A Bibliography on Standards for Evaluating Libraries

This bibliography of 138 references is the result of a search of the literature for informative statements which might be helpful in determining guidelines for the evaluation of subject collections in federal government libraries. It was compiled as Part II of "A Critique on Standards for Evaluating Library Collections" which was prepared for members of the Federal Library Committee's Task Force on Acquisition of Library Materials and Correlation of Federal Library Resources.

Much has been written on standards but there is less in the nature of significant facts based on actual experience in developing and applying criteria. Accordingly, the references included are only those which have been selected because of their contribution to (1) an understanding of the elements of library standards and criteria necessary for subject evaluation, and (2) methodology suitable for application to the evaluation task. A few references were not available for examination.

The arrangement is alphabetical by author, and each entry includes a descriptive annotation or an abstract from the contents of the article or book cited in order to call attention to a significant portion of it.


In seeking accreditation by the North Central Association, Southern State College, Magnolia, Arkansas, made a study of the library and its collection. Faculty experts made recommendations for additions and discards, and library holdings were compared with appropriate lists.


Specialists in the neurosciences will have to be consulted in their field since the literature is too great for a librarian to cope with.


Specific standards, defining minimum adequacy rather than goals, are based on best professional opinion checked by statistical study where needed and possible. Among standards applicable to collections are: (1) Library program is focused upon clear and specific objectives; (2) materials are selected, retained, and discarded in...
light of conscious objectives and written policy statement covers selection, maintenance of material; (3) systematic removal of nonuseful material.


A textbook about the contents of books and the criteria for evaluating them.


The following evaluation methods are offered as aids in judging the adequacy of an academic library: use of selected lists, consultation with specialists, and sampling of students about ease in obtaining sources. The coverage must be adequate for courses offered and research in progress.


Ibid., Drexel Library Quarterly 2:251-63 (July 1966).

A summary of the standards for the book and periodical collection follows: (1) The collection should meet full curriculum needs of the undergraduate and graduate and support faculty in keeping abreast of advances, or for independent study; (2) the collection should contain "standard works which represent the heritage of civilization"; (3) there should be a strong and up-to-date reference collection in all major fields of knowledge—and not restricted to curriculum; (4) periodical collections should meet requirements of collateral reading of undergraduates and in some measure meet research needs of advanced students and faculty; (5) "Printed manuscript, and archival materials pertaining to the institutions of which the library is a part should be collected and preserved"; (6) no censorship of librarian's selection on all sides of a controversial issue; (7) quality of collection should not be sacrificed to unnecessary duplication; (8) obsolete materials should be weeded with advice from faculty members; (9) library holdings should be checked frequently against standard bibliographies; (10) the size is determined by an analysis of college statistics—curriculum, number of students, faculty, etc.


"This monograph is the first publication in one place of all the requirements for libraries and institutions of higher education specified by the twenty-one professional and six regional accrediting associations recognized by the National Commission on Accrediting."


The two methods most commonly employed to appraise the adequacy of an academic library are faculty opinion and bibliographic checking. Comparison with other institutions, availability checks, and sampling techniques are other procedures. There is a useful bibliography.


A general paper on the "Standards for College Libraries."


Abstract: "Many new university librar-
ies are being rapidly developed out of older, small college collections. Methods and standards available for the planning of such libraries include the Clapp-Jordan formula for book collections and standards for buildings and book collections used by the State of California. Professor Robert Hayes of the School of Library Service, UCLA, is preparing a formula for the development of collections in University of California libraries. Methods used in planning for the development of the University of California Library, Davis, are described."


No standards for medical libraries have been developed but three medical librarians, Rogers, Esteguist, and Meyerhoff, suggest collections of 100,000 volumes.


The mushrooming of college enrollment indicates that some changes in the "Standards" may be required. The author quotes the following: "Emery M. Foster, Consultant for the Library Services Division of the United States Office of Education, has recently presented to the ACRL Standards Committee a proposal to analyze the Standards by using the statistics now available at USOE.

