A Correction

As reviewer of *The Core of Education for Librarianship*, Mr. Shera has been privileged to express without editorial interference his doubts about the value of the Workshop, the quality of the reporting, and the intelligence of the participants. On the other hand, a serious misinterpretation of fact, which occurs in that part of his article which departs from the subject of his assigned review, should be corrected.

Mr. Shera is incorrect when he suggests that the relocation of the University of Chicago B.A. somehow results in a deterioration of the degree program in the Graduate Library School. Neither the quality nor the level of the preparation required by the GLS for the M.A. degree has in any way been lowered from that which was required for at least the last four years while Mr. Shera was on the GLS faculty. At that time, qualified students in the College of the University were eligible for a three-year program in the GLS following the award of the B.A. degree then in effect. This program was divided essentially as follows: one year was devoted to courses outside the GLS, one to basic “core” courses in librarianship, and one to advanced courses in librarianship. In other words, the M.A. degree might be earned five years after graduation from high school.

Now that the College degree has been relocated at the end of four years following high school graduation, the student will continue to follow a five year road to the M.A., the last three of which will remain devoted essentially to a year of courses outside the GLS, a year of “core” courses in librarianship, and a year of advanced courses in librarianship. Students who qualify for admission to the program leading to a higher degree in the Graduate Library School may thus elect to begin their professional training in the fourth year of their College work. The B.A. degree they receive is given by the College in General Studies, not in Librarianship. The first professional degree awarded by the Graduate Library School is still the M.A., and represents the total program of the core plus advanced courses. The Division of the Social Sciences, the School of Business, and the Law School of the University of Chicago have also endorsed similar programs for qualified students.

The GLS core courses are taken at the same point in the student’s academic career as before, and are still based on a background of general education which, if anything, is now better organized and integrated. The general education requirement continues to be a matter of demonstrated knowledge of content rather than an arbitrary number of quarters of exposure to it. Whatever the source of his information, Mr. Shera has been misled, I suspect, by the merely formal change through which the College will confer a new B.A. at the end of four years rather than at the end of two.—*Lester Asheim, dean, Graduate Library School, University of Chicago.*

Arctic Bibliography


Previous to the publication of the three-volume *Arctic Bibliography* a variety of guides had to be examined for writings about the north-polar regions. One might scan, for example, Chavanne’s *Die Literatur iiber die Polar-Regionen der Erde*, the first comprehensive polar bibliography, the *Katalog* of the Copenhagen Marinens Bibliotek or the bibliographies which have appeared in the *Polar Record*. It was on the basis not only of examining these and other existing bibliographies but also of searching the journals covering the Arctic region and by checking collections in some sixty libraries that the *Arctic Bibliography* was compiled.

These volumes were published not only to provide a needed comprehensive bibliography but also to satisfy the urgent demand for a guide to present Arctic knowledge—a demand which has increased with both the opening up of the northern frontiers and the growing importance of the polar regions in world politics. The evident intention of the
compilers was to produce as nearly complete a
guide as possible within the limits imposed by
the time available for the project and by the
vast amount of material to be studied. Defi-
nite bounds of inclusion and coverage were
established for this initial work. The area
of geographic coverage is carefully delineated
on pages 5-6 of the Introduction; it is outlined
graphically on the index map which is repro-
duced in each of the volumes. The span of
time included is almost entirely the nineteenth
and twentieth centuries; this necessarily ex-
cludes important earlier works. Some
publications which were too difficult to
analyze in the time allowed for the prepara-
tion of these volumes were omitted. It has
been estimated that approximately 50% of
the material which might have been included
within the scope of this set is yet to be in-
dexed. There is, for example, in the Stefans-
son Library, alone, still a sizeable quantity of
material in this category but, as yet, unre-
corded. This fact does not detract from the
Arctic Bibliography; rather, so much is pre-
sented to the user that he is impressed not
only by the wealth of Arctic writings but also
by the immense work which has been pro-
duced. Moreover, in order to bring the initial
publication up to date and to include, as well,
both older works not previously analyzed and
some classics, supplements—several already
nearing completion—will be issued.

One would probably be correct in presum-
ing that in preliminary discussions the com-
pilers debated the relative merits of the
chosen author listing, with its subject-geo-
graphic index, in comparison with a chrono-
logical or other arrangement. The plan
selected is probably the most convenient for
the majority of users and, considering the
bibliography as a tool of great
value for cita-
tion verification, one is inclined to think that
the best decision was made.

A few more than twenty thousand items are
recorded in Volumes 1 and 2, the author list-
ing. They represent coverage of almost all
the earth sciences as well as anthropology,
botany, zoology and sociology. Books, papers
and contributions to works of multiple author-
ship are noted under each author's name.
Entries include not only the transcribed title
but also English translations of foreign-
language titles—a great advantage where a
majority of the listings are in Russian, Ger-
man or the Scandinavian languages. Gen-
erally, when books or articles include a bibli-
ography, this is noted with either the number
of items included in it or the paging. De-
scriptive annotations are given for each entry.
A library location symbol indicates where the
cited copy was examined. In this regard, the
searcher should note, for example, that
though Item 4472 is a Library of Congress
copy, this does not signify that the Stefansson
Library at Dartmouth does not have it. One
might wish that in the case of monographs
and books which, like this, are not found in
many collections, more library locations could
have been noted. (True—a footnote on page
8 indicates that the LC Union Catalog or the
Union List of Serials should be consulted for
other copies of books and locations of
journals.)

Volume 3 comprises the index—in itself a
remarkable tool. Not only do the geographic
entries have subject subheadings but the
subject entries have, first of all, geographic
subdivision; then, subject subdivisions. This
factor, plus abundant cross-referencing, makes
it almost impossible for the user not to find
the item for which he is searching. Inclusion
of imprint date with the brief title is an
additional aid. The index illustrates the in-
tention of the Arctic Bibliography to note,
first of all, the original records of explorations
and reports of scientists; the entries under
"Expeditions" extend for 107 pages.

The Arctic Bibliography was financed by
funds from the U.S. Department of Defense
under a contract with the Arctic Institute of
North America. The Canadian government
also contributed financially to its completion.
Anyone whose work touches on the polar
region and who must work with its literature
and bibliography owes a debt of thanks to the
compilers of the Arctic Bibliography but
especially to Marie Tremaine of the Arctic
Institute of North America who has both
directed and inspired this undertaking.—Vir-
ginia L. Close, Dartmouth College Library.

Serial Publications

Periodicals and Serials, Their Treatment in
London, Aslib, 1953. 200p. (Aslib Manu-
als, vol. 3.) 12s.6d. (10s.6d. to members).
The so-called incunabula period for serials