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Library Associations in the United States and British Commonwealth

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United States and British Commonwealth

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Introduction

Many writers have pointed out that one of the characteristics of a profession is that its practitioners tend to band together for mutual assistance in solving problems connected with their labors. Librarians meet this test abundantly. In every country sufficiently advanced for librarianship to flourish groups have been formed. In some countries, as in Italy and Spain, the organizations are small and weak, with inadequate communication between their members. In others, as in France, a strong national library system under the Minister of Education performs enough of the functions of a national library association to restrict the latter to a status not unlike a literary society. Elsewhere, as in the Scandinavian countries, strong professional associations have developed, committed to the improvement of library service and standards as well as concerned with the professional growth and development of their members.

Nowhere in the world has the association of librarians into active professional groups proceeded with greater vitality and intensity than in the English speaking nations. Interestingly it is in these same countries that librarianship has reached its highest development, where libraries are acknowledged as prime instruments in universal education, and where librarians have achieved the fullest recognition. That the one condition is related causally with the other may with reason be assumed.

The purpose of this issue of Library Trends is to consider in rather broad prospective this phenomenon of vocational agglomeration especially as it is to be seen in the United States and the countries of the British Commonwealth. Starting with general summaries of the historical background and present conditions provided by Mr. Clift and Mr. Stokes, other writers look deeper into various manifestations of associational enterprise.

Equal treatment of the accomplishments of each country has not been achieved. Insofar as it has been possible, the several contributors have tried to present their topics considering developments both at home and abroad. In Miss Ludington's review of organizational publishing, Louis Shores' consideration of associational interest in training
and certification, Mrs. Stevenson's discussion of further education as a library's concern and, of course, Helen Wessell's description of the extensive international activities of the several library associations, the authors have been notably successful in looking across our national borders for their information.

The other contributors bring our attention to the remaining concerns of national associations which have been felt somewhat more acutely in the United States: Congressional lobbying, the defense of intellectual freedoms, and the extensive development of local and regional organizations to supplement as well as complement the national associations.

H.L.
Associations in the United States

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The American Library Association, founded in 1876, was followed before the turn of the century by the National Association of State Libraries, 1889, and the Medical Library Association, 1898. Three associations came into existence in the first quarter of the twentieth century: the American Association of Law Libraries in 1906, the Special Libraries Association in 1909, and the Catholic Library Association in 1921. Since then the following have been formed: the Music Library Association in 1931, the Theatre Library Association in 1937, and the American Theological Library Association in 1947.

Major attention will be paid to these nine associations. The omission of a particular organization does not imply that it is without importance in library affairs in this country; mention of the Association of Research Libraries, the American Merchant Marine Library Association, the Association of American Library Schools, and the Council of National Library Associations suggests many activities of great importance. However, in order to establish a working limit this chapter concerns itself with those national library associations in the United States which meet in general the following criteria: provision for membership on the part of individual librarians, with policies and programs reflecting individual, not institutional, decision; the inclusion among objectives of the improvement and extension of libraries and the development of standards of librarianship; the rendering of professional services to members; and a concern with the development of professional literature. They will be considered chronologically by date of founding.

The American Library Association had its beginnings in 1853 when the first conference of librarians ever held convened in New York on September 15. "We meet," said Charles Coffin Jewett, president of the convention, "to provide for the diffusion of a knowledge of good books

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and for enlarging the means of public access to them." During the second day of the conference, resolutions were offered relative to a next meeting and to the formation of a permanent organization. The group, as such, did not meet again. The panic of 1857 interfered, and the gathering war clouds finally broke and were followed by years of war and reconstruction. It was not until twenty-three years later that another national meeting of librarians was held and the spirit of the resolution on organization carried out. This was on October 6, 1876, when the 103 librarians and other interested persons then assembled in convention in Philadelphia, took the formal action which established the American Library Association. It was Melvil Dewey who, with a characteristic display of initiative, took it upon himself to call the conference and make arrangements for it. He persuaded Justin Winsor, head of the Boston Public Library, L. P. Smith of the Philadelphia Library Company, and W. F. Poole, librarian of the Chicago Public Library, to serve on the committee. The group declared that "For the purpose of promoting the library interests of the country, and of increasing reciprocity of intelligence and good-will among librarians and all interested in library economy and bibliographical studies, the undersigned form themselves into a body to be known as the American Library Association." Winsor was unanimously chosen president while the energetic Dewey was made secretary and treasurer.

Three years later, on December 10, 1879, the A.L.A. was incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The charter states that the association was formed "for the purpose of promoting the library interests of the country by exchanging views, reaching conclusions, and inducing cooperation in all departments of bibliothecal science and economy; by disposing the public mind to the founding and improving of libraries; and by cultivating good will among its members. . . ." In February 1942, the charter was amended to include the promotion of "library interests throughout the world." The history of the A.L.A. parallels the history of the development of modern library service in this country. Its development has proceeded hand in hand with the spread of library service, the development of library science, and the emergence of a sense of professional unity among librarians. The formation of the A.L.A. came at a propitious time. Following the Civil War, the number of libraries increased greatly, 2,240 public libraries having been formed in the twenty-five year period ending in 1875, while the number of volumes in libraries of all types grew from about 1,600,000 to over 12,000,000. A professional association in any field has the responsibility to speak
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and act for the profession. Policies are decided through the democratic process and the agents of the association are empowered and directed to act. The evolution of policy is slow in a membership organization and the machinery for arriving at a group decision is often cumbersome, complex, and ponderous. Proposed activities, issues, and programs work their way through many units in which there exists a functional or substantive interest or a delegated authority. The conclusions, allowing that the questions have received the careful attention of intelligent and professionally conscious persons, are generally sound. In the A.L.A., as in other professional associations, many issues have been developed and crystallized through the deliberations of committees and boards, as in the case of federal aid to libraries and adult education. Other issues have been thrust upon it by rapidly moving forces, as in intellectual freedom while other activities have resulted from planned policy decision, as in the publishing program.

There often comes a time when events and the concern of its members require that the profession speak for or that it accept responsibility for, a line of action. The vehicle by which the concern or interests of the majority is translated into action or program is the professional association. The articles which follow deal with several major issues and programs which have concerned and continue to concern the A.L.A. and other national library associations in this country and in the British Commonwealth. This section on the A.L.A. will deal largely with certain phases of the association's progress through organizational changes.

There has never existed any complete agreement among the members on what should be the programs of the A.L.A. Certainly there has never been any unanimity of feeling on how well the association conducts its affairs. The headquarters staff has been berated on occasions for moving too slowly, and on other occasions, for moving too fast. The Executive Board has not always been considered representative of geographical and subject interests and has been criticized by special groups when its individual members transcended such interests. It is sometimes said that the Council does not give sufficient consideration to the matters brought before it; again that it takes the Council too long to decide its course. All of these viewpoints represent the concern of the individual member over the programs of the association; a concern that most often seeks a solution through reorganization of the association. The most extensive and far-reaching of these associational soul searchings have been expressed in the work of the four
Activities Committees and in the studies of the present Committee on Divisional Relations.

The first Committee on A.L.A. Activities was born of the trenchant pen of John Cotton Dana. In December 1927, Dana addressed a letter of criticism to the Executive Board concerning certain activities of the association, especially those relating to the Board of Education for Librarianship, adult education, and the library curriculum series of textbooks. The letter was read before the Council which appointed a special committee to study and report upon the matters. This committee recommended a scrutiny of A.L.A. activities every three years. The recommendation was approved and the first of four Activities Committees went to work. Its report appeared in the A.L.A. Bulletin for December 1930. The committee early recognized that it was dealing with human, personal, and psychological factors, inherent in the group characteristics peculiar to the library profession, and that these were just as important if not more so than the statistical, financial, and administrative factors involved. The committee's report expressed a high regard for the personnel and organization of A.L.A. headquarters. The sources and the handling of finances were scrutinized. A surprising amount was being accomplished, the committee felt, in library extension. The committee uncovered many differences of opinion among A.L.A. members on the role of the library and of the A.L.A. in adult education. The committee could not agree with those who would have the association discontinue its work in adult education but it did recommend close and frequent observation of this activity. Education for librarianship provided the committee with its most difficult problem. The committee concluded that the Board of Education for Librarianship had made wise use of its powers but it hoped for better relationships with other training agencies. The Personnel Division was found to be inadequately supported and the report expressed doubt that it would succeed. The need for a more adequate headquarters library was established as a matter of first importance. The report praised the work of committees and recommended funds for the more important ones.

The Second Activities Committee was appointed in 1933. It did not attempt an exhaustive report. Criticism, it felt, of the activities of the association was less widespread and less acute than in 1928; also, the report of the First Activities Committee had covered the ground very thoroughly. The Second Activities Committee noted, too, that the executive boards of the association were showing an increasing tendency to act as survey agents and thus review, systematically, the work of
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the association. The committee surveyed finances, membership promotion, foundation support, unemployment and salaries, A.L.A. headquarters operations, committees, and the nominating process. It made important recommendations relating to the selection and composition of committees and of the Executive Board, urged three new major activities at A.L.A. headquarters—a statistical research bureau, a department for college libraries, and a department for library work with children and youth in and out of school, and recommended that the periodic scrutiny of the association be made every six instead of every three years.

