels for cigar boxes and hair tonics, and, at a later date, motion pictures and designs.

It is obvious that these enactments, when enforced by an energetic librarian, could in a short time very radically affect the complexion of the collections. They did. The collections grew apace. And with their growth came insistence from the nation at large that they be made available for use. This insistence took form, for example, in

*APRIL, 1948*
President Hayes’ message to Congress in December 1878:

As this library is national in character, and must from the nature of the case increase even more rapidly in the future than in the past, it cannot be doubted that the people will sanction any wise expenditure to preserve it and to enlarge its usefulness.

Subsequent history has followed in a like course. You all know the story of the origin of the distribution of printed catalog cards. (It is summarized in the preface of the A.R.L.-Edwards Brothers 168-volume Catalog of Books Represented by Library of Congress Printed Cards.) A source of central cataloging had been the desideratum of the American library world at least since 1850 when Professor Jewett announced his plan for stereotype cataloging. Several methods were tried. One significant advance in practicability was contributed by the library of the Department of Agriculture. But the genuine—though perhaps not the final—solution to the problem was not discovered until a method was employed which utilized the operations of a library already receiving and cataloging for its own uses a large proportion of the very books in which libraries generally were interested. So it was with the national union catalog and with books for the adult blind and with state publications and state laws. The responsibility has followed the collections in almost every case; not preceded it.

I am inclined to think that this question—the question of what are the ambitions of the Library of Congress, the extent to which these ambitions are likely to be realized, and their bearing upon the private reference collections—may well be taken in three steps. The first of these would have to do with what I would like to differentiate, if that is altogether possible, as the purely local situation; the second with the relations which have grown up with other libraries throughout the country; and the third with the general question of what should be the functions of a national library.

The Local Situation

First, as to the local situation. Under this head I refer to the service which is required of the library by law or custom and which derives from the fact that it is established at the seat of government and is an agency of government. What does this situation require of the library? It requires, first, a general library service to Congress, and then a special legislative reference service which is spelt out carefully in substantive law enacted during the 79th Congress—even to the extent of specifying the subjects in which the library shall have specialists, and the grade of those specialists. It requires the extension of the facilities of the collections to the agencies of the executive and the judiciary. It requires the further extension of these facilities to qualified members of the public. It requires, above all, that the collections be organized through indexes and otherwise; and several laws, chief of which is the Copyright Act, specifically require this.

What does this involve in the way of ambitions? Very simply, it is to live up to our legal obligations. But if we can do this, we shall have nearly won the whole battle, for it is exactly the product of the preparation for the local service which fits us to be of service beyond this boundary.

Our ambitions include, consequently, the development of cooperative enterprises which will relieve us, equally with others, of cost. Nevertheless, when all bibliographic assistance is accounted for, there is still a domestic operation which must be performed. The burden of work which now confronts us is more than we can efficiently carry in almost every department.
Our estimates for 1947, which contemplated a doubling of the staff, included, it is true, certain new activities, but were for the most part based entirely upon actual work-loads in existing operations.

Specifically, the local situation involves certain very definite allocations of fields of responsibility among the federal libraries, and although the Library of Congress has not divested itself of its accumulations either in agriculture or medicine—for it finds considerable use of the collections in both fields in connection with its other collections—it makes no purchases in these fields beyond essential reference books. As all of you know who purchase L.C. cards, series providing the results of cataloging of a number of the other government libraries are represented therein. Our interest in this connection is in economy and efficiency of library service, and it is our belief that library service can be given most economically if there is one central collection, comprehensive within defined limits, supported by working or special collections in the various agencies or operating units. In this belief we are supported by the recommendations of the Library of Congress Planning Committee.

The National Situation

With respect to the national situation—the relation of the Library of Congress to the other libraries of the country—I reassert the principle which I have tried to establish: these relationships depend and must depend, not upon any primacy established by law, not upon any executive authority, but upon a capacity for service, which in turn depends historically upon the collections.

As many of you probably know, the Library of Congress has resisted any suggestions that it be equipped with an executive function. It was perhaps for this reason that Arundell Esdaille, in his volume on the National Libraries of the World, failed to include, in the chapter on the Library of Congress, a section on “Place in a National System” which he had incorporated into the chapter on almost every other national library.

It has been repeatedly pointed out that Congress would never have required two copies of every copyrighted publication solely for its own use, nor purchased great collections of Americana, of incunabula, of Russian books, or of the papers of the presidents exclusively for its own service; nor, finally, constructed buildings at great expense to house these collections solely for its own enjoyment. Obviously the benefits of these collections are intended for the entire nation. But how? Congress has ruled that the collections are to be made accessible to qualified members of the public; but beyond that Congress has not prescribed the details in any broad, over-all legislation. Congress, has, nevertheless, authorized or facilitated specific activities when they have been represented as in the national interest, such as interlibrary loans, the card distribution service, the union catalog and the photoduplication service, the service of books for the blind, as well as various publications including the L.C. classification schedules, the lists of subject-headings, the service in the decimal classification, the biennial Index to State Legislation, the Monthly Checklist of State Publications, calendars and checklists, and texts such as the Journals of the Continental Congress. Finally, the development of a number of specialist units in the library, some on a subject basis, some by area or language, and still others by the form of the material, makes provision for supplying, in response to inquiries, statements which are to a high degree authoritative regarding the content}

and location of the literature of a particular subject.

The Functions of a National Library

I must press on to my third step: a consideration of what functions are appropriate to a national library. The American library world has been calling the Library of Congress the national library for some 70 years; yet nowhere have I found an actual content of meaning assigned to the term. Arundell Esdaille speaks of the national library as "that comparatively modern product;" he adds, "the idea of a national library has for over a century, and for longer still, if we consider it rightly, been expanding;" and he notes that the Abbé Bignon in Paris, Baron Korf in Moscow, Sir Anthony Panizzi in London, and Dr. Putnam in Washington each in his generation took some fresh and valuable element into the functions of a national library. "What their successors will do," he concludes, "we cannot foresee. The age of wireless, the gramaphone, the film and the microphotograph may change the whole face of libraries. We may at least be certain that the process of expansion is not at an end."4

It is not uninstructive to trace the development of the national library concept in the case of the Library of Congress. In its earliest form it implied, in addition to the already established meanings of public ownership and public access, hardly more than the principle of comprehensiveness of collections, at least with respect to the publications of the country itself. The emphasis upon this meaning is apparent in the resolution adopted by the A.L.A. at its meeting in the Army Medical Library on Feb. 10, 1881:

Resolved: That the American Library Association of Librarians, assembled in annual conference in Washington, shares the conviction of the people of the United States of America, that the Library of Congress is emphatically the one national library, the only one in the country destined to the encyclopedic and universal in its comprehensiveness, like the government libraries of the Old World. . . .5

Two years previously, in a discussion of book selection for a national library, the librarian of the London Library had stressed this aspect of comprehensiveness. He emphasized that a national library should be first a monument of the literature of its own country and a repertory of the best samples of the literatures of other countries; and second a "school of instruction" in proportion to its completeness in literatures in all languages.6

The concept of comprehensiveness was of course not a novel concept even in the '70's; it was emphasized then because it was not yet an accomplished fact; just as it is now being emphasized in Canada where it is not yet an accomplished fact.7

But at the same time there were stirrings of other uses for a national library. Basset Cadwallader, in 1877, proposed that there should be established at the Library of Congress a central bureau for cooperative library purchasing, and for preparing a universal catalog with union catalog symbols.8

By 1896 the library's new building was approaching completion, and the joint committee on the library held hearings on its organization and functions.9 Two representatives of the A.L.A. appeared to testify,

4 Ibid.
6 Library Journal 2: 1945, November-December 1877.
12 54th Congress, 2d Session, Senate Report 1513.
as well as George Baker of Columbia, William Fletcher of Amherst, Samuel Langley of the Smithsonian Institution, and W. T. Harris, the U. S. Commissioner of Education; in addition, Melvil Dewey, Ainsworth Spofford, and Herbert Putnam, then librarian of the Boston Public Library. Here was an ideal occasion for a ringing statement as to the functions to be expected of a national library. Actually, however, the great need of the moment was to devise a form of organization and administration for the great new building; and the task immediately at hand was to transfer the immense collections from the Capitol to the new structure, and to get them into order and use. Nevertheless, buried in the discussion of the housekeeping details, may be found solid proposals for national service which have not been much improved upon since. Melvil Dewey described, in almost exact prediction, the distribution of printed catalog cards. He mentioned reference and copying services, distribution of government publications, the preparation of annotated selective bibliographies, a union catalog, and interlibrary loans. Dr. Putnam suggested, as additional appropriate functions, a clearing house for international exchanges, and influence toward standardization in indexing and bibliographic work.

By 1901 the library was well-established in its new building and in its renovated tasks. On July 4 of that year Dr. Putnam, by then Librarian of Congress, addressed the Waukesha Conference of A.L.A. on "What May Be Done for Libraries by the Nation."10 Therein he forecast almost everything that was to be accomplished during his administration of the library: the work in cataloging and classification, the availability of specialists to answer inquiries, a union catalog, cooperative bibliographical undertakings (such as the A.L.A. Catalog, 1904, and the A.L.A. Portrait Index, 1906), clearing house for duplicates and interlibrary loans. But the overwhelmingly important announcement made at the Waukesha Conference was that L.C. was printing cards, and might soon be able to make them available to other libraries.

The next forty years added nothing new to the concept of the national library function in the United States; the interval was filled with the execution of the plans of 1896 and 1901, and the only elaboration was in the specification of that all-inclusive term, "cooperative bibliographical undertakings." In 1938, however, appeared Carleton Joeckel's study of library service prepared for the Advisory Committee on Education which had been asked by President Roosevelt in 1937 to study the general relationship of the federal government to education. Dr. Joeckel, after noting four principal defects in the federal library machinery, expressed the opinion that "comparatively small increases in current expenditures would result in relatively large increases in the efficiency of the present bibliographical and technical operations." His recommendations included, among other things, the improvement and expansion of the cataloging and classification services of the Library of Congress to the full extent of their potential usefulness to American libraries of all types (italics mine), and mentioned several ways in which this should be done; he recommended the organization at the library of a national center for bibliographical information; and, finally, he suggested that a survey of the needs for regional library service, formulation of plans for giving such service, and the administration of a regional library system be conducted under the general direction of the Librarian of Congress.11

In 1939 Dr. Robert C. Binkley, chairman of the joint Committee on Materials for Research of the American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council, developed a national acquisitions program involving a radically new conception of the role of the national library. Proceeding on the assumptions that "acquisition policy is directed toward maximum national completeness," and that the acquisition policy of the Library of Congress should be one that would encourage cooperation on the part of other libraries toward attaining this goal of completeness, Dr. Binkley suggested methods for this, including the purchasing by the library of all current foreign books, or, alternatively, of all current foreign books not purchased by other libraries. Although these suggestions were not adopted, they went into the melting pot out of which the Farmington Plan later issued.

In 1945 the joint Committee on Indexing and Abstracting in the Major Fields of Research, representing the A.L.A. and nine other library and professional organizations, which since 1937 had been wrestling with the problem indicated by its title, rendered a final report. It recommended that the federal government take responsibility for the preparation of a general indexing and abstracting program which would include all fields of research; that the working unit which should execute the program should be operated in but not necessarily by the Library of Congress; and that the program should be supported by government subsidy as well as by the societies and associations which would benefit from it.

In the same year the director of the Office of Scientific Research and Development (Dr. Vannevar Bush) in his report to the President entitled Science, the Endless Frontier suggested that existing government agencies, such as the Army Medical Library and the Library of Congress, could do much to improve existing bibliographic facilities if provided with sufficient means; and that federal aid for the library system of the country might well have as its central objective the strengthening of the Library of Congress so that it could foster programs of cooperation.

Still in 1945 it was found to be in the national interest that the Library of Congress should extend to other research libraries its own facilities for acquisition (including State and War Department channels) in countries where commercial channels were not available as a result of the war. At the same time the library commenced, on its own initiative and at its own cost, the program of document distribution which has since developed into the Documents Expediting Project.

In 1946 the Princeton Conference on International Cultural, Educational, and Scientific Exchanges directed four of its twenty-four recommendations toward the Library of Congress—recommendations having to do with the completion of the union catalog, the compilation of a union list of wartime periodicals, the preparation of plans for a national bibliography, and the procurement and distribution of foreign governmental publications.

The latest statement on the subject is still fresh from the press, and is being reprinted in the 1947 annual report of the Librarian of Congress. The House Appropriations Committee, in 1946, had reported a reduction in the library's estimates, partly as it stated, in order "to give attention to the need for a determination as to what

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COLLEGE AND RESEARCH LIBRARIES
the policy of the Library of Congress is going to be in the way of expansion and service to the public and to Congress." In order to provide a basis for the discussion of this question, Dr. Evans appointed the Library of Congress Planning Committee, headed by the director of libraries of Harvard University, and consisting of leaders in various walks of life—the law, the humanities, specifically history, research libraries, public libraries, federal libraries, the natural sciences and bibliography. This committee was requested to review anew, "in a spirit of free inquiry," the role of the library, and to report recommendations which might be laid before the appropriate committees of Congress.

The report is now before Congress awaiting action. It spells out the relations of the library in the federal system; it specifies the kinds of collections which the library should amass. With respect to the relationships with nonfederal libraries and with the public the report states that "the Library of Congress as the National Library and as the largest and most nearly complete of all the libraries in the United States, should supplement the other libraries in the country, should take a leading part in cooperative movements among libraries, and should thereby help to bring about satisfactory nationwide library service to research workers and other seekers for information." Specifically "as its share of the national library program," the committee recommended a long list of services so carefully worded that it would be unfair to attempt to abridge them here; these include not only most of the services mentioned in previous discussions, but added certain new ones, such as "the printing at regular intervals of as complete a list as possible of publications currently issued in the United States," and a program of traveling exhibits.

It is apparent from the foregoing that if the library wants ambitions, it has not far to seek. But I refuse to call these objectives the ambitions merely of the Library of Congress. If they are not the ambitions of the American library world, and if the American library world cannot truthfully declare, as it did in 1881, that with respect to these objectives "it shares the conviction of the people of the United States of America," then the Library of Congress may properly disown these ambitions. Let me give you the status of the more important of them.

Ambitions—Present Posture

In matters relating to bibliographical organization, the fundamental operation is still the system of card distribution. There is still much work to be done. Cards are not printed quickly enough, and they are still far from complete in coverage. While we are busily cataloging the publications of foreign countries, their libraries are busily cataloging ours. The cooperative cataloging operation, though contributing to the usefulness of the system, does not rest upon a sound policy either in logic or finance.

But card distribution, though in many senses fundamental, is itself an end-product; it is made possible by a number of antecedent operations—among them those of cataloging and classification. When we say at L.C. that we catalog and classify primarily for our own uses we are stating a policy to guide immediate operations only. In the long run it is hardly the fact. The proof of this is that we are involved up to our ears in the revision of the A.L.A. catalog code; and with respect to classification—we have recently witnessed the expenditure of a large sum, which will be matched over and over by expenditures into the indefinite future, in the elaboration of a new schedule for medicine, simply because the L.C. schedule had not been sufficiently
well-adapted to changing conditions. And, too, we feel some concern at complaints regarding the incompletion of the law schedule. The truth is, that if L.C.'s card distribution is important, its cataloging and classification processes are also important.

The union catalog is increasing at the rate of a third of a million new titles and a million and a quarter new locations a year; to this work many libraries are contributing. We still talk of a subject union catalog. How badly is it wanted? The Cadwallader recommendation of 1877 for a universal catalog with union symbols (which was slapped down editorially as being too utopian in the issue of the Library Journal in which it appeared) is matched in 1947 by a suggestion for a union location index, by L.C. card number, to the Edwards Brothers or the L.C. Cumulative Catalog—a simple device which would bring a large part of the national union catalog, in a few volumes, into every library.

We have not taken up Dr. Joeckel's suggestion that the Librarian of Congress should administer a system of regional library centers; nor does it seem likely, from our policy of avoidance of executive authority, that we shall do so. But we are anxious to cooperate with regional centers.

It has been suggested that L.C. maintain the Union List of Serials. It is proposed that we take over the editing of the Writings on American History. It is recommended that we issue complete lists of current publications in the United States; that we submit plans for the national bibliography; that we engage in indexing and abstracting. Here caution is needed. The work to be done is infinite, and the criterion as to what may appropriately be done is not too clear. We now issue the Catalog of Title Entries of the Copyright Office, the Monthly Checklist of State Publications, the Cumulative Catalog of Library of Congress Printed Cards, all fragments (some of them rather large fragments) of the national bibliography. We do some indexing, some annotation of select lists, little abstracting. We are anxious to study the problem, because we have as much stake in the outcome as any institution, and more than most. We are ambitious to see the problem solved, but not necessarily to execute the solution. Some of you may have seen Mr. Vanderbilt's memorandum on this subject which was distributed at the San Francisco Conference of A.L.A. last summer. At the present moment we are anxious to get discussion and comment on this memorandum.

In matters relating to acquisitions, I remind you again that the collections are historically and operationally (though not necessarily logically) at the basis of all the services, and that any proposal for bibliographic activity assumes in the first place that collections are available and organized. Consequently, the library world that is interested in our cards, our cataloging or our classification must be interested also in our collections. There may be alternatives, but they are not yet within practicable reach. Yet the Farmington Plan was born out of discussions in the Librarian of Congress' Council; we are anxious to see the proposal pushed to a conclusion even though we are not at all certain what that conclusion will be. But we are convinced that leadership is in the right hands; and the forces of economics, if nothing else, will assure a final determination. As to a distribution center for duplicates and foreign documents, this is one of the few suggestions dating from 1896 and 1901 which has never been fully developed. The approaching dissolution of the American Book Center as a rehabilit-

tation agency provides the occasion for at least an experimental project to show possibilities. We are willing to assume a risk.

In connection with all of the foregoing, I wish to underscore several assumptions basic to any ambitions which L.C. may cherish: it has no wish to police or administer; it wishes to do nothing that others can do better; it wishes to take on no function which cannot be fully justified on grounds of economy, efficiency, and the national interest. The federal government cannot be looked to as a fairy godmother to take on projects merely because they are good and cannot be supported commercially or locally.

The Public Interest and the Interested Public

A parting word—the public interest will be served, in the long run, only as a result of the interest of the public. This is certainly true with respect to the services of a national library. Take a ready example, again the card distribution system—a system in the efficient operation of which most of you have a close interest. Last year L.C. sold, for $635,000, the immense quantity of 19,000,000 printed cards, each of which represented work in cataloging and classification amounting to from $2 to $5. (I leave you to calculate the potential value of these 19,000,000 cards to their purchasers.) The receipts of $635,000 actually more than reimbursed to the U. S. Treasury the cost of the overrun and of distribution.

In anticipation of a still greater demand for the cards during the present years we requested a "cushion" of working capital, which would not be used unless needed, and which—if used—would be similarly reimbursed through sales. The cushion was not appropriated. As things stand, sales are running 37 per cent over last year, but, for lack of this cushion, we have fallen two weeks behind in the execution of card orders, and will probably fall even further behind as the year progresses.

Cause and effect are very evident in this operation; but they work just the same way in all the underlying operations of cataloging, maintenance of classification schedules, and formation of collections; and if card distribution is of interest and of community importance, so are they.

Three presidents of the United States have felt the position of the Library of Congress in the national economy of sufficient moment to justify mention of it in annual message to Congress. I have already quoted from President Hayes. Let me quote from President Theodore Roosevelt's message of Dec. 3, 1901.

There are now over five thousand libraries in the United States, the product of [the past 50 years]. In addition to accumulating material, they are also striving by organization, by improvement in method, and by co-operation, to give greater efficiency to the material they hold, to make it more widely useful, and by avoidance of unnecessary duplication in process to reduce the costs of its administration.

In these efforts they naturally look for assistance to the Federal library, which though still the Library of Congress, and so entitled, is the one national library of the United States. . . . This library has a unique opportunity to render to the libraries of this country—to American scholarship—service of the highest importance. Resources are now being provided which will develop the collection properly, equip it with the apparatus and service necessary to its effective use, render its bibliographic work widely available, and enable it to become, not merely a center of research, but the chief factor in great cooperative efforts for the diffusion of knowledge and the advancement of learning.

To be "the chief factor in great cooperative efforts." That might well be the ambition of any institution! But, in this phrase I would underline the word "cooperative."
The Army Medical Library and Other Medical Libraries of the Nation

Mr. Adams is acting librarian, Army Medical Library.

Joint Resolution No. 8 of the Fifty-Second Congress, First Session, 1892, reads as follows:

Whereas, Large collections illustrative of the various arts and sciences and facilitating literary and scientific research have been accumulated by the action of Congress through a series of years at the national capital; and

Whereas, It was the original purpose of the Government thereby to promote research and the diffusion of knowledge, and is now the settled policy and present practice of those charged with the care of these collections especially to encourage students who devote their time to the investigation and study of any branch of knowledge by allowing them all proper use thereof; and

Whereas, It is represented that the enumeration of these facilities and the formal statement of this policy will encourage the establishment and endowment of institutions of learning at the seat of Government, and promote the work of education by attracting students to avail themselves of the advantages aforesaid under the direction of competent instructors: Therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the facilities for research and illustration in the following and any other Governmental collections now existing or hereafter to be established in the city of Washington for the promotion of knowledge shall be accessible, under such rules and restrictions as the officers in charge of each collection may prescribe, subject to such authority as is now or may hereafter be permitted by law, to the scientific investiga-

tors and to students of any institution of higher education now incorporated or hereafter to be incorporated under the laws of Congress or of the District of Columbia, to wit:

One. Of the Library of Congress.
Six. Of the Army Medical Museum.
Seven. Of the Department of Agriculture.

I have cited this authority in full because it shows the clear intent of the Congress in encouraging the extension of the services of the federal libraries. Supplemented by a rider to the Appropriation Act for the Geological Survey, 1901, providing for services to "duly qualified individuals, students, and graduates of institutions of learning in the several States and Territories," and by Army Regulation 40-405 describing the Army Medical Library's status and functions, it supports appropriation requests and delimits planning. These documents together form our charter for national service.

Each of the three national libraries has Congressional authority for its services to the nation. The character and degree of such legislated authorities vary. The ambitions of the three libraries are limited, not only by legislative action, but also, as those who have read the Library of Congress budget hearings recognize, by the Congressional committees making appropriations.

Under differing authorities, in different branches of the federal establishment, each of the three libraries has its own problems of national service. Each library has arrived at its present position by a different path;
each has its own programs, its own public, and its own traditions.

Nevertheless, each is a library performing national services. Can we define this phrase? Are there functions and services which can be exercised only by a federally supported institution? Do they vary in type or in degree from those proper to a private institution? I suggest that the nature and extent of the library services performed for the other libraries of the nation determine this definition. Only with an understanding of what responsibilities have been accepted, what services are offered, and what functions the libraries are actually performing can these questions be answered. The answers inevitably involve the other research libraries of the nation, since to a considerable degree it is through them that the government libraries reach the "scientific investigator" and "duly qualified individuals, students, and graduates of institutions of learning in the several States and Territories."

