

# Bimonthly and Future Program of COLLEGE AND RESEARCH LIBRARIES

**D**URING THE SPRING of 1955 a questionnaire was sent to members of ACRL asking for comments on the format and contents of COLLEGE AND RESEARCH LIBRARIES and for suggestions of ways for improving the journal. The purpose of this brief statement is to report on the results of the questionnaire.

Out of a total distribution of 5,072 blanks, 1,429, or 28% of the total, were returned by readers. For those who were interested enough to reply, there was a serious effort on their part to assist the Editors, and many readers provided specific suggestions.

*Features.* Practically all of the features of C&RL are considered useful by most of the readers contributing comments. There was an especially strong following for "Selected Reference Books," "New Periodicals," "Reviews," and "News from the Field." Such features as "Personnel" and "Statistics" claimed less interest. "Notes from the ACRL Office" and "ACRL Minutes" were considered desirable, but like the reports of most meetings and actions of organizations, were of least interest.

Conflicting opinions were held by some of the members in regard to the coverage by "Personnel" and "News." Some suggested that the scope of these features was not large enough, and a smaller number preferred greater selection so that the presently allotted space could be used for additional articles.

Although a total of 893 readers reported that they used "Statistics" regularly, 1,101 indicated that they would have no objection to their appearance in some source other than C&RL. During this year the question of the publication of the "Statistics" will be considered by

the Committee on Statistics and the editorial staff.

*Format.* Actually, there were only 11 comments directly concerning the format of the journal. These referred to printing fonts and the crowded make-up of pages. It is expected that new printing arrangements may be accompanied by improvement in format. Particularly wanted were captions in articles and in such features as "News." Authors have sometimes in the past complained about the addition of captions to sections of their papers; they can help by supplying such divisions themselves. Attention was also called to the use of broad titles to describe articles which warrant more specific titles.

*Advertising.* About two-thirds of the readers responding indicated that they used the advertisements for information concerning books, supplies, and other items. Only one person suggested the removal of advertising.

*Distribution of C&RL.* Of the 1,042 readers who answered the queries on the use of the issues of C&RL, 539 reported that only they read their copies. Two people read issues received by 147 members, and several examine those received by 356 readers.

*Articles.* The largest amount of comment was concerned with the articles. One can only report after reading the remarks that all articles have some interest for some readers. It would not be unfair to state, however, that the readers uniformly requested articles which have to do with library practice. An unusually large number were appreciative of the descriptions of operations, particularly if they were new approaches, in specific libraries. Imaginative proposals for mas-

tering pressing problems were also wanted. Surveys of practices in groups of libraries had an appeal to a large number of readers, particularly if conclusions were reached on desirable practices. A fairly large group asked if more articles applying to problems of the smaller library could not be included in future issues. Articles evaluating equipment were regarded as especially useful. Five or more readers requested articles on the following subjects: academic status, acquisitions (problems of college libraries, film libraries, salary increments, library-administration relations), audio-visual work, buildings (layout, furniture and equipment), cataloging (cataloging-reference relations, cataloging problems in small libraries), circulation (charging systems for college libraries, comparative methods), college libraries (role of library in general education, the library staff in the academic situation, staff-administration relationships, building book collections), cooperation (in acquisitions, areas of subject responsibility, bibliographical centers, deposit libraries), exhibits, faculty-library relationships, history of libraries, personnel (problems, administration, personnel practices), reading (importance of content of books to librarians, ways to encourage staff reading, ways to encourage reading of undergraduates), reference service (interlibrary cooperation, extending resources, solution of difficult reference questions, extending services, services in public libraries, controlled studies of various aspects, reference-cataloging relationships, training of reference librarians), research projects (listing of studies completed in library schools or in libraries), reviews (covering more evaluation of titles), science libraries, small college libraries, surveys (reports on individual libraries, management surveys and work simplification), teachers college libraries (administration, book selection, role of AACTE, use of the library, studies of effects of reading, how

to teach with books), technical processes (subject divisional arrangement, order procedures), and use of the library (methods of increasing use, library handbooks).