The Third Activities Committee reported to the Council at the 1939 midwinter meeting. The areas of study undertaken by this committee were most important ones. It searched for a more democratic government and its recommendations brought about a completely elective Council. Its efforts to place responsibility for the promotion of particular fields of library service on those actively concerned with those fields led to the present divisional structure and financial support. Its recommendations for a dues scale based on ability to pay were approved. It urged establishment of adequate association machinery for the solution of professional problems of the individual member; this stimulated intensive work, particularly on problems of salary and tenure. Less improvement was effected in two other areas in which action was recommended by the committee: broader and more effective policies on affiliation and closer relationships between state and national library organizations.

The final report of the Fourth Activities Committee was presented in the A.L.A. Bulletin for January 1949. The last of the recommendations accepted by Council became effective with By-law revisions approved by the membership at the Minneapolis annual conference in 1954. The committee presented its conclusions and recommendations in two parts: Part 1 dealt with the management of headquarters, and Part 2 with membership structure, professional services, and geographic organization. Part 1 went rather fully into the duties of headquarters staff and the costs of headquarters operations. Economies, which the committee thought possible and desirable, were described and recommended. The Council has approved the recommendations spelling out the responsibilities of the executive secretary in the execution of policy, and those relating to the separation of publishing operations from headquarters. The latter has not yet been effected, due largely to continuing study by the headquarters staff.

The 1949 recommendations relating to the organizational structure
of the association provided for decentralization of responsibility and authority. Geographic representation was to be strengthened through changes in the relationships of its chapters to the A.L.A. Except for those points dealing with the operation of the membership campaign and the payment of a portion of the A.L.A. dues to chapters, the recommendations (which Council referred to a Committee on Geographic Organization) have been accepted by the Council and the membership. The committee further recommended organizational units within the A.L.A. by type of work and by type of library, thus providing, in the entire recommendations, for geographic, functional, and substantive organization. Three departments, a department of library administration, a department of services to readers, and a department of technical services, were recommended as the functional units; and four associations, college and research libraries, public libraries, school libraries, and special libraries, were to be the substantive units. Each unit in functional and substantive groupings was to have an executive staff at A.L.A. headquarters and representation on the Council. These recommendations did not meet with approval; the association continues to have some functional and some substantive units but not the degree and kind urged by the report. Of the recommendations relating to the government of the association, two of the approved ones require special mention. These provide for approval of the budget by the Council, which has been effected by giving the Finance Committee of the Council the deciding vote in the Budget Committee, and for the appointment by the Council of special review committees to replace the Activities Committees.

This outline of examination and change suggests the kind of an evolutionary process that characterizes the organization of the A.L.A. The various forces within the association produce continual change. Because of this, rather than in spite of it, the association appears today to be in the best condition of its existence. Membership stands around 21,000—the highest point yet reached. The headquarters staff has had to be increased in order to keep pace with growing demands. Foundation grants, particularly in adult education, provide new and needed programs. The divisions grow stronger and add their important consultative and publishing services. About ninety per cent of the membership takes advantage of the opportunity for divisional membership, available without extra cost. A considerable number pay the small additional dues necessary to acquire multiple divisional membership. Five of the seven divisions maintain executive offices at headquarters. The substantial financial support given the divisions, roughly fifty
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per cent of the membership dollar is allotted to them, allows field work on a satisfactory scale. A present concern is that growth may be bringing about a growing lack of program coordination.

The last mentioned recommendation of the Fourth Activities Committee had its first implementation at the 1953 Midwinter Conference when the Council established the Committee on Divisional Relations to study the relations of the A.L.A. and its divisions as a whole, and of the divisions to each other. The reports of this committee, made to each meeting of the Council since its appointment, have been in the nature of progress reports. These indicate that the committee has concerned itself with the composition of the Executive Board, the management of headquarters, and the financial support of divisions.

The National Association of State Libraries had its beginnings in 1887. The A.L.A. had, since its establishment in 1876, served as the one association which brought together the librarians of the country. Eleven years after its founding came the first instance of a specialized group within the A.L.A. deciding that its needs and interests might be advanced by a somewhat separate existence. However, actual formation of a completely separate group for state librarians did not take place for another eleven years.

The National Association of State Libraries came into existence with the encouragement and blessing of a state legislature. The call for a conference of all state librarians was issued in 1887 by T. H. Wallis, state librarian of California. This followed a strong endorsement of the California legislature which the Governor caused to be transmitted to all the states. The accomplishments of the A.L.A. were referred to in the resolution and it was suggested that a similar organization of state librarians would result in benefits to state libraries. Appreciative note can be taken of the hope expressed in the resolution that the expenses of those attending the proposed conference would be borne by the states.

The conference was held in Washington, D.C., in April 1889, and in May of that year Wallis reported establishment of the new organization to the St. Louis A.L.A. meeting and asked its admission as a section of the A.L.A. This was unanimously granted and the new association, earlier called the Association of State Librarians and renamed the Association of State Libraries, at St. Louis, became the State Library Section of the A.L.A. As such it remained until 1898 when it became a separate entity under its present name.

The objectives of the National Association of State Libraries are

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stated in its constitution: "The object shall be to develop and increase
the usefulness and efficiency of the state libraries and other agencies
performing library functions at the state level." "State" has been inter-
preted as "national," "territorial," "provincial," and "insular."

The National Association of State Libraries generally holds its
meetings at the time and place of the A.L.A. or the American Associa-
tion of Law Libraries. Its several publications include Proceedings and
Papers, from 1902 to the present, which chronicle the activities of the
association. An important activity is the operation of a clearinghouse
for the exchange of out-of-print public documents among libraries.12
At the Minneapolis Conference in 1954, The National Association of
State Libraries approved in principle a statement on the role and
functions of the state library.13

Nine years were to pass before another national library association
came into existence. This was the Medical Library Association organ-
ized at Philadelphia in 1898. As in the founding of The National
Association of State Libraries, the organizers called attention to the
A.L.A., but in a different vein this time. It was felt that the problems
of A.L.A. "are not our problems."14 Voting to organize under the
name of the Association of Medical Librarians, the group of eight
persons chose Dr. G. M. Gould, editor of the Philadelphia Medical
Journal, for president while Margaret R. Charlton, librarian of the
McGill University Medical School, who originally advanced the idea
of the organizing meeting, became secretary. Other officers included
Dr. J. L. Rothrock, vice-president, and Dr. William Browning, treas-
urer. It seemed to the group that the problems and needs of the
120 medical libraries in the country, as well as those of the 165 medical
colleges, justified the formal organization which they brought into
existence. The founders considered and rejected affiliation with the
A.L.A. and with the American Medical Association. In 1923 a proposal
to affiliate with the Special Libraries Association did not meet with the
approval of the membership. The name was changed in 1907 to the
Medical Library Association; a proposal to change this to the Medical
Library Association of America was defeated on the ground that the
association should retain its international character.15

Primary membership was at first provided for individual librarians
representing medical libraries having 500 or more volumes; this was
changed in 1904 to a primary membership of medical and allied li-
braries with two classes of membership, one for libraries and one for
individuals. The field of membership was again broadened in 1929 to
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permit the admission of allied scientific libraries such as dental, veterinary, biological, and psychological, and for the establishment of a new class of professional membership for library workers. Voting power rested solely in the library members until 1950 when this was extended also to the professional members, classified at that time as active members.\(^\text{14}\)

Although librarians have served as president since 1933, the office before that time had always been held by a physician. This is not strange since the infant association leaned heavily in its early years upon those men of medicine with an interest in the literature of medicine.\(^\text{16}\) Amendments considered by the membership at the annual meeting in 1929 included one requiring that all officers be librarians, an action described as a first step toward a professional association. The amendment was defeated. However, in 1946 the constitution was amended to provide for a physician as honorary vice-president with the office of president and all other offices to be filled by professional librarians in active library work.\(^\text{15}\)

Among the programs of the Medical Library Association, much interest centers in the publications program and in the Exchange. The latter has been called "the soul and heart of the Association . . . our Rock of Gibraltar, the life-line of our existence."\(^\text{15}\) The exchange of medical literature among its members was stated as an objective at the second annual meeting in 1899 and has continued to be a very important service. This successful program was studied and evaluated by the Exchange Committee in 1948 and 1949 and a new plan for assigning and distributing materials was approved in 1949.\(^\text{17}\)

The present objectives of the Medical Library Association are stated as follows in a current folder sent to prospective members and others interested in the organization: "(a) The fostering of medical and allied scientific libraries and the exchange of medical literature among its institutional members and improving the professional qualifications and status of medical librarians; (b) the organization of efforts and resources for the furtherance of the purposes of the Association." The membership in June 1953, stood at 1,073.\(^\text{18}\)

An interval of nine years followed the formation of the Medical Library Association before the advent of another national library association. The law librarians of the country, noting the services rendered to general libraries by the A.L.A. and to special groups by the National Association of State Libraries and the Medical Library Association, felt that they, too, had different problems which could
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best be served by the formation of an organization of law librarians. Twenty-four law librarians responded to a letter of invitation from A. J. Small of the Iowa State Law Library, and it is probable that ten of them attended the organization meeting held at Naragansett, Rhode Island, early in July 1906 during the annual conference of the A.L.A. The twenty-four libraries, which had responded to the call, became charter members of the American Association of Law Libraries.