National Services

In contributing the Army Medical Library's share to this program, I propose to discuss its national services in three large areas: library resources, bibliographic controls, and public services.

For those who are not familiar with the Army Medical Library and its reorganization, I shall provide first, a brief historical background, and second, a description of the library's setting among the other medical libraries of the country.

The Army Medical Library is the library of the Surgeon General of the Army. Although it was founded in 1836, it remained a small office library for the use of the Surgeon General until John Shaw Billings took charge of administering surplus hospital funds, officially called the "slush fund," in 1865. From the earliest days Billings had a vision of national service. The Specimen Fasciculus for the Index-Catalogue, published in 1876, bears the words "National Medical Library" on the title page. In 1879 he founded the Index-Medicus, and in 1880 the first volume of the Index-Catalogue was published. With these publications Billings proposed to provide adequate bibliographical information to the entire medical profession of the United States.

When he left the Army Medical Library in 1895, it had become the largest medical library in the country, and although its rate of growth has suffered fluctuations, it has never relinquished this position. Under military appropriation acts, and subject to a rapid turnover of administrators, its fortunes varied. When the World War II came, it was ill-prepared. A survey ordered by the Surgeon General disclosed many deficiencies, and suggested a complete rehabilitation. Acquisitions had slowed down dangerously; the lack of a complete card catalog, a shelflist, even a classification (for Billings believed in shelving broad subject groups without a notation system) made it almost impossible to locate materials. The Index-Catalogue appeared to have strayed from its original purpose; the loan and reference services were not what they should have been. Altogether, the library faced the problem of lifting itself by its boot straps from the nineteenth century into the twentieth.

So much for history. Under Francis R. St. John, and later under Wyllis E. Wright, the first steps were taken. Today the library, still with many inherited defects, is trying to assume the full responsibilities of national service.

Services to a Specialized Group

As a large special library, the Army Medical Library provides services to a
specialized group. First, it serves its parent organization, the Office of the Surgeon General; second, government agencies with an interest in medical research; third, the civilian medical libraries of the country; and fourth, the individual civilian physician. It is of course the third group which constitutes for the Army Medical Library "the other research libraries of the nation."

In recent years medical libraries throughout the United States have grown greatly in number and in size. There exists no adequate directory for them. The last American Medical Association Directory lists 324 libraries; the Medical Library Association has 253 library members, and Special Library Resources lists some 225 libraries with an interest in medicine. The fact that these statistics must be assembled from such diverse sources demonstrates the differing composition and interests of libraries in the field of medical research. A cross-section will show many types. There are the government libraries: national, such as that of the Public Health Service; state, such as that of the New York State Medical Library; or local, such as that of the Public Health Division, New York City Municipal Reference Library. There are the medical society and association libraries, led by the New York Academy of Medicine and the Boston Medical Library. In the academic world there are the libraries of the university schools of medicine, of pharmacy and dentistry. Then there is a large group of more specialized libraries, the libraries of institutions, foundations, and clinics, libraries of pharmaceutical concerns, and finally, hospital libraries of all descriptions. All of these serve medicine; all of these use the Army Medical Library.

For all of these libraries too, the Medical Library Association provides a meeting ground. This association has had an independent existence dating to 1898. It is a member of the Council of National Library Associations, an active supporter of the American Book Center. It conducts a successful duplicate exchange; it has an active interest in the improvement of medical bibliography, education for librarianship, international exchange of students, and the betterment of medical library service throughout the country. As its largest member, the Army Medical Library works with and through the association to achieve many common goals. The library is conscious of its responsibilities as the largest member of a specialized national library association. The association looks to the Army Medical Library for service and for leadership.

I. Resources

For these medical libraries, the Army Medical Library provides resources beyond those which may be available locally. Such provision is in part a responsibility based on the library's inheritance, and in part a planned continuing action.

The library has over 1,000,000 titles, 17,500 of which are serial. Its collection of public health reports, despite many gaps, is unequalled. Its collection of foreign dissertations is most extensive; it holds long runs of editions for the medical classics. With 500 incunabula and 28,000 volumes published before 1800, its resources for the study of medical history have great depth. Unfortunately, the subject collections for the twentieth century are not so comprehensive; this was a defect noted by the survey.

The Army Medical Library's collection is twice the size of the largest civilian medical library. Its resources have been built through the years with two objectives: first, to make a collection worthy of a national
medical library, and second, through subject bibliography, to serve medicine.

In 1944 the library drew up a directive for its acquisition policy, defining fields of interest, and setting as an ideal the acquisition of one copy of any work of importance to medical research, regardless of language and date of publication. In carrying out this directive, the library has assumed the responsibility of supplying to agencies of the federal government all library materials in the field of medicine necessary to the national interest. As a corollary the library has accepted responsibility under the Farmington Plan of acquiring these materials in the interest of the private research libraries of the nation.

II. Bibliographic Controls

American medicine has a long tradition of being well-served by the systematic indexing and cataloging of its literature. Each of the three comprehensive American indexes covering the entire field of medicine had its origin in the Army Medical Library: The Index-Medicus in 1879, the Index-Catalogue in 1880, and the Current List of Medical Literature in 1941. These words from the preface to Vol. 1 of the Index-Medicus show Billings’ interest in current as well as retrospective, medical bibliography:

I have for some time been engaged in preparing an Index-Catalogue of the library of the Surgeon General’s Office . . . which is intended to show under each subject heading not only the separate books, but all important original articles in medical periodicals and transactions of all countries relating to that subject . . . . It has often been suggested that it is highly desirable that such a catalogue should be supplemented by some current publication, which would show all recent works, together with articles in periodicals, arranged by subject.

The necessity of supplementing what is perhaps the fullest analytical catalog in book form of any library in the world with a continuing current service existed in 1879. It still exists today.

The Index-Catalogue, now in its 54th volume and in the middle of its fourth alphabetical series, is the best-known of the library’s contributions to medical bibliography. As a reference tool its greatest defect is structural; it cumulates references alphabetically for deferred publication. Thousands upon thousands of important medical references are buried in the Army Medical Library’s files awaiting publication at a later date. To be specific: the library maintains a storage file of one and a half million cards; last year the library’s public made but 1,700 visits to this file. In addition, the Index-Catalogue has altered its form from Billings’ original conception and has become a gigantic alphabetical-classed catalog, necessitating intensive application by the user. The tremendous increase of medical literature has slowed its publication in alphabetical series; the next volume will be limited to “M-MEZ.” The subject file for the latter part of the fourth alphabet is distended and swollen beyond belief. Material on tuberculosis numbers now some 85,000 references, sufficient to publish a complete volume of detailed subject bibliography. It is no small wonder, therefore, that the surveyors questioned, and the library continues to question, the advisability of continuing the Index-Catalogue in its present form.

The possibility of change and the possibility of coordination with the Quarterly Cumulative Index-Medicus have been long discussed. The director of the library, Colonel Joseph H. McNinch, has proposed that an editorial advisory board be established to consider thoroughly the current needs and techniques of medical bibliography in order to establish policy for the Index-Catalogue and the Current List of
Medical Literature, and further, that this board be formed in cooperation with the American Medical Association so that the question of the future of the Quarterly Cumulative Index-Medicus might be explored simultaneously. An informal committee met in October to define the problem and to suggest membership for such an advisory board. In anticipation of the inquiries of the board, the library is providing investigation in the field of medical subject bibliography.

There will be no basic changes in the Index-Catalogue or the Current List of Medical Literature until the board has determined policy for the library. The basic question facing the board is that of planning systematically for the library's participation in the effective indexing of the world's medical literature.

The library's contributions to the study of the history of medicine are well-known to the small, but highly active and articulate group of humanistic scholars working in this field. Collections as extensive as those in the library's History of Medicine Division in Cleveland impose upon the library a continuing bibliographic responsibility.

A catalog of the library's 500 medical incunabula, the work of Dorothy Schuhlman of this division, is in process of publication by Henry Schuman. The Specimen Fasciculus of Dr. Claudius F. Mayer's Bibliography of 16th Century Medicine, printed in the Vol. IV of the current series of the Index-Catalogue, shows what may be accomplished in this relatively unexplored field.

The library's incunabula are being microfilmed; once the catalog is published, it will be possible for other libraries and scholars to acquire at the cost of reproduction film copies for their use.

The library's current cataloging activities have a very important meaning for other libraries. Through its contribution to the MED card series published and distributed by the Library of Congress, its new classification and subject headings are becoming known. Close cooperation between the Army Medical Library and the Library of Congress in the field of cooperative cataloging has long been the goal of administrators of both libraries.

In October 1946 an agreement was reached for full cooperation on cataloging between the Army Medical Library and the Library of Congress. The MED card series was announced shortly thereafter, replacing the earlier SGO series. The Army Medical Library has agreed to provide complete card copy for all titles it catalogs for which printed cards are not available; this includes checking of the Library of Congress authority files. The Library of Congress has agreed to accept the simpler forms of descriptive cataloging adopted by the Army Medical Library, and to print the Army Medical Library's copy with the addition of Library of Congress subject headings and classification.

For a full understanding and interpretation of the Army Medical Library's catalog cards in the MED series some attention should be devoted to its rules for descriptive cataloging, its classification, and subject headings. During the period when the library of Congress was developing its recently published rules for descriptive cataloging, the Army Medical Library established its own rules. It had no tradition to respect and could therefore feel free to simplify along pragmatic lines. In order to achieve consistency with Library of Congress practice, it is carefully studying the preliminary edition of Rules for Descriptive Cataloging.

In 1944 a committee of special consultants met to consider a scheme of classification for the medical holdings of the Army Medical Library and the Library of Con-
gress. At first it was thought possible to develop and revise the "Q" and "R" schedules. As the committee studied the problem it was felt desirable to develop instead the unused letters "QS-QZ" for the preclinical medical sciences, and "W" for clinical medicine and other closely related subjects. The Army Medical Library is a huge special library comprising all of the medical sciences. The Library of Congress is a huge general library comprising all disciplines, including the medical sciences. The one views medicine from the inside; the other from the outside. The "W" classification, prepared for the committee by Mary Louise Marshall, of Tulane, was submitted in draft form to the library during 1946. The library has tested its use, reserving distribution until it has been proved thoroughly practicable. One exception was a concession to the Veterans Administration who wished to use the new classification for its medical libraries. The Veterans Administration published a greatly abbreviated informational outline. The library is now about to publish a preliminary edition of its classification which will be distributed generously; it is hoped that criticism will be equally generous.

As with the Library of Congress schedules, the Army Medical Library's classification is a book classification based on the library's holdings of medical literature. It is not a theoretical classification; it is not designed for the smaller library to follow without interpretation, and it is designed to be used with other L.C. schedules.

In the field of medical subject headings the library is only too conscious that no adequate list exists. Medicine has always been active in nomenclature. The question of standardized systems has been a difficult one. The Army Medical Library is not only building its own list of medical subject headings, but is also encouraging consideration of the many problems on both a philosophic and practical basis. It is important for the library to coordinate its work in medical subject headings with that of the Library of Congress; certainly the confusion resulting from simultaneous use of two lists of medical subject headings is one of the greatest impediments for users of the MED card series.

The foregoing are library activities of national concern in the area of bibliographic controls. They follow from the necessity of making known the contents of the library's vast collections, of guiding research workers to specific information. Their influence extends far beyond the walls of the Army Medical Library. The Index-Catalogue and the Current List index the holdings of other libraries. The MED cards are being used wherever Library of Congress cards go. The "W" classification and the library's subject headings will be considered for adoption by medical libraries of many types.

III. Public Services

With the largest collections in the new world at its disposal, and with a long tradition of support for the medical libraries of the country, the Army Medical Library has developed one of the largest interlibrary loan services in the country. Last year the library loaned over 20,000 items throughout the United States. Traditionally it has been generous, restricting service only for older and irreplaceable works. It recognizes its responsibility in making infrequently held and occasionally unique materials freely available to other research libraries, but, since it refers private requests for medical literature back to the local medical libraries, its loan services are clearly defined as supplementary, not competitive. Reading room use of the collections has always been modest. Sixty per cent of the use of materials has been through inter-library loan and photoduplication.
These co-existing techniques for making the library's resources generally available to science have developed the use of the collections to an amazing extent. Beginning in 1941, under the enthusiastic auspices of Dr. Atherton Seidell, the Army Medical Library has experimented with the supply of microfilm in lieu of the loan of publications. Last year 1,120,000 pages were microfilmed; about 80 per cent of this was distributed within the United States. Such use of microfilm is not without problems. We lend to libraries; we supply microfilm to any private investigator, as well as to libraries. In its pure form, as conceived by Dr. Seidell, the use of microfilm in lieu of the loan of books constitutes a gratuitous service of the federal government, subsidizing medical research. There are many arguments for such gratuitous service. It may be argued that it is actually cheaper than a loan. There are also many arguments against it, and not the least of these is lack of statutory authority. In February of this year the library instituted a system of charging for microfilm at cost. The library has provided photoduplication service through the Office of the Publication Board, Department of Commerce, for the Publication Board's reports which have medical interest. Nearly 500,000 pages of these were copied and distributed last year.

It is the field of reference and bibliography in which the Army Medical Library is least adequately organized to provide the type of national service commensurate with its size and materials. In theory, the Army Medical Library should accomplish reference work at a degree of difficulty higher than that of the library it services. It should draw upon and interpret the unusual materials which it has, and which are not generally available. In theory, the library should prepare for publication a series of special subject bibliographies of immediate interest to medicine. In practice, however, three things have militated against this accomplishment. First, is the library's chronic shortage of personnel. It has actually but one part-time bibliographer who can be assigned to the preparation of special lists. Second, is the still disorganized status of the library's collections, which makes it extremely difficult to locate material needed for search of the literature. Third, is the traditional influence of the Index-Catalogue which in itself provides specialized subject bibliographies. The Reference Division was newly formed following the survey and has yet to develop a bibliographic service in its own right. Certainly the Army Medical Library should provide topical bibliographies, as does the Library of Congress and the library of the Department of Agriculture. Medical research cannot wait for the deferred publication of the Index-Catalogue.

In each of these fields—resources, bibliographic controls, and public services—the Army Medical Library serves the country's research libraries. This service is supplementary, not competitive. The library's collections augment the resources of private libraries; the bibliographical activities of the Index-Catalogue, the Current List of Medical Literature, and the Catalog Division interpret these collections, providing services which could not be performed by libraries with smaller resources. Service of the collections through interlibrary loan, photoduplication, and reference by policy and by operation, are extensions of the services offered by the other medical libraries. The Congress, in providing annually appropriated funds for the purchase of materials, for the printing of the Index-Catalogue, in its hearings and reports on a new building for the library, has consistently recognized the national obligations of the institution.
The Department of Agriculture Library and Its Services

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Although the Department of Agriculture Library is more than 100 years old, its present scope and responsibilities date from the act which established the department, on May 15, 1862. This act states, "There shall be at the seat of Government a Department of Agriculture, the general design and duties of which shall be to acquire and to diffuse among the people of the United States useful information on subjects connected with agriculture, in the most general and comprehensive sense of that word. . . . The Secretary of Agriculture shall procure and preserve all information concerning agriculture which he can obtain by means of books and correspondence . . . by the collection of statistics, and by other appropriate means within his power . . . " and, finally that, "The Secretary of Agriculture shall have charge . . . of the Library. . . ."

This act, which recognized the importance of the knowledge contained in literature, and of library services, is probably unique in federal legislative history, and it defines the national responsibility of the Department of Agriculture Library.

In addition, since we serve as the Library of the Department of Agriculture, we must provide literature which is required for the day-to-day work of the staff in many other fields. An organization like the U.S. Department of Agriculture, with a staff ranging between sixty thousand and a hundred thousand people, scattered all over the country, has personnel officers who must be equipped with current personnel literature, budget and fiscal officers who must be helped in performing their jobs, and many related service functions which require supporting library services.

Thus, in its departmental relationships the Department of Agriculture Library has the two-fold job of supporting the bibliographical needs of a program of research which averages approximately $30,000,000 a year, and an administrative program of about $1,000,000,000 a year.

As noted in the current Yearbook of Agriculture, we cannot separate agricultural science from other sciences. Agricultural research workers use the principles developed in the fundamental sciences, such as chemistry, geology, or botany, and also contribute to them. The term agricultural science is useful; it means, generally, all scientific principles as they apply to farming and to rural living. But we cannot have an agricultural chemistry apart from chemistry, nor an agricultural economics apart from economics. The fundamental principles of production economics are the same, whether applied to farm organizations or the manufacture of automobiles. In striving for solution to agricultural problems, then, it is often necessary to carry on research in the basic natural and social sciences to develop principles for application.

These factors provide our frame of reference. We are required by our charter:
First, to collect all the knowledge about agriculture which can be obtained from publications and to make that knowledge available to the country as a whole, and, second, to provide the staff library services needed in the day-to-day operation of the country’s greatest civilian research institution.

Library materials and services falling within the first category are considered our primary research field. Much of the material and service required by the second category of responsibilities does not differ from what we are required to provide to the nation as a whole. Provision of materials and services not included in our national responsibility is considered supplementary service functions only—and in this area we rely upon other libraries for research collections and services.

In view of the scope of agriculture as defined and of the related sciences which are a fundamental part of agricultural research and administration, it is obvious that some limitation had to be self-imposed if the department library was to avoid duplication of all other great research libraries. As a practical matter since the country has never supported even one national library adequately to provide for complete coverage of the world’s literature on a current basis, it would appear uneconomical and unwise to attempt unnecessary duplication of research facilities.

This was recognized early. For example, although the department library has legal authority to publish and sell catalog cards, and actually performed that function until 1906, it has been considered more economical to supply copy to the Library of Congress, limiting the stocking of catalog cards and the servicing of such cards to only one agency.

Likewise, there appears little point in competitive bidding for rare books among the three great national libraries, and the Department of Agriculture Library has specifically foresworn that field.

The scope of our work is broad, but it does not defy definition, and the fields in which we attempt to acquire everything, are fairly readily defined. While we do purchase in other fields, such purchases are limited to working collections needed for current work, because we have found that we can rely upon our neighbors for research collections in related subject fields.

From its very beginnings, Agriculture’s library has been slanted toward procuring and supplying knowledge rather than toward dealing with books or periodicals primarily as physical objects.

For this reason you will find that our subject treatment of material is based on its intellectual content rather than on its format, and we are likely to make as many or more subject headings for a slight mimeographed separate as we do for a textbook. On the other hand, since we are concerned with the dissemination of knowledge rather than with bibliophilic considerations, you will find that our descriptive cataloging is more informal than that in many other scholarly libraries, in which the detailed description of a particular copy of a book has been considered an absolutely essential part of the cataloging process.

In a library like ours, consulting the literature is just another way of consulting all the experts or alleged experts, of all times and places, who have written down what they know about the subject under consideration. Thus our book stock, instead of being considered in terms of a given number of books, becomes a corps of five or ten million or more experts who stand prepared to provide facts and judgments about all aspects of our work.

Under this concept—“Technical Processes” involve bringing these experts to-
gether and hooking up a communications system so that the desired specialists may be called up to testify as required. "Reference Services" bring the expert and inquirer together (for feeless consultation). "Bibliographical Services" convert the testimony into more usable form by selection of the evidence that bears on the question, organization of the knowledge, conversion of the knowledge into more usable form, and, in some cases, by interpretation and evaluation of the testimony. And, "Lending Services," including our system of field branches, as well as auxiliary methods such as photographic reproduction, are means for bringing the expert's testimony to his clients at points other than his permanent office in the library stacks.

Our dependence upon the Army Medical Library for medical literature and upon the Library of Congress for general materials has increased our own research potential in two ways. First, it has made available to those whom we serve the total potential of all three of these great collections, and second, it has freed our own resources for more adequate collection, organization, and dissemination of the knowledge in our own basic research fields.

The extent of our use of the Library of Congress collections is indicated by the fact that we have stationed a staff member at that library half or full time to use its collections to supplement our own.

The most important result of our emphasis in cooperative use of resources is the extent to which it has left our own resources free for bibliographical research and service. Our Division of Bibliography, consisting of 35 to 40 staff members, most of whom are professional librarians with strong subject or subject-literature backgrounds, provides a steady flow of specialized subject bibliographies and of new and important tools of research such as the Index to the Literature of American Economic Entomology, the Plant Science Catalog, and the Bibliography of Agriculture.

Each month the Bibliography of Agriculture provides a classified list of some 5,000 to 7,000 articles or separates. This bibliography is sent to all the offices of the department and is available to all of the staff. By using the author and subject indexes which appear in each month's issue, a member of the staff of the department is able to determine in fifteen or twenty minutes each month substantially all that has been published any place in the world that affects his work. A postcard or call to the library, or to any of its branches, brings to him any item of interest either in the original or in photographic reproduction.

The same service is available to everyone, except that those not employed by the department may have to subscribe to the Bibliography of Agriculture. If the literature in which they are interested is not available in their local libraries they may have to pay the cost of photographic copies. In effect, this places the world's agricultural literature on the desk of every man who is willing to exert a minimum amount of effort to get it.

Additional bibliographic services include the preparation of some one hundred special bibliographies annually, ranging from airplane dusting for insect control, to use of milkweed floss as a substitute for kapok, as well as such popular tools as our rural reading list and our list of standard agricultural books. In addition to bibliographical research services, this library provided answers to some 200,000 reference questions and loaned 1,750,000 volumes, largely by mail, during the past year.

The Department of Agriculture Library is a great national resource. It is not merely the library of the Department of Agriculture, but it is your library and that of all the people of the United States.

APRIL, 1948
Midwest Reaches for the Stars

By RALPH E. ELLSWORTH and NORMAN L. KILPATRICK

IN 1940 the presidents of 13 Midwest universities expressed their interest in a cooperative storage library for the Midwest. A survey, financed by the Carnegie Corporation, was made and published. Aspects covered were problems concerned with the transfer of books, cost figures, plans of incorporation, and objectives.

This plan came to naught for reasons unknown to us. The war, the constitutional inability of librarians to agree on anything, the inherent weakness of the storage library idea by itself, plus the basic philosophies of the librarians concerned were probably the relevant factors.

Once more in 1947 the presidents of the Midwestern universities have suggested that we librarians open the question. There is no war, there is more knowledge about the storage idea, librarians agreed on one point and found that it didn't kill them, and there is a new generation of librarians in 13 of the Midwestern universities—some of us imbued with the graduate library school experimentation, the rest, wise, fearless, and scholarly. In fact, with men like Doane, Miller, Warner Rice, Pargellis, Parker, Henkle, McDiarmid, Hazen, Moriarity, Nyholm, Orr, Manchester, Towne, and Downs, it is inevitable that the dragons will be slain. We have our St. Georges, our doubting Thomases, our Don Quixotes, but also, as a group, we have a fairly honest common understanding of scholarship and its bibliographic implications.

So now, under the chairmanship of President Colwell, a new committee consisting of Presidents Colwell, Fred, and Wells, and librarians McDiarmid, Doane, and Ellsworth, is at work with two subcommittees appointed. One is making a fresh survey, and one is studying centralized cataloging and acquisition.