The Editor and the editorial staff are gratified by the interest shown by the members in the questionnaire. We are quite proud of the bouquets which were included in the forms which were returned. We are constantly conscious of shortcomings, and are grateful for the occasional, unsolicited suggestions. The Editor and the staff consistently try to learn of studies which have been completed or are in progress, and solicit papers from the field. As the official journal of ACRL, we are concerned about publishing papers presented at the Association's conferences, minutes of meetings, and other activities related to the group. This is probably as it should be. At the present time, although we are embarking on a bimonthly basis, there is no indication that additional space will be forthcoming in the journal. Space limitation, therefore, restricts somewhat the possibility of presenting all phases of our work that the readers would like to see included. Perhaps in time this limitation will be minimized.

A journal is as strong as its members would like to make it. The editorial staff members have been exceedingly helpful in the past in reviewing papers submitted by ACRL members and others. We try to eliminate those topics which have been covered in the literature in either book form or in periodicals, but we sometimes run a paper which emphasizes a point of view which bears repeating, if there is a new slant involved. The protest by some reference librarians and librarians of small colleges that we have neglected their areas can be helped by spelling out the situations, conditions, or operations which require study. The "A-V Clearing House," introduced in the July, 1955, issue, is designed to

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that the Library of Congress printed catalog does not by any manner of means include all the references in the Library of Congress card catalogs, a precedent which might well hold for the published National Union Catalog. And for entries under a variety of forms, the editors must do their best and allowance must be made in the published work for a certain amount of inconsistency. It would be easy to spend millions of dollars in editing the catalog, but this must be avoided. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

The intent of this paper is to urge the acceptance of a limited program for the publication of the National Union Catalog. In essence the publication would be complementary to the Library of Congress printed catalog, as well as to the various other accepted bibliographies. It would not be a complete and perfect bibliography, but it would be a tremendously valuable bibliographical tool, both for the location of copies and for the compilation of bibliographies of various kinds. With the proposed expansion of the Library of Congress *Author Catalog* into a union catalog, beginning next year, the time has come to reproduce the retrospective National Union Catalog to the best of our ability. If general agreement can be reached on this proposal, we could ask the Library of Congress to study the costs involved, to estimate the size of the subsidy, if any, that would be required, to make possible a publication at a low enough price so that the whole project would become feasible.

## Future Program

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provide readers with information on developments in the audio-visual field. A number of readers have already expressed favorable comments on this new feature. Librarians in practice can assist in improving the journal by writing and by encouraging their staff members to write. If there is any single criterion to guide writers, it is to present new ideas. Contributors should follow the basic

style of the journal in presentation, footnote citations, and tabular organization. We are counting on your full cooperation.—*Maurice F. Tauber, Editor.*

## Faculty Service

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subject specialists, but the functions of the specialist might well be performed immediately under the office of the director, or out of a subject divisional library, or out of a departmental library. It is believed, however, that once the service is created the confidence and support necessary to its success would soon be established in sufficient degree to make the innovation successful.

Certainly the librarian convinced of the efficacy of his calling will not cringe at improving or increasing services. Let the faint-hearted but look back over the progress of the last half-century and see how far he has come already. He should note also that special libraries have always given most of the services discussed above. Indeed, the coordination of faculty services entails little more than the adaptation of certain special library practices to an academic situation.

## Use of TAAB

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which *TAAB* service provides.

In conclusion, it might be said that the *TAAB* method has the virtue of being cooperative, comprehensive and competitive. It is cooperative in the sense that libraries and booksellers derive mutual benefit in a new and imaginative way. Comprehensiveness is achieved by the large-scale attention given by booksellers to an individual library's wants. It is competitive because of the number of dealers involved and this tends to encourage low quoting on items desired. The method has much to recommend it.