The early meetings of this association stressed intentions to work for better libraries and better librarianship, for cooperation, and for stability in organization. The need for an index of legal periodicals and for a membership journal of communication had consideration almost at once. Thus principal early ventures were the Index to Legal Periodicals and The Law Library Journal, both of which are still published.

Credit for the expansion of The American Association of Law Libraries since 1931 is attributed to the Roalfe Plan. This plan grew out of proposals advanced in 1931 by W. R. Roalfe, then law librarian of Duke University. Roalfe’s proposals, contained in a letter published in the Law Library Journal for April 1931, urged action in several areas including the establishment of a permanent headquarters for the American Association of Law Libraries with staff, the preparation of bibliographies, indexes to bar association reports, more frequent publication of the Law Library Journal, and additions to the Index to Legal Periodicals. Considered and debated by various committees and round tables, the plan was approved in 1934. Partial implementation of the plan followed and many current objectives still proceed from it. The American Association of Law Libraries still seeks a permanent headquarters and further improvement and expansion of its serial publications. It is also concerned with an absence of cooperation between library groups in the legal field and the bar associations. A continuing important objective is the improvement of law libraries and standards of law librarianship.

Established for educational and scientific purposes, the American Association of Law Libraries seeks to cultivate the art and science of law librarianship, develop and increase the usefulness of law libraries, promote understanding and joint projects with like associations, and encourage and implement cooperation among members of the profession. Its personal and institutional membership in 1954 was just over six hundred.

The Special Libraries Association constitution states “The object of
this Association shall be to encourage and promote the collection, organization and dissemination of information, to develop the usefulness and efficiency of special libraries and other research organizations and to encourage the professional welfare of its members." 28

The S.L.A. was organized in 1909. The impetus for the new organization came from a few librarians who were interested in the potentialities of library service to, as John Cotton Dana, the first president of the S.L.A. put it, "the practical man of affairs." 24 The organizing meeting, with twenty members, was held on July 2, 1909, during the A.L.A. Conference at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire. The first annual conference was held in New York on November 5, 1909. By the time of the conference, S.L.A. had fifty-seven members. 26

S.L.A.'s growth has been an indication of its effectiveness in meeting the needs of members and in living up to the conception of its founders to develop library service in the interest of the businessman. Its membership grew to 354 in five years, to eight hundred in fifteen years, to 1,129 in twenty years, while on June 30, 1954, its membership stood at almost five thousand. In the course of growth, it has necessarily broadened its fields of interest in order to better meet its objectives, as in the area of international relations. "Putting knowledge to work," an apt phrase uttered by J. A. Lapp, editor of Special Libraries, at the 1916 Conference, well expresses the association's guiding principle.

The development of library service in the interest of businessmen has remained the dominant force in the organization. 24 The responsibilities of the S.L.A. to this concept have multiplied with the growth of special libraries, brought about in part by the development of new businesses and industries, and by the increase in government and research agencies.

The S.L.A. has, from the beginning, made a marked effort to involve all of its members in its programs. The forces of geography and communication, which offer the greatest opposition to this desirable objective, are no different in S.L.A. than in the other national library associations. S.L.A.'s three-in-one membership strikes one as having been unusually successful in striving with these forces. One membership fee brings membership in the association, membership in one of the geographic chapters (which evolved from the Responsibility Districts inaugurated in 1912), and membership in one subject division. The reports of various presidents indicate that it has been no easy matter to weld together these groups in a way that keeps the parent association's program foremost and avoids a multiplication of ill-defined and amorphous units. In this respect, as in the financing
of the activities of its several units, it is likely that the S.L.A. has achieved a measure of success and practicability not yet reached by the A.L.A. perennially concerned with the same problems. In 1954 the S.L.A. had twenty-nine chapters and fifteen divisions.

The cooperative efforts of chapters and divisions (formerly termed groups) in the development of bibliographies, indexes, directories, and special tools designed to facilitate service to special libraries, have been of prime importance in the developing programs of the S.L.A. Many of these efforts have aided library service outside the field of special libraries proper as in the case of Special Library Resources.

Chapter and divisional organizations have given a large proportion of S.L.A. members the opportunity for frequent contact with members of similar interests. This has been one of the greatest sources of S.L.A.'s strength. Two other programs which have contributed greatly to its growth and well-being are a good publications program designed to meet the needs of special librarians, and a placement service which operates out of the office of the executive secretary.

The S.L.A. has maintained liaison with other library and allied associations in the country and some of its members participated actively in the formation of the Council of National Library Associations. Affiliation, or some closer relationship, with A.L.A. has often had thoughtful consideration. Such affiliation was voted at the second annual conference and effected in January of 1911. The sixteenth annual conference in 1924 discussed a proposal that the S.L.A. become a section in the A.L.A. but it was defeated by a large majority. Affiliation was dropped in 1950 but the matter is again under study by a special committee which will consider ideal conditions for reaffiliation. Such a proposal might very well result in more workable and more effective provision by the A.L.A. for affiliation on the part of other national library associations.

The Catholic Library Association was founded in 1921 as the Library Section of the Department of Colleges and Secondary Schools of the National Catholic Educational Association. It seeks to initiate, foster, and encourage any movement directed toward the progress of Catholic literature and Catholic library work. It was reorganized independently as the Catholic Library Association in 1931.

The Catholic Library Association attributes its expansion in program activities to the growth, since 1921, of Catholic educational institutions in America, especially on the secondary and college level. This resulted in, among other things, a growing concern over the training
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of librarians and the need to stimulate the intelligent planning of libraries in Catholic institutions. The Catholic Library Association considers itself complementary, not supplementary, to other library groups and attempts to provide specialized services not elsewhere available. These specialized services have included selected book lists of special interest to Catholic readers, and supplements to existing bibliographical tools to aid in the cataloging of the voluminous and technical Catholic literature. A contribution of especial importance is the Catholic Periodical Index. Termed the Catholic Library Association's greatest achievement, this is a quarterly index to over one hundred Catholic periodicals in all languages which was started in 1930.

The 1953 membership of approximately two thousand represents libraries of all types.

This chronological summary will be concluded with mention of the Music Library Association, the Theatre Library Association, and the American Theological Library Association. The Music Library Association, established at New Haven, Connecticut, during the A.L.A. annual conference of 1931 fosters the development of music libraries, the encouragement of studies in the organization and administration of music libraries and the use of music in libraries. Its periodical publication, Notes, has been enlarged during the past few years and contains important contributions to American music history. The Music Library Association currently has about one thousand members.

The Theatre Library Association, with a present membership of about two hundred, was established in 1937. It early concerned itself with the preservation of theatrical archives. Its present interests appeal to librarians, curators, and private collectors interested in the theatre and materials relating to the theatre.

The American Theological Library Association has its antecedents in the Round Table of Theological Librarians, established at the A.L.A. annual conference in Ashbury Park in 1916. By 1920, the interests of the Round Table shifted to the needs of the religious sections of public libraries with a consequent diminishing interest in the needs and problems of seminary libraries. The shift in interest of the Round Table plus encouragement from the American Association of Theological Schools, established in 1938, resulted in formation of the American Theological Library Association in 1942. Present purposes include bringing its members into closer working relationships with each other and with the American Association of Theological Schools, studying the distinctive problems of theological seminary libraries, and improv-
ing the professional competence of its members and the quality of library service in theological education. It had a membership in 1953 of 223. The American Theological Library Association publishes a Summary of Proceedings of its annual conferences including a detailed record of its programs and activities.

The national library associations dealt with in this chapter have many features in common. In whatever ways some of them may seek the furtherance of special types of library work or may aim their programs at different audiences, all are bound by two common and overall purposes: the improvement and extension of library service, and the well-being and growth of the library profession.

To help accomplish their objectives, all of the associations encourage a variety of memberships. Thus, for the individual, the memberships in the various associations are divided into personal, individual, associate, active, life, and student. Institutional memberships are provided by all. Contributors, both individual and corporate, are offered memberships and titles, sustaining, supporting, subscribing, and contributing memberships. The definitions employed do not establish the wide variety suggested by the different titles. It is significant that none of the associations has a professional membership class with admission depending upon formal qualifications of education or experience. From available figures, one can safely estimate that the nine associations considered in this chapter have a total membership in all classes of around 31,000.

The income of the associations results mainly from membership dues, publishing activities, journal subscriptions and advertising, grants, and contributions. Figures from a variety of sources indicate that the nine associations made expenditures in the neighborhood of a million and a half dollars in 1953-54. There seems no question to this writer that this expenditure, which came to a considerable extent from the pockets of members, was wisely and carefully spent.