The contents of this paper represent only the personal opinions of the authors. We are the subcommittee on cataloging and acquisition. The concepts we state have not been submitted to or approved by our committee.

The Regional Idea

Now, a few preliminary statements about the regional idea are in order. We are well aware that there is a kind of psychological disorder which causes a man who cannot solve his personal problems to turn to grandiose schemes which are often nearly perfect in themselves, but which lack a few connecting links with reality, and the lack destroys the validity. It is often difficult to distinguish, at any given time, between the efforts of a man who has a toe hold on a truly great idea to a man whose toes, all ten of them, are up in the clouds.

We librarians have a bit of this disorder in our blood. We turn to the "larger unit of service" idea, in part, because of its sweet reasonableness, but also because we cannot or will not meet our own problems on their home grounds.

1 Paper presented by Dr. Ellsworth at the Conference of Eastern College Librarians, Columbia University, Nov. 29, 1947.
Example 1. We cannot or will not agree among ourselves in the large libraries on a division of collecting policies, because at heart we are all bibliographic empire builders. Therefore, we turn to Farmington, because we sincerely hope it will permit us to eat our cake and have it, too.

Example 2. The small public library turns to the county or regional idea, because the town cannot afford a librarian. But it can afford teachers, preachers, lawyers, doctors, and dentists. What we mean is that we can't convince the citizens that they want to pay for a librarian. But when we get a county or regional librarian, have we really convinced the citizens that they want her, or have we merely spread the cost so that the citizens are not conscious of it, or the librarian?

Example 3. In a given metropolitan area, we have two medium-sized universities and a few small colleges. Just what do we add to the intellectual resources of the group when we make a regional library center out of them, unless in so doing we succeed in causing them to eliminate unnecessary duplication and thereby purchase additional teachers and books they would otherwise not have?

Example 4. We speak glibly about eliminating duplication in collecting fields. We are keen on the idea, but we think in an academic vacuum. We seem unaware that our plans might have curricular implications, the results of which we would be unable to face. Let us take a state university and a nearby state college of agriculture. The professor of poultry diseases at the state college publishes his research in the highly specialized poultry journals which the university does not have or need. But his research is based on data which he can get only from the basic science and medical journals, which we librarians would like to think the university and not the state college should own. This cannot be. Both institutions must own them. The poultry journals are cheap, but the others are not. Supposing the university creates an institute of atomic research and the other an institute of nuclear physics. Will they not require the same literature? Could either exist without the literature?

Our basic objective is to see what can be done regionally either to make our money go further, or to increase the quantity and quality of printed research and instructional facilities in the Midwest within a ten-year period—because after that we'll probably be defending the status quo.

At the very beginning we must have the librarians' and their institutions' stand on one basic issue, "Are we prepared to discard our inherited philosophy of trying to make each of our libraries as large and inclusive as possible in favor of a philosophy of building the contents of each of our libraries in relation to the inclusive contents of a group of homogeneous libraries?" If the answer is yes, we can proceed to an examination of the pig in the poke, but if it is no, then there is no use starting. The reason we shall insist on this declaration of intention is that practical experience has shown that a group can never reform itself, unless its members wish to do so.

This question sounds simple. It is not, as you can see from the following examination of its ramifications.

Implications

First, the legal aspect. Regional cooperation is going to mean that local funds will be sent outside of the state to pay for books that are going to be located outside of the state. This issue can be dodged at first by calling it payment for bibliographic service, but sooner or later it must be faced directly, even if new state legislation is necessary. We are leaving this up to our
presidents, because they got us into this, and they can get us out.

Previous commitments made in terms of special collections will limit our freedom to act, but will not stymie us seriously.

Second, the curricular implications. The direction we take will determine the nature of the problem. If we go in the direction of assigning special collecting fields to each of us, then in time these collections will become so strong as to fix the research focal points of our universities. Or else, they will be white elephants to us.

If Iowa, for example, is to have the one complete collection in psychology, one of its strongest departments today, then the university should make this the strongest psychology department in the Midwest, and everyone concerned should accept this as a responsibility to be met no matter what the effect is upon the research welfare of Iowa's other departments in war or peace, in prosperity or depression.

This has two implications, one internal and one external.

First, it implies that the other departments in our university will operate at a somewhat narrower scope—all at the Ph.D. level to be sure, but with beer instead of champagne.

Second, it implies that the other universities will keep their psychology departments limited in favor of the subjects they are to operate on an unlimited basis.

Would we accept this idea? And do our presidents, deans, and faculties understand it?

_A Midwest Library Center_

This is only one possible direction. The other would be for us not to build exhaustive collections in any field on any of our campuses, except in special libraries or in special cases, but rather to make our campus collections working libraries for teaching and research, and to build the exhaustive collections in the Midwest library center. If this were done, we could cull out little used materials, dead or alive. We could begin positive acquisition by placing all our foreign importations that come from the Farmington Plan, and buy for campus use only the foreign titles our faculty request.

Such a plan would not force our research curricula in any direction. We would be free to build working research collections in any or all fields, but we would be freed of the necessity of acquiring and maintaining the little used, elusive, minor publications for any or all of our fields. These would be in the center, paid for cooperatively by all of us.

In periods of severe depression, we would not have to starve most of our departments in order to meet commitments for a few departments. We would merely ask all to go on a moderate diet.

In normal times we would not be in the position of controlling the introduction or shift in emphasis of research programs. Nor would we be required to support an exhaustive research collection that had grown apart from faculty development.

Neither would we be denying researchers access to an exhaustive collection in their field. This would be available to them in Chicago; not on our campus.

If we do this, and we hope we shall, then let us be frank in admitting that some day in Chicago we shall have a great research library that will dwarf all our campus libraries in importance.

_Effect on Chicago University_

Let us admit also that if this center is located on the campus of the University of Chicago, as I hope it will be, that its presence will increase the prestige and resources of the University of Chicago, and will give it an advantage over the rest of us. Its presence also gives the University of Chi-
cago a chance to become a great intellectual host to scholars in the region.

Is this a good or bad thing for Iowa or Northwestern or Illinois? That will depend on one's point of view.

The university could extend some very real and useful courtesies to scholars who come to use the center. It could allow them access to the faculty club. It could encourage them to feel at home among the resident faculty in their subject field. By cultivating this kind of faculty relationship, we believe the entire region would profit.

Nature of the Center

The nature of the library center will be determined by the collecting policies we adopt. Its services should include lending and copying of all types. It should be connected to each of us by either teletype, leased telephone wire, facsimile reproduction, radio, or television. Deliveries by air mail should be common. It might well have a translation service.

It should obviously contain special study facilities for visiting scholars and should have a complete set of bibliographic tools and a staff of expert bibliographers.

The concept of ownership between it and us should be so fluid that any local condition can be met.

Travel expenses for scholars from each library should be anticipated and handled locally so that red tape is avoided and so that the scholar does not need to beg.

In addition, the center should be tied into the needs of the smaller colleges of the region at a level consistent with their needs. The financial relationships should be so flexible and simple as to encourage use.

Third, the technical processes aspect, and now we come to the pièce de résistance. We should be smart enough to centralize a large share of the purchasing and cataloging of the participating libraries at the center.

Centralized Acquisition and Cataloging

For some time now, along with most other sensible librarians, we have been convinced that we needed a basically new approach to the cataloging problem. It has seemed reasonable that we should centralize cataloging nationally. We are now convinced that this won't be done, because there is too much inertia to overcome, that no agency that must catalog for all types of libraries can do the job (we refer to the Library of Congress), and that it cannot be done unless the centralizing agency can at the same time include acquisitions. The latter is obviously impossible on a national basis.

But the regional approach for a group of homogeneous libraries looks promising. We are trying to sketch out methods of centralizing cataloging and acquisitioning. Our report will be made to the Midwest committee during the winter.

We wish to describe our proposal in enough detail to show you what we are up to, without pretending that we know how to solve all the difficulties that have to be overcome, or that our committee will find the proposals acceptable. We must necessarily wave a magic wand here and there to cause a few embarrassing rabbits to appear and disappear at our convenience. That is legitimate at this stage of development, though it would be intolerable later.

First, we offer a few general observations and assumptions.

One, it seems absurd for each of the Midwest libraries to catalog and classify collections of which approximately 60 per cent are common to all.

Two, cooperative cataloging is no answer, because most librarians think it represents an added cost.

Three, there are four reasons why present day use of printed L.C. cards does not permit us to lower our costs significantly,
(a) cards are available for only approximately 65 per cent of the materials we acquire; (b) we consider it necessary to make changes on many of these cards; (c) we consider it necessary to adapt the recommended classification numbers on the card; and (d) those who furnish cooperative cataloging copy must initiate an expensive process.

Four, if we are to receive the maximum benefit from centralized acquisition and cataloging, we shall have to be willing to accept a uniform assignment of classification numbers and entry form. Likewise, a uniform assignment of subject headings—if we continue our present system of subject cataloging, which I assume reluctantly.

Five, our basic objective is twofold: one, to provide each of us with a union list of our joint holdings, and two, to free each of us of a large share of our present cataloging costs and to a lesser extent of our acquisition costs.

Six, we propose to centralize acquisition not because we expect sizable savings, but because it is a necessary element in centralized cataloging. And now to the proposals:

Plan I. The center would purchase, process, catalog, and mark each publication acquired by the participating libraries and send it along ready for the shelf.

Since it is probably true that the largest share of acquisition cost comes from the selecting function, the center will try to reduce this as much as possible by making advance arrangements with publishers for automatic supplying of new publications according to the nature of the publication and the wishes of each university. Each library will retain the right to acquire and ignore what it wishes, but the center will have enough high quality personnel to enable it to engage in selecting for each library in areas where this is possible.

Sovereignty, nevertheless, stays in each library.

A direct means of conversation communication between each library and the center will be established, so that confused order requests can be handled directly with no wasting of time through letter correspondence.

The center will develop a union list of the holdings of its participating libraries, using a system of Kardex Visible Index on panels which can be kept either on circular posts, in tubs, or in letter file cabinets. The basic size of the entry slip on the visible index panels might be 1″ × 8″, though the height of the slip can vary from ⅛″ to the height of the panel. Each entry will include the classification number, and the bibliographic data for each item. The bottom line of each slip will contain a row of numbers from 1 to 40, each being the symbol for one of the participating libraries. Ownership for each title will be indicated by checking the library's number on each slip.

Basic Catalog

When the holdings of the libraries have been recorded (and here we wave our wand) each panel will be photographed and reproduced by the most appropriate method—photo-offset, enlarged microprints, or Ozalid prints, and the resulting sheets gathered together in volumes and sold to the libraries. We might call this our basic catalog.

This will be each library's identification catalog of its own holdings, as well as for the holdings of the other libraries in the region. Each library will no longer use its own card catalog for this purpose and will discard its identification cards.

Additions

Additions of new titles by the libraries
will be recorded in the visible index master file, either by adding a new entry, or checking ownership as the case may be. There are several ways in which this information can be put into our campus copies of the printed basic catalog. One, each panel could be reproduced as it is changed and new prints sent out to the libraries. Two, a system of cumulative supplements could be used with a new edition of the basic catalog every ten or twenty years.

Individual Library Records

Each library will need to keep a record of its new additions until such time as the record is incorporated into the printed catalog. This could be done in one of several ways. If the title is already listed in the basic catalog, the library would need only to check its number on the relevant card. If the title is not in the catalog, a small card file would be kept until such time as each entry is incorporated in the basic catalog. It will already have such a card from the order process.

Ordering would be done by a typical multiple card order system—copies of which would go to the center and additional copies would remain in each library for whatever use it cared to make of them. Accounting for each library would be done at the center.

Since the Kardex Visible Index panel is flexible in terms of the size of card it will accommodate, it would be feasible to include the necessary cross references for identification, and, of course, we could include title entries if we wished.

Subject Cataloging

For the time being the following method of handling subject cataloging would be used. The center would compile sets of guide cards with L.C. subject headings (plus improvements) printed on the tabs. Each library would buy a set and use this for forming a new subject catalog. Behind each guide card it would file the relevant subject cards it now owns. Its own set of cross references would be discarded.

In the future when new processed books come from the center, they will contain the right number of printed cards to be filed in the subject catalog, but no headings are to be typed on these cards. Each will be filed behind its appropriate subject guide tab.

This method of handling subject headings (as well as “See” and “See also” references) will simplify the business of keeping them up to date. When a change is in order, the center will merely print new guide cards, and send us copies. We will pull the old guide and its accompanying cards. We discard the guide, and file the new guide, and the accompanying cards in their correct alphabetical place. Current changes in subject cross reference will come from the center.

Each library can do as it pleases with special card indexes of purely local matters. If it wishes to have these, it may do so at its own expense.

Each library could do as it pleased with the subject guide cards that are not represented by books in its library. We would leave them there for book selection purposes, if for no better reason.

Standardized Classification

Now on the basis of this bird’s-eye view of a new proposal, we are ready to claim that we could live with standardized classification. Many of the local adaptations that are necessary are shelving problems anyway, not classification problems. Other local adaptations are indulgences just to please someone. We are ready to say that we cannot afford these, because the values

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we get out of them are not very high. This problem should be looked up by someone not hindered by library bias.

Campus location symbols could be added to the identification catalog, and the number of copies owned could be recorded there or in the shelflist, which could be just an extra card furnished by the center. By the way, the center would get these cards from L.C. if available, or it could make its own, or even make its own instead of buying from L.C.

Standardized Subject Headings

Difference of opinion will exist on the centralized classification question, and we will have to count noses sooner or later, but on the question of centralized subject headings as suggested, we fail to see how much of an argument can be developed. Perhaps we are wrong.

Effect of Project on Staffs

What effect would all of this have on our staffs? We would each need a high class bibliographic expert to coordinate the remaining parts of acquisition, cataloging, and bibliographic service. We would need a small staff of filers. The professional members of our order and catalog staffs would be absorbed, in part, by the center, and in part by finding positions in other libraries in other parts of the country, not so fortunate as to be located in the Midwest.

Effect on Library Profession

What effect on the library profession? Well, we all admit now that the primary source of our procurement difficulties lies in our inability to keep high-powered librarians interested, because we can’t separate professional work from clerical duties. This project would make a dent on that problem.

Plan I, as you might guess from reading between the lines of my statement, calls for a complete recasting of the entire purchasing and cataloging system now being used. This is bitter medicine, and is going to be considered radical, Utopian, unrealistic, etc. We are so convinced that drastic measures are called for that the idea no longer frightens us. But others in our midst will react differently.

Second Proposal

Therefore, we propose a second plan for centralization that accepts the present card system, that can be expanded in scope as our group is ready to expand, and that avoids the use of standardized classification and subject headings. Plan II relies upon the printed card system as now used.

The center would develop a union card catalog of our respective holdings, but this would not be reproduced. It would be used mostly for ordering purposes and for the answering of inquiries for interlibrary loan purposes.

Purchasing, processing, and cataloging, but not classification would be done in the center, and books that come to us from the center would have the catalog cards in them. The center would secure L.C. cards if they are available, or it could compose its own. Each library, if it insists, could apply its own classification and subject headings.

It should be obvious that the only economy in this plan, in terms of cataloging costs, comes from central cataloging of the books for which libraries are unable now to secure printed cards from the Library of Congress—approximately 40 per cent, we are told. There might be other economies resulting from central purchasing, but these would never be large and might not exist at all.

Now if we would accept centralized clas-
sification and subject heading assignments from the center, in other words if we would get our cards all ready for the catalog, the economies would be greater, but the task of reconciling present and past records in card form would be complex and perhaps impossible.

Thus, although we are going to develop such a plan, we are probably going to say that our group should either go all the way, or do nothing at all. We are pretty well convinced that in this situation half way measures will probably serve only to add further confusion to an already chaotic condition.

If the Midwest committee is willing to consider the idea of a basically new plan, we shall find ways of studying and solving the problems that must be faced before any new plan could be approved. The problem is not so much one of stubborn details as it is one of agreeing upon fundamental values, and being willing to give up small advantages for the sake of securing large values.

Coordinating Subject Cataloging and Bibliography

Later on we should hope that we would address ourselves to the problem of subjecting the relationship between subject catalogs, printed bibliographies, and abstracting services to fresh, unbiased, scholarly scrutiny. But for the time being, we consider it wise to concentrate our attention on straightening out a program of identification cataloging, and ordering. The two problems are quite different in nature, and probably will require different organization and publication media.

Midwest Library Center and the Farmington Plan

We wish to close this paper by going back to the regional concept in relation to the Farmington Plan. For some time now in the Association of Research Libraries, we have debated the merits of the Farmington Plan, and we have had difficulties because the plan forces us to face up to issues which we do not wish to face or know how.

Our original plan was to assign subject priorities to each library and to make each library accept responsibility for building exhaustive research collections in its priority subjects. We had two objectives: first, to get one copy of everything into the country, and second, to encourage libraries to specialize and to avoid the alleged evils of the present situation which are that we all more or less specialize in the same fields and all ignore the same fields.

We assumed that each university would continue to build large collections for research, but that each would build exhaustive collections in only a few fields, and that these would be divided among the libraries.

If the priorities were to be assigned in broad areas, such as chemistry, modern Russian history, or physics, only the largest libraries could afford to accept such broad responsibility. If the broad fields were to be divided into narrow units, there would be practical difficulties from the point of view of the dealers in getting the books where they belonged, and from the point of view of the librarians, in building expensive subject catalogs to tell scholars where the books are.

Those libraries that were assigned priorities that coincide with major research programs in their universities could justify more or less perpetual commitments in favor of these subjects, because they could assume that their institution would be willing to remain strong in those fields—even at the expense of other departments. But the libraries that could not afford broad and expensive priorities would inevitably have to take subjects that would not be matched
by active research work in their universities. Their librarians hesitated because it seemed illogical, even for the good of the cause, to put money where it would not produce local results.

The miserable part of all this is that we do not really wish to build diversified specialized libraries (beyond certain obvious exceptions) because we know perfectly well that all our universities are going to follow pretty much the same curricular patterns in research (with specific exceptions) and in about the same relative proportions. They will differ more in level of attainment than they will in diversity of effort. These things are determined by factors which are not necessarily subject to the control of the university administrations. This explains why much of our talk in the A.R.L. is so hollow. We really care very little about these minor publications if their acquisition costs us very much.

The second variation in the Farmington Plan was based on a frank realization of these facts. This was the regional idea. This said, let us do what we believe in doing; namely, buy selectively what we think we need in our libraries to support the research activities that are thriving now without regard to what the other universities do. Let us next admit the validity of importing one copy of foreign books, but let us do so in the least expensive and most convenient manner, which would be to put them all in one place so we would know where they were, and would, therefore, not need to build an expensive catalog to locate them. That would logically be at the Library of Congress. But this is a big country and Washington, D.C. is number one target for an atomic bomb, so we said, let us import as many as three copies and spot them regionally, and pay for each of the three collections cooperatively on a regional basis. But there are no regional libraries at the present time, so for the first year we would import only one copy and put it in the Library of Congress, and let the future take care of itself. That is where we are today.

**Summary**

If in Chicago we can have a Midwestern library center that will do the following things:

1. Become a reservoir collection of Farmington importations plus all of the little used materials we wish to get out of our respective collections.
2. Supply us with a union catalog of its and our holdings.
3. Enable us to get rid of a significant per cent of our technical processes costs by doing centralized purchasing and cataloging for us.
4. Supply us with the kind of bibliographic service mentioned earlier in this paper.

Then the Midwest will gain because it will have more books than it now has and better bibliographic service than it now has.

The Universities of Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, and others will gain because we will have to buy less marginal material, we will get rid of a large share of our technical processes costs, we can buy more of the books needed for present day teaching and research, and we can keep the size of our libraries down to where we want them. We will be meeting the problem of library specialization in the only way it can be met honestly and permanently.

Thus, it comes out that our collecting problems are tied up with our cataloging problems. Our cataloging problems can be solved only through centralization. Centralization of cataloging can be done advantageously only when accompanied by central purchasing. Central purchasing can be done advantageously on a unit no larger than the region. So the region is the place to start, and the Midwest is the region in which to start.
Report from Europe

Dr. David is director, University of Pennsylvania Libraries.

Last year under the heading of "Report on Europe" we had a highly informative discourse by a member of the Library of Congress mission. Today we probably have no one among us as qualified as Reuben Peiss was to make such a report, nor would it seem to be called for since the year has seen strides of progress in the resumption of commercial relations with Europe.

"True cooperation" in the field of librarianship and documentation at the international level, which is considered in this paper, is a very large subject. Any qualifications that I have to speak on this subject stem from my recent attendance at the two conferences of the International Federation of Documentation. It will not be a full statement on Europe, but rather a report on a small part of the international program in which I had some part.

For almost fifty years there has been in existence an organization which is now known as the International Federation of Documentation (F.I.D.). It has had a somewhat checkered career. During the war there was difficulty to keep it alive, but it did survive, thanks to the courage and persistence especially of groups in Switzerland and Holland. Since the war it has risen like a Phoenix from the ashes and sprung into new life. It now seems to be marching forward into a new era of usefulness.

There is one feature of the postwar epoch which seems to make a particular reason for the current revival of F.I.D. That is the birth of UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, which has been created in the hope of bringing about better international relations by working with the thoughts of men, and their expression and dissemination throughout the world. Most of you are in some degree familiar with the ambitious program which has been developed for UNESCO, and you know that very considerable parts of that program fall in the realm of librarianship and documentation. Now in general UNESCO, starting from scratch and with a complex organization to create and personnel to assemble before it can become an effective influence, has no desire to become an operating agency or to set up operating agencies of its own so long as it can make use of existing agencies which by reason of their fields of interest, experience, and personnel are in a position to act for it and serve its purposes. In brief, UNESCO desires most of all to be an overall planning and coordinating body in the several fields of its interests rather than to undertake operations of its own in those fields, provided it can get its plans carried out by already existing agencies.

It is for this reason that UNESCO has been greatly interested in F.I.D., in I.F.L.A. (International Federation of Library Associations), and in I.S.O. (International Organization for Standardization). Hence, there has been a peculiar inspiration, not to say stimulation, for these organizations to spring into active life

under the favoring influence of UNESCO.

Let me speak more particularly about F.I.D., in the affairs of which I have had some part. With a spirit and energy truly amazing, it has held two international conferences, one in Paris in bleak November 1946, and the other in Bern last August in a week of glorious weather. Both conferences were remarkably well attended. At the last, there was an attendance of more than 200, and representation of 18 countries and also of the United Nations, UNESCO, the International Organization for Standardization, and the International Federation of Library Associations. Considerable lists of learned papers (since published) were presented at both meetings.

Major Problems

But let me speak not of the papers but of the major problems which were before the council of F.I.D. If the revived federation were to play successfully the role for which it appeared to be cast, it was manifestly necessary to strengthen its organization, revise its constitution, and increase its resources. Much attention has accordingly been given to these matters.

