

United States. The recent surveys of the libraries of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute and of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute reached conclusions which are similar to those arrived at by Orr and Carlson for Texas A. and M. A recommendation, common to the other surveys, reached by the surveyors is as follows:

If the library is to give effective support to resident instruction, research and extension education, the book collections, especially scientific and technical journals in the basic and applied sciences, will have to undergo substantial development. A greatly augmented staff, some of whom would possess training in science and foreign languages, will also be necessary. Moreover, a library building that is larger and more functional than the Cushing Memorial Library building must be provided. Not until these needs are satisfied will the library be in a position to provide the publications, the services and the facilities that are required for the library program needed at Texas A. and M. College.

The surveyors have performed a valuable job for Texas A. and M. in outlining a program of development for the future. The methods of analysis used in examining the book collections, the personnel, public services and use, technical services, library building and financial support are not too different from those employed in other surveys of academic libraries with which we are now familiar. However, they are specifically directed at Texas A. and M.'s peculiar problems.

The surveyors recognize the great strides that are being made in the educational and research programs of land-grant colleges. Texas A. and M., like other similar institutions, "has long since advanced beyond the original Morrill Act assignment of instruction in agriculture and the mechanic arts." Its increased research program, stimulated by the Hatch Act, has resulted in greater demands upon the library. In addition, the growth of the Graduate College has made it essential for the library to provide resources and facilities on a more advanced level.

In order to correct the deficiencies of its library program, Texas A. and M. will need a substantial increase in its budget. The surveyors suggest an increase from the 1949-50 budget of \$137,864.55 to \$249,440. Actually, this represents approximately 2.95 per cent of the total general and educational expenditures.

Since funds, wisely spent, are necessary for a library enterprise to function effectively, it may be worth noting that from 1933-34 to 1949-50, Texas A. and M. allocated sums to the library which ranged from 1.09 to 1.69 per cent of the total expenditures, with the appropriation for 1938-39 reaching a high of 1.92. A large part of the increase is recommended for books, but 17 new staff members are proposed, nine professional and eight clerical.

Surveys have proven to be valuable blueprints of procedure to some of the institutions for which they have been made. The extent to which the authorities of an institution will consider serious recommendations and put them into effect is important in the future life of the libraries involved. Texas A. and M. has a carefully worked out program for direct action.—*Maurice F. Tauber, Columbia University.*

## The New Gutenberg-Jahrbuch

Volume XXV of the *Gutenberg-Jahrbuch* has just been published as the silver jubilee volume commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Gutenberg-Gesellschaft in Mainz. A particularly handsome book as a physical specimen, it is truly international in character with its text in five languages (German, English, French, Spanish and Italian), each contributor writing in his native idiom. Among the contributors are Dard Hunter, who writes on "Papermaking by Hand in America, 1690-1811," Herman Ralph Mead on the 15 supposedly unique Spanish incunabula in the Huntington Library and Curt F. Bühler on "The Edition of the 'Ditz moraulx des philosophes' Printed at Paris by Michel Le Noir."

The basic purposes of the Gutenberg-Gesellschaft have been stated as research in the history of writing, printing, paper, book-binding, illustration and other aspects of the graphic arts. In addition to the annual *Gutenberg-Jahrbuch*, the society publishes several smaller works every year. Of particular interest among recent publications are Director Aloys Ruppel's "Die Erfindung der Buchdruckerkunst und die Entdeckung Amerikas" (1948) and Helmut Presser's catalog of the Gutenberg-Museum's exhibit commemorating the Goethe Bicentennial, "Goethe und seine Drucker" (1949).

Membership subscription to the society is \$6.00 per annum, a fee entitling each individual member to all publications. Although the *Gutenberg-Festschrift* (i.e., volume XXV of the *Jahrbuch*) is being sold for \$14.27 in the book trade, it is still possible to acquire it as a part of the relatively modest membership fee for 1949-50. Memberships are received by Dr. Aloys Ruppel, director of the society, at Rheinalle 3 3/10, Mainz, Germany (French Zone).—Lawrence S. Thompson, *University of Kentucky Libraries*.

## Subject Cataloging in Germany

*Lehrbuch der Sachkatalogisierung.* Von Heinrich Roloff. Leipzig, Otto Harrassowitz, 1950. xii, 115p.

The problem of subject cataloging is considerably more complicated in Europe than it is in America for the average research library simply because of the age of the holdings and the nature of the cataloging traditions. With a few exceptions, American research libraries began to assume significant proportions only in the latter part of the nineteenth century; and before acquisition rates were stepped up to the present astronomical proportions, widely accepted cataloging codes, classification schemes and subject heading systems had taken hold in America. Precisely the opposite is true in Europe. Moreover, European library systems have never combined attempts to serve scholars as well as the masses, and neither has the European university library ever had to serve undergraduates comparable to ours.

Roloff, librarian of the Deutsche Akademie der Wissenschaften in Berlin, is thus free to describe a multiplicity of practice in this textbook without feeling obligated to set up inflexible standards or condemn apparently clumsy systems which originated in past generations and have been adapted to peculiar institutional needs. He does not offer a "sachkatalogische Kodifikation" such as Hans Trebst demanded in his article, "Der heutige Erkenntnisstand in der Formal- und in der Sachkatalogisierung," *Zentralblatt für Bibliothekswesen*, LI (1934), 449; but he does

present a quite complete survey of current cataloging problems in Germany and a number of points of departure for constructive discussion.

The text is divided into four sections: (1) Historical development of subject cataloging together with definitions and a statement of functions; (2) The problems involved in shelving books (formats; shelving in alphabetical order, by *numerus currens*, by groups, by classification; housing new acquisitions; call numbers); (3) Shelf lists in general and for shelving by *numerus currens*, by groups and in alphabetical order; (4) The classed catalog, with discussions of the basis of classification, a description of various classification schemes (with special attention to the basic decimal classification as well as its variants), the logic of form divisions and subdivisions, the shorthand of notation, conspecti (*rotuli*) and subject indices and classed catalogs as shelflists or as subject guides independent of shelving systems; and (5) The rules for a subject catalog with special attention to the form of the headings, filing and a tentative subject heading code. It is particularly interesting in the latter case to note how many common sense rules for the establishment of new headings transcend linguistic and national differentiation and would seem to be well-nigh universally applicable.

For this very reason it is regrettable that Roloff did not cite practices in English-speaking countries more extensively. Except for the section on the decimal classification little discussion is devoted to routines familiar to us; and of the 85 references in the bibliography, all were printed in Europe. On the other hand, this book grew from lectures in a library school and was intended as a textbook for German students of librarianship; and we can only wonder whether anyone doing a similar book in this country would have given equal attention to the European literature of subject cataloging. Nevertheless, a similar book is needed in English, and when it is published, it should refer frequently to the European practices described by Roloff.—Lawrence S. Thompson, *University of Kentucky Libraries*.