"In order to reflect quality in the quantity standards, the analysis must include only the statistical characteristics of generally acknowledged good institutions known to have good library services. If the standards can be statistically shown to be the practice of publicly recognized quality libraries, it will be accepted as a valid standard for that type and size of institution."


"... The value of Harvard's great collection can be ascribed in large part to the fact that it has been built up to serve scholars; much of it, indeed has been selected by members of the Faculties. . . . Selection of books for a library like this calls for an attempt to foresee the future courses of research and to obtain publications that, though they seem insignificant today, will be wanted by scholars tomorrow. The richness of Harvard's holdings is a product of the joint effort of professors and librarians over many generations, and no other library today has the assistance of a community equally well qualified to help build it for the future."


"In recent years the entire concept of a library's collection has changed from quantity to quality. While a library containing several million volumes has unquestioned merit, its mere size is not positive proof of competence. With care and proper selection, a library can build a superb collection in a given study area. The Hoover Institution at Stanford University with fewer than 200,000 volumes, ranks as a world leader in its fields of endeavor. No longer need a library hide its collective head because of the limited number of books on its shelves."


The author writes: "It is clear, then, that in appraising the worth of an institution it is essential that one begin with the purposes of the institution and proceed from there to examine its program—the curriculum, the faculty, the student, personnel services, the library—in the light of the particular goals which the institution has set for itself. Implicit in this approach is the concept of a qualitative approach rather than reliance on merely quantitative measures."

Burns, R. W. Evaluation of the Holdings in Science/Technology in the University of Idaho Library. Moscow: Universi-
ty of Idaho Library, 1968. 52p. Mimeo-
graphed.

Among the criteria against which the li-
brary was measured were lists of materials
published by professional societies, basic
lists in various disciplines, holdings of oth-
er libraries, availability of indexing and
abstracting services, and serials covered
therein.

Carnovsky, Leon. “Evaluation of Library
Services,” UNESCO Bulletin for Librar-
ies 13:221-25 (October 1959).

In evaluating a collection attention
should be paid not merely to the size but
to the quality and relation to the purpose
of the library.

Carnovsky, Leon. “Measurement of Public
Library Book Collections,” Library

The quality of the book collection can
be tested by checking against booklists or
bibliographies.

Carnovsky, Leon. “Public Library Surveys
and Evaluation,” Library Quarterly 25

ALA’s Post-War Standards for Public
Libraries (1943) states: “Only to a limited
and somewhat mechanical extent can the
result of the intricate process of book se-
clection in terms of an actual collection of
books be measured by any system of stan-
dards.” Appraisals can be made by quan-
titative measures (numbers of books and
their distribution by subject or type, or by
sample checks against lists of titles—or
bibliographies. Although the checklist
method is time-consuming the author con-
siders it more desirable than a report on
numbers.

Carnovsky, Leon. “Self-evaluation; or How
Good Is My Library?,” College & Re-
search Libraries 3:304-10 (September
1942).

The author says “. . . a college library is
good or not in the degree to which it is
equipped to aid in achieving the aims of
the college.” Many accrediting agencies
arbitrarily define the book content of the
library. Lists such as Shaw’s and Mohr-
hardt’s are comprehensive for colleges and
junior colleges but become obsolete quick-
ly.

Carnovsky, Leon. “Standards for Special
Libraries; Possibilities and Limitations,”

By the very nature of the “special” li-
brary it is difficult to assign standards. Be-
ing special, or unique, one can but ask the
question as to whether the library supplies
the information required by the parent in-
stitution.

Carter, Mary D. and Bonk, W. J. Building
Library Collections. N.Y., Scarecrow

The three important factors in evaluat-
ing a collection are (1) what kinds of
books are in the collection and how val-
able each is in relation to other books on
the subject which are not in the library;
(2) are the books in the collection ap-
propriate for the community to be served
regardless of how valuable the books may
be in an abstract evaluation of their worth;
and (3) what are the purposes which this
particular collection is supposed to accom-
plish?