There is, perhaps naturally enough, some concern among librarians over the number of library associations. One can belong to a local library club, a state library association, a regional library association, and to one or more national library associations. Within these there are often sections and divisions. All bring meeting and program responsibilities to many members. These questions can be asked: Why all this multiplication and splintering? Has it been for the good of the profession?

The main reason behind the formation of the substantial number of national library associations which we have in this country becomes
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apparent from their history. Each felt, to some degree, that needs and problems, peculiar to the group, were not met satisfactorily through existing associations. There is no conclusive evidence to support this, for the alternative has not been sufficiently tested. Nor can we say that the ills have been cured through the multiplicity of organizations. Since they did come into existence and since each continues to grow, the supposition must be that the case for multiplicity wins. One authority, speaking from experience, felt that "a reasonable diversity and multiplicity of library associations is logical, healthy, and inevitable."

The greatest fear that one can feel over the number of associations lies in the possible dispersion of effort. Is the whole well-being of the library profession weakened by too many scattered efforts, by too many unrelated attempts in similar program areas? One cannot believe, from a study of accomplishments, that such is the case. Nevertheless, considering this period in American history when libraries and librarianship are so vital and when the support of library service is at such a critical stage it is interesting to speculate on the probable impact of a coordinated program on the part of all the national library associations. The effect upon the public regard in which libraries and librarians are held might be considerable. Given an agreed upon set of objectives, certain means of implementation come quickly to mind. The several journals of the associations, presenting common themes, might arouse the profession. The combined public relations services of the associations might command a respectable share of space and time in the various media of communication. A national library conference, in which all the library associations joined, might be of significant national and professional importance. The possibilities are exciting; it might be that a happy measure of jet propulsion would be added to libraries and to librarianship.

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The Philadelphia Conference of Librarians, held in October 1876, did more than found the American Library Association. It was also largely instrumental in the creation of the Library Association of Great Britain.

When the proceedings of this conference were published they were reviewed in England by E. B. Nicholson, then librarian of the London Institution and later to become a famous figure as Bodley’s librarian. In 1877, there was a well-known weekly review called The Academy and the issue of January 27 of that year contained an article by Nicholson on the Philadelphia Conference.

He stated that the meeting had been attended by 102 representatives of libraries in the United States, but “only one stranger—Mr. Yates, of the Leeds Public Library—accepted the general invitation tendered to other countries. The science of library management has been so zealously and successfully cultivated in the States that this is a matter for much regret; had the governing bodies of large English libraries sent their chief officers to attend the Conference and inspect the various American systems, the expense incurred would probably have been more than compensated in most cases by the attainment of far higher efficiency.”

Nicholson enumerated the various papers read at the conference with great care and was especially enthusiastic about Mr. Barnwell’s on “A Universal Catalogue: Its Necessity and Practicability.” He was, in fact, more than merely enthusiastic; he was optimistic. In his opinion, if the details of the scheme could be worked out, “it is difficult to see how the American, or, indeed, the English government could refuse to bear some portion of its expense.”

Nicholson’s article was, however, more than a review of a periodical. It was a plea for a constructive plan, and he concluded with a proposal that English librarians should hold a similar meeting and establish a

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comparable organization. The fact that The London Times saw fit to publish the greater part of his review in its influential pages persuaded Nicholson to a further course of action. In a subsequent issue of The Times for February 16, 1877, he published a letter in which, with the support of the principal librarian of the British Museum, Bodley's librarian, the librarian of Cambridge University Library, the librarian of the Advocates' Library in Edinburgh and the librarian of Trinity College, Dublin, he called for a conference of English librarians. The result of his suggestion that librarians in the London area should meet and elect a steering committee was the formation of such a group in April 1877. It was this body which planned an international conference for the autumn of that year and invitations were duly sent out.

When this first conference assembled at the London Institution in the autumn of 1877, its 218 participants included seventeen from the United States. Affection likes to recall that among this number came Melvil Dewey in his newly conferred position of secretary and treasurer of the American Library Association. At an evening meeting on October 5, the last day of the conference, came a unanimous resolution: "That a Library Association of the United Kingdom be founded." The draft constitution was approved, the first officers were appointed, and so it began its work.

One further important step in the evolution of the association remained. On March 29, 1895, the council considered a recommendation that steps should be taken to secure a Royal Charter of Incorporation. Apart from the prestige value of such recognition and the fact that, by it, the association would become the officially recognized representative body of the profession, it also meant that the association could own property and take legal proceedings. After certain delays, occasioned by the somewhat cumbersome machinery designed to operate in such cases, it finally became an accomplished fact. To a traditionalist, there is still great satisfaction in the realization that the daily, rather humdrum, business of running the Library Association is still governed by this long statement of the aims and constitution of the body beginning in glorious style with; "VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, to all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting": and ends "Witness ourself at Westminster the Seventeenth day of February, in the Sixty-first year of Our reign." Even the most routine reference back to a committee becomes, under such auspices, an act of grace.

Some attempt to appreciate the work of the association and an effort
to assess its achievement can be made by studying the "Purposes and Powers of the Corporation" as set out in the charter and by determining the progress made under each heading. The purposes were laid down as:

1. To unite all persons engaged or interested in library work, by holding conferences and meetings for the discussion of bibliographical questions and matters affecting Libraries or their regulation or management or otherwise.
2. To promote the better administration of Libraries.
3. To promote whatever may tend to the improvement of the position and the qualifications of Librarians.
4. To promote the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts in any City, Borough or other district within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.
5. To promote the establishment of reference and lending Libraries for use by the public.
6. To watch any legislation affecting Public Libraries, and to assist in the promotion of such further legislation as may be considered necessary for the regulation and management or extension of Public Libraries.
7. To promote and encourage bibliographical study and research.
8. To form, collect, collate, and publish (in the form of Transactions, Journals, or otherwise) information of service or interest to the Fellows and Members of the Association, or for the promotion of the objects of the Corporation.
9. To collect, and maintain a Library and Museum.
10. To hold examinations in Librarianship and to issue Certificates of efficiency.
11. To do all such lawful things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects."

This is obviously a document of its time and certain of its provisions are now primarily of historic interest. There is little need now for the encouragement of the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts or the actual establishment of libraries. That is a phase which has passed and contemporary efforts must be concentrated rather on the improvement of such provisions as now exist.

The chief functions of the Library Association in the middle of the twentieth century might best be summarized under three headings; those relating to libraries and the science of librarianship; those relating to its members; and those relating to its own publishing and bibliothecal activities.
Any library association which sets out to promote the better administration of libraries generally is facing an enormous task, yet it is one which, if not undertaken, will reduce the whole of the association and the profession to impotence and decay. Much will have to be left to the individual initiative of members and this aspect will be considered later. An association can however function best along broad lines of policy within a national framework, while remitting more specialized functions to particular groups of people.

In England, at present, one or two important fields claim the Library Association's attention at a national level. First of these might well be considered the imperative need for new legislation relating to public libraries. In spite of important later enactments, much of the public library provision has grown up under the shadow of mid-nineteenth century legislation and conditions. Even though the important area of county librarianship is governed by an act of 1919, nevertheless the spirit of 1850 when the first enabling legislation for public libraries was passed by Parliament is still heavy upon us. Since that time two important things have happened. The structure of local government has undergone considerable change and will, in all probability, change yet more in the future. It is quite inadequate for many of the tasks which it is now called upon to perform and a recent leading article in The Times, a sure barometer of responsible public opinion, has called for an investigation. The second factor is the change in professional opinion regarding the functions of a public library.

The 1850 Acts appeared to regard the provision of libraries as an alternative to the gin palace or, following the tumultuous events of the 1830's and 1840's, an attempt to placate the rising demand of the artisans for enlightenment. The attitude of the 1919 act was to place county libraries as a minor toy of the formal education program. Between these varying opinions confusion has grown apace. Also, when neither the governing bodies nor the thing governed is on very certain ground it is hardly propitious for forward-looking programs. At several times, but especially during and since World War II, the Library Association has devoted considerable time to these matters.

That nothing has yet come to fruition is in greater measure due to the difficulties involved and the intransigence of government than irresolution on the part of the association. What is the average member of the association hoping for when eventually all those dreams become reality? More than anything else, in this writer's opinion, for three things:

1. Some kind of direct government grant for public libraries, so that
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they may no longer be entirely dependent upon the straitened purses of local councils.

2. Some re-arrangement of library areas so that more effective and more economic units of administration may result.

3. The removal of county libraries from the direct control of directors of education and the establishment of county librarians as chief officers.

In order to enable the work of the association to be carried on more effectively in relation to its membership, provision has been made for various forms of grouping. Even in a country as small as Great Britain it was natural that steps should be taken to provide for something more than national meetings. Consequently the country has been divided into eleven regional areas, Birmingham and district; Eastern; London and home counties; Northern; Northern Ireland; North Midland; North Western; Scottish Library Association; South Western; Welsh and Yorkshire. Each of these branches runs its affairs through an elected committee and is financed by means of an annual grant from the Library Association which is computed according to their respective membership strengths. Each branch is also represented on the council of the Library Association by an elected member.