A radically revised constitution appears about to be adopted. Its main features call for F.I.D. to be made up primarily of a group of “national committees,” one from each member country, to which certain international members may be added; for its affairs to be controlled essentially by a council which is representative of the members, but for a smaller committee of action to act at need on behalf of the council between meetings. There is a permanent secretariat at The Hague. The general secretary is F. Donker Duyvis of the Dutch Patent Office. The president is Charles Le-Maistre of London, who is also the general secretary of I.S.O.

The financial resources of F.I.D. have in the past been very limited, the contributions of members being surprisingly small, and the organization has been largely supported by the Dutch national member with some private help and perhaps a certain amount of silent help from the Dutch Patent Office. However, it is now clear that F.I.D. cannot continue on such an informal and insecure financial footing; and, therefore, a revised scale of dues has been adopted which, if all members will pay and if the membership can be successfully extended, will result in a very considerable annual income which in turn will make a more effective secretariat possible. There is also ground to hope that in the near future moderate financial assistance may be obtained from UNESCO—indeed word has come within the last few days from Mexico City which would seem to indicate that a UNESCO grant-in-aid for this year is all but assured.

It is also of the utmost importance that the membership be extended. At the moment there are only eleven or twelve national members; and, until this summer, though a considerable number of individual Americans were members, there had never been an American organization holding a national membership. Naturally with an ambitious postwar program in the course of development, there has been a strong desire to have full American participation and to enjoy the strong financial support which it was conceived an American national member would bring. This has been the problem with which I and my fellow delegates, who, in one way or another have represented the American Council of Learned Societies, the American Library Association and its International Relations Board, the Special Libraries Association, and the American Documentation Institute, have been concerned. There has been much discussion as to just what ought to be done, but in the end I was authorized to apply for American membership on behalf of the
American Documentation Institute, the functions of such American representation to be exercised through an international relations committee of the institute, of which for the time being I am the chairman. In due course I made the application, and I am glad to be able to report that it was received with much enthusiasm and unanimously agreed to.

Expansion of Interests Needed

What this venture implies is that there must be a considerable expansion of the interests and activity of A.D.I. and perhaps also a considerable reorganization. Certainly there must be found from somewhere considerable added financial resources in order that A.D.I. may support adequately even this single contemplated new activity in the international sphere, and there are many who believe that there are other important new activities which A.D.I. must undertake. These problems are now under consideration.

In the international field what is wanted, once we get an effective organization and adequate financial support for F.I.D., is a precise and definite and approved program which can be carried on effectively by international action. It must be confessed that such a program has not yet been fully formulated. F.I.D. has not yet given sufficient attention to the planning of such a program, and a number of features of it will depend in considerable measure upon discussions which are still continuing with UNESCO. Nevertheless, it is possible to illustrate what such a program is likely to be by listing possible parts of it which are now under consideration, or indeed in some cases have actually been launched.

1. Compilation of an international directory, or guide, to documentation and information services.
2. Compilation of an international guide to document reproduction services.
3. Compilation of a series of small, specialized subject lists of periodicals.
4. Publication of an international quarterly, now known as The Review of Documentation.
6. Study and coordination of abstracting services.
7. Study and standardization of the methods and apparatus of document reproduction.
8. Study and standardization of bibliographical methods.
9. Study and standardization of filing systems.
10. Standardization of nomenclature and publication of a multilingual vocabulary of librarianship.
11. Study of classification, including an extension of U.D.C. and the establishment of a concordance between it and the Dewey Decimal Classification.

It is already fairly clear, I think, that if action is to be effective there will have to be courageous pruning of the program in order to prevent a dissipation of energies.

The problems of American participation and the program of F.I.D. have diverted me for the moment from the point with which I was concerned, namely the importance of expanding the membership of F.I.D. While great importance was attached to having the United States come in, there was also a strong desire to extend the membership to a number of other countries; and it is known that in some other countries, notably in South Africa and Ireland, efforts are now under way to bring this about. There was a special resolution emphasizing the desirability of bringing in a number of South American countries. It is greatly to be hoped that the national membership will be considerably increased.

I have already referred to two other international organizations with functions somewhat parallel with those of F.I.D., namely I.S.O. (International Organization of Standardization) and I.F.L.A. (Inter-
national Federation of Library Associations).

As I have already noted, the current president of F.I.D. is also the general secretary of I.S.O. This has made it easy to bring about an understanding between the two organizations for a delimitation of their fields of interest and action. An agreement was formally accepted by F.I.D. at Bern which assigns to F.I.D. sole authority in matters relating to the Universal Decimal Classification but canalizes most matters relating to standardization at the international level through I.S.O., with the proviso, however, that F.I.D. and I.F.L.A. shall be represented at such discussions and kept fully informed of decisions.

F.I.D. and I.F.L.A.

Steps have also been taken to maintain harmonious and cooperative relations between F.I.D. and I.F.L.A. The latter, as most of you doubtless are aware, has been quite as active since the close of the war as has F.I.D. There was a preliminary meeting in Geneva last year. This year in May a much more ambitious congress of the International Committee of I.F.L.A. was held in Oslo. It has been announced that another meeting will be held in this country in 1948, probably in September, though I have learned recently that current economic and exchange difficulties have forced a postponement of that plan. I was not present at the Oslo congress, but I have looked over the proof sheets of its published *Actes*, and I gain an impression of some fairly close parallels with F.I.D. (and to a lesser degree with I.S.O.). Both organizations are interested in a number of the same things, some joint committees have been set up between them, and many of the same individuals participate in both. Both organizations are cooperating closely with UNESCO. I am sure that many of you have found it difficult to distinguish to your own satisfaction between documentation and librarianship, and therefore the thought will have occurred to you that there may be a certain redundancy in these two international organizations operating in such closely related fields, indeed that a merger between them might be desirable. This thought has certainly occurred to me, as it has to others who have given attention to this matter and whose judgment I respect; and I believe that there is also a feeling among some of the leaders in UNESCO that such a consolidation would be desirable. However, I also sense a certain spirit of rivalry between some librarians and some documentalists which leads me to believe that a merger between these two organizations, desirable though it might be, could hardly be accomplished quickly.

Now I think I have really said my say, but there are some other examples of cooperation at the international level which are of current interest and about which I shall venture to say a few words.

One is the clean-cut piece of work which is now all but accomplished of the American Book Center for War Devastated Libraries, Inc. (A.B.C.), an organization which stems originally, I believe, from the Council of National Library Associations, and has carried on its operations in the Library of Congress. Since its inception, I understand that A.B.C. has gathered in this country and distributed to war-devastated libraries abroad something like 4,000,000 pieces, which are calculated to have amounted in all to about 1,100,000 volumes. Shipments have gone all told to 33 different countries, although the major portion of them has gone to 13 countries. The project was first designed to run for something like a year, then it was extended to two years, ending in December 1947. Naturally its funds are now running low, and the in-flow of materials for distribution abroad has begun to dry up. Nevertheless, it has not been pos-
sible to bring the project to an end as promptly as was planned, and its board of directors formally voted to dissolve it as of Mar. 31, 1948, "or as soon thereafter as the affairs of the corporation can be liquidated." However, there is strong pressure from various quarters not to let the enterprise end so abruptly. For one thing, there has been created by the fine achievement of A.B.C. a goodwill which it seems a pity to let be dissipated; for another, books continue to flow into the center (and the flow could certainly be stimulated), and the need abroad continues and various organizations like UNESCO, the Commission on International Educational Reconstruction, and the State Department's Office of Voluntary Foreign Aid, are desirous of having the work continued. There is a possibility that additional funds to support the enterprise may be forthcoming early in 1948, perhaps from the organization known as American Overseas Aid. And finally, even though the work of A.B.C. in its present form should come to an end in the relatively near future, there is the possibility that it might be converted from a one-way to a two-way enterprise and continued as an agency for international exchanges.

**Successor Agency to A.B.C.**

The decision to dissolve the center on Mar. 31, 1948, therefore, was so worded as to clear the way for the formation of a more permanent successor agency which would take over its assets and goodwill, carry on its unfinished work, and develop new activities, such as those of an exchange center, which would gradually change its character but perpetuate its usefulness. The first steps toward the formation of such a successor agency have already been taken, and it may confidently be expected that as A.B.C. in its present form dissolves the new organization will be in readiness to take over.

Another subject about which I ought to speak briefly is the Cooperative Acquisition of Recent Foreign Publications Project of the Library of Congress which has saved from destruction and brought to our collections many hundreds of thousands of volumes. On the side of procurement in Europe you had the full report on this project by Mr. Peiss a year ago. Before that and since, many of us who have responsibility for research libraries have had abundant experience on the receiving end. The experience has not always been to our entire satisfaction because, to speak very candidly among friends, we have inevitably received a good many items which we did not want, and we tend to give our attention to these while we remain unconscious of the great number of very valuable items which have been received at small cost and which, in a good many cases, we should have been hardly able to attain through our individual efforts. When the enterprise is viewed as a whole, in spite of these imperfections, it stands forth as an admirable example of cooperation and library statesmanship. According to the latest word, it is now anticipated that the project will be completed by June 30 next year, and possibly even by April 30.

Another enterprise which I should mention is the Princeton Conference on International Exchanges which was held in November 1946. The conference ended with the drafting of two dozen far-reaching resolutions, many of them involving cooperation at the international level. As usually happens with resolutions, it has not been easy to implement them in such a way as to make them effective; and their implications are so broad that a precise report on them is difficult. But I may note that the proposal which I have discussed to convert A.B.C. into an international exchange center grows directly out of them. So also does a recent achievement of the Associa-
tion of Research Libraries in gaining important relief for importing libraries from customs barriers and costs. Several of the Princeton resolutions are now under study by appropriate committees, notably committees of the A.R.L.

Perhaps the most conspicuous example of cooperation at the international level is the Farmington Plan, which is the principal enterprise now before the Association of Research Libraries and is intended when fully developed to bring into this country and centrally record, at least one copy of every foreign publication of probable research value. Though the Farmington Plan is older than the Princeton resolutions, it figures prominently among them. The Association of Research Libraries is currently at grips with it. Matters have been in something of a crisis since the meeting in San Francisco last summer; but we got back on the track at a meeting here on the Columbia campus, Nov. 28, 1947. So the decision still stands to put the plan into effect experimentally for 1948 imprints, to be obtained from three foreign countries, namely Sweden, Switzerland, and France.

**Overlapping in Abstracting Field**

Finally, let me say something about a significant effort on the part of UNESCO in the field of abstracting (this also gets mentioned in one of the Princeton resolutions). There has been much concern because of overlapping and competition between four abstracting services which are now operating in the biological and medical fields, namely, *Biological Abstracts, British Abstracts, World Abstracts of Medical Sciences*, and *Excerpta Medica*. Accordingly, on the initiative of the Natural Sciences Section of UNESCO, a conference was called in Paris early last October of representatives of these four services, of the American Medical Association, of the World Health Organization, and of F.I.D. with a view to bringing about orderly coverage of the fields in question, with close cooperation substituted for competition, with the elimination of unnecessary duplication, and with a reduction of expense to subscribers. Naturally the conferees were not in a position to make binding agreements on the spot; but it can, I think, be said that very real progress was made. For one thing it became clear that such cooperative agreements are only practicable among nonprofit organizations, and I understand that *Excerpta Medica* is now in process of being transformed into such an organization. For another thing it appeared clear that important cooperative agreements of the kind that have been suggested are practical and probably will be concluded in due course. The conference achieved a sufficient preliminary success to encourage UNESCO to consider the calling, possibly late next year, of a much larger conference to deal with the abstracting problem on a broader scale; and in the meantime it was decided to set up an interim committee of the interests which were represented at the Paris conference to work for a realization of the proposed agreements on cooperation among the four services and to prepare the way for the larger conference.

I have now run through the list of cooperative efforts in the field of librarianship and documentation at the international level about which I have some knowledge. My general conclusion is that while progress will probably appear to you to be slow, that a discouraging amount of time and effort are being consumed in preliminaries, still on the whole the prospect is an encouraging one. There have already been some concrete accomplishments, and there is fair hope of much greater achievements in the not too distant future. We must build on what has already been done.
New Periodicals of 1947—Part II

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The interesting feature of the assignment to list and evaluate the more important new periodical publications of a given six months' period is the surprise experienced when working out a subject arrangement for the discussion of them. Subjects are never represented in the same manner in any two lists. International relations was the subject of most importance in the last list. In the present list international research is represented by the greatest number of scholarly new journals.

International Research

Biochimica et Biophysica Acta, an International Journal of Biochemistry and Biophysics, is published in New York. It has an international editorial board. Articles are to be in English, French, or German, with summaries in both English and French. Behavior, an International Journal of Comparative Ethology, is published in Leyden and edited by professors from Switzerland, England, Finland, and the Netherlands. Contributions are requested to be written in a "congress language." Dialectica; International Review of Philosophy of Knowledge is published in Neuchatel and has an international board of consultants. Articles of the first issue were in French and German, with summaries in French, German, and English. Although Heredity, published in London, has the subtitle, "an international journal of genetics," it does not seem to be of a strictly international character like those listed above.

More numerous than usual were the new publications in science. The Institute of Botany of the Academia Sinica of Shanghai began a quarterly Botanical Bulletin of Academia Sinica which will contain the scientific contributions from the institute. The American Academy of Applied Nutrition initiated its Journal with the Spring 1947 issue. The purpose of this society and its Journal is to promote and advance by educational means the science and art of nutrition, especially as it pertains to the prevention and treatment of disease. From the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science came Australasian Herbarium News. Economic Botany, a quarterly, founded, managed, edited and published by Edmund H. Fulling, at the New York Botanical Garden, has contributions on such important commercial products as tung oil, rubber, chicle, etc. Journal of Glaciology, published by the British Glaciological Society, will "publish articles on all aspects of snow and ice research from the purely scientific to the essentially practical." Meteorologische Rundschau is published in the U.S. zone of Berlin with the approval of the military government. It will report on meteorological research in and outside of Germany.

Literature and Language

Cuadernos de Literatura, Revista General de las Letras and its supplement, Acanto, Antologia Literaria, published by the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas in Madrid, will publish not only critical studies of literature of all times

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and themes, but in the supplement will reprint in modern orthography old texts as well as modern texts. The editor of *Scottish Periodical* hopes that by providing opportunity for new and good writing there may come a renascence of spirit and letters in Scotland or elsewhere. *Journal of Cuneiform Studies*, published in New Haven, Conn., by the American Schools of Oriental Research, "will work for proper coordination of linguistic technique, textual analysis, and archaeological interpretation" of cuneiform writings. *Romance Philology*, published in Berkeley and Los Angeles, with an editorial board representing Bryn Mawr, University of North Carolina, University of Illinois, and Ohio State University, has contributions in English, French, and Spanish.

**Book Collecting and Book Selling**

In January 1947 *Imprimatur; a Literary Quarterly for Bibliophiles*, now published in Cincinnati, appeared in Winston-Salem, N.C. It has articles on books, authors, book plates, wrappers and other subjects of interest to book collectors. Less impressive, but of similar purpose and scope is *Horn’s; the Magazine for Booklovers*. What seems to be a new field for a periodical is *Book Merchandising*. It will publish articles reporting on good, sound, workable book merchandising ideas.

**Student Publications**

*The Hopkins Review*, starting with the Fall 1947 issue, is a literary magazine whose contributors are students and faculty at Johns Hopkins University. With the Winter 1947 issue, the students at George Washington University started a new literary magazine, *The Surveyor*. In addition to a literary magazine from nearly every university and college, we now have an intercollegiate student magazine. It is *Prologue* which started publication in Brunswick, Me., in December 1947.

**Little Magazines**

Always represented in the list of new periodicals are the "little magazines." During the last six months they seemed to have flourished. John Farrar, in an article, "This Galluping Age," in the first issue of *Touchstone*, says we need "little magazines," magazines that are creative rather than critical, which avoid preciosity as defiantly as they side-step Mamon. *The Ark*, published in San Francisco, claims it is going to be "a magazine with consistent anti-Statist attitudes." *Contour*, published in Berkeley, is to be an outlet for the unknown writer and artist. For the same purpose is *Nuances*, from New York. *Epoch, a Quarterly of Contemporary Literature*, published "at" Cornell University and *Perspective*, published "from" the University of Louisville, have no apparent official connection with these universities. Their contributors are teachers and writers with only an occasional contribution from a student. *The Tiger’s Eye on Arts and Letters* is to be a "bearer of ideas and art." The first issue contained poems, essays, translations from South American poets, and numerous plates. Perhaps *Writers’ Rejects* might be included here. This monthly wishes to assist writers by printing their rejected stories together with criticisms to show why they did not sell.

**Aeronautes**

A new publication specializing in "broad economic-legal-political aspects of sky commerce" is *Aereports*, published monthly in New York. An entire issue is devoted to a single subject.

**Athletics**

For coaches and directors of athletics and recreation in all branches of amateur
sports is Athletic Review. Up-to-date information on methods and techniques will be presented in illustrated articles.

Demography

Population Studies, a Quarterly Journal of Demography, sponsored by the Population Investigation Committee at the London School of Economics and Political Science, will publish contributions concerned with demographic research and technique.

Engineering

Operating Engineer, formerly Operating Engineer section of Power, began an independent existence in October 1947. Subjects treated will be those of interest to engineers responsible for the operation and maintenance of power services, such as air conditioning, heating and power transmission. Nucleonics, published by McGraw-Hill, will present technical reports on the applications of nuclear physics and new applications of nuclear energy.

History

The American Association for State and Local History started a quarterly in January 1947, entitled American Heritage. It aims to arouse interest in the study and technique of teaching local history.

Labor

Industrial and Labor Relations Review published by the New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Cornell University, deals generally with the broad subject of labor education. The Australian Newsletter, published in San Anselmo, Calif., presents a picture of present day economic conditions and labor opportunities in Australia.

Law

Texas Law and Legislation, written and edited by students of the Southern Methodist University School of Law, will appear twice a year. Each issue will be devoted to a single general topic.

Numismatics

Numismatic Literature, will be published under the direct administration of the editor of the American Numismatic Society and the sponsorship of the society's publication committee. The first issue included a listing of numismatic books, articles and catalogs which appeared during 1940-45.

Philosophy and Psychology

Wiener Zeitschrift für Philosophie, Psychologie, Pädagogik appeared in January 1947. It will report on the progress of philosophical, psychological and pedagogical studies in Austria and elsewhere. Book reviews will be included. The Journal of Child Psychiatry aims to be an "international" forum for independent and original contributions.

Photography

Photography was begun for those persons whose interests extend beyond trivial gadgets. Articles on lens coating, trivision, color, action, etc., in the first issue should interest both professionals and amateurs.

Religion

Interpretation, that is, Biblical interpretation, is being published in Richmond, Va., as a successor to Union Seminary Review.

Social Sciences

Laszlo Radvanyi has begun the publication of another journal in Mexico, The Social Sciences in Mexico and News about the Social Sciences in South and Central America. His theory is that the understanding and solution of economic and social problems contribute to peace.

Statistics

The American Statistician is an editorial
medium for the American Statistical Association. Its publication was begun in August as a successor to the association’s Bulletin. It includes news and articles on the use and application of statistics.

Periodicals

Acanto,


Australasian Herbarium News. Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science, Systematic Botany Committee, Dr. R. T. Patton, chairman. School of Botany, University of Melbourne, Victoria. no. 1, June 1947. 2 nos. a year. Price not given.


Cuadernos de Literatura. Instituto “Antonio de Nebrija” de Filología, Madrid. v. 1, no. 1, January-February 1947. 6 nos. a year. 50 ptas.


Heredity. Oliver and Boyd, Ltd., 98 Great Russell St., W.C., London. v. 1, pt. 1, July 1947. 3 nos. a year. £2 15s.

The Hopkins Review. The Hopkins Review, Baltimore 18, v. 1, no. 1, Fall 1947. 3 nos. a year.

Horn’s: the Magazine for Booklovers. Charles W. and Zonetta C. Horn, P.O. Box 71, Santa Ana, Calif. v. 1, no. 1, September 1947. Monthly. $2.50.


Population Studies. The population studies of the Social Sciences in Mexico, Laszlo Radvanyi, Donato Guerra 1, Desp. 209, Mexico, v. 1, no. 1, October 1947. Frequency not given. 5¢.

The Social Sciences in Mexico, Laszlo Radvanyi, Donato Guerra 1, Desp. 209, Mexico, v. 1, no. 1, October 1947. Frequency not given. 5¢.

Prologue. Prologue, P.O. Box 521, Brunswick, Me. v. 1, no. 1, December 1947. Frequency not given. 5¢.


National Bibliography and Bibliographical Control:
A Symposium

In the April 1947 issue of College and Research Libraries the “Recommendations Adopted by the Conference on International Cultural, Educational, and Scientific Exchanges, Princeton, N.J., Nov. 26, 1946” were published. One of the important recommendations was the development of a complete current national bibliography. Because of the importance of this problem, the editors print below a paper on “National Bibliography and Bibliographical Control,” by Paul Vanderbilt, of the Library of Congress staff, together with an introductory memorandum by Luther H. Evans, Librarian of Congress. There are also included comments by Theodore Besterman, Jerome K. Wilcox, and Rebecca Rankin. Since there are various aspects of the proposal which are not covered in the remarks of the commentators, it is suggested that readers having viewpoints other than those expressed here send them to the editor. It may be possible to publish them in a subsequent issue.

Introductory Memorandum

1. I attach hereto a memorandum entitled “National Bibliography and Bibliographical Control” prepared by Paul Vanderbilt of the staff of the Library of Congress.

2. This memorandum has been prepared in direct response to the resolution adopted at the Conference on International Cultural, Educational, and Scientific Exchanges, Princeton, N.J., Nov. 26, 1946, as follows:

It is recommended that the Library of Congress should formulate and present to A.L.A., A.R.L., S.L.A., and other library associations in this country, for their comment and criticism, plans for editing and publishing a complete current national bibliography of the United States, involving as may be necessary the coordination of existing efforts in this field, such as the catalogs of the Superintendent of Documents, the Monthly Checklist of State Publications, Cumulative Book Index, Catalog of Copyright Entries, and other sources, and looking to the coverage of fields not now covered, such as municipal documents, house organs, etc.

and pursuant to the decision, taken at the meeting on Jan. 22, 1947 to follow up on the Princeton conference, that the Library of Congress would accept the job, and would have something ready for comment and criticism at the June meeting of A.L.A. at Atlantic City.

3. As you know, the discussions regarding “bibliographical control of research materials” go back as far as does the need for it. In the very recent past there have been the extensive discussions and researches of the joint Committee on Indexing and Abstracting in the Major Fields of Research, representing 10 libraries and other professional associations, which, in its final report in 1945 recommended that coordination of bibliographical activity be recognized as a function of the federal government. In the more recent past we have seen, in the suggestions submitted for the program of UNESCO, that the crying need of intellectual workers throughout the world is the information regarding the published materials within their respective fields of research. Most recent, of course, we have the action of the Princeton conference. But the instances which I cite are merely indicative and symptomatic of a universal need.