Chicorel, Marietta. “Statistics and Stan-
dards for College and University Librar-
ies,” College & Research Libraries 27:

Standards for college library book col-
clections are based on the numbers of stu-
dents and the numbers of courses given
and the amount and kind of research be-
ing performed. That there are no standards
for university libraries “may be in part due
to the fact minimum standards may be in-
terpreted to be maximum standards, and
that increases due to population and knowl-
edge explosions cannot be built in.” In un-
iversity libraries the strength of library ser-
vices is not indicated by numbers of books.

Clapp, Verner W. and Jordan, R. T.
“Quantitative Criteria for Adequacy of
Academic Library Collections,” College
& Research Libraries 26:371-80 (Sep-
tember 1965).

——. “Corrigenda, College & Research

New formulas are developed for estimat-
ing the number of volumes required for minimum adequacy by academic libraries of widely differing characteristics.


"... bibliographic checking seems to be most feasible way to evaluate its holdings ...."

Community Studies, Inc. Libraries in Metropolis; a Study of Public Library Services in the Kansas City and St. Louis Metropolitan Areas. Kansas City, Community Studies, Inc., 1966.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library list was used in sampling the quality of the reference collections.


Criteria for weeding and storage were determined based on age and usage. They were related to goals, resources, organization, and administration of the library.


"... Library literature was surveyed for criteria, and Schedule C was tested at a number of accredited California teacher's colleges. Among conclusions presented are the following: an institution should be appraised in terms of its success in achieving its own stated objectives and in relation to its social patterns as an agency of higher education; a combination of quantitative and qualitative criteria is necessary, but quantitative are to be used only as discussion points rather than as fixed minimal standards; the ALA service load formula appears to be the most satisfactory quantitative Standard; and the quality of a library staff is indicated by its status within the college." Thesis for Ed.D., Stanford University, 1955.


"Of the world's numerous kinds of libraries, the national and the university may be properly characterized as having responsibilities for both general and universal or nearly universal collecting in the realm of scholarship. That is, these two, and only these two, commonly collect over a very broad spectrum, and in depth, material which makes possible the creation of new knowledge . . . ."

Quality of selection is the truest test of the value of a collection.


This paper updates a similar report published in 1966 showing the relationship between library holdings and the number of doctoral degrees granted in several American universities.


"The chief purpose of the present investigation is to determine whether there exists any direct correlation between the number and variety of doctoral degrees awarded and the strength of library resources in individual institutions." The author states that high-level doctoral work in a variety of fields requires 500,000 volumes. An institution outstanding for its graduate offerings is almost invariably equally notable for the strength of its library resources.

"Techniques for describing and evaluating library facilities on the research level are still experimental. No generally accepted standards have been accepted." Some advocate a specialist's point of view, some the librarian's broader view of library's total resources. Should surveys be restricted to a narrow subject? Quantitative or qualitative?


The Committee on University Library Standards of the Association of College and Research Libraries and the Association of Research Libraries, in an attempt to formulate standards chose fifty U.S. and Canadian institutions as a control group for study. The tables presented here concerned with the book collection are: (1) Relationships of Total Library Expenditures to Salaries and Wages; Books, Periodicals, and Binding; General Expenses, (2) Student Per Capita Expenditures for Books, Periodicals, and Binding, and for Total Library Expenditures, (3) Resources: Volumes Added, Current Periodicals, and Microforms, (4) Relationship of Enrollment to Number of Volumes and to Number of Current Journals.


Several possible methods for measuring holdings are described. Reporting bibliographical units rather than accessioned volumes is recommended. Linear measurement has its adherents but a report of bulk gives no idea of numbers of volumes.

Eells, Walter C. "Recency as a Measure of Book Collection," *Junior College Journal* 8:308-10 (March 1938).


A study of the literature cited in dissertations of doctoral candidates in engineering at Columbia University to determine whether the university libraries could supply these sources.


What is meant by "comprehensive" collection? It should acquire a copy of every procurable "publication" in (a) core subject areas, (b) immediately supporting disciplines, (c) nonstandard as well as standard explanations, (d) publications written for laymen as well as practitioners, and (e) value criteria should not intrude.

