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PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS
OF THE
RESEARCH LIBRARY

*edited by Edwin E. Williams (Harvard University Library)*

viii, 181 p. 1955. $3.50.

This volume contains the papers and proceedings of the Monticello Conference of the Association of Research Libraries, in which more than sixty librarians, professors, and administrative officers of universities participated. A chapter is devoted to each of the five sessions:

In Chapter I, *Opportunities and Pitfalls*, President Morey (Illinois) indicates types of information that seem to be needed and areas in which standards might be helpful; President Millett (Miami University) deals with the lack of understanding between librarians and administrators; Dr. Miller (Indiana) emphasizes the distinction between library costs and library values; and Professor Gilman (Iowa State College) considers basic factors in research that underlie the problems of research libraries.

In Chapter II, *Library Operation*, Dr. Swank (Stanford) summarizes the complex activities of libraries and calls attention to problems that ought to be studied; Professor Hart (California) treats acquisition policy from the humanist's point of view; Professor Hamilton (Duke) and Professor Fruton (Yale) give interestingly divergent accounts of what scholars want in cataloging and classification; and Professor Morse (M.I.T.) reports on an investigation, by means of operations research, of the library needs of scientists.

In Chapter III, *Cooperation and Specialization*, papers by Dean McKean (Colorado), Dr. Downs (Illinois), and Dr. Branscomb (Ohio State) are chiefly concerned with interlibrary centers, photographic reproduction, and specialization in collecting.

In Chapter IV, *The Financial Situation*, Dr. Metcalf (Harvard) outlines the history of research library growth and warns of problems that can be expected; and Mr. Coney (California) shows why the articulation of library resources on a national basis seems to be essential in order to meet the needs of scholars.

In Chapter V, *The Future*, a report to the Association of American Universities by President de Kiewiet (Rochester), Chancellor Branscomb (Vanderbilt), and President Dodds (Princeton) recommends that the Association sponsor a study of research library problems; Professor Buck (Harvard) appraises the value of a great library to its university and formulates his own credo; and Dean Hudson (Ohio State) suggests procedures that should enable the proposed study to avoid pitfalls to which attention had been called in papers and discussions at the preceding sessions.

The editor has provided an introduction, summaries of the discussion with which each session concluded, a selected bibliography, and an index.

The Scarecrow Press

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