Further work is carried on throughout the country by sections which represent particular functional interests of the membership. The six sections are the Association of Assistant Librarians, which is the biggest of them all; the Medical Section; University and Research; County Libraries; Reference and Special Libraries; and the Youth Section. Two matters here call for special comment.

Five of the above sections are obvious in the declaration of their interests but some confusion might be experienced regarding the Association of Assistant Librarians. It began life as the ‘Library Assistants’ Association’ in 1895 and was then entirely disassociated from the Library Association. It declared its purpose as ‘uniting all persons engaged in library administration other than chief librarians.’ Although it has now changed its name and has lost its independent status by becoming a section of the Library Association, from which it receives all its funds, its aims remain constant.

The avowed object of the Association of Assistant Librarians is to provide a forum, by means of meetings and publications, where the young assistant can express his views without feeling that his chief is registering severe disapproval nearby. To this end it provides an almost complete mirror and reproduction of the activities of the parent body.
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It holds an annual conference, it is organized in geographical divisions very similar to the branches of the Library Association and it publishes its monthly journal, now known as *The Assistant Librarian*. This position is not without its critics. Critics of the Association of Assistant Librarians urge that the usefulness which an organization of this kind may have had is something of the past. In a small profession it leads to a dispersal of effort which is extremely wasteful.

Above all, these critics point to the difficulty of deciding who is an “assistant librarian” and over whom this body spreads its protective wings. The chief librarian of a small system is excluded by the title of the association whereas the deputy of one of the largest systems is still eligible. It is a situation which is extremely anomalous and yet, against all reason, it seems to work. Its supporters, and they are many, urge that its justification is that it is the only part of the Library Association which appears to be doing anything of direct value to the younger members of the profession. There is some force in this statement and many people will point to the continuing success of the A.A.L.’s correspondence courses. The Library Association itself provides no form of tuition for its own examinations and every year many students study by means of these courses in their spare time, while working in their libraries.

Similarly, the chief publications of the A.A.L., apart from its journal, are the “primers” of the various examination subjects, in which every effort is made to compress as much essential examination material as possible into as small a physical compass as can be attained. They are open to many objections, especially from the educational standpoint, but their popularity with students ensures a ready sale. The general policy of the A.A.L. varies from time to time depending upon the popular mood of the moment and the membership of its council. There have been periods when it seemed to be dictated entirely by an “agin’ the Government” mentality and consisted in waiting to see what measures the Library Association proposed in order that the A.A.L. might oppose them. Luckily this is not the case at present and the leaders of the Association of Assistant Librarians have been very constructive in all their acts of recent years.

One other point regarding the sections of the Library Association calls for comment and is a peculiarity of omission rather than commission. The absence of any section specifically concerned with public libraries, aside from the County Library Section, is not due to any lack of preoccupation with their concerns but rather the reverse. The Library Association is currently primarily an association of public librar-
ians and, by virtue of historic accident, this has in the past meant pre-
eminently municipal public librarians. Members not conforming to this
general pattern have been compelled, by the instincts of self-preserva-
tion and self-interest, to form sections in which their particular speci-
alties may be given due weight. Obviously it is a good thing that those
members with specialized interest in some branch of librarianship
should have the opportunity to foregather and discuss their common
aims and problems. It is the feeling of many people in Great Britain
that some reorganization should take place which would put public
librarianship on the same footing with the rest and that it should cease
to be regarded as the standard from which any departure is abnormal.

There is probably one distinction above all between these sections
of the Library Association and their counterparts in the American
Library Association. It is comparatively rare for a librarian to have
experience in more than one type of library; the public librarian, for
example, is usually a public librarian to the end of his days. Conse-
quently, each of the sections is far more a watertight compartment than
would otherwise be the case and the membership of one section is not
too well known among the membership of another.

This makes it increasingly important and desirable to have as much
administrative unity among the sections as possible. In this direction,
attention will always be centered upon the major bifurcation of the
profession created by the foundation in 1924 of the Association of
Special Libraries and Information Bureau (Aslib). Into this organiza-
tion, which is completely separate from the Library Association, are
poured the major efforts of special librarians and that indefinable body
of men and women known as "documentalists." There are people in
the library profession who regret the existence of Aslib but, for all
their tears, Aslib is an accomplished and a flourishing fact. Even assum-
ing that the more dogmatically inclined documentalists are correct
and that there is no similarity at all between documentation and li-
brarianship, yet nobody would ever seek to deny that they are con-
tiguous and interdependent fields of activity. In that event, and for
their mutual benefit, it is important that they should agree upon the
terms of their peaceful co-existence. This, again, is a matter upon which
the policy of the Library Association can have great effect in the near
future upon the general shaping of the profession. Some progress has
already been made and the two organizations have recently been
investigating the problems facing the education and training of their
members.

Aslib provides an almost exact parallel of the activities of the Li-
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brary Association. Its national organization of council, committees and branches, its annual conference, and branch meetings are similar. The only difference in function relates to the membership served by the two bodies and, when it is realized that the Library Association has a University and Research Libraries Section and a Reference and Special Libraries Section, the confusion appears to be complete. It seems difficult for the two associations to outline clearly their respective spheres of influence because this would demand agreed definitions of "librarian," "special librarian," "documentalist," "information officer," and all the other regularly used and infrequently understood terms. It is fortunate that all the officers involved can discharge their duties satisfactorily even in the absence of a sure nomenclature. The future relations between these two professional bodies will have considerable effect on the shaping of events. There comes a moment, after years of soul sustaining argument, when both sides find it difficult to retreat from their entrenched and embattled positions.

A somewhat comparable, although less aggravated, condition is found in relation to the School Libraries Association. Again, this is a body which is entirely disassociated from the Library Association and concerns itself with a particular category of libraries. Once again there is a measure of duplication, because the Youth Libraries Section of the Library Association is interested in school libraries as one part of its work with young people. The School Libraries Association is strongly representative of those teachers who are running school libraries and, in the great majority of cases, doing so without any kind of training or instruction in librarianship. The likelihood, therefore, of their wishing to be associated with the national professional body is remote.

Both these cases have developed because of the particular interest of the main body of membership of the Library Association. As has been said, it is predominately an association of public librarians and, in the public libraries at the present time, those working with children and young people are a depressed minority. It is not a field of activity which is regarded as a stepping stone to more important posts and many librarians do no more than pay lip service to it. The fate of the "Work with Young People" paper in the Library Association's syllabus provides an indication of this attitude. It was removed because of the opinion expressed by certain librarians that there was not sufficient content in the field on which to conduct an examination. Only following considerable agitation by the Youth Libraries Section was it permitted to return. When important groups feel that their interests are
being neglected, it is hardly surprising, however regrettable, that they should form their own organization.

One of the most direct ways in which the Library Association hopes to advance the cause of librarianship is through the work done on behalf of the individual member. A profession can be no stronger than its members and any real advance in the status of an individual librarian is certain to reflect eventually upon the standing of the whole body of librarians. Much of this work is naturally directed towards salaries, a field of endeavor in which success is welcomed for very personal reasons as well as for the enhanced reputation of a better rewarded profession. In this imperfect world public estimation will always be proportionate to the salary check. The Library Association has been greatly concerned, particularly during the post war years, with negotiations for salary scales and has met with considerable success.

The association also keeps a regular watch on advertisements officially announcing openings in library positions and approaches are made to those authorities who are not offering what appear to be adequate salaries. The danger of a low salary is not that applicants will be lacking, but that those who do apply may not have the necessary competency for the post. It is a matter which has a very marked bearing on the general health of the profession and can only be satisfactory when every member co-operates to the full by avoiding any ‘black balled’ appointments.

Any consideration of salaries and conditions of service must, of necessity, be two-sided. Apart from what the employer can offer there is also the professional contribution of the librarian. A profession will, in the long run, attain the status to which the work of its membership entitles it, and the Library Association has for a long time endeavored to bring about the third clause in its schedule of ‘purposes and powers’ enumerated above by means of the tenth clause.

The first examinations of the Library Association were held in July 1885, and although there have been, and continue to be, many changes in the official syllabus of topics covered in the examination, the overall picture has remained much the same. The over-riding factor is that, except in one particular instance, the association has complete control in the construction syllabus and the examinations. As a result of these examinations the association issues successful candidates with a ‘Certificate of Efficiency’ and all those members who have been so approved are ‘chartered librarians.’ This certificate is the officially recognized qualification for professional positions and is a specific re-
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requirement for practically all positions in public libraries, government libraries, and some special and university libraries.

There are two categories of chartered librarians. The Associates of the Library Association are those who have passed their first qualifying examination and Fellows of the Library Association are those who have progressed further to a final examination. The minimum educational requirement pre-requisite to sit the examinations of the Library Association is a General Certificate of Education, which is attainable at about the age of sixteen and the terminal point for secondary education.

The association exists solely as an examining and certifying body; it does not undertake any tuition. Organized tuition is conducted along three main channels; the correspondence courses of the Association of Assistant Librarians; part time courses in various educational establishments throughout the country which will often be attended one evening a week by students who continue in their normal employment; and the full-time Schools of Librarianship.