Why collect comprehensively? (a) "If one library collects and preserves fully in a well-defined field, other libraries, regardless of size, can accordingly adjust their collecting and withdrawal activities. (b) The indexing and cataloging of medical literature is most effectively accomplished by one institution having the literature closely under its control. (c) Comprehensive collecting is a requirement for the preservation of the history of civilization."


The kind of educational institution determines the character of the library. The author lists about twenty kinds of material which should be in a college library and suggests per capita expenditures.

Enlarging upon his theory that a research collection often has books for which there are no current specific needs, the author says: “... most of the books in a large research library are subjected to an extremely low, almost negligible amount of use. The use of a large research library is clearly concentrated at any one point in time over a small percentage of its total holdings. It is, of course, the balance of the library’s holdings which are so infrequently used that in part distinguishes a research library from a college or reference library...”


Suggest devising formulas in terms of a variety of predictor variables relative to use, e.g., Subject + Time elapsed since last use + Language.


“Chiefly accreditation policies but analysis practices and results of library evaluations undertaken by A.L.A. after 1946.”


Chiefly quotes from Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education.


Views of six librarians on “bloc-buying” and “get-em-all” theory. The consensus is that the professional responsibility of a librarian is in book selection.


“It is true that a small liberal arts college could admirably serve its purpose if it has a large percentage of the items listed in the Shaw, Lamont, and Michigan lists, a generous input from such a current aid as *Choice*, and additional items to satisfy unique demands. ...” Development of a university library requires more comprehensive study of many subject fields.


Information was derived from a literature review and an analysis of Mohrhardt’s, *A List of Books for Junior College Libraries*, 1937, and the 1931 and 1940 editions of Shaw’s, *A List of Books for College Libraries*.


The author gives the following reasons for weeding: (1) the size of the library should depend on the objectives of the library and the demands of it; (2) there is a definite relationship between the age of the book and the likelihood that it will be used.


Chiefly a study of the Shaw, Mohrhardt, and Shaw Supplement lists, and obsolescence and mortality of such lists.


A somewhat amusing article on book selection—on understanding of what constitutes value and the ability to recognize it. The author thinks there are few librar-
ies which would not profit by a little "spring cleaning."


"It is the hypothesis of this paper that there are distinctive levels of academic and research need in respect to library service within institutions of college and university rank, and if this be true, individual library programs can be designed to satisfy them. . . ."

The depth of these library collections varies with need.


Instead of conforming to purely statistical considerations concerning size of enrollment or research and teaching programs the author makes a plea for quality of library materials and a need for selectivity.

No one list or combination of lists can be safely used as a purchasing guide without the talents of a subject specialist or subject bibliographer.


Referring to the learned academic scholar he says; "Such a scholar must have an enormous accumulation of books, journals, and all the ancillary materials of a great library. This is the stuff of his research. Here is contained the expression of man's intellectual history. The scholar needs not only what Matthew Arnold called 'The best that has been known and said,' but the commonplace as well, for the mediocre is often quite as valuable as the great in providing an understanding of the climate of opinion out of which grew—or against which rebelled—a Milton, a Moliere, or a Goethe. For this reason, 'a man will,' as Dr. Johnson said, 'turn over half a library to make one book. . . .'


Since National Library of Medicine's policy is to collect comprehensively it does collect such material.


A general article. College library standards say the library should be "the most important intellectual resource of the academic community."


The new standards aim to overcome the traditional variations in type of college—public, private, denominational, etc.—and in regional differences in excellence. "The standards are more concerned with excellence and instructional usefulness of the holdings than with numbers. . . ."


Important features of the standards for book collections are: (1) "Any attempt at censorship from whatever sources or for whatever reasons must be resisted; (2) First among the factors affecting the size of the collections and the rate of growth are the nature of the curriculum, number of courses, methods of instruction, and number and character of graduate programs. The size of the student body is the fourth important point to consider; (3) . . . The Standards for College Libraries emphasize the role which outstanding recent subject bibliographies and authoritative general lists should play in ascertaining the high caliber of book holdings and periodical subscriptions."


Standards for Evaluating Libraries

College Library in 1965”; Bailey, G. M.—“The Role of the Standards”; Meder, A. E.—“Accrediting Agencies and the Standards”; McComb, R. W.—“The Problems of Extension Centers”; Tanis, N. W. and Jacobs, K. J.—“Strengthening the College Library.”