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4. Mr. Vanderbilt's paper is the first essay toward the development of a genuinely comprehensive plan to meet this need. In no sense does it attempt to provide all, or even a large number, of the answers. It does, however, attempt to strike at the root of the problem and to provide a fundamental answer. It cannot, in any sense, be taken to represent the official and final opinion of the Library of Congress; nor is it to be assumed that the Library of Congress is prepared to execute the plan which is projected. In brief, Mr. Vanderbilt's paper is an attempt to formulate a proposal for basic bibliographical control of the materials of research—basic in the sense that, once done it would not have to be repeated, and also in the sense that further bibliographical activity might be developed on a basis of it.

5. I hope that the paper may be read and discussed in this light. As I have said above, it does not presume to give all, or even a large number, of answers. It does not, for example, tell us whether we should give up the separate publication of the Catalog of Copyright Entries or of the Monthly Check-list of State Publications. It does not tell us whether the catalog should separate books from music and maps, or list them together; whether official publications should be arranged with belles-lettres or separated therefrom. And, if it does not give us the answers regarding our own bibliographical publications or our own bibliographical procedures, it is much further from providing answers with regard to publications or procedures which are not our own.

6. We hope for discussion of the basic principle. We hope for criticism. We hope for suggestions, however wild or ideal. We propose to go on from this statement to a convincing and—we hope—a practicable cooperative plan. Luther H. Evans Librarian of Congress.

By PAUL VANDERBILT

National Bibliography and Bibliographical Control

In the Library of Congress, we have been talking among ourselves for a long time about bibliographical controls. We haven't always called it that, or even bibliographical planning, a term which we used in connection with setting up a specific project for investigation. This project has been envisaged in several different ways. As a possible future staff appointment, it was described in terms of need for an energetic and imaginative person to develop and coordinate the bibliographical services rendered by the library to the other libraries of the nation, through card distribution, through the union catalog, through bibliographical and reference service, and through interlibrary loans, to plan an expanded service program for the library as a whole, and supervise its execution. As something more preliminary, it has been discussed in terms of need for an energetic and imaginative person to develop and coordinate the bibliographical services rendered by the library to the other libraries of the nation, through card distribution, through the union catalog, through bibliographical and reference service, and through interlibrary loans, to plan an expanded service program for the library as a whole, and supervise its execution. As something more preliminary, it has been discussed in terms of need for someone who would travel and talk to librarians and others throughout the country, exploring the achievements already reached and the plans in mind, with a view to gaining an adequate measurement of professional thinking as well as details of actual accomplishment. In still other preparatory terms, we have thought of collecting data on what has already been written on the integration of bibliographical controls, with special reference to specific plans so that they can be compared, and compiling lists of individuals, committees, and organizations known to be working, not necessarily on individual bibliographies but rather on the coordination of all bibliographical effort. So far, our findings are that there is little unanimity of opinion, and no one who has given the matter any close observation or well-informed reflection will find this surprising.

There are two kinds of intensive activities stirring. There is impassioned urging that the mastery of recorded knowledge be considered as of such enormous importance as to underlie the future of peace, the future of research, and the future of practically every activity of mankind, and theoretical promising that this mastery will achieve through records the same accuracy of communication from mind to mind that conversation, the telephone, and the mails have already given us. The other kind of activity conjures up particular projects: to list periodicals accord-
ing to their principal subject content, to establish uniform codes for citing the abbreviated titles of periodicals, to issue a union bibliography of publications in the field of international relations, to present a uniform code for cataloging books printed in Hebrew, to microcopy for preservation newspapers printed upon perishable paper, and so on almost ad infinitum. Those who hope for world accord and concerted action along the entire front of the struggle for control of recorded knowledge retire almost inevitably, in the end, behind a pious hope for a change in human nature, for the imposition of legal regulations, for spontaneous cooling of some of the hottest arguments known to the learned world, or possibly for the help of a super-electronic mechanical aid to thinking. The protagonists of limited, isolated schemes fare much better, and the great progress that has been made is due precisely to their unremitting, intensive energy in independent creative effort. Their trouble is mainly lack of funds. Most of these projects are expensive, and the amount of readily available money is insufficient to finance them all, so that competition inevitably prevails over rational selection.

With the announcement of UNESCO, many saw on the horizon a kind of international Rockefeller Foundation which, to those who come first, with the most appealing arguments, might be an ideal solution, but such hopefuls have often read the UNESCO documents without sufficient breadth of interpretation or possibly without sufficient care. UNESCO, like every other intelligent effort, is attempting to make known to one party what other parties are doing, to serve as a medium for the comparison of projects, in the hope that independent action all over the world, with the addition of an improved knowledge of similar efforts elsewhere, may become a little more effective, and that eventually there may develop a kind of common denominator, an expressed and well-understood point of departure.

The specific projects which yield the most valuable results are those which bear within them a common denominator, some part of a universal approach to the difficulties of bibliography as a whole. Our problem is “to find the comprehensive pattern which will satisfy the needs of all significant groups,” that is, to depend upon a variety of projects to produce final results, but to provide a uniform base of raw material, or preliminary listing and sorting upon which the specialized projects may draw. We at the library look closely at our costly and time-consuming operations to see whether the base for further refinement which we hope for is really being established. Our large staff of descriptive catalogers costs a great deal of money, and we have so far acted on the assumption that their efforts were essential and the expense inevitable. The union catalog has been a great enterprise, but it has not yet literally solved the problem of locating in some American library at least one copy of every important research book, for this it cannot do until it is literally complete, and until the gaps which it reveals have been filled in. Our public catalog, made so carefully, still does not simply and unerringly reveal the true complete content of the library, including periodical literature, on any topic, but continues to answer questions with riddles.

We have become concerned about bibliographical planning in connection with great projects outside the library. The Bibliographic Index, concerning the development and value of which there is a certain difference of opinion, is apparently now limited to material which can be inspected for assignment of subject headings in New York City, and yet this is the only tool of its kind. A survey has revealed 243 indexing and abstracting services, and for all of this intensive effort there is still widespread complaint that the periodical literature of the world is irregularly and incompletely covered. Demands are made upon us either for a complete subject bibliography or for selective reduction of the mass of potential material, and we are again and again faced with the choice between a laborious committee-approved bibliographical compilation or an answer, perhaps to an important inquiry, that so far as we know there is really no adequate tool available. This sort of thing happens all over the world, and it is only in certain fields where special interests have poured vast sums of money into reference media, as chemists or the legal profession or, for instance, the nickel industry have done, that any really satisfactory degree of control has been achieved. We look to these and other specific accomplishments, however, for a kind of guid-

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ance which stirs our imagination and both technically and ideologically may point the way. We have a great measure of bibliographical control. We have trade lists and national lists, a constant stream of bibliographies and bibliographies of bibliographies. We have, if you will exempt the details, a pretty widely accepted system of recording bibliographical items, of cataloging, and of citation. In some slow but sure way it has become the almost universal practice to provide books with title pages for identification, and to gather books together into libraries. We have come a long way. But we have a long way to go, and we wonder whether we are going about it as effectively as we might if all the facts were known.

One phase of our discussion at the library reached an important turning point at our decision to issue the *Cumulative Catalog* of Library of Congress Printed Cards, the details of which have been given in the announcement issues of the Processing Department's *Cataloguing Service* bulletins for last November and December. A review published in the *Library Journal* last May 15 says:

It seems only reasonable to term the new publication one of the major forward steps in centralized cataloging in the United States since the inauguration of printed card sales near the turn of the century. . . . Methods of bibliographic description can now be standardized and simplified. Those who dream of printed book catalogs replacing cards in future libraries now have a new tool with which to experiment, while the goal of complete centralized description and location of the bibliographic resources of the nation can now be measureably nearer.

We would never have taken a step of this sort without the careful consideration with which many of you have come in contact and without the conviction that we were on the right track. So far, professional opinion has supported our confidence.

*L.C. Card-Production*

By definition, the *Cumulative Catalog* reproduces, so as to provide an additional means of distribution, the cards originally produced for cataloging purposes within the library. Certain modifications, in fact, in the design and mechanical handling of cards have directly resulted from the method of producing the *Cumulative Catalog*. Taken altogether, card production is bibliographically probably the library's most important enterprise, and the one which has had the greatest effect upon the practices of other libraries. There are still innumerable questions of detail to be settled, and every thoughtful and technically skilled cataloger engages in differences of opinion with the Processing Department. Yet we can point to a group of techniques and an embodiment of plans which may be said not only to have worked, within the scale originally contemplated, but to have survived enormous expansion in scope. The making of cards, moreover, is the operation which technical librarianship has carried to the greatest refinement, and consequently, is the point upon which the greatest intensity of discussion in relation to the importance of the detail involved can be aroused. However, excepting for the various services such as the *Engineering Index* which issue their material in card form, most card production has been conceived in terms of the needs of individual library catalogs. While a number of international codes have been proposed for adoption, it seems to us that insufficient thought has been given to card production as the first step in international bibliographical control, the raw material upon which subsequent operations rest. So our discussion has often started on the issue of how far the card-producing activity of the library should be carried and whether it is possible to achieve an expanded coverage with cards made according to present standards. Our thinking ahead leads us to base our plans on existing accomplishments.

We should not limit our thinking ahead to the original intention of producing high-standard card catalogs for our own use and giving other libraries a chance to benefit by the work. It has already become more than that. A great many bibliographical projects are based upon a review of proof sheets issued during the production of cards. Fundamentally a card is a one-item bibliography, the original record, the point where all other bibliographical operations begin, for even lists are usually made from slips or rudimentary cards. In one way or another we have become responsible for a supply of bibliographical raw material, and, to the considerations of accuracy, reasonable consistency, profes-
sional workmanship and availability, we must now add that of complete coverage. We must consider whether uniform card production covering the entire national output of recorded knowledge, from a certain year onward, does not underlie all major projects for selection, analysis, and bibliographical control. In this concept, cards are not intended solely for catalog purposes, but also, because they can be manipulated, for sorting for bibliographical purposes. To what extent is bibliography handicapped by the fact that for the United States there is no complete listing of the entire mass of raw description in a form which can be physically broken down as a starting point for particular projects? The most obvious answer is that coverage of this sort for one nation's output even if it could be achieved, is not going to give us subject coverage, which does not follow national lines. But just as selective lists of subject references must be based on complete lists from which the unnecessary matter is discarded, so the complete subject lists must be based on more inclusive lists of production, probably in national units.

I am intentionally discussing card production before book-form national bibliography because of our conception of a national bibliography, not only as a list of bibliographical items published, but also as a list of descriptive cards introduced into the bibliographical machinery and available. Direct production of a book-form catalog, while it might have typographical advantages, seems to us less of an accomplishment than one operation which produces both cards for sorting and books for distribution, checking, and reference. After exhaustive inquiry and experimentation, the Processing Department evolved the method of reproducing the cards in book form by photo-offset which we now feel has such promise.

Should the fact that we cannot hope to produce descriptive cards for the whole world's yearly output delay us in trying to provide the basic inventory for the United States, if that much is within our power? The national unit is a very logical unit, and one which practically every planner has used.

Herbert Putnam, writing on the future of the Library of Congress in Emily Miller Danton's The Library of Tomorrow, published in 1939, calls attention to the 6,000 regular purchasers of the cards prepared by the library and goes on to say that the "fullness and scholarly accuracy of the entries on these cards requires so much labor that the output cannot begin to keep pace with incoming material. Ideally, this service should constitute a central cataloguing bureau for the entire country but, actually, it falls far short of doing so. To achieve this ideal a larger staff of cataloguers is needed as well as a larger appropriation for printing and distribution of the cards and for the acquisition of books." Great improvements have since been made in the degree to which cataloging keeps pace with incoming material, particularly with the inception of cataloging by the Copyright Office, and various phases of the cooperative cataloging program have extended the scope. John Shaw Billings, in his presidential address to the American Library Association in 1902, spoke as follows:

I think it well, however, to remind you of your duties to this your national library, and especially that the librarian of every city, town, or village in the country should make it his or her business to see that one copy of every local, noncopyrighted imprint, including all municipal reports and documents, all reports of local institutions, and all addresses, accounts of ceremonies, etc., which are not copyrighted and do not come into the booktrade, is promptly sent to our national library.

The current tendency is not to propose that all of the needed cataloging work should be done at one place because of the great difficulty of physically assembling it, but rather to suggest that librarians must "see to it that the cataloging and bibliographical work is done by the whole library community and by others engaged in the similar work of placing important facts under current fingertip control."

In the first place, can we accept the thesis that it is desirable that a specific group of libraries should, taken together, acquire the entire United States output year by year, and that their cataloging efforts taken together would thus produce cards for the entire national output, which, if gathered together and published in annual volumes with cumulations, would constitute a desirable system of national bibliography?

In the words of the recommendation of the Library of Congress Planning Committee, the library is urged, as part of its leadership
in cooperative movements, and as part of its share of the national library program on behalf of nonfederal libraries and of individuals who are not federal employees, to undertake "... the printing at regular intervals of as complete a list as possible of publications currently published in the U.S. ..."

The Conference on International Cultural, Educational, and Scientific Exchanges, held at Princeton, N.J., Nov. 26, 1946, recommended that:

... UNESCO and other suitable agencies and groups, governmental and nongovernmental, encourage national governments, national library associations, and other agencies in every country to see to it that there is published for each country a current national bibliography, which will include in an author arrangement under broad subjects, in one or more sections or parts, the following types of material, listed in the order of importance:

a. Books and pamphlets in the book trade
b. Government documents at all levels
c. Nongovernment periodicals
d. Newspapers; and, if possible:
e. Miscellaneous publications
f. Motion pictures, including news reels, documentaries, instructional films, and photoplays.

We believe there is a place and need for both selective and comprehensive national bibliographies, but because of their fundamental importance we recommend that priority be given to effecting arrangements for securing bibliographies of the comprehensive type.

It is recommended that the Library of Congress should formulate and present to A.L.A., A.R.L., S.L.A., and other library associations in this country, for their comment and criticism, plans for editing and publishing a complete current national bibliography of the United States, involving as may be necessary the coordination of existing efforts in this field, such as the catalogs of the Superintendent of Documents, the Monthly Checklist of State Publications, Cumulative Book Index, Catalog of Copyright Entries, and other sources, and looking to the coverage of fields not now covered, such as municipal documents, house organs, etc.

Subsequent action, following up the Princeton recommendations, taken at an informal meeting held in the Library of Congress on Jan. 22, 1947, resulted in a commitment that the library would present a plan for a national bibliography at the San Francisco convention of the American Library Association.

The Assembly of Librarians of the American cas which has just been meeting at the Library of Congress included in the recommendations of its Committee on Education for Librarianship "that steps be taken to organize as soon as possible the bibliographical patrimony of each country in accordance with the latest requirements of library science and utilizing appropriate practices and techniques;" and in the recommendations of its Committee on Bibliography that "in view of the circumstance that repeated recommendations of international organizations concerning the desirability of publishing national bibliographies have not been heeded except in a few countries ... , national libraries or bibliographical institutions be charged with the duty of bringing to fruition the compilation and publication of national bibliographies of their respective countries, where such work is not already being realized either commercially or by government agencies."

The recommendation of the Princeton Conference does not clearly state that this plan must necessarily involve a single publication or a new one, and it implies nothing one way or another on the effect which a full material bibliography would have on lists now current which would be duplicated in part. All of the existing lists have a distinct function to fulfil, and the library proposal to expand its card-producing facilities and its Cumulative Catalog to a point of all-inclusiveness seems to us in no way to interfere with any of the existing publication programs of more restricted scope and perhaps greater usefulness. If our inquiry were directed at the publication of the national bibliography alone, we might well explore the question whether the Cumulative Book Index, the Catalog of Copyright Entries, the Monthly Checklist of State Publications, the Monthly Catalogue of U.S. Public Documents with other standard lists, taken together, constitute an approach to national bibliography, and that all that is needed is a supplement which would list publications not included in any other list.

But the established major lists are themselves parts of a pyramidal structure from which the apex is lacking. There are other more partial lists of publications of particular agencies of the government, from which the entries are repeated in the Superintendent of Documents' inclusive list. Last March the
Congressional Joint Committee on Printing approved a resolution eliminating the biennial catalog of government publications, on the theory that the essential purposes could be accomplished by the monthly list and annual index. The Superintendent of Documents also issues selective lists, such as the 46-page One Hundred Selected Books Now Available ... published in 1946. And there is no list which literally covers the entire output of the federal government, including material, often of great value, processed independently by the various agencies. The New Hampshire State Library, the Maine State Library, and the Universities of North Carolina, Arkansas, and Florida are issuing lists of material for their respective states. The California State Library covers bibliographically the publications of California municipalities, and the municipal reference library in Chicago has likewise undertaken a local bibliographical function. Jerome Kear Wilcox' Manual on the Use of State Publications and the lists on state documents published every other year in Special Libraries are but two of the items in what is already a fairly complex bibliography on the listing and availability of our national output. We have not yet actually tried to make a list of current bibliographies which, taken altogether, would indicate everything issued in the United States, and this should be a part of a fully-developed attack on the problem, but that list would be sufficiently long to show that literally complete national bibliography involves more than a few convenient reference tools. Moreover, as already suggested, the approach to complete national bibliography through use of a number of existing lists takes no account of that desirability of producing at the same time the same information in card form for the entries may be filed for reference." So far as our plans have been worked out theoretically, this involves two steps:

a. To expand the card-producing facilities of the library to cover more and eventually all the United States material and more and eventually all kinds of material, and
b. To divide the annual and, if decided upon, five-year issues of the book-form Cumulative Catalog into two parts, the first limited to United States imprints of the previous year and the second to contain all other entries, that is, foreign and earlier United States imprints.

Increased Attention to Nonbook Forms

While books, pamphlets, and periodicals are still the major concern of libraries and still the unquestioned leading media of recorded communication, libraries generally, and particularly the Library of Congress, are gradually giving increased attention to nonbook forms such as maps, some of which are already listed in the Cumulative Catalog, motion pictures, as noted in the Princeton recommendations, sound recordings, in which we have an important development, and music, for which our Copyright Division now prepares individual cards for some 14,500 published items a year. If the function of a national bibliography is, among other things, to serve not only as a medium for verification in cataloging books but as a checklist of all material which conveys knowledge or information or reaction of any sort, should we not logically break completely the barrier between published print for reading and other forms of communication, and draw the line only at publication, validity, and continuity? I use this word "continuity" in order to exclude photographs and other single images, sounds, or words, but include any series of such elements which involves a sequence in time. Adequate discussion of this line of demarcation, or attempt to define publication, validity, or magnitude of time element, while probably necessary at some stage, had best be avoided here, as it would certainly lead too far afield into academic minutiae, and the definition, in the end, would doubtless have to rest upon flexible conventions. But we have already gone far enough in this direction to recognize films, phonograph records, commercial advertising matter of many kinds, dia-
grammatic material, radio programs, anything, in fact, regardless of form or medium, as contributions to knowledge and records of our time which, on an equal footing with publications in the usual sense, deserve bibliographic recording to assure their availability and use. On this tentative assumption, we shall use the words "publication" or "material" or "current U.S. output" in this wide sense in the remaining passages of this paper.

If cards are to be issued at the Library of Congress for all of this material made available in the United States, does this necessarily mean that the material must itself come into the library? And if it does not, can we satisfactorily undertake the production of cards based on copy contributed, without seeing the material itself? The first reaction is likely to be a strong negative, but in view of the amount of confident bibliographical transcription which is constantly and successfully carried on, we wonder whether this distrust of all but firsthand inspection is wholly justified, and the issue is of such crucial importance that we think it deserves the most careful exploration before this prospect is rejected. Might it be practical for the library to produce, in expansion of its present cooperative cataloging arrangement, two kinds of cards:

a. Cards of the same fullness as at present, continuing present policies, for material added to the library or, to the relatively slight degree that current United States publications are involved, for material covered by copy sent in for cooperative cataloging by other libraries under the present agreements.

b. Cards which can be distinguished from preceding category in some way, without subject headings, without classification, and without unverifiable added entries and descriptive detail, to be distributed in a different way and at a different rate, for books known to the library only from lists available or contributed by cooperating local and special libraries, but still made as well as possible.

Obviously the theory advanced here is that coverage is, for the total bibliographical problem, more important than perfectionism, that raw material for further bibliographical refinement at the evaluation stage should be turned out rapidly and cheaply, and that total omission, assuming our conception of an all-inclusive national bibliography, is worse than the omission of, or even error in, descriptive detail. Our precautionary measure is that unverified cards should not be confused with final cards. The greater danger is that insuperable difficulties might be met in working out a system for nonduplication of effort. It is in this connection that cataloging at the source, since there is likely to be but one source and many points of distribution, at the moment of issue, by collaboration between the publisher and the library profession, may, in the long run, not prove so impractical as has been assumed. The libraries which would undertake to supply copy would be those which, taken all together, cover the whole output of the United States and are sufficiently convinced of the importance of the larger bibliographical issue to contribute in this way to the general good, just as the national library might contribute by printing cards for books which it never receives. The alternative would be to add everything to the Library of Congress, a possibility which seems to us now as the less realistic of the two.

Another phase of the problem is whether the Library of Congress Card Division could reasonably be expected to stock such a cumulation of cards, or whether there is some promise in experiments recently conducted by the Processing Division to hold and stock the transparencies from which cards in lesser demand can be printed photographically on order. This would apply particularly to cards for the nonbook materials and lesser publications based on cooperative copy. It seems to us reasonable to stock cards on which average demand may be anticipated as at present, but to print a lesser quantity of the additional cards proposed, and hold a master transparency against the possibility of further photographic reprinting if demand requires. But the complete output would be available to regular subscribers both as cards and as proof sheets, for the expanded national part of the Cumulative Catalog, and potentially available for a promising innovation in bibliographical sorting over and above the needs of our own subject cataloging.

There has been talk of providing behind the scenes a variety of bibliographical files in part for the use of the compilers of bibliographies who might use them personally, but
more importantly as a source of high-speed photographic reproductions of subject sections of the catalog, an operation which cannot well be performed by withdrawal of cards from the public or other permanent catalogs. Sorting for this purpose might go further than the filing of cards in classified order according to their assigned shelf numbers or alphabetically by their assigned subject headings. There might be classifications by geographical areas covered (as distinguished from alphabetical place names), by chronological periods covered, by materials or things, by concepts or ideas, and by the activities of man, all designed to bring together scattered subject headings in a different arrangement, all in addition to the traditional classification by fields of knowledge, and all following upon experiments in classification carried on by many organizations concerned with the collection of references in classified order rather than the arrangement of books on library shelves. There might also be sortings according to publishers and places of publication, by form and by treatment (e.g. textbooks or historical fiction) as well as by date of publication.

In such a bibliographical operation, we might have to file subject cards without hesitation for material which we had never seen. In a very high percentage of cases there is adequate indication of content for rudimentary sorting in the title itself, and in a device of this sort, intended to put into bibliographers' hands mere raw material for their further individual use, there is a justifiable margin of surmise which should be absent in the actual cataloging of a library.