Although the library schools are, in no way, under the control of the Library Association, they are intimately connected with it. The oldest of these schools is that in University College, London, which began life in 1919 aided by a substantial endowment from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust. It enjoys the distinction of being the only library school in the country which is permitted by the Library Association to formulate its own syllabus and conduct its own examinations. The school awards a diploma to successful candidates and at a later date, mainly with the accession of professional experience, this can be translated into the Fellowship of the Library Association.

The association’s main contact with the school is secured through its six officially appointed representatives who serve on the school’s governing committee.

The other library schools, nine in number, are a post war development. They are situated in commercial and technical colleges in Birmingham, Brighton, Glasgow, Isleworth, Leeds, London, Loughborough, Manchester, and Newcastle.

As opposed to its benevolent outlook in 1919, the policy of the association in 1946 was to restrict the activities of these newer schools to straightforward tuition for its own examinations. Consequently, these nine schools have no control over the syllabus on which their curricula are based nor over the examinations by which their students are judged. However, since the policy of an association is not an affixed and abiding thing, it may be that a remedy will be found for
this strange situation. But whatever changes may ensue, it is probable
that the majority opinion of the profession will prefer to see the re-
tention of the system of certification and chartering by the association.
It has distinct merits and need not be discarded when any reorganiza-
tion of the professional educational program ultimately takes place.

Matters of professional education bulk largely in all the deliberations
of the association and there is no other single activity to which so much
time and money is devoted. Even when the comments of the severest
critics have been heard, it must be admitted that the educational policy
of the association has done a very great deal to raise the status of the
librarian in the United Kingdom. The progress has been so marked that
one can only hope that it presages even greater developments in the
near future.

The eighth clause reciting the powers of the Library Association in
its charter bade it "collect, collate, and publish information of service
or interest" to its members. It is possible that those who drafted this
foundation document envisaged this activity as one which would
spring naturally from the immediately preceding item, which called
upon the association to "promote and encourage bibliographical study
and research." Admittedly, bibliography is a term with almost as
many shades of meaning as documentation and is quite as frequently
misunderstood. In general, however, this seems to have been one of
the less well-obeyed injunctions. Bibliographical research has played
a small part in the association's activities and its publications have not
been replete with the fruits of such toil. But to say this is not to con-
demn the publications policy of the association which has accom-
plished most useful work in other directions. It is doubtful whether any
works handled by the Library Association have had a better market
over the years than Charles A. Cutter's *Rules for a Dictionary Cata-
logue* and the joint A.L.A./L.A. *Cataloguing Rules*. This latter is an
ideal example of the kind of publication which results from a carefully
planned and exhaustive enquiry. In these present days, when 'catalog
rules revision committees' are sitting again and the name of Lubetzky
is one to conjure with in the dark chancelleries of cataloging depart-
ments, the next publications in this vein will be eagerly awaited.

The most regularly criticized publication of any organization is
usually its regular journal and so it has been in this particular instance.
As pointed out elsewhere in this issue in the beginning the Library
Association joined with the American Library Association in having
*Library Journal* as a joint official organ, but inconvenience soon grew
greater than the advantages. In 1889, the association adopted *The

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Library as its official mouthpiece, a situation which lasted until 1898. Then, in January 1899, under the editorship of Henry Guppy, for so long famous as the librarian of John Rylands Library, Manchester, appeared the first issue of the Library Association Record. During the 55 years of its life, the Record has mirrored the changing fashions and interests of librarianship and has been well served by a number of editors. Any criticism of its contents, and this is not an infrequent occurrence, is primarily an indictment of a membership which fails to produce better articles. For a profession which spends its life among books, librarianship has hardly been outstanding in the realm of authorship. Perhaps familiarity has bred contempt for the thing by which it lives, but the literature of librarianship in Great Britain during the past quarter of a century has scarcely pulsated with vitality. Much of the general publishing of the Library Association, apart from its periodical, has been concentrated upon what may be regarded as text book material. It is possible that this is due to the association's great concern with its examination program, with the result that it has never been practicable to move outside this restricted orbit. Many of the text books published or sponsored by the association have been the boon companions of students for years. While none may ever achieve to the kind of immortality granted to works such as Gray's Anatomy, yet a list can not be ignored which contains such honored names as Arundell Esdaile and Ernest Savage. So great, however, appears to be the librarian's dislike of the pen that many of our greatest librarians will retire leaving behind them a very meager bibliography.

In another sphere of activity are the bibliographical tools of various types published by the association. Although they are few in number, they are worthy of attention and include some of the most important titles on the whole list. The oldest among them is the Subject Index to Periodicals which, after some forty years of quiet and regular existence, is now turning from an annual into a quarterly and, at the same time, producing a new venture in the shape of separate regional lists. These will be grouped under geographical areas of the United Kingdom in order to bring together the scattered entries relating to those districts. Change is also afflicting the old-established annual of Year's Work in Librarianship. The volume for 1950 will be the last one in this present series and it will be replaced by a series of Five Years' Work in Librarianship. It is hoped that the longer period of coverage will permit greater digestion of fact and more mature reflection by the contributors. The other bibliographical publications are both post-war arrivals. A glance at Library Literature demonstrates how bewilderingly
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profuse is becoming the printed material of interest to librarians, especially in the peripheral subjects. No one can possibly hope to keep abreast of it; but to help in the sifting process the publication of *Library Science Abstracts* was begun in 1950. It has had a short life so far and no new venture is without its teething troubles, yet, in spite of this, it bids fair to be one of the most important of all the association's concerns. The final item of this group is the biggest in conception and in execution; it is especially heartening at the same time because it is a co-operative venture. The Library Association is one of the twelve sponsoring bodies which, through a representative council, have combined to produce the *British National Bibliography*. This weekly classified list of new publications, with only a few categories excluded is, even if not perfect, at least good enough to have attracted criticism. It has now settled down to being an accepted part of the British Library scene and there are not unfounded hopes that it will develop still more in the future. It is the nearest that this country has yet approached to a large scale scheme of centralized cataloging and is, consequently, a happy augury for the future. Its influence on classification appears, at present, to be more debatable and is viewed with some concern by those who believe that a notation symbol of upwards of ten digits is a snare in itself. But these are merely details in the development of a project which is having such an effect upon British libraries that it may well prove to be one of the most far reaching enterprises with which the association is connected.

A natural corollary to a discussion of publishing is some consideration of the association's own library and information bureau, established at the headquarters in London. This and the Greenwood Library in the Manchester City Libraries are the two main collections of library literature in Britain. The latter is entirely the concern of Manchester through the Greenwood bequest. The former at Chaucer House, the Library Association's own headquarters building in London, is its own. A fair sum of money, but never enough, is spent on this library each year and it is a living and thriving collection. Embodying as it does all forms of recorded information, it has proved to be a provision of great usefulness to the profession both here and in other countries.

The affairs of the association are directed by its council, of which, since the Llandudno Annual General Meeting of 1953, the majority are elected by, and therefore directly responsible to, the members. The core of the council consists of the nine elected 'London' councillors and the fifteen elected 'country' councillors. The distinction between these two categories is that the former work within a radius of 30 miles
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of Charing Cross while the latter are from outside that orbit. It is an
arrangement which must appear very strange to an outside eye and,
even within the association itself, it cannot be determined whether
this is a device to prevent London librarians from swamping the
council, or whether it is a necessary precaution in order to secure any
representation of them at all. All these elected councillors are elected
for three years and one third of their number retires each year.

Provision is also made in the By-Laws for the representation on the
council of the geographic interests of branches and the specialized
interests of the sections. Up to twelve members may represent each of
these two categories and at present there are eleven councillors elected
by the eleven branches of the association, and eleven either elected or
appointed by the sections. Finally, there are the three members ap-
pointed by those associations of library authorities which are design-
nated by the Library Association from time to time, such as the County
Councils Association and the Committee of Vice-Chancellors [of
Universities].

Tradition has established that the presidency of the association
should be held alternately by a distinguished librarian and a non-
librarian who is known to be interested in the work of libraries. It is a
method which, from both streams, has brought many notable men to
the highest honor which the association can confer. Until 1953 it also
brought the privilege, subject to regular attendance, of perpetual mem-
bership on the council. But in an age when presidential honors appear
to be conferred on younger librarians and when, happily, longevity
seems to be a hallmark of librarians, it was observed that the council
chamber was becoming rather over-populated. In 1953 the position
was changed, but without detriment to serving past presidents, so that
only the immediate past president retains his seat on the council. All
the foregoing, together with three vice-presidents and the three
honorary officers of the association, treasurer, secretary, and legal
adviser, constitute the council.

The council meets five times a year, with each period of about three
days occupied with the meetings of the individual committees, which
then report to the final full meeting of the council. The House and Li-
brary Committee, concerned with the headquarters and its library; the
Library Research Committee; Membership Committee, and the Publi-
cations Committee proclaim their functions in their titles. Members
are given an opportunity to name the committees on which they wish
to serve and, subject to the limitations of arithmetical balance, those
wishes are usually granted. The Finance Committee comprises those
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who have expressed a desire for that influential body, together with the chairmen of the other committees, while the Executive Committee is a small general policy forming committee elected annually by council members from among their own numbers.