Chiefly an introduction to a discussion of the “Standards for College Libraries” and “Standards for Junior College Libraries.”


Four methods of evaluating a library collection are described: (1) by librarians, scholars, or laymen in terms of library’s policies and purposes; (2) by checking against standard or specially compiled lists; (3) by data on use; and (4) by comparison of expenditures against other institutions.


Discusses the development of library standards. A basic criterion is whether the library is adequate for its purpose. The bookstock is adequate only when it fills user needs in the most economical manner, considering costs to user and to library. A formula is provided which indicates when too large a proportion of material is borrowed from other libraries which it would have been cheaper to own.


Includes lists of 100 basic books and 257 basic reference books used to check holdings in the various libraries.


The purpose of a survey is to study the performance of the library as an integral part of the whole college. It is aided by standard bibliographical aids provided by experts and accrediting agencies.


Because of the avalanche of literature it is impossible to pursue the ideal of completeness. Even national libraries, after meeting their national obligations, have to satisfy themselves with a selection from scholarly works published abroad.


“The development of a library acquisitions program which will ensure a collection of materials in the field of science and technology adequate to meet the demands placed upon a library depends basically on the answer to such questions as: Who will use the collection? What materials are necessary to provide good service to these users? How can the materials be made available? . . . Complete sets of all the serials which are of potential value to the users constitute the ideal resources of the library; incomplete files of periodicals are almost valueless for the particular issue needed is not usually available.”


Eighteen military libraries are surveyed. Author says these should not be compared with large civilian colleges and universities. “. . . The importance of a library collection depends on other factors as well as
size. The distinction of important military libraries lies in their subject specialization more than in the number of items collected."


A discussion of quantitative standards vs qualitative and how ALA Standards will be implemented by the regional association.

In the modern concept of accreditation there are three fundamental questions: (1) Are this institution's objectives clearly defined, appropriate, and controlling in its development?; (2) has it established the conditions under which it can achieve its objectives?; (3) is it in fact achieving them?


LC catalog is used as measurement for Florida collections.


This author is trying to make a case for selectivity in research libraries and that subject-specialist librarians must be trained. However, much of the paper is devoted to the three arguments generally defended by librarians: (1) The ideal of the research collection is completeness, past, present, and future; (2) The library collects not only for the present but for the future; (3) A research library never becomes obsolete.


"... There is no known evidence to demonstrate that size is correlated to quality or service in any way. . . ."


Criteria for measuring resources are: (1) A select list of reference books grouped by subjects; (2) a select list of periodicals (Lyle's list); (3) as a measuring rod to book holdings Mohrhardt's, *List of Books for Junior College Libraries* and Shaw's, *Supplement of Books for College Libraries*; (4) money spent for books and periodicals during last five years; (5) titles held published during last five years; (6) relation to curriculum.


Standards for statistics are necessary for an accurate reporting of library holdings. The merits of reporting titles rather than volumes, processed volumes, number of volumes organized and ready for use, or bibliographical items are discussed.


"The purpose of this paper is to survey the professional literature as it pertains to the selection of materials for academic libraries, and especially selection with respect to who chooses titles for a collection and the criteria, guidelines, and tools utilized." This pertains to selection policy rather than standards for a collection.


The subjects collected at Research or Exhaustive level are listed together with NML's definitions of these terms. In surveying the Library, the Survey Committee checked against the Quarterly Cumulative Index Medicus.

Leigh, Robert D. "The Public Library In-
Standards for Evaluating Libraries / 137

... The sample lists of new and standard works, periodicals, government documents, music materials, and films were all made up in such a way as to give some indication of the nature and extent of library holdings of these materials....


"Basic initial bookstock for a college without degree work, according to the L.A. should be not less than 10,000 titles, and not less than 15,000 titles for a college with degree and specialized advanced courses. The number of periodicals should range from 100 for a small college of further education to a minimum of 600 for a college with substantial advanced work."