**Subject Approach Analyzed**

If the national bibliography were to be truly all-inclusive in the coverage of the output, there is little question but that it should list periodical articles individually. It is at this point, however, that we must try to be practical. There is another way. In the subject approach, we should not try to do everything with one list, but depend rather upon developing a series of existing services so that they may together cover the field. Author listing and basic inventory, even on the scope which we have suggested, would benefit greatly by the uniform treatment of an all-inclusive national bibliography, because the listing can be defined accurately and, taken in units of nations and years, can be done, if done inclusively, once and for all, leaving only relatively minor technical difficulties and the inconvenience of reference to many volumes. But that is a bulky but orderly reflection of a massive production which we are trying to increase rather than suppress. To subject bibliography, however, there is no definable end, no consistent national or annual limitation, no reliable or even desirable uniformity of interpretation, and a great desire to reduce the mass selectively. The eventual ends of subject bibliography are best served not by a single system, but by a great number of successive individual efforts, varying according to points of view, critical skill, and application. The services are but an intermediate step between inventory and critical selection. If the services themselves are selective, where lies inclusive subject coverage? If progress can indeed be made in improving the coverage and coordination of the indexing and abstracting services, may we hope that they would undertake the generalized subject approach, not only to periodical material but to the content of books and related nonbook material as well? Could they do this if the library’s bibliographical services can find ways of making the material available to them? And in exploration of this possibility, would not the availability of cards from the special sortings just described be the most valid approach? It occurs to us, too, that one of the most potentially fertile applications for punched cards as aids to bibliography is control of what material has been indexed and abstracted in which services, rather than control of the subject content itself. Cards which can be read visually but which can be routed or distributed from a center mechanically according to coverage formula could do a great deal to decrease undesirable overlap and increase coverage to journals not ordinarily indexed by a given service. It would then become very important to know completely from the inventory what the composite works subject to indexing are.

**Complete Bibliographical Control?**

I have been trying to indicate that our thinking about national bibliography has been in the direction of considering it as an element in the achievement of complete biblio-

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graphical control rather than as an isolated publishing project. Bibliographical control has not meant to us the achievement of a system whereby any inquiry, however vital, however new, however personal, or however imaginative can immediately be answered by a selective analysis ready-made by some other specialist who has anticipated this demand. That may be what we ought to lead up to, but we must approach it in gradual stages, for perfection of control lies at the end of the trail, the ultimate objective of intellectual inquiry. We have thought of national bibliography and card production as important elements in providing the foundation upon which may be based extremely varied bibliographical compilations undertaken by others, perhaps, by other offices of the libraries themselves, and directed at the needs of special branches of science, special groups of scholars, and special levels of inquiry.

We ask you as the library profession whether you think we are proposing one more publication to do what a combination of existing publications will do as well, whether the production of one national bibliography, even in view of the large number of national bibliographies currently produced in other nations, would really be a step toward coordinated control. We ask you whether an undertaking of this magnitude should be conceived as self-supporting, and if so, what you think its chances are. We need advice on whether we are justified in suggesting the amount of cooperation involved in supplying copy, and whether the net result would be a national service eventually appreciated or an undesirable attempt at centralization, in which there may be some danger of principle involved.

We ask ourselves whether we are being realistic in considering plans of this sort without so much, at this stage, as calculating costs. We ask ourselves what bibliographical interpretation of leadership we ought to place on our position as the national library, and whether we are turning in directions already exhausted as fantastic wishful thinking, or whether we are logically developing the continuation of operations already begun and to which we have committed ourselves at this time.

**Attack at Various Levels and Stages**

I am very much impressed by the general spirit of Paul Vanderbilt's paper, and by that of Dr. Evans's introductory note. It is obvious that the solutions eventually found must be realistic and realisable; but I am sure that it is a mistake to approach so great and urgent a problem from the point of view of what is immediately attainable with existing resources. We have to find the ideal solution and then reduce that solution to practicable form. If there is anything certain in this field it is that fragmentary solutions will only aggravate the present condition of affairs. It should no longer be necessary, for instance, for individuals to attempt enterprises which should be undertaken by cooperative effort.

I had hoped to be able, in response to your request, to offer considered comments on this whole problem of bibliographic control, but it is difficult to find an opportunity for consecutive thought during the Mexico City conference of UNESCO. May I, therefore, hastily throw out a general suggestion? It appears to me that the problem of bibliographic control should be tackled at various levels and in various stages. The complete listing of the entire intellectual production of mankind is needed only for purposes of inventory. I suggest, therefore, that there should first be compiled such national inventories, by daily bulletin where necessary and practicable, and split up by form, possibly in the six groups proposed by the Princeton conference of 1946. Such an inventory would be most useful in book form.

Immediately on this complete inventory should follow a first process of selection, by the production of national bibliographical listings, from which the obvious rubbish and ephemera have been eliminated. This bibliography, which should in the first place be in card form, would form the basis for the next stage, which would be a rearrangement of the bibliographic cards, after a further process of exclusion, in subject and classified form, both national and international. A further process of selection, together with much critical effort, would produce the fourth stage, that of international abstracts by wide sub-
jects. Finally (in the contemporaneous sense) would come the critical survey of the year's work in particular disciplines.

In the United States such a structure already exists in large part. The Catalog of Copyright Entries could be converted into the national inventory; the L.C. Cumulative Catalog could be divided into national and foreign sections, the first part forming the national bibliography; and so on.—Theodore Besterman, chief, Documentation, Library, and Statistical Services, UNESCO.

**Federal Documents**

The proposal by Paul Vanderbilt poses a solution for achieving a comprehensive national bibliography. Can the Cumulative Catalog of the Library of Congress achieve this result in the field of government publications? What is involved in such a project? The Monthly Catalog of U. S. Government Publications, issued by the Superintendent of Documents, now contains over 20,000 entries annually. It includes printed and processed periodicals, serials, and separates. Although since January 1936, it has included processed publications, it has never been comprehensive in their coverage. To date, no effort has ever been made to include printed and processed publications of field agencies. Although the Monthly Catalog has for some time indicated Library of Congress card numbers at the time of publication, one finds only a small percentage of the entries with Library of Congress card numbers. The natural assumption would follow that at present only those items with L.C. card numbers would have been in the Cumulative Catalog. This raises the question whether there should be an L. C. card for every federal government publication. The problem is really larger: namely, should any library's catalog contain a card for every federal publication in its collection? The answer should be definitely "No," especially in the case of small pamphlets. Complete analytics for the contents of each series should also be discouraged. We need comprehensive and as nearly complete as possible periodic bibliographies of government publications at the national level, but why make them part of the Cumulative Catalog? The responsibility for coverage in this field should be the Superintendent of Documents, who is charged with this function, and all federal publications should be omitted from the Cumulative Catalog. This policy would eliminate duplication and enable the Library of Congress to continue its present policy of printing cards only for the important documents. It is also suggested that the Library of Congress discontinue analytics for most of the publications in series, allowing such analysis to be made only in the Monthly Catalog.

Judging from the lack of inclusiveness in the Monthly Checklist of State Publications, I have serious doubts as to whether the Library of Congress should undertake to cover an equally large or larger field such as federal government publications. Since already the Office of Superintendent of Documents has the background of knowledge and the facilities, it should undertake the really comprehensive catalog of federal publications. As a matter of fact, just such plans are under way in this office. The first step was taken when the decision was made to abolish the Document Catalog and concentrate all efforts on the current periodical catalog, the Monthly Catalog. Just as a matter of record here, it might be well to state that, if the Document Catalog had been continued for the next biennium, 1941-42, it would have repeated over 45,000 entries already noted in the Monthly Catalog, with the addition of only 2,000 new items now published in the first supplement.

Beginning September 1947 the new format of the Monthly Catalog is that which is found in any library card catalog, with one exception: the alphabetical arrangement is under inverted author headings. In addition to all agencies being arranged in alphabetical order, all publications for each agency are in alphabetical checklist order, separates and series titles, with contents, being all in one alphabet. Furthermore, a more complete subject analysis is now planned each month in the index, and more direct reference is secured by reference to entry number rather than page. About the first of the year 1948, the office plans to begin and to continue a
systematic effort to secure from all federal agencies, both Washington and field, all their publications, either processed or of non-G.P.O. imprint. When this program is completed, we shall have, for the first time, a comprehensive catalog of U. S. government publications nearing completeness in scope.

With the change in arrangement in the *Monthly Catalog* itself, libraries can very definitely eliminate a tremendous amount of unnecessary analytics for publications issued in series. Henceforth, all library catalogs need only record series by titles of the series, securing analysis of the contents of the series through the *Monthly Catalog*. Furthermore, all small pamphlets and other ephemera can be systematically arranged by issuing agency, and the references can be secured to them by subject and author through the *Monthly Catalog*.

**Re State Publications**

The question of the inclusion in the *Cumulative Catalog* or in any other tool, of a complete list of all the publications of the forty-eight states and the territories and insular possessions, poses a real problem for solution. Unfortunately, the title, *Monthly Checklist of State Publications*, now issued by the Library of Congress, is misleading because actually the bibliography has never been more than an accessions list of state publications received in the Library of Congress. Furthermore, very few comprehensive lists of publications have appeared in any of the states, either cumulative or on a current periodical basis. Strangely enough, only a few of the state libraries, either now or ever, have issued periodic checklists of their state publications. At the present time the state libraries of Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and California do so. In the cases of Wisconsin and Minnesota, historical societies have prepared periodic lists. Such lists have also been recently regularly prepared by the state universities of North Carolina, Florida, and Arkansas.

Only one state, California, has a centralized state document distribution statute, one of the provisions of which is the issuing of a comprehensive quarterly list of California state publications. While it is true that every state has many statutes calling for some distribution of its publications, even including, in many cases, the Library of Congress, no one officer is charged with the responsibility of this distribution. In a sense, state, city, and county government publications are local imprints of the state, as are books and pamphlets published by small printers and publishers within the state. A national agency such as the Library of Congress cannot expect all publications published within state borders to come to it because of a state statute prescribing such action. Securing state imprints, including state and local government publications, requires at least one representative of the national agency in each state or possibly a regional representative to visit systematically all agencies many times during the year in order to secure their publications. Should not the state library or the state university library assume this function in each state? Furthermore, should it not also supply the master catalog card for each state imprint? This project is not only one of listing and cataloging but also of collecting, and therefore cooperative efforts are most essential. If this were done, the *Monthly Checklist of State Publications* would be far more complete than is now possible. Complete separation of this checklist without duplication should be made.

**City and County Documents**

At the present time systematic listings of publications of government agencies lower than the state level, such as city and county documents, are almost nonexistent. Such listings are available for only New York City, Chicago and Cook County, and California cities and counties. The New York City list and the combined Chicago and Cook County list are prepared by the Municipal Reference Library in each city. The California publications are to be found through an accession list of city and county publications received by the state library, which is published by that library in its "News Notes" of California library. Furthermore, it is doubtful whether many libraries throughout the country have nearly complete collections of their local city and county publications. It would, therefore, appear that the success of such a project would be dependent upon the cooperation of every library in the U.S. Here we appear to be in the realms of Utopia.
As soon as bibliography for government publications becomes comprehensive or complete, libraries should save considerably in their annual cost of cataloging. Such bibliography should adequately cover contents of all publications issued in series and thereby eliminate costly analytics completely from the card catalog. Furthermore, it is conceivable that all document cataloging might be eliminated in favor of this type of bibliography. The author section of the bibliography could be checked for all items as received, and the entire collection bound and arranged on the shelves alphabetically by state, then by issuing agency, and finally, by title. Therefore, could libraries not well afford to contribute their savings in cataloging costs to such a national bibliography? The success of a project of such magnitude will require substantial financial assistance from libraries or a permanent grant from some educational foundation or both. Furthermore, with the successful promotion of such a project, a library not only can reduce its cost of cataloging but can also substantially reduce the permanent size of its public catalog by excluding government publications from it entirely. Comprehensive or complete bibliographical coverage in book form can materially reduce the size of the public catalog in any field where author, title, and subject are treated in the bibliography.

Summary

To summarize briefly, checklists of government publications at the national level now exist for federal and state publications. Present plans for the Monthly Catalog of United States government publications should make it adequate. Suggestions made above should make the Monthly Checklist of State Publications include what its title indicates. Publications of local governments (city, county, school districts, townships, etc.) present a virgin field for checklists. They are not even available at the state level, let alone the national level. With over 3,000 counties and many times that number of cities in the United States, who has the courage to tackle a current periodical checklist? A beginning might be made by including only cities and counties of 100,000 population and over. The ultimate solution of this problem would undoubtedly be checklists of local government publications at state levels.—Jerome K. Wilcox, chairman, A.L.A. Committee on Public Documents.

Municipal Documents

Mr. Vanderbilt's statement of the basic principles involved in our national bibliographic control in the United States is most illuminating. He seems to have raised all the vital questions concerning such control and his discussion of them is to the point. I find myself in agreement with him and the Library of Congress in its thinking on these proposals.

These are his points that I would emphasize:

1. Our problem is ... to provide a uniform base of raw materials, or preliminary listing and sorting upon which the specialized projects may draw.
2. Card production is the first step in national and international bibliographic control, the raw material upon which subsequent operations rest.
3. To the considerations of accuracy, reasonable consistency, professional workmanship, and availability we should add that of complete coverage.
4. The national unit is a very logical unit.
5. After exhaustive inquiry, the method of reproducing cards in book form by photo-offset was evolved by L. of C.
6. The current tendency is not to propose that all of the needed cataloging work should be done at one place.
7. A list of current bibliographies (services which are continuous and reliable) should be a part of a fully developed attack on the problem.
8. Cumulative Catalog of the Library of Congress would be the logical base for a national bibliography as desired.
9. The tentative plan of developing the Cumulative Catalog into a national bibliography, involving two steps as outlined, seems very reasonable and workable.
10. The libraries which would undertake to supply copy would be those which, taken all together, cover the whole output of the United States and sufficiently convinced of the impor-

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tance of the larger bibliographic issue to contribute in this way to the general good, just as the national library might contribute by printing cards for books which it never receives.

The last point is the crux of the entire proposal. And the success of such a national plan would depend on full cooperation of the many libraries to be involved. I find myself believing that such a production of one national bibliography is a step toward coordinated control and that if the idea can be sold to those who are to be involved in planning it and executing it, then present costly bibliographic undertakings will gradually conform to the larger new proposal, and help in financing it, and that it would within time become self-supporting.

In work with municipal documents, the fact that practically all such documents have never been copyrighted, made it apparent to librarians years ago so that Dr. Billings in 1902 reminded librarians of the necessity of supplying such documents to the Library of Congress.

We of the New York Municipal Reference Library immediately upon establishment in 1913 took cognizance of the importance of the city's documents and collected full sets from the time of the records of New Amsterdam in 1653 to date. Feeling that we had a responsibility to other libraries of the country to make known what documents were published by the city, and since we were located at the source, the New York Municipal Reference Library began publication of its "Monthly List of New York City Publications" in 1916 and it has been issued regularly, and without a single interruption from that date to the present, a period of thirty-one years, printed in the Municipal Reference Library Notes. No other city in the world provides such an accurate and current checklist of its own documents. Yet the Library of Congress in this statement by Mr. Vanderbilt does not mention this bibliographic source of New York City municipal documents.

Soon after 1920 I felt the lack of any checklists for documents of other American cities; and therefore instigated a cooperative effort through the Special Libraries Association to overcome the lack. The result was a printed volume entitled "Basic List of Current Municipal Documents" 1923 which was actually a checklist of official publications issued regularly by the larger cities of the country. From that date we have sought the cooperation of all municipal reference libraries in submitting their cities' documents to Public Affairs Information Service which lists them in its weekly service.

Even with continual urging and cooperation on a volunteer basis, this effort in one small segment of a larger national undertaking has not been 100 per cent successful; at best, it can not be rated at much more than 10 per cent successful.

This experience at a cooperative effort of listing (not cataloging) municipal documents as published in the United States, on a purely volunteer basis, indicates how difficult it will be when applied to a national bibliography and bibliographic control. However, I heartily endorse the principles as stated by Mr. Vanderbilt and should be happy to help in establishing such a worthy national undertaking. It needs the support of all.—Rebecca B. Rankin, librarian, Municipal Reference Library, New York City.

Cataloging Quarterly

Desirability of a cataloging quarterly to be issued by the A.L.A. Division of Cataloging and Classification will be put to a membership vote at Atlantic City. The prospective editor is Arthur B. Berthold. Information concerning coverage and contributing editors will appear in forthcoming issues of the A.L.A. Bulletin.—Marie Louise Prevost, Chairman, Committee on a Cataloging Quarterly.
THE SUDDEN DEATH of Dr. John E. VanMale on January 15, following an emergency operation, terminated the career of a librarian who had contributed significantly to the advancement of librarianship.

The nature of this contribution may be summarized as follows: VanMale entered librarianship in 1927 from the ranks of American booksellers. For a number of years he had dealt in general literature, then shifting to Americana, especially of the Rocky Mountain and Southwest regions of the United States. In 1936 he received his A.B. from the Library School of the University of Denver, and in 1940 his master’s degree from the university. He served as research librarian in the Western History Department, Denver Public Library 1935-37 and as acting director of the University of Denver Library 1939-40. He prepared indexes and bibliographies for the books published in the series “Overland to the Pacific” edited by Archer Butler Hulbert and published in cooperation with the Denver Public Library. In 1939 he was awarded a fellowship by the Graduate Library School, University of Chicago, but relinquished it to accept the position in the library of the University of Denver. He entered the Graduate Library School as a fellow of the A.L.A. in 1940 and was awarded the Ph.D. in 1942.

Dr. VanMale’s knowledge of the book trade, particularly of Western Americana, was of great value to him in helping organize the Denver Bibliographical Center, as was his knowledge of bibliography and the bibliographical apparatus essential in supplying information to the cooperating libraries concerning rare publications of importance to the region. His acquaintance with the book trade also made it possible for him to secure advantageous discounts for his clientele and contributed to his success in setting up a cooperative undertaking that now has a decade of successful operation behind it. He was also a student of the use of union catalogs and wrote concerning their value in bibliographical centers.

Dr. VanMale’s next undertaking was a study of the library extension services of five Wisconsin institutions, including the Free Library Commission (traveling libraries and legislative reference services), the department of debating and public discussion of the University Extension Division, the medical library service of the University of Wisconsin, Medical School Library, and the University of Wisconsin Library. In this study he described the services of each agency and showed how through cooperation they supplemented extensively the services of the local libraries of the state.

The publication, with VanMale as editor, of Resources of Pacific Northwest Libraries in 1943 marked the completion of one of the major cooperative undertakings of the Pacific Northwest Library Association. VanMale organized the bibliographical center of that region after the plan of the one in Denver but adapted to the conditions of the Northwest. The nature of the resources of the region was described and a program of building was suggested which would enable the libraries to serve their patrons more effectively, as well as support the movement of library cooperation and specialization promoted by the A.L.A. Board on Resources of American Libraries.

Since 1943, Dr. VanMale’s activities have run along the lines of promoting cooperative efforts in building up resources of libraries. He served as a member and as chairman of the A.L.A. Board on Resources of American Libraries (1942-44) and as librarian of Madison College (1943-45) and as director and assistant director respectively of the libraries of the University of South Carolina (1945-46) and the University of Denver (1946-48). In the latter positions he was instrumental in having the libraries surveyed and in inaugurating programs of extensive reorganization and improvement. He was particularly successful at Denver in building up a strong professional staff, in greatly increasing the budget of the library, and in coordinating the different parts of the university library system. He was also successful in integrating library service with instruction by having different staff members assigned to work in cooperation with staff members of

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the various departments of the university. He was also largely responsible for a new library law passed by the Colorado legislature which changed the policy and program of the state library and which stimulated the organization of libraries in Colorado on the basis of a unit appropriate to the geographical conditions.

Quiet in manner, clear in his understanding of the objectives he sought, and with an unusual capacity for winning friends and securing cooperation, Dr. VanMaal is lost to the profession just when he was giving evidence of unusually effective service to librarianship and scholarship.—Louis R. Wilson.

OF INTEREST to all investigators in the field of Shakespearean literature is the appointment of Dr. Louis B. Wright to the directorship of the Folger Shakespeare Memorial Library, effective July 1. The appointment brings to that institution a scholar who is widely known both personally and through his numerous publications in various phases of the English Renaissance and colonial American civilization. Over the past sixteen years Dr. Wright has been a member of the permanent research group at the Huntington Library in San Marino, Calif. He was, in fact, among the first selections made by the late Dr. Max Farrand, then director of research at the Huntington, in the organization of that library as a locus for research along lines suggested by the literary and historical materials available there. Prior to his Huntington appointment and during his tenure as, successively, instructor, assistant professor, and associate professor in English at the University of North Carolina, Dr. Wright has served as Johnston Research Scholar at Johns Hopkins University (1927-28), Guggenheim Fellow in England and on the Continent (1928-29), visiting professor at Emory University (1930), and visiting scholar at the Huntington Library (1931-32).

Dr. Wright has been for several years a familiar participant in the activities of such professional bodies as the Modern Language Association of America, the American Historical Association, and the American Antiquarian Society. Significantly, he has served on the advisory boards of both the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation and the Institute of Early American Civilization and Culture. Currently he is vice chairman of the Pacific Coast Committee for the Humanities. These activities, in conjunction with his important responsibility at the Huntington for suggesting candidates for the research fellowships offered there, have kept Dr. Wright closely in touch with projects and personalities the nation over. The fact that he is not only a productive scholar in his own right, but has in addition such wide administrative experience with foundations, associations, and research libraries, makes his selection for the Folger post an exceptionally happy one.—Roland Baughman.

Dorothy W. Curtiss became librarian of Wells College, Aurora, N.Y., on February 1, succeeding Mrs. Jane (Hawkins) Hall. Miss Curtiss is leaving the School of Library Service, Columbia University, where she has served for nearly twelve years as assistant professor in charge of the comprehensive examination program. In addition she has occasionally taught courses in cataloging in the school.

She brings to her new position a variety of experience. Graduating from the University of Rochester in 1918 she began her professional career as librarian of the Bergen, N.Y., High School, combining it with the
teaching of English. In 1921 she went to Albany and, while serving as first assistant in the order section of the New York State Library, attended courses in the library school. Graduating in 1924, Miss Curtiss again led a dual life, this time at the State Normal School in Geneseo, directing its cataloging department and teaching in the library science department. Her success in this position led to her appointment as teacher of cataloging in the American Library School at Paris, where she remained for two years. After her return to this country (1929) she alternated actual cataloging (Public Library, Westerly, R.I.) with teaching (Library School, Western Reserve University) and study (M. S., School of Library Service, Columbia University, 1932). Following an administrative position as assistant supervisor of school libraries with the New York State Education Department (1932-36) she came to Columbia to set up the comprehensive examination program to be used in connection with the new curriculum, then in process of formation under Dean Charles C. Williamson's guidance. Pioneering in this field, she and Dr. Alice I. Bryan developed a series of objective examinations designed to evaluate students' achievements in a much more scientific way than had been possible hitherto.

The variety of Miss Curtiss' interests is reflected in her memberships and offices, ranging from Faculty Marshal to membership on the board of directors of the New York State Library School Association, from A.L.A. interviewer for Foreign Library Service to membership on the board of directors of the Association of American Library Schools, from activity in the New York City League of Women Voters to the presidency of the New York Regional Catalog Group. With this rich background of administrative, professional, teaching, and community experience Miss Curtiss, while assuming the position as librarian of Wells College, will no doubt soon be serving not only in her customary dual role, but even in a triple capacity—Bertha M. Frick.

The Office of War Information can take credit for depositing yet another of its information specialists on the doorstep of librarianship. Frederick W. Stewart, who organized and administered the O.W.I. Library in Paris during the war years 1944 and 1945, has accepted appointment as librarian of the Hunter College Library in New York City.

Although Mr. Stewart's library experience is of comparatively recent vintage, he has long been concerned with scholarship and higher education. From 1938 to 1944, he served first as editor of the American Council of Learned Societies and then as liaison for the council with the Department of State and the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs. When the work of the O.W.I. Library in Paris was completed, Mr. Stewart stayed on for two years as librarian of the American Library in Paris, a responsibility which he discharged with vigor and distinction.

Mr. Stewart holds both the A.B. and M.A. degrees from George Washington University. Since his return to America he has been pursuing the completion of his doctorate in Romance languages and his professional education, both at Columbia University.

His appointment marks the fourth and last of recent changes in the librarianships of the city colleges of New York. With Jerome K. Wilcox, Humphrey G. Bousfield, and Morris A. Gelfand, Mr. Stewart is now joined in seeking new levels of cooperation in the library service given to the municipal colleges.

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Robert W. Christ assumed his duties as assistant librarian at Duke University, on February 15.

Mr. Christ brings to Duke an extensive and varied experience in library and business fields. He has had teaching experience at Wooster School for Boys, and business experience at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Corporation. His library career started at Mount Holyoke where he worked as an assistant in the summers of 1928-30. Later he became assistant to the librarian and remained in this position from 1936 to 1943. Further library experience followed at Columbia University and the Grosvenor Library in Buffalo. He left his position as head of the reference department at the latter library to become chief of the information section in the reference division of the Office of Intelligence Collection and Dissemination at the State Department. Here his responsibilities were as large as the impressive title indicates. Mr. Christ’s contributions in this position were in building up staff morale and in setting up an efficient service organization.

At present Mr. Christ is completing the work on his M.S. degree in the School of Library Service, Columbia University. His prior library school training was also taken at Columbia. His academic B.A. was received from Amherst College where he graduated *cum laude* in 1930.

A glance at Mr. Christ’s publications shows a range of interests from librarianship through French literature to bibliographic studies. His articles have appeared not only in library publications, but also in business magazines.

In addition to all of this, he seems to find time for his choral, theatrical, and gardening interests. Duke University will soon appreciate the variety of gifts and talents which Mr. Christ brings to his new position.—Foster E. Mohrhardt.

Dr. Felix Reichmann has been promoted to the newly-created position of assistant director in charge of technical services in the Cornell University Library. Dr. Reichmann came to Cornell in March 1947, as acquisition librarian.

As the assistant director for technical services, Dr. Reichmann will be responsible for the administration of the acquisition department, the combined catalog and classification department, and the binding work of the periodical department. He will continue as ac-
quisition librarian until July 1, when a new appointment to that position is expected.

This new position carries one step further the administrative organization of the Cornell University Library which was begun in July 1947. There are now two assistant directors, whose activities and responsibilities are at the administrative rather than the service level, and under whom are grouped the readers' service and technical service departments.

During the present year Dr. Reichmann has been in charge of the expanded acquisition program of the library. Under his direction the staff of the department has been increased, and the department has assumed much greater responsibility for book collecting, particularly in the humanities and the social sciences. Dr. Reichmann has also undertaken this year to coordinate the work of the technical service departments and has developed and introduced new procedures which have eliminated duplication of effort. The work of the searching staff in the acquisition department has been so organized that it includes most of the work commonly regarded as preliminary cataloging.

Dr. Reichmann was recently on the staff of the Library of Congress. In 1945-46 he served as publications officer with the U.S. Army of Occupation in Germany, and in earlier years served as librarian of the Carl Schurz Foundation at Philadelphia and the Landis Valley Museum at Lancaster, Pa. Before coming to this country in 1939, Dr. Reichmann had extensive experience as a bookseller in Vienna. He holds the Ph.D. degree from the University of Vienna and the M.A. degree from the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago.—Stephen A. McCarthy.

**Appointments**

Frederick A. Meigs, reference librarian of Cooper Union, New York City, has been appointed librarian of Washington College, Chesterton, Md.

Cedric R. Flagg, librarian, Squier Signal Laboratory, Fort Monmouth, N.J., is now chief of the library section of the Research and Development Board, Washington, D.C.

L. Grace Proffitt is now circulation librarian in the Vassar College Library, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Edwin B. Colburn, first assistant in the preparations division of the Reference Department of the New York Public Library, has become chief of technical processes, Northwestern University Library, Evanston, Ill.

John B. Stratton, assistant circulation librarian, Ohio State University, is now head acquisitions librarian of Oklahoma A and M College, Stillwater.

David C. Libbey has been appointed acting reference librarian of the State College of Washington at Pullman.

Kurt Schwerin, head cataloger, University of Virginia Law Library, is now in charge of the foreign and international law collections of the Northwestern University Law Library in Chicago.

The Louisiana State University Library announces the appointment of Jane St. Clair as serials cataloger, Jean Morford Howard as senior circulation librarian, and Mary Elizabeth Garst as librarian of the Social Welfare and Government Library.

James W. Dyson, formerly on the staff of the union catalog of the Library of Congress,
is now librarian, Loyola University of the South in New Orleans.

Myron B. Smith, secretary, committee on Near Eastern Studies of the American Council of Learned Societies, has been appointed fellow of the Library of Congress in Islamic Archaeology and Near Eastern History.

Filomena Martemucci, formerly cataloger at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, N.Y., has been appointed head cataloger at the Hunter College Library, New York City.

Josephine Savaro, cataloger of the Manhattanville College Library, New York, is now librarian of the University of Scranton, Scranton, Pa.

Lillian R. Sanger has been appointed law librarian of John Marshall College, Jersey City, N.J.

William C. Dawson has been appointed librarian of Arnold College, Milford, Conn.

Michael Von Krenitsky is now librarian of the Texas Military College at Terrell.

Elizabeth Frances Adkins is now medical librarian of the University of Virginia at Charlottesville.

Mary L. Richmond has returned to Williams College, Williamstown, Mass., as acting custodian of the Chapin Library of Rare Books.

Mary Vie Cramblitt is now head cataloger of the Middlebury College Library, Middlebury, Vt.

Elizabeth O. Cullen, reference librarian of the Bureau of Railway Economics Library, Washington, D.C., has been appointed librarian of the bureau, succeeding Richard H. Johnston.

Laurence J. Kipp, executive director of the American Book Center for War Devastated Libraries, has become assistant to the director of the Harvard University Libraries at Cambridge, Mass.

Katherine S. Diehl is now librarian at Central China College, Wuchong, China.

Dorothy Harmer has been appointed head of the catalog department of the University of Georgia Library, Athens.

Retirements

Lydia May McCutchen retired from the staff of the University of Washington Library at Seattle on Sept. 1, 1947. A member of the first class to be graduated from the University of Washington Library School, she has been on the staff of the library since 1913. For the past twenty-three years she has been senior librarian in the acquisitions division in charge of binding.

Willia K. Garver, assistant librarian in charge of acquisitions of the University of Illinois Library at Urbana, retired on Sept. 1, 1947. Miss Garver had been head of acquisitions at Illinois since 1920.

Necrology

Dr. Gwladys Spencer, assistant professor of library science, University of Illinois Library School, died on November 21 following an illness of several months. Dr. Spencer came to Illinois in 1940 after holding positions previously at the University of Chicago, Graduate Library School, Ohio Wesleyan University, and Denison University.

Pelham Barr, for the last twelve years director of the Library Binding Institute, died suddenly on January 11 after a prolonged illness. A close friend of librarians, he worked consistently for the establishment of standards for library binding.
Graduate Studies in College and Research Librarianship

Among theses completed at the University of Illinois, Library School, during 1947 which may be of interest to college, university, and research librarians are the following:

Blum, Eleanor Jane. Reading Resources in Rural Areas of Champaign County.
Pearce, Catherine Ann. The Development of Special Libraries in Montreal and Toronto.
Stanley, Ellen Lenora. The History of the Earlham College Library.

The following theses were completed at the School of Library Service, Columbia University, in 1947:

Fry, Mary Edith. An Investigation of the Letters N and O of Appleton’s Cyclopaedia of American Biography, to Ascertaining the Inclusion of Fictitious Articles.
Hort, Margaret Janvier. Three Areas of Student Use of Russell Sage College Library, 1940-44.
Sister Mary Winifred (Grass). The Administration, Organization, and Distribution of Educational Films and Recordings in College Libraries.

The following Columbia theses were completed in February 1948:

Copeland, Emily A. Academic Status of Librarians in Institutions of Higher Learning for Negroes.
Engle, Virginia. Implications of a Special Collection on the Southern Appalachian Mountain Region at Berea College Library.
Hotaling, Donald O. Reading Patterns of College and University Librarians.
Morisset, Auguste M. Differences in Entry in the Catalogs of the Library of Congress, the British Museum, the Bibliotheque Nationale, and the Deutscher Gesamtkatalog.
Simonton, Wesley. Duplication of Entries in the Subject Catalog of a University Library and Subject Bibliographies in English Literature.
Snider, Winifred. Extramural Library Service in Libraries and Extension Departments of Canadian Universities.
Snodgrass, Isabelle S. American Music Periodicals of New England and New York, 1786-1850.
Williams, C. Opal. Adequacy of Collection in Two Areas of History for a Fifth Year of Work in Six Teachers Colleges of Texas.

The following studies were completed in 1947 at the University of Michigan, Department of Library Science:

Connor, E. Faye. Reading Interests of Huntington College Students.

Fiftieth Anniversary

The Medical Library Association celebrates this year the fiftieth anniversary of its founding. The Annual meeting will be held in Philadelphia, May 28th-30th; the headquarters will be the Hotel Warwick. The commemoration of the association’s founding in Philadelphia in 1898 has a prominent place on the program with an address on “The History of the Association” by Dr. Archibald Malloch, New York Academy of Medicine; “The Medical Library Association and Medicine” by Dr. Chauncey D. Leake, University of Texas; and “The Medical Library Association faces the future” by the president, Mrs. Eileen R. Cunningham, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine Library. The speaker at the Annual dinner on May 29 will be Dr. O. H. Perry Pepper of the University of Pennsylvania. Group meetings will be held to discuss practical library problems.

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The Board of Regents of the General University of Utah have approved a policy whereby library staff members, with the rank of instructor or above, may be granted one full quarter for study out of each eight quarters served at the university. Pay is to be granted as provided under the four-quarter plan. The leave and the program of study must have the approval of the librarian and the president of the university.

During the final weeks of 1947 the Virginia State Library prepared a special exhibit "of rare manuscript and printed materials to commemorate the one hundred and fifty-sixth anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights and the visit of the Freedom Train." The exhibit, arranged by J. Van Schreevan, head archivist, traced the origin and enactment of both the Virginia Declaration of Rights and the federal Bill of Rights.

Several months ago James T. Babb, librarian, Yale University, announced receipt of a gift of sixty rare books of 16th and 17th century English. The donor was Louis M. Rabinowitz of New York City. The collection includes many early and several first editions of works in various fields: drama, poetry, history, religion, prose, fiction, law, geography, politics, and pedagogy. One of the rarest items in the group is a first issue of the first edition of Lovelace's Lucasta and a first edition of Daniel's Musophilus. Books on religion are in the majority. One of these is a copy of The King's Book, drawn up by order of Henry VIII in 1543 and considered a foundation stone of the church of England. Other titles are Bunyan's Holy Life and Calvin's Certain Homilies. Several items of particular interest to historians are included. Mr. Rabinowitz has made other gifts of rare books to Yale and has also endowed a research project at the Yale Graduate School for the translation of Hebrew literature.

Robert Henry Thurston, engineer, and one of the fathers of engineering education in America died in 1903. During his lifetime he taught at Annapolis, Stevens Institute of Technology, and ultimately at Cornell. A prolific writer and adviser on engineering problems, he was the originator of a four-year course in mechanical engineering and in 1875 established the first mechanical testing laboratory in the country at Stevens Institute. In 1885 he accepted a call to Cornell and there he undertook, as director, to reorganize Sibley College and was instrumental in developing it into a first-rate college of mechanical engineering. At Cornell he established the finest materials laboratory of the day and under his able administration enrollment in the college rose from 63 in 1885 to 885 at the time of his death in 1903. Recently Cornell became the recipient of the correspondence, books, and miscellany of Thurston. This interesting collection came as a gift from Arthur H. Dean of New York, a Cornell trustee. Among other items are letters from Carnegie, Edison, Maxim, Alexander G. Bell, Lord Kelvin, Nikola Tesla, and other famous inventors and scientific figures.

During November President Edmund E. Day, of Cornell, announced that the university had received a grant of $180,000 from the Carnegie Corporation of New York to investigate the impact of modern agriculture, science, and industry on such areas as the Far East, India, and Latin America. The fund will be used, over a period of years, in a program of research and instruction in which cultural anthropologists and other scientists will study contemporary social problems in relation to technological change.

In December George Matthew Adams of New York presented a collection of Ambrose Bierce's works to Dartmouth College. The collection boasts first editions and all titles contain inscriptions by the author, either to his brother or to Richard Harding Davis. Thirty-one titles are represented in the collection.

During the autumn of 1947 the Library of the Bureau of Public Administration, University of Virginia, was transferred to the
Alderman Library. The library system at the University of Virginia now includes the Alderman Library (the general library of the university); three departmental libraries (Engineering, Law, and Medicine); and nine school libraries and special collections.

The E. Trinkle Lee Library of Mary Washington College (the women's college of the University of Virginia) has been concentrating on completing its files of the more important 19th and 20th century periodicals.

Reverend Eugene F. Bigler, rector, St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Beacon, N.Y., recently gave Kenyon College Library a collection of books and folios on art and archaeology valued at more than $10,000. Wymon W. Parker, librarian of Kenyon, reports that the collection includes works on Persian art, Oriental jades and ceramics, rugs and tapestries. The collection is particularly rich in material relating to the archaeology of North America, Mexico, and the American Indian.

Northwestern University Library recently acquired two valuable railroad collections. The first, primarily of historical interest, consists of some 750 pamphlets and 250 pictures relating to early American railroads. This collection was originally assembled by the late Frank F. Fowle, a member of the Western Society of Engineers in Chicago. It is said to cover the key phases of the early history of roadways, canals, and railways. The second collection, a gift from the Association of American Railroads, contains a complete set of the reports of the Railroad Committee for the Study of Transportation that was organized by the Association of American Railroads, contains a complete set of the reports of the Railroad Committee for the Study of Transportation that was organized by the Association of American Railroads.

In December the library of the University of West Virginia purchased a collection of approximately 600 volumes of Civil War history and biography from Dr. W. E. Brooks, formerly pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Morgantown. First editions of Hawthorne, Longfellow, Bret Harte, Whitman, and Bryant were included in the purchase.

Last spring the West Virginia University Library began the microfilming of newspapers published in the state. Ultimately it is hoped that all, or nearly all, the dailies and weeklies will be available on film. In connection with this project a checklist of West Virginia newspapers is planned as a means of locating copies missing from the university files.

A recent grant from the General Education Board of New York City has made it possible for West Virginia Wesleyan College, Buckhannon, to add to its library holdings. The collection in the social sciences has been particularly enriched with the help of the grant.

The plans for the new library building at Hampden-Sydney College are progressing and it is hoped that actual construction can begin in 1948. A plan to place the student near the books he uses was inaugurated in a temporary library annex and study hall at Union College, Schenectady, N.Y. The new seating arrangement will enable a student to choose a study desk in the vicinity of the specific reference works covering the material he is studying. This new building, financed by the Federal Works Agency as a veterans educational facility, will augment existing study facilities in Union's unique round-house library, and will provide shelf space for about 40,000 volumes.

The West Virginia University Library has opened a supplementary reading room in a building formerly used as a cafeteria. The reserve collection has been transferred to this new location, and space for 170 students has been provided. In an effort to afford study space for the large number of commuting students, the former reserve book room has been turned into a newspaper, periodical, and study room for those students interested in using their own books.

New York state has appropriated $1,529,000 for a joint library building for the New York State Colleges of Agriculture and Home Economics.
Devereaux Josephs, president of Carnegie Corporation of Conferences, New York, stated in his annual report that the urgent need for supplying our government with trained men constituted a growing challenge to higher education. "Enlargement of the nation's understanding of its international responsibilities" is the other major interest of the corporation. In 1946-47 grants in this latter field tripled, amounting to $1,828,700. Mr. Josephs' report stressed the need for experts in government at all levels: "... the most critical problems of the day relate at every point to the urgent need for better organization of what we know, for better programs of training and for more extensive use of trained men in high places. . . ." The report further stated that the corporation may also be able to assist universities trying to adapt their curricula to new national needs.

More than forty representatives of public and private libraries in the Kansas City area organized a Kansas City chapter of the Special Libraries Association, January 17, at a meeting at the Linda Hall Library. Martha Hershey, technical librarian for the Midwest Research Institute, was elected president of the chapter.

An organization known as Audio-Visual Instruction Directors has been formed in Indiana. Purposes of this organization are: (1) to provide directors of audio-visual education in schools, colleges and universities an opportunity to become acquainted and to cooperate on mutual problems, (2) to act as a clearing house for ideas and projects of statewide concern, (3) to provide direction and coordination of audio-visual programs throughout the state, and (4) to develop projects of assistance to directors of audio-visual education.

Dr. J. Periam Danton, dean of the School of Librarianship, University of California, has announced that a group of San Francisco Bay Area libraries have indicated their willingness to employ some of the students accepted for the second-year program in the school. Positions, paying approximately $1,200 a year for half-time work, are available in both the public and university library fields. Prospective students for the master's degree, interested in work opportunities, should indicate that fact when making application for admission to the school.

Establishment of a "Curriculum in Prelibrarianship" has recently been announced by the University of California at Los Angeles. The new curriculum, one of a number of recently outlined "organized fields of concentration" in the College of Letters and Science, permits an interdepartmental major. It is designed to meet the needs of students planning to take a general course in a graduate school of librarianship. Students intending to specialize in scientific, industrial, or other technical fields of librarianship, are advised to complete a major in an appropriate subject field, rather than the prelibrarianship curriculum. The student desiring to pursue the prelibrarianship curriculum must file a "Prelibrarianship Plan" which has been approved by an authorized library adviser, and which meets the general requirements stated in the catalogs. Advisers will be appointed by the librarian from the library staff. Provisions and requirements of the curriculum are described in the supplement to the general catalog of the university.

The Conference of College and University Librarians of Southern California met on the campus of the University of California at Los Angeles on November 22. "Recruitment and Trends in Education for Librarianship" served as the topic. Dr. J. Periam Danton, dean of the School of Librarianship at the University of California, and Dr. Lewis F. Stieg, director of the Graduate School of Library Science, University of Southern California, were the speakers.

On November 15, eighty Ohio librarians gathered at Kenyon College for a fall meeting of the College and University Division of the Ohio Library Association. N. Orwin Rush, executive secretary, A.C.R.L., spoke on the work of his office at A.L.A. Headquarters and Dr. Paul Leedy, librarian, Bowling Green State University Library, spoke on "Opportunity for Cooperation among College Librarians in Ohio."

The University of Minnesota, Division of Library Instruction, announces the John C. Hutchinson Scholarship of $250 for the academic year 1948-49 to be awarded for study in library science. Application blanks may be secured from the Bureau of Loans and Scholarships, University of Minnesota, Minne-
A center for scientific aids to learning has been established at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology under a grant of $100,000 from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. It will concern itself with research and experimentation in the fields of printing, documentary reproduction, visual education, sound recording, and mechanical selection systems. Technicians, librarians, and persons in other allied fields will be trained in theories and practices of scientific aids to learning.

Dr. B. Lamar Johnson, librarian and dean of instruction at Stephens College, Columbia, Mo., will give a course on “The Utilization of the Library in the Instructional Program” at the Graduate Library School, University of Chicago, this summer. Since this course is being offered for professors, as well as librarians, Dr. Johnson is eager to obtain descriptions of teaching activities of professors who are particularly successful in making effective use of library materials in their teaching. Librarians can be helpful if they will send to Dr. Johnson descriptions of any relevant courses or course units, or anecdotal accounts.

Columbia University Press recently published College Retirement and Insurance Plans by William C. Greenough. The book reviews the various retirement plans now operative in colleges and universities throughout the nation and finds that most of them are not adequate. The author stresses the importance of sound plans in attracting good teachers. This is an interesting study of an important problem.

The World Peace Foundation has begun publication of Documents of International Organizations: A Selected Bibliography. This quarterly, prepared by the staff of World Peace Foundation, has an advisory committee consisting of Verner W. Clapp, Philip C. Jessup, Ruth Savord, Walter R. Sharp, and Harry N. M. Winton. Included in vol. 1, no. 1 (November 1947) were materials relating to United Nations, the specialized agencies, the League of Nations, the regional organizations, war and transitional organizations, and other functional organizations.

Half a century of progress in bibliographic publishing is being rounded out this year as Halsey W. Wilson observes his fiftieth anniversary of publishing the Cumulative Book Index in the company which bears his name. J. F. Vanderheyden is the author of Die nieuwe Bibliotheekbouw in de Verenigde Staten (Antwerp, 1947), in which he describes his reactions to various library buildings and their internal organizations during his recent trip to America.

Donald Coney, secretary, has issued the 1946-47 report of “The Library Council of the University of California.” Among the topics discussed in the report are the development of a job classification and salary scale study; the furtherance of the Moody survey; the Fussler survey of photographic facilities; the annual report on library size; discontinuance of the interlibrary loan service charge to other libraries; questions on the acceptance and reporting of gifts; and policy agreement on transfer of personnel.

Margaret Freeman, Brooklyn Public Library, recently issued a mimeographed report on the use of paper-backed books in the Brooklyn Public Library. Methods of handling these books and their usefulness are stressed.

The John K. Mullin Library, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., has published its first issue of an informal library bulletin titled “So Now You Know.” No regular publication schedule is planned, but issues will appear as items arise that require explanation or staff-wide publicity.

The Alderman Library has published, as number seven of the University of Virginia Bibliographical Series, the “Catalogue of the Adolph Lomb Optical Library” at the University of Virginia. James P. C. Southall, professor emeritus of physics, Columbia University, wrote the introduction. The volume is folio size and was lithoprinted by Edwards Brothers, Inc., Ann Arbor, Mich.

The first issue of the “UCLA Librarian” appeared on Oct. 6, 1947. A bi-monthly bulletin for the staff at the University of California, Los Angeles, it is edited by Everett Moore, reference librarian and issued by the librarian’s office in mimeographed form. It contains news notes and other items.
Review Articles

Documentation in Germany


The Schweizerlexikon (1946), after giving perhaps the most satisfactory definition of the word "Dokumentation" and after a short historical note, lists a number of significant references including among others the publications of the International Institute of Bibliography at Bruxelles, the communications of the International Federation of Documentation at The Hague, and as the last title the volume under review.

Only recently has this work become available to students outside of Europe and, although six years will soon have passed since the meeting at Salzburg occurred which is documented in it, many librarians, archivists, and research men in general will want to be made aware of the manifestations of intellectual cooperation and planning in the other camp.

A quotation from one of the eighteen papers printed in this work, written by Walther Parey, then executive secretary of the Verein Deutscher Ingenieure, may indicate the spiritual tenor in which this small group of "documentalists" met at Salzburg in September 1942: "If carried on in the spirit of service and assistance to the community (=Gemeinschaft), not for its own sake but as an important aid to scientific labor, documentation, among other forces, is destined to bring about reasonable efficiency in intellectual labors; then too, it will be capable, some day again, of helping to reduce beneficially the burden upon the intellectual workers, which has increased beyond capacity." (p. 84)

It would probably be unwise to see in this statement much more than an expression of the increasingly common general mood prevailing during the recent stages of the so-called industrial revolution. True, at the time of the Salzburg meeting, the participants as well as their colleagues around the globe worked under the pressure of war conditions. Yet the naïve assumptions revealed by some of the apparently loyal servants of the Nazi state present, and the equally honest expressions of liberal and even international views on the part of others appear to indicate that at this level of effort or in this quarter of the European intelligentsia, hardly faint rumbles were apprehended of the turning of fate, so clearly seen already at that time by such men as General Beck and his group. One may begin to fathom the depth of the tragedy and sense the marionette-like quality of a meeting such as this, when one reads in Hans Bernd Gisevius' Bis zum Bitteren Ende, of the movements and plans taking shape in the general headquarters of the home army born from genuine despair and intended to stem the tide from within. It is extremely doubtful whether any of those men at Salzburg had the slightest real knowledge of these attempts behind the swiftly changing scenes of the visible stage, up to this time a continuous series of successes.

The meeting of the Gesellschaft, though sponsored by the authorities, was little more than an extended council meeting. Though "hervorragende Fachleute des europäischen Auslandes" were said to be present, only Germans are reported as authors of the papers recorded. The aim of the meeting was to attempt systematization of objectives and procedures of the Gesellschaft, which had been founded as a successor to the German Committee on Standardization for Libraries, Books, and Periodicals. Another stated objective was to continue and possibly improve upon the work of the International Federation of Documentation.

Among the authors are five librarians. Three of these are well-known beyond the German borders: Fritz Prinzhorn, Danzig, who functioned as chairman at the meeting, Sigmund von Frauendorfer, Rome, and Rudolf Juchhoff, for a number of years head of the Auskunstbüro and of the D.G.K. The thirteen other contributors are distributed according to their professional functions as follows: two archivists, one of them Ernst
Zipfel, then the national archivist; one representative of museums, Director Kohlhaussen of the National Museum at Nürnberg; Chr. Caselmann of the Ministry of Education; M. Pfükke, deputy chairman of the German Chemical Society and editor in chief of the Chemisches Zentralblatt, who acted as vice chairman at the meeting; Walther Parey, executive secretary of the German Society of Engineers; W. Grävell, a director of the Central Statistics Office; R. Immel, a division head of International Institute of Forestry, Berlin; a medical administrator, R. Pfaffenberg; one representative each of the Agfa and Zeiss-Ikon corporations; and finally, a radio executive and an archival expert of the Ministry of Propaganda.

In the following an attempt is made to characterize the contributions in the order in which they appear in the book.

Prinzhorn, in his role as chairman, essays an exposition of basic problems and tendencies. He underlines the dynamic nature of documentation pointed out by van Riemsdijk the year before in Communication 8 of the F.I.D. He predicts that, having had its origin in the technical and social sciences, documentation is bound to affect all areas of systematic intellectual endeavor. With such men as Godet, Lemaître, and Dahl he does not expect complete inclusion in the process of the large general research libraries. He predicts that, and how they will have to be brought in through their special collections. To American documentalists it will be of interest to hear that as a practical way of reaching over-all efficiency in the distribution of resources he suggests organization and delimitation of individual depositories first. Repeatedly it is brought out that most successful and thorough documentation is possible only in special libraries, which are tied up with abstracting services. What Prinzhorn has to say on adequate periodical collections (his specialty), on special collections and their cooperative care, on need for better statistics, better organization of bibliographical and abstracting services, then on the need for tying into the general documentation scheme such relatively neglected and recent media as archives, museums, picture and film collections as well as newspapers and sound recordings furnishes a background for some of the papers to follow and points toward future goals. The author ends by stressing the need for developing special areas cooperatively, whereupon the over-all problems may be tackled more wisely and gaps may be closed with more assurance of adequacy, nationally and internationally.

The four following papers deal with archives, museums, picture and film collections, and sound recordings. They do little more than provide very instructive and enlightening general descriptions of the materials involved, of the methods by which they have been created, organized, and made available up to this time. One could hardly expect more from these relatively new areas; what is presented is a minimum core of knowledge necessary to a successful participation in a general documentation program.

In Zipfel's contribution on archives two statements interest particularly. After tracing the historical evolution of present-day archival administration, with due acknowledgment of the decisive French influence, the author asserts with pride that "today the accessions of the state archives, except for records of the most recent times, are available to any student and amateur without restriction" (!) Then he outlines the research projects under way, which are intended to maintain the high standards of the publications of the Prussian archives. He frankly discusses the "Westplan" (there is also an "Ostplan"), already partly completed at the time. This project has as its aim a complete inventory of the sources of German history found in Belgian, Danish, Dutch, and French archives.

H. Kohlhaussen divulges very interesting views on the nature and purpose of museum collections, but does little more than emphasize the difficulty of systematizing these and using them for general documentation.

Chr. Caselmann has pedagogical views on the scientific film and its use. On the other hand, he has a great deal of useful information on the production, organization, and conditions of use of the extensive film collection under immediate and indirect control of the Ministry of Education. He also stresses the relative lack of knowledge and of finding media regarding pictorial collections.

H. Dominik describes the various processes of making sound recordings. When he reports on the extensive collection of matrices in the central archives of sound records main-
tained by the Reichsrundfunk, one becomes curious to know whether this unique record of the recent past has come to us intact. Of more than passing interest is the suggestion that the records produced by the magnetic process, which are possessed of superior tone fidelity, may be more permanent than was first assumed.

Ten contributions on documentation in special fields follow. Among them, those by Walther Gravell on statistical documentation, Hans Richter on social documentation (actually descriptive of the labor front library brought together by pillage) and by Rudolf Pfaffenberg on medical documentation, are likely of most interest to students of the aims and methods of the Nazi state. Yet, even here close scrutiny may reveal useful hints, as for instance the use of documentation in combating epidemics and other diseases.

The other papers throughout are of high professional caliber, and merit the attention of specialists and documentalists generally.

Maximilian Pflücke discusses from a high plane of objectivity documentation as developed in chemistry, one of its oldest spheres of application. This study is appropriately adorned with a portrait of Gustav Theodor Fechner, the founder of the Chemische Zentralblatt.

Walther Parey does an equally instructive job for technology. Worth mentioning specially is his belief that the method of choosing reviewers in the field as practiced by German abstracting journals results in a product superior to that achieved by comparable American institutions using permanent office staffs. An important contribution is further a classification of types of engineers (research, development, patent, construction, plant engineers) and the observation that this vertical differentiation together with the horizontal distinction of fields of engineering such as civil, mechanical, chemical, electrical, and others makes it clear that centralized documentation is hardly possible in this area. Impressive is Parey's statement that German engineers had at their disposal the "greatest technical library in the world," the German Patent Office, which in 1940 had 400,000 volumes of books and a collection of around 10,000,000 descriptions of patents, all of which was administered by a force of 600 academically-trained experts.

That this great reservoir was not thoroughly integrated into a general documentation system, may well have meant failure in a number of important objectives.

Wilhelm Gülich and Fritz Hellwig make valuable contributions to the subject in the economic sphere. Whereas the former enters into a searching analysis of the aims and methods of economic research, the latter gives a most interesting description of archival establishments in the economic structure of central Europe, especially of Germany. Archivists will want to know that German archivists have recognized the value of cataloging archival materials rather thoroughly, with numerous cross references, though of course they still adhere strictly to the principles of "respect des fonds" and of "provenience" in the arrangement of the records themselves. American colleagues will sympathize with the statement that during the war the German archivists were confined largely to hoping that offices would continue to transfer their records, that no valuable materials were sold for old paper and that air raid protection would prove effective.

Sigmund von Frauendorfer and Richard Immel give very thorough and vivid accounts of their respective fields, i.e., agriculture and forestry. Von Frauendorfer's contribution in agriculture is well-known in the U. S. The more recent rapid strides in the documentation of forestry were first summarized by F. Grünwoldt in 1940. R. Immel brings the account up to date.

Rudolf Juchoff deals with the historical sciences and uses the opportunity to point out that the humanities have known the basic meaning of documentation for a long time. In support he cites a definition from the Grande Encyclopédie 1870 and mentions a number of important handbooks such as Iwan Müller's Handbuch for classical archaeology and Paul's Grundriss for Germanistic studies. However, he concedes that generally the humanistic and also, to a lesser degree, the exact sciences are still proceeding at a more leisurely pace. One area which he classifies apparently with humanistic studies, seems to him to approach the speed of reporting in technology, that of cultural geography (in Germany especially Landeskunde and Auslandskunde). On one example, Triepel's Hegemonie and the research behind it, the
author shows then, that though differing from technological documentation in speed, in essence the process is the same in humanistic research. He succeeds, it appears, in convincing the reader that "Documentation is ... at best hard necessity ... and that all documentation has the same objective: economy in intellectual production."

Three final papers are concerned with photographic reproduction and microphotography. Erich Mehne discusses microphotography from the archivist's angle and suggests that filming is the best method for quick preservation of materials and that permanent preservation is best insured by reproduction on glass plates, supplemented by multiple storage in air conditioned rooms, with diapositives for control. For most efficient use of a photographically reproduced collection he advocates, in preference to film rolls and film strips, arrangement of film sections with individual documents on 9 x 12 cm. cards, which are labeled and may be systematically organized (= Plan-oder Blattfilmverfahren).

Of reading machines Mehne demands these qualities: simple handling, possibility of re-enlargement, cheapness of construction for mass-consumption.

Walther Rahts goes into detail about the methods of copying records and books by filming, contact-printing, and reflex photography. He too advocates the use of the Blattfilm method for convenient collecting and arrangement of film materials, standardized to 2 x 9 pages on 9 x 12 cm. cards. He reports on an interesting departure in copying construction elements from a drawing, scale 1:6, into a drawing, scale 1:4, which resulted in a saving of time of over 500 per cent.

Hermann Joachim reports on a number of cameras used in photographic reproduction as well as on novel reading devices. Among the latter is a reading machine which is equipped with a film holder in front and below the reading surface, and which has a light source outside of the machine to keep it from heating the apparatus. Joachim's article is illustrated by four plates, and the reading machine mentioned can be seen on one of them.

If the reviewer were asked to point out a few outstanding qualities in the work, he might mention these two: first the emphasis on international cooperation on the part of a number of the contributors, notably the agriculturalist von Frauendorfer and the forester Richard Immel; second, the insistence of finding effective means of conditioning the various types of users of the products of documentation through various means of formal and informal training, at length discussed by von Frauendorfer and also by the engineer, Walther Parey.

A cursory analysis such as this review can at best attempt to interest potential readers. Perhaps the book should be translated if only to incorporate it more securely in the apparatus of the Western documentalist and to make possible a more generally fair and sympathetic appraisal. For, "Here ye strike but splintered hearts together—there, ye shall strike unsplinterable glasses!" (H. Melville.)—Icko Iben, University of Illinois.

Bookbinding


Miss Diehl has made a useful contribution in Volume I (The Background), wherein she traces the broad outlines of developments in the practice of bookbinding since its inception, and analyzes the principal characteristics of the major styles in bookbinding decoration. Considering the necessary restrictions on space, no work of such scope can hope to be encyclopedic, and Miss Diehl makes no claim that her essay represents the exception.

Nevertheless, she has performed a valuable service, for which students and connoisseurs will be grateful, by presenting a selective bibliography of bookbinding literature that will take the serious investigator more deeply into special phases of the subject. Although the bibliography itself makes no attempt to evaluate the works listed, in many instances Miss Diehl's textual comment provides the careful reader with the necessary critical clues.

Earlier investigators into bookbinding decoration habitually sought to strengthen their arguments by arbitrarily linking the major
styles with individual craftsmen, many of whom are without any proven connection with the designs they are supposed to represent, and some of whom indeed are ghosts in the purest bibliographical sense. Even Miss Diehl, it is to be feared, lingers a little too regretfully over such time-endearied but totally irrelevant names as Le Gascon, Canevari, and Mearne. This is especially surprising in view of the fact that one must assume from her essay that she is acquainted with the literature which shows, for example, that Demetrio Canevari was not yet born when the bindings formerly ascribed to his library were produced; that the whole magnificent edifice of Le Gascon's reputation has been erected on a few early references to his name (or nickname), without a single specimen now extant that can be attributed to his hand on contemporary evidence; and that Samuel Mearne was a man of affairs, altogether unlikely to have soiled his hands at the glue pot and beating stone, that, in fact, the bindings usually attributed to him can be shown to have emanated from various shops, and represent several distinct styles and sets of tools. To speak, then, of the "Le Gascon style" when a particular school of French pointillé work of the mid-seventeenth century is meant, of "Canevari bindings" when reference is to certain early sixteenth century cameo stamps thought to have been executed for Pier Luigi Farnese, and of "Mearne bindings" in referring to practically all significant English Restoration work, is, to say the least, to employ a loose and untrustworthy terminology.

As a handbook (the avowed purpose) summarizing the results of recent researches into a cohesive and general account, Miss Diehl's treatise is quite provocative. By presenting the entire subject in broad perspective, it may suggest to thoughtful students new directions for further particularized investigations. It may occur to someone, for example, to examine more closely the regrettablly widespread tendency among writers on the subject to consider the various historic styles of bookbinding decoration in vacuo, without reference to the general tastes that brought those styles into being. Prior to Roger Payne's work in the late eighteenth century, nearly all major styles in book-cover ornamentation reflected contemporary tastes in interior and exterior decoration. In her bibliography Miss Diehl lists Speltz's standard work on historic styles of ornament, and it will be in such treatises that the student will get his first bearings. That will be but the starting point, however, for he must examine original works in the whole broad field of architectural decoration, of tapestry and metal grillwork, of picture frames and the progressive forms that household furniture has taken—to mention only a few of the more obvious resources for investigation. What he finds there he must compare with bindings that can be definitely located as to time and place of origin, and, if possible, but not necessarily, as to the original owners or designers. In the end he will almost certainly conclude that—except for a surprising hiatus during the nineteenth century when nearly everything pertaining to books and book-collecting became self-conscious and not a little precious (which may, indeed, be no exception at all)—bookbinding decoration in any given period fits comfortably into the general background of taste.

The reader will at once think of any number of objections to so sweeping a generality, which should be qualified immediately. There is nothing to prevent a craftsman from rising above mere compulsion and bringing to his work a genius for creativeness, where obedience to fashion would suffice. Roger Payne had that genius, and he was one of the first binders to create an independent and successful motif that is not easily explained in terms of contemporary fashions in decoration. He worked in the last half of the eighteenth century, a period that in English architecture is bounded at the beginning by the Hellenists, Revett, and Stewart, and at the end by the classicist, Papworth. Yet there is nothing Greek or Roman in Payne's approach. As, a hundred years later, did Cobden-Sanderson, Payne broke completely with the current mode, and he preached and practiced (and perhaps invented) the thesis that binding decoration is a problem in relationship between text and book-cover, rather than between cover design and external surroundings. This is a difficult theory to apply, as Payne's lesser imitators quickly demonstrated. Only a man with his deep sensitivity and corresponding perfection in craftsmanship could hope to make it work, and such men are rare
by the very nature of things. Payne’s quaintly-phrased bills show both that he thought long and carefully before he ever set tool to leather, and that he knew he risked the possibility that even his client might not understand his subtle treatment. His principal reward lies in the fact that his name is honored wherever bookbindings are cherished, and that his masterpieces fit as gracefully into present surroundings as they did in those of his own day. They do so not because they imitate those surroundings, not because they are “artistic” in the loose sense which that word has come to have, but because Payne’s approach was intellectual and was governed by a different set of rules than those which apply to shifting fashions of decoration.

Miss Diehl’s treatise is laid out according to a well-conceived plan. It occupies in all something less than 200 pages, excluding preliminaries and appendixes. Considerable discussion is devoted to primitive records and ancient book forms; the book of the Middle Ages, of the Renaissance, and of modern times; early methods of production and distribution; and bookbinding practices. Principal attention, however, is centered on “National Styles of Book Decoration,” in which the contribution of each major European country and of North America is carefully analyzed. A chapter devoted to “Miscellanea” treats such subjects as format, signatures, book-edge decoration, book oddities, forgeries, materials, and the deterioration and care of books. There is a glossary of technical terms, and a bibliography of 15 pages lists selected studies in various broad subject fields of bookbinding history and related matters. At the back of the volume are 91 admirable plates, in which, however, some discrepancies have been noted. The plates are without full descriptions, which appear only in the “List of Illustrations,” necessitating an exorbitant amount of back-reference on the part of the user. Some bindings, unfortunately, are listed without identifying references to the books they protect (e.g., plates 12, 32, 50, 61, 62, etc.). Sometimes, too, the descriptions are incomplete (e.g., plate 13—what date?). Plate 55 probably should have followed plate 58, in the order of strict chronology; and plate 60 represents as the work of Roger Payne a binding that was certainly not produced by him. The doublure reproduced in the facing plate 61 (of a different binding, although that fact is nowhere made clear) is veritable Payne work.

The essay suffers from numerous annoying misspellings of proper names, of which this reviewer has observed two dozen instances. Most of them are obvious slips that would doubtless have been caught if the production had not been undertaken during a critical period. At least one is serious enough for special notice here: “Grauzat” for “Crauzat” (p. 210) throws the entry for a valuable work far out of its proper alphabetical place in the bibliography.

While on the subject of the bibliography, the question inevitably occurs as to why Herbst’s invaluable continuation of Mejer’s Bibliographie der Buchbinder-Literatur is not listed, inasmuch as the original work is cited. There are other surprising lacunae, even in the light of the fact that Miss Diehl’s list is “selected”: Beraldi’s Reliure du XIXe siècle, 1895-7; Bollert’s Lederschnittbände des XIV. Jahrhunderts, 1925 (Schmidt’s discussion of similar work of the next century is noted); Thomas’ Early Spanish Bindings, 1939 (cited in the text but not listed); Bouland’s Marques de Livres, 1925 (the chapter challenging certain so-called Marguerite de Valois bindings contains material not available elsewhere); Hobson’s catalog of the J. R. Abbey collection, 1940; Husung’s catalog of the collection in the Preussischen Staatsbibliothek, 1925; Schmidt’s catalog of the Darmstadt collection, 1921; Boinet’s catalog of the Mme. Whitney-Hoff collection, 1938; and De Ricci’s catalog of the Schiff collection, 1935. All of these works contain matter indispensable to the serious student of bookbinding history.

Volume II is devoted to the practical side of bookbinding, in dealing with which Miss Diehl demonstrates her thorough knowledge of the techniques that have brought her a solid reputation as a binder for collectors. Librarians, however, will look in vain for suggestions pointing some way out of their growing dilemma of rising binding costs and static budgets.

Miss Diehl’s approach is that of providing a handbook to guide beginners in handbinding. Realizing that beginners would have difficulty in following the instructions, she
emphasizes at the outset of her disquisition that real skill can be acquired only by actual practice, and not by reading about the operations involved. The text is accompanied by copious line illustrations drawn by Mrs. Edna W. Kaula. They are tastefully prepared, and are far more suitable in a book of this kind than photographs would be.

Miss Diehl is primarily concerned with methods for putting a book into an appropriate and durable binding, but she also devotes considerable attention to the selection of proper tools and equipment. Her preoccupation with collectors' bindings is revealed in her recommendations for equipment, much of which does not differ from that used by craftsmen in the early periods of bookbinding. There are detailed descriptions of standing and hand presses, cutters, sewing frames, tooling stoves, and apparatus for grinding knives. The author takes note of modern developments by recommending a grindstone powered by a motor over the old-fashioned foot-treadle machine, but on the whole she disregards the large-scale, speedy, and economical apparatus that is indispensable to the needs of librarians.

The author devotes several pages to the consideration of "flexible binding," a term which she uses in a way which differs from the concept held by some binders. While many of her remarks in regard to the operations in binding, collating, and paging, and sharpening of knives are consistent with general practice, there may be a considerable difference of opinion in regard to her procedures for pulling and removing glue, trimming before sewing, and guarding illustrations. One is unavoidably concerned about her inadequate recommendations in connection with the repair of old bindings.

Miss Diehl provides a lengthy analysis of such important aspects of binding as forwarding, sewing, mending, and mounting, folding and gathering, and finishing. As in her earlier discussions she recommends specific procedures for the various steps in each operation. Yet, there is wide variety of opinion among binders as to proper procedure; and the differences are generally the result of personal experience and prolonged experiment. There is no question that Miss Diehl has set forth in this volume those practices which she believes to be the most effective, but she does not always explain the reasons behind her postulations. For example, in discussing tooling, she notes that "It has been a practice among some French extra binders to glaire, lay the gold, put a glass cover, or 'cloche,' over the book and leave it until the following day before tooling. They claim that a little dampness is created in this way that is advantageous for gold tooling. I have tried this method, but prefer to freshen the leather and gold-tool it the same day." There are other similar passages in the volume.

As stated above, for librarians the second volume of this work will have principal value as a reference guide; it will not help them much in their day-to-day problems. It is worth noting that on page 256, Miss Diehl summarizes the problem of "Library Bindings" as follows: "Library binding would best be constructed in the manner just described, but the expense is too prohibitive in this country for most public libraries. Specifications for library bindings will be found in books named in the Selected List of Books at the end of Volume I." But college, university, and many large public libraries contain great numbers of old and rare books which require something more than "library binding," if less than "collectors' binding." A potentially great demand exists, which would be revealed if librarians had before them a comprehensive, realistic, and up-to-date documentation of the progress that has been made in the conservation and protection of source materials. No such documentation has appeared to supersede the works of Lydenberg and Archer, Cockerell, Leighton, Rogers, and others whose studies are familiar occupants of the shelves in the offices of librarians.—Roland Baughman and Maurice F. Tauber, Columbia University.
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The topic of the thirteenth annual institute of the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago will be “Education for Librarianship.” The institute will be held at the university during the week of Aug. 16-21, 1948.

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The institute will deal with such topics as the place of professional education in the university, the relationship between education for librarianship and education for other professions, the preprofessional background of librarians, the content of basic library training and training in special fields, and the state of advanced training and research in librarianship.

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