Apart from these general committees is the Register and Examinations Executive Committee, consisting of those members of council who are Fellows of the Library Association. This is the body which, as its name implies, is responsible for everything concerned with the examination and registration of members. From its own members it elects annually a small Education Sub-Committee which handles the regular routine of educational affairs and an extremely small, five in number, Assessors Sub-Committee. This is the quintet of final arbitration in matters of syllabus and examination and appears to the student to be a slightly superior Cerberus.

The administrative side of the association’s affairs is conducted from the London offices, housed in the romantically and inappropriately named Chaucer House, by the secretary and his staff. Contrary to the policy of, for example, the A.L.A., the secretary is not a librarian but he numbers several on his staff in the roles of librarian and information officer, membership officer, education officer, and publications officer. There has recently been certain, but so far abortive, agitation for the appointment of an officer charged to attend to the needs of special librarians and there is a sporadic demand for a public relations officer. It appears to some members that the profession’s voice is not heard sufficiently among the general public when matters of concern to libraries are being discussed. The economy cuts which the Treasury inflicted most harshly on the British Museum and the present position with regard to the seizure of obscene books are examples of situations which seem not to have aroused the association so much as might have appeared desirable. In the opinion of many in England, the stand of the American Library Association with its “Freedom to read” is a model of the kind of watchfulness which is essential everywhere in this day and age.

Under the provisions of the charter, the association is required to hold an annual business meeting which, in the normal course of events, is held as a part of the annual conference. There is little to distinguish the Library Association’s conference from other such gatherings and, as will be apparent to all who read British periodical literature, recent conferences have not passed without criticism. Part of the difficulty lies in the fact that the association is not entirely a congregation of librarians. The conference is attended by many representatives of library
authorities whose interest in libraries is non-professional and whose conference tastes are so varied as to be well-nigh incapable of satisfaction. The published comments of returning American librarians who have attended the annual general meetings of recent years have contained several references to the bad manners of the audience. Weighty matters, such as subscription rates, have been debated at post war conferences and it is true that enthusiasm has overstepped the bounds of courtesy; but calm will doubtless be restored.

The British scene has been sketched because it bears some resemblance to the evolving pattern in the other parts of the British Commonwealth. One of the most interesting of studies is the manner in which the important areas of the world which are now becoming library conscious are building upon, reshaping and adapting the experiences of professional associations in the older parts of the world. British eyes have looked of recent years with especial interest at the work now being done in India and the work which is just beginning so momentously in West Africa. These countries will also benefit particularly from the events in Australasia and Canada, whose great developments come midway between the nineteenth century upbringings of England and America and the mid-twentieth century struggles of the newer countries.

The first attempt to form a library association in that part of the Commonwealth most geographically remote from Great Britain was an ill-started one. The Library Association of Australasia was founded in 1896 and, after holding four biennial conferences and publishing a journal from April 1901 to June 1902, it ceased in 1902. It was a short life, but the memory of some of its hopes and plans lingered in peoples' minds, but for a further quarter of a century nothing concrete emerged.

In October 1926, a preliminary meeting was called in Adelaide, a provisional committee appointed, and in August 1928, there came into being the Australian Library Association. Branches were formed in Queensland, Tasmania and South Australia, while in Victoria the local library association was affiliated to it. No associations or branches were formed in Western Australia or in New South Wales and this partial state coverage seems to have been one of the limiting factors in the development of the new organization.

The report of the Executive Committee for the years, 1928-33 said, "Associations have not been established in Western Australia or in New South Wales, although the New South Wales delegates were in accord with the proposal and promised then, and on several subsequent occasions, to establish an association in that State—"
taking which has not been fulfilled, and, on the contrary, intimation
has been given to the effect that no steps in that direction are intended.
This lack of co-ordination has prevented the Australian Library Associ-
ation from functioning as effectively as if that undertaking had been
honored." 6

A few years later in 1938, the principal librarian of the Public
Library of New South Wales replied to this allegation and said,

"... there was no promise to form a branch, only to discuss the
matter with the New South Wales librarians. In this discussion, it was
felt that at this stage no real good could come of a library association
constituted to include an overwhelming proportion of representatives
of subscription libraries who had no professional knowledge. It was
agreed, however, that there was urgent need for a professional associa-
tion confined to the trained librarians only. The senior librarians in
New South Wales felt that such an association could not be of much
practical value to librarians, and would be likely to express opinions
and pass resolutions with which the professional minority could not
possibly agree." 7

Even at this distance of time some of the exchanges seem to have
been rather acrimonious but out of the troubles grew a new organiza-
tion, the Australian Institute of Librarians. It was founded at an
inaugural meeting in Canberra in August 1937, with its first annual
meeting and conference in Sydney a year later. The final change was
a post-war one in which the title was amended to The Library Associa-
tion of Australia and, as such, it flourishes now as a fully fledged pro-
fessional organization. It is conducting its own examinations and its
Journal has established itself, although it is still primarily of notes and
news. The chief need at present is still for an increased membership
and, as soon as this is achieved, the association will be able to act
fully as a representative organization.

The first attempt to found a library association which would cover
the whole area of Australasia was not repeated when the new ventures
were launched, and, since 1910, New Zealand has had its own associa-
tion which has followed its own separate course of development.

The year 1930 saw the birth of the South African Library Association
which has been an extremely vigorous body ever since. It has done a
great deal to raise the standard of librarianship in the Union and has
been very active in the educational sphere. To an outsider, however,
one of the great achievements of the South African Library Association
has been the efforts which it has made to weld this bi-lingual race and
profession into something of a cohesive unit. Its quarterly journal,
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South African Libraries, is itself a bi-lingual publication and the problems which are raised by a situation such as this have been as resolutely faced in South Africa as they have been in certain areas of Canada.

The idea of the formation of a national association of librarians in Canada seems to have been entertained since the early years of the present century. This remained a dream, however, until around 1925 when there was a meeting of Canadian librarians in Seattle, followed fairly rapidly by two more meetings in Vancouver. At this time the majority of interested Canadian librarians were members of the American Library Association and it was at a conference of this latter body that the next significant movement took place.

The American Library Association Conference of 1927 met in Toronto, under the presidency of G. H. Locke of the Toronto Public Libraries. Two meetings of Canadian librarians were held during this period with the participation of 300 Canadian librarians representing all the provinces with the exception of Prince Edward Island. As a result of these meetings there was a resolution which, in the words of the official report, was designed to “organize a Canadian Library Association, with the object, not of competing with the American Library Association, but of securing co-operation on all matters affecting the welfare of the library movement throughout Canada as a whole.”

As a pre-requisite of any such definite action it was decided to conduct a survey of library conditions in Canada which was done in the summer of 1930 by a small committee of three financed by the Carnegie Corporation. When their report was finally issued one of its recommendations was for a “representative Canadian Library Association, with a paid professional headquarters staff and with adequate facilities for field work.”

The next step was also made during a Canadian Conference of the A.L.A., when, at Montreal in 1934, a Canadian Library Council came into being. In 1946, G. R. Lomer, librarian of McGill University and director of the library school, said that; “Though little was actually done by this Council, it had the result of giving to the A.L.A., the idea of an advisory committee for Canadian Affairs, and the Council has acted since its inception as a liaison with that body.” To interested Canadian eyes this may have seemed a small contribution yet, to the outside observer, it provides another example of one of the most heartening instances of international co-operation anywhere in the world.

The forty-ninth parallel, the ‘undefended,’ is the most famous and
most optimistic frontier in the world. The tolerance and sanity which it demonstrates seem to have pervaded American-Canadian Library Association affairs from the beginning and this is no mean achievement. At the organizational conference in Hamilton, Ontario in 1946, Luther Evans recalled that, some months before writing the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson had expressed the opinion that, "In a short time, we have reason to hope the delegates of Canada will join us in Congress and complete the American union, as far as we wish to have it completed." 11 This state of affairs has never come to pass and both countries are the greater because of the co-operation of their equalities. Librarianship is gaining because a similar respect for independent thought has pervaded their professional affairs.

Shortly after the initiation of the Canadian Library Council, financial aid from the Carnegie Corporation and the Rockefeller Foundation enabled the council to be constructed on representative lines, and this state of affairs prevailed until the foundation of the Canadian Library Association in June 1946. In appointing a woman as their first president, the Canadian Library Association achieved in one year a distinction which the British Library Association has failed to accomplish in three-quarters of a century.

It is, surely, permissible for a factual survey of this character to close with a hope for the future. There have been a few great international library conferences in the past and, at this present time, the International Federation of Library Associations' annual concourses and the steady application of Unesco open up vistas of future international good will. If, however, as is the dream of every man, co-operation is possible and practicable at all on a world-wide basis, how much more probable it is within the vast boundaries of the English speaking world. The Library Association has no International Relations Board nor is there any similar body at work within the Commonwealth. It would surely be a step in the direction which all men hope to see taken if there could be a Commonwealth Libraries Conference. Nothing but good could come of it, discussions could be wide and varied and some misconceptions could be cleared away. Of one thing the Commonwealth could be assured. Their deliberations would undoubtedly be followed with the friendliest possible concern by their professional colleagues in the other great English speaking community of the world.

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5. *Ibid.*, ref. 3.
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The substantial corpus of professional literature in the field of librarianship has been issued in large measure under the auspices of library associations. Publishing activities fall into more or less broad categories. Journals of communication reporting the work of libraries and librarians and lists of books suited for library purchase usually represent the first phase of association publishing. Periodical indexes have been and continue to be a professional concern. Library tools in the form of cataloging aids, lists of reference books and how to do it pamphlets appear to be a next step. Retrospective analyses of the profession, biographical, and philosophical works are still few in number. By and large commercial firms have not been attracted to the field of library publishing because of slow sales and limited appeal. Interest and necessity combine to encourage library associations to embark on publication programs.

The first associations in America and England were fortunate to have available to them the Library Journal which served as their official organ during their early years. The Library Association of the United Kingdom established its own periodical, Monthly Notes, in 1880 to be followed by the Library Chronicle in 1884, The Library in 1889 and the Library Association Record in 1899. It was not until the Booklist was started in 1905 that the American Library Association had its own serial publication, soon to be followed by the A.L.A. Bulletin which first appeared in 1907. As these associations have grown in numbers and strength special interest groups have emerged within the organizations. In England the assistant librarians felt the need of a group to cater to their special needs and give help in preparing for certification examinations. Their journal, Assistant Librarian, traces its history back to 1898.

The growth and reorganization of the A.L.A. has resulted in a series of divisional publications, the first being College and Research Li-

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Associations in 1939. Close on the heels of organization in India, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan, and recently in Jamaica, bulletins or journals have been started. The same is true of associations of special interest groups such as the law librarians, medical librarians, Catholic librarians and others. Within a few months of its organization the Special Library Association issued Special Libraries as a news sheet. The serial publications of the various associations serve many purposes, one of the most important being to offer the individual librarian an opportunity to express himself on some facet of his interests or work that he believes will be of value to other members of the profession.

Furthering the availability of materials in a library collection is an ever pressing concern which leads to discussions of better periodical indexing and improved technical processes. At the first A.L.A. conference in 1876 the need to improve Poole's Index and better guides to classification and cataloging procedures shared the limelight. Unlike other associations the A.L.A. has not been the publisher of a current periodical index. The Library Association has issued its Subject Index since 1915, while the associations in Canada, New Zealand, and South Africa, recognizing the need to improve their services have undertaken the substantial task of initiating and carrying out the indexing of their regional periodical literature. Special interest groups have likewise assumed responsibility for indexing journals in their fields. The Index to Legal Periodicals was begun by the American Association of Law Libraries in 1908. This and the Industrial Arts Index, begun by the Special Library Association as the Artisan's Trade Index, and the Catholic Periodical Index, sponsored by the Catholic Library Association are now published by the H. W. Wilson Company. The impetus for these publications, however, came from the library associations.

Concurrent with the need for better periodical indexing has been the need for improvements and economies in cataloging. The A.L.A. was responsible for distributing the first printed catalog cards. This projected activity helped to bring about the organization of a Publishing Section in 1886, with its own constitution and by-laws providing for personal and institutional membership. “Its object shall be to secure the preparation and publication of such catalogs, indexes and other bibliographical helps as may best be produced by cooperation.” Definite plans were made to issue printed cards for leading new publications, an essay index, the indexing of scientific serials, transactions and monographs, as no call was more urgent than this, and to serve as one central agency to help prevent overlapping or covering the same
ground. The possibility of distributing printed catalog cards had been discussed at the 1853 conference, and at long last cards were issued for a hundred books published during the last quarter of 1887. Although the Publishing Section had fifty members it was able to secure but twenty standing order subscriptions and by the next year it was feared that the project would fail for lack of support. Work was also begun on the A.L.A. Index and the Portrait Index and by the late nineties cards were produced at the rate of 1,200 a year for analytics to Festschrift, books of essays, Smithsonian and National Museum series and comparable works. The entire edition of 750 copies of the Index was sold by 1898 and netted a small profit. By 1903, after a year's experience in the use of Library of Congress printed cards, the A.L.A. moved out of the field of catalog cards for books. The printed catalogs of some of the larger libraries had set a pattern by including analyticals and the A.L.A. continued its analytic card series until 1919. This in spite of the fact that as early as the 1902 conference Alice B. Kroeger questioned detailed dictionary catalogs versus subject bibliographies and that F. J. Teggart advanced the theory that librarians might be doing too much for the public. The directors of the larger libraries began to be more and more concerned about the increasing bulk of card catalogs and were not clear at what point libraries would naturally stop in the matter of adding more and more analytical cards to their catalogs.

Smaller libraries with limited financial resources appear to need help when it comes to selecting books, and exercise understandable pressures on the associations to be supplied with book selection aids. Best books lists designed for varying age levels, special subject lists and selected catalogs are issued to meet these needs. The first publication of the A.L.A. was J. F. Sargent's Reading for the Young. This classified, annotated list of over a hundred pages had to be completed after his death by his sisters, aided by Caroline M. Hewins. Melvil Dewey, ever ready to offer advice, thought it too long. Even with quantity prices of $25.00 for a hundred copies and a bulk sale to Omaha of five hundred copies, sales were slow and netted no royalty to the Sargent sisters. Early subject lists in England and the United States related to music, fine arts, and history. Although hoped for sales are rarely realized to this day, librarians sense a need for best books lists in special fields to serve as book selection tools as well as for use with adult education groups and as reading courses. They continue to illustrate a type of library publishing likely to require financial underwriting and the help of specialists in compiling and annotating. Special associations, such as Aslib with its Select List of Standard British Scientific and Technical
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Books, compiled at the request of the British Council, and the Music Library Association with its Catalogue of Music for a Small Orchestra are natural agents for such enterprises.

One of the first library problems to be discussed by the A.L.A. concerned the need of small libraries for assistance in selecting small but well rounded collections. The first A.L.A. Catalog was compiled by Mary S. Cutler, better known as Salome Cutler Fairchild, with the assistance of Louise S. Cutler, Henrietta Church and others. It was based on a model library assembled by the Columbian Exposition Committee in 1893. This classed, annotated list has served as a pattern for a series which was last brought up to date by the 1942-49 cumulation. Plans for more comprehensive coverage representing ten, twenty-five and fifty thousand volume collections with yearly supplements fell through. College librarians had to wait many years for C. B. Shaw’s List of Books for College Libraries. Catholic librarians joined together to issue a Catholic supplement to the Shaw list. The librarians of junior colleges have a new list in 1954. In presenting to Andrew Carnegie the need for funds to underwrite publishing costs the A.L.A. stressed the importance of a current supplement to the A.L.A. Catalog. Soon after Carnegie’s $100,000 endowment fund gift was received plans were made to bring out the A.L.A. Booklist. The first issue dated January—February 1905 included a hundred and eight titles all suggested by librarians. The March issue dwindled to twenty-seven titles while the April issue included a list of best aids to book selection. For half a century the Booklist has served the profession well. The Special Library Association’s Technical Book Review Index, Aslib’s Book-list and the Hospital Book Guide serve as additional aids to selection. The Subscription Books Bulletin initiated by the A.L.A. in 1930 is a unique tool in the field.

Of equal importance in library publishing are manuals dealing with technical processes. In the United States classification tables have been published under private auspices and the Library of Congress. In India, the impact of the ability and interest of S. R. Ranganathan, until recently the president of the Indian Library Association, has lead to considerable attention to the problems of classification. The Australian Library Association has worked on the expansion of the Dewey class 994. Catalog codes were developed under the joint auspices of the British and American associations. The Music Library Association has given assistance with its Code for Cataloging Music. Help with subject headings began when the A.L.A. issued its first list sixty years ago. The Special Library Association has issued subject heading lists in such fields as aviation and aeronautic engineering. As catalogs grew
larger there came a need for filing rules. British librarians have been helpful in preparing Rules for the Cataloguing of Incunabula.

Tools of the trade have been needed by reference workers as well as by catalogers. One of the A.L.A.'s best sellers has been the Guide to Reference Books, first prepared by Alice B. Kroeger, then by Isadore G. Mudge and now by Constance M. Winchell. Margaret Hutchins, H. S. Hirshberg and Louis Shores have helped the student and the practitioner with their works published by the A.L.A. while John Minto and A. D. Roberts have supplied copy for the Library Association. John Harris is responsible for the Guide to New Zealand Reference Material which went into its second edition in 1950. Closely allied to reference manuals are aids in the use of government publications. The A.L.A., the Library Association, and other groups have issued books and pamphlets designed to help with this important body of library materials. The National Association of State Libraries has sponsored checklists of session laws and statutes and a list of legislative journals.


Library directories and surveys of resources fall into still another category. Noteworthy are the Special Library