The author is referring to standards developed by the college personnel, a regional accrediting agency, and the American Library Association. Since the paper is addressed to an audience interested in junior colleges, its chief concern is how application of standards affects their accreditation.


This is a report of a survey of Mount Holyoke College Library made by the faculty and library staff, not outside experts. In addition to a "common sense" evaluation, the faculty answered questionnaires about adequacy. Selected bibliographies were used for checking together with general lists.


"The adequacy of the college library's collection cannot be measured in quantita-

"... The North Central Association took an important step some few years ago in deciding to base its accreditation on the acknowledged aims and curricular objectives of each institution.

"... The assumption of the 1934 North Central checklist that there would be a high correlation between holdings in the reference collection and library book holdings in general was statistically established."

Mohrhardt and Shaw lists, Shaw supplement, Mudge-Winchell lists, and Lyle list of periodicals were used.


Tallied books published in the U.S.—derived from several American book publishing records.


Quality of collection: compare with published lists of key literature or citations in library's most used journals. Note records on library's ability to fill users' requests.


"In summary, the influence of professional librarianship upon college evaluation has been more effective and more pervasive through creation of the Standards than would have been possible through direct accreditation of college libraries by the profession. In a sense, professional librarianship has found its life by losing it and achieved true success by emphasizing the spirit of quality and service rather than the letter of quantitative measures."


Evaluation should be made in relation to the institution's own mission and requirements. These facts having been established it should be determined to what extent the necessary resources are available and accessible.


A library evaluation prerequisite is an exact description of the institution's mission and the means by which the institution proposes to fulfill it. Use of the library by students is the ultimate test of its effectiveness. Questions for evaluating the library include the following.

Is the library collection (a) broad, varied, authoritative, up-to-date; (b) supplemented by source, monographic, and periodical material for advanced study/research; (c) sufficient for specialized and technical fields offered by the institution; (d) being expanded so as to fill in gaps; (e) weeded efficiently to keep it solid and current; (f) supplemented but not replaced by interlibrary loans; (g) such as to facilitate advanced study and research by the faculty; and (h) buying enough new books to keep abreast of advances in the fields of instruction and research of the institution.


Mr. Moon finds the "Objectives and Standards for Special Libraries" a state-
ment of generalities and a presentation of the qualities sought by the special library.


Random samples of from 49 to 64 books were selected from each of the following lists: (1) Hilary J. Deason, "The AAAS Science Book List for Young Adults"; (2) Frank J. Bertalan, "The Junior College Library Collection"; (3) Melvin J. Voight and J. H. Treyz, "Books for College Libraries"; (4) Warren B. Kuhn, "The Julian Street Library"; (5) Richard J. Lietz and W. A. Pease, "The Opening Day Collection, Choice, Special Supplement (1967)...."


The base for a set of standards for a special library is the organization's objectives. Quantitative standards involve the number of books, the extent of subject resources, and tools of bibliographic control.


The following objectives and standards pertain to the book collection: (1) The subject coverage of the special library's collection should be intensive and extensive enough to meet the current and anticipated requirements of its clientele; (2) the size depends on the amount of available material that is pertinent to the organization's needs; and (3) acquisition policies should be established within the framework of the library's stated objectives.


For analysis of contents, see Gosnell, C. F.—"Systematic Weeding"; McCrum, B. P.—"Book Selection in Relation to the Optimum Size of a College Library"; Webb, Helmer—"The Optimum Size of the College Library"; Rogers, R. D.—"Regional Depository Libraries and the Problem of Optimum Size of College and University Libraries."


Abstract: "Traditional, time-honored methods of evaluating the adequacy of academic libraries for graduate work are no longer adequate in themselves. Rising numbers of students, changing degree programs, and advancing costs are rendering traditional evaluation methods less and less adequate. Greater attention should be devoted to the assessment of research collections in the region, to pondering new kinds of library plant needs, to rethinking the use of library personnel, to seeking new systems for funding library operations, and to articulating librarians more completely into the university community."


A general article which discusses the difficulty of making comparison when statistical measures vary. Some libraries report microforms as books, or uncataloged material as part of the library. There is a compulsion to use standard lists and specific size indicators.


