
In a brief preface to Library Science, it is stated, “We would like to thank the numerous college faculty members throughout the country who have requested that this type of book be published to supplement the textbook in their classes.” Apparently the purpose of this publication is to supplement instruction in the use of libraries at various academic levels. It cannot be questioned that there is a need for good publications to accomplish this purpose.

However, it is regretted that Library Science is the publication that has evolved to meet this need, for this publication presents libraries and librarianship in a negative and frequently erroneous manner. It could do nothing but discourage students from considering the field of librarianship as a career.

Even though the copyright date of the publication is 1969, it is assumed that the manuscript was completed early in 1967. All statistics given are for 1966 or earlier and all bibliographies and suggested reading lists (with the exception of one entry) are dated 1966 or earlier. As a matter of fact the majority of the entries in the suggested reading lists are in the 1940s and 1950s. In discussing reference books and encyclopedias, generally no dates or editions are given. However, it is unfortunate that when some editions are given the latest edition is not identified, as new editions have appeared since the preparation of the manuscript. It is also regretted that there is minimal discussion of standards for various types of libraries. Those referred to have frequently been superseded.

In an attempt to cover the total field of librarianship in this publication, which unfortunately is titled Library Science, the brevity of statements frequently causes misunderstanding or results in statements which are misleading or redundant. Brevity has not been a blessing in this publication. I quote one paragraph completely to illustrate this point. “Environment, a combination of many factors, affects reading. The availability of reading matter is an obvious environmental factor affecting reading.” (p. 69). Many other examples of verbiage with little meaning could be given.

Library Science is a typical “College Notes” publication. It is paperbound, with very cheap paper, frequent typographical errors, both in the text and in the suggested readings. If it were current and up-to-date, if all statements were correct, and if the challenge of contemporary librarianship and the excitement of the changing scene of librarianship due to the educational explosion and the related problems of information organization and control were conveyed to the reader, this volume might have had merit.—John T. Eastlick, University of Denver.


Intended primarily for transfer, or liberal arts programs, with emphasis on support of curriculum, Books for Junior College Libraries (BJCL) “... endeavors to present, as any good college library collection does, a microcosm of the world around us ... 1but1 does not attempt in any way to cover the vast area of terminal and vocational courses offered in junior and community colleges.” (Preface.) Limited to books, it is a good selection of titles backed by substantial authority. The method by which it was compiled is logical—start with the shelflists of three outstanding junior college libraries, winnow the best from these, and add significant new titles. This procedure, plus extensive use of authorities from the various disciplines, points to a quality product.

This is a quality product, but is it the product which is needed? A comparison of BJCL with Books for College Libraries (BCL) reveals that, if pre-1964 titles are discounted, there is an overlap between the two of more than 70 percent. It will be remembered that BCL purposely omitted