

doctorate may be reasonably undertaken are outlined. In the discussion of the curriculum the analysis is not as thorough and detailed as might have been expected, nor does it concern itself fully with some of the questions which library school administrators and faculty members have had to face in the past few years. The question of the degree to be granted after a one-year course is settled in favor of the bachelor's degree and some doubt is expressed concerning the comprehensive examination program. The new curriculum which is being inaugurated at Columbia this fall undoubtedly drew some of its elements and its guiding principles from this chapter, particularly as regards the strengthening of the graduate program. The chapter, however, seems to accept the traditional first year program as settled, whereas the new program at Columbia represents significant departures from the first year program of the past twenty years.

As informed studies by experienced univer-

sity librarians of important problems in one of the major university library systems in the country, these reports are of value not only to the institution for which they were prepared, but as contributions to the literature of university librarianship. It is to be hoped that at some date in the not distant future a well-qualified person, perhaps one of the members of the original survey committee, will be invited back to Columbia to study the progress which has been made in dealing with these problems and to prepare a report showing the experience of the libraries in the ensuing five-year period in attempting to put into effect the recommendations contained in the survey reports.

All who are interested in or concerned with the administrative problems of large university libraries will read these reports with attention and possibly use with profit.—*Stephen A. McCarthy, Cornell University Library.*

## Classification for International Law

"Classification for International Law." Based on Elsie Basset's *Outline of Topic Headings for Books on International Law and Relations in Classified Form* and expanded by Kurt Schwerin. Charlottesville, Va., University of Virginia Law Library, c1947.

It may not seem quite fair to appraise from the point of view of its general usefulness a tool which was developed primarily for the use of one particular library, and whose chief merit must be measured by the degree to which it fulfills the needs of that library. As the foreword suggests, however, it is hoped that the present classification scheme will find wider application; the following comments are therefore offered on the basis of this statement.

The classification follows Miss Basset's *Outline of Topic Headings for Books on International Law and Relations in Classified Form*, published as Appendix 2 of her *Cataloging Manual for Law Libraries* (New York, Wilson, 1942). Dr. Schwerin's contribution consists of the expansion of the notation and, in several instances, the interpolation and rearrangement of topics.

The scheme is divided into three sections:

Treatises on International Law, Treatises on International Relations, and Reports and Documents. A list of examples of call numbers taken from the catalog of the University of Virginia Law Library, a list of country symbols, and an outline of classification for private international law (conflict of laws) are appended. The section, *Treatises on International Law*, is subdivided into an introductory general part which is not limited to treatises but includes various forms of publications, e.g. case books, encyclopedias, bibliographies, etc., and into parts on the state, maritime law, diplomacy, treaties, international disputes, and war. The section, *International Relations*, has no formal subdivisions and includes a multitude of topics. It begins with general subjects of world politics, including the history of alliances and wars from the American Revolution down to the present reconstruction period. The history of the foreign relations of the United States and of other countries, with which the outline is continued, is followed by topics of peace, peace congresses, questions of disarmament and international congresses, the League of Nations, and the United Nations. Special topics

of international agreements such as commerce, copyright, postal service, and labor questions, conclude this section. The third section, Reports and Documents, provides for all the serial publications in the field, on the theory that less frequent shifting of the whole collection is necessary if material requiring most frequent shifting comes at the end of the collection. This arrangement follows Miss Basset's reasoning in the original outline scheme.

The basic notation consists of two-figure numbers ranging from 00 to 99. It is expanded through interpolation of decimal figures when additional topics require greater detail. It is a peculiar feature of Dr. Schwerin's notation that figures with decimal function are appended to the two-figure numbers without insertion of a decimal point; thus, 465 is preceded by 46 and followed by 48. The result of this economy is that the notation cannot be expanded beyond 99 basic numbers, and new concepts which may evolve in the future must be crowded into this straight-jacket.

As Miss Basset points out in the introduction to her Outline of Topic Headings for Books on American and English Law, which equally applies to the present outline, her scheme was designed mainly as an aid in selecting subject headings. Topics appear therefore in more than one place in the outline scheme, and for purposes of classification one definite place must be selected for the shelf location of the books. The necessary specification of a definitive place for a specific topic has not been carried through in many instances, and identical topics are scattered under various subjects throughout the scheme without indication which of the various possible aspects should attract the material and which should serve as cross-reference only. Thus, provision is made for topics such as "Reciprocity," "Most favored nations clause," and "Trade agreements" both under treaties in the section on international law (363) and in the section on foreign relations (71). Bibliography is scheduled at the beginning of the scheme (008) and, without apparent justification, again at the end (99). Provision for material on the atomic bomb is made in not less than four places: land warfare including methods and use (513), aerial warfare (54),

prohibited instruments and methods of warfare (514), and history of international relations (661).

In some instances, the usefulness of the scheme will be enhanced if apparent conflicts are resolved, or the scope of the captions is explained to the user. E.g., while criminal jurisdiction is classed under the synonymous title of international criminal law (38) the subordinate topic, extraterritorial crime, is classed with extraterritoriality under the general topic, the state (14). On the other hand, international delicts (*i.e.*, criminal offenses) are classed under state responsibility (18), a topic by which is generally understood the liability of governments for civil torts committed by officials of the state. The theory of war crimes, an example of the substantive law of international offenses, however, is found with the procedural problem of criminal jurisdiction (38). Since the problem of criminal jurisdiction and extraterritorial crime is one of the conflict of laws rather than of international law, its inclusion here appears questionable. Specific war crime trials are placed with the history of international relations of the postwar period (6154).

Although conventions or agreements on specific phases of private or administrative law create "international" law in the meaning of intermunicipal law, their significance lies not so much in their nature as a phase of the law of nations as in the creation of uniform municipal law in certain fields of private or governmental activity. The conventions listed in sections 71-733, and international control of atomic energy in peacetime (661) should probably be listed here, too, therefore, belong with their subjects in general law or other places in the classification rather than with international relations.

Despite the above criticisms, the new classification scheme is to be welcomed as a stimulating contribution to the thinking on the problem of the control of the overwhelming output of publications in the field of international law and relations on the part of those librarians who are seeking a middle ground between the inadequate schedule of the decimal classification in its present form, and the close classification of the Library of Congress.—*Werner B. Ellinger, Library of Congress.*