The author presents a case for selectivity in its acquisition policy in the belief that the great research library should deliberately set out to acquire the best books in any field.


"The chief concern of the [college] librarian ought to be the book collection." But the author goes on to say that "A col-
A college library is selective and a good college library must choose at both ends, buying the essential new books and weeding the surplus and less useful material." He recommends advice of specialists and comparison with standard, authoritative lists.


Many medical libraries ignore the fact that there are national libraries and comprehensive collections which preserve everything. It is a false standard which evaluates a library according to the number of volumes; the quality of the collection and service would be wiser criteria.


R. E. Ellsworth and V. M. Clapp discuss comprehensiveness versus selectivity in building collections. Both consider the massiveness of published materials and the need for national and regional bibliographic control and book handling.


The author maintains that "the absolute size of a university library's holdings and the absolute size of its yearly gross increments, and not its current growth rate, are the best measures of its quality...."


Contains a one-page section on "special library collections." Included is this quote from SLA Standards: "The collection is intensive and extensive enough to meet both current and anticipated literature needs. The size of the collection depends on what is available in the subject area."


More than 400 lists and bibliographies were used for checking subject collections.


Acquisitions expenditures are examined relative to the number of students and faculty by the use of random sampling.


A discussion of the value and use of basic lists.


"Research libraries are primarily, the stored-up knowledge of the race, warehouses of fact and surmise, in all their forms and infinitely remote ramifications, the raw material from which our humanists and our scientists are going to develop later new facts and fresh surmises. Research materials are in a sense the building blocks of civilization, and the storage element in the function of the research library—just the sheer holding of book and periodical materials, not for any immediate use at all, but for some possible, and possibly very remote, future use—is an extremely important, but not always very well understood part of that function."


Little-used materials of research significance can be stored at the regional de-
pository library, still available for those engaged in research, but also providing a solution to the overgrowth problem.


An evaluation of the library of an educational institution is part of a check on the effectiveness of the total institution. The library facilities must serve the mission of the institution.


In trying to determine whether a college library is good or bad the author says: “It can, however, judge for itself the adequacy of its own library by comparing its resources with certain quantitative standards recommended by the American Library Association. . . . Both documents stress the point that ‘The standards must always be interpreted in the light of the aims and needs of the institution of which the library is a part.’”


The author refers to the New York Public Library as “one of the few great research libraries of the world.” He says further that “The ideal objective of such a library is a complete record of human thought, emotion and action. Its collections should be developed without distinction as to language, date, place, and form of publication. In short, it should have everything. . . .”


A college professor tried to find out how Southeastern libraries approach national standards. By means of a questionnaire he tried to find out the size of the library, the amount spent on art books, the number of art students and faculty, and the degree of specialization in the collection. Libraries were asked to check a list of series, serials, and individual titles.


There is a section on the evaluation of the book stock. Of this the author says: “There are advantages in expressing standards of bookstock in terms of annual additions to stock rather than total stock as this helps to indicate the relevance of what is being provided and whether it is up to date.”

Because of changing monetary values “standards are better expressed as the number of volumes added rather than in terms of expenditure.”


While admitting the merits of many “standard” lists, the author thinks librarians have the responsibility for selection and that it is a part of a librarian’s professionalism.


Among “devices” used in determination of optimum size are: (1) Establishment of restrictive limits of subject selection; (2) the use of literature citation counts for determining most-used serial titles, as well as for most-used foreign language titles; (3) dependence upon neighboring libraries for particular areas of subject strength, and for breadth of coverage; (4) extensive use of interlibrary loans; (5) discriminating weeding; and (6) selective microfilming and purchase of microfilm.


The quantitative standards were based on the number of students, budget, cur-
Curriculum offered, and degrees offered. The qualitative standards were based on sampling from reference and periodical lists.


The mission of the library of the Air University is to support the courses of instruction as well as a research program. In 1942, it undertook a review of its book collection on an undergraduate level using the Lamont list. It was not the intent to imitate the Lamont holdings “but to employ the list of basic titles from a selective viewpoint.”


This is a description of the methods used to collect empirical data on the selection of science library materials. The project had two major objectives: (1) to describe the selection process as it existed; and (2) to provide practical guidelines designed to assist decision-makers in selection.


At the time the Standards were published a number of library consultants, a library school dean and professor, an administrator in industry, a library specialist in the U.S. Office of Education, and practicing special librarians were asked to submit their frank opinions.


“The technique described in this study for evaluating the college library book collection is based upon the use made of it. Two of the more important assumptions involved are: (1) the adequacy of the book collection is directly related to its use by students and faculty; (2) the circulation records of books withdrawn for home use give a reasonably representative picture of the use made of the library. . . .”


Abstract: “This paper supplements an earlier paper by Robert B. Downs on doctoral programs and library resources. While the factors involved in successfully implementing a doctoral program are many and complex, to carry out such a program in a variety of fields, it appears that there should be at least three thousand current periodicals (and five hundred thousand volumes, as Dr. Downs states). Even with the best library resources, one cannot generally hope to produce more than one doctorate out of every ten graduate students enrolled in any one year, as figures in this paper indicate.”


“A sketch of the library evaluation and the series of questions that the Committee constructed at the Henry Ford Community College may be helpful to other junior colleges interested in implementing the new Standards.”


Evaluation of the library resources may be approached in the following ways: (1) checking resources against bibliographies in different subject fields; (2) seeking faculty opinion on collections; (3) examining users’ difficulties in obtaining materials needed for course work and research; and (4) measuring the collection against the holdings of other research libraries in the country.

Tauber, Maurice F. “Columbia University
Concerning the library resources, the author says: "... How does one measure the resources of a library? In surveys of libraries which have been made in American university libraries, there has been a common pattern of evaluating holdings through such measurements as (1) checking the resources against bibliographies in separate subject fields, (2) seeking faculty opinions on the strengths and limitations of collections, (3) examining users' difficulties in obtaining materials needed for course work and research, and (4) measuring the collections against the holdings of other research libraries in the country...."


A comprehensive treatment of surveys with extensive bibliographies. The papers by M. M. Gormley on Academic Libraries and by E. E. Williams on Surveying Library Collections are of special significance.


Surveying, whether by a single specialist, a team of specialists, or self-survey, is given broad coverage. On evaluation of collections, mention is made of the use of checklists and sampling, special analysis by language and subject, and lack of uniformity in reporting statistics. Bibliography at end.


The author thinks the competent scholar is the one qualified to select and build a research library.


“It seems to be generally recognized that if a library is to be a research library in the best sense, it must be comprehensive in its fields of emphasis, including good, bad, and indifferent...."


The author advocates a cut in size of such libraries, with constant weeding and warehouse storage within eight hours' distance.


One of the three major aspects of evaluating college libraries relates to the collection. There should be a sufficient quantity of the books required and suggested by the faculty for the subjects taught.


This second survey checked quality against “Books for Catholic Colleges,” considered microcard and film, interlibrary loan, etc.


The purpose of the study was to examine resources of the country as a whole, not to compare individual collections. The technique followed was to prepare a list of 111 subjects for checking against the best available bibliography.


While quantitative statistics on collections are available they are often unreliable. The quality of a collection is best determined by comparison with lists and special bibliographies.

Wilson, Louis R. and Tauber, Maurice F.

Principal method of evaluating libraries in surveys has been by comparison of various kinds: (1) Present conditions of library with those of past years. Helpful in revealing long-term trends for collections, books use, etc.; (2) the library in relation to comparable aspects of the university as a whole; (3) comparison with libraries of similar institutions. Need for precise definitions and consistent methods of collecting data to be certain data are comparable; (4) use of external standards. Generally products and materials to which standards may be applied are intellectual and not mathematically or quantitatively definable. Main difficulty in developing standards is that libraries vary in their objectives.


This is a history of the many surveys including information on the procedure employed by each. There were two types of surveys, limited and general, depending on the purpose for which the survey was conducted. When collections were examined in detail it was for the purpose of compiling desiderata lists or guides for rounding out the collection, or providing a checklist of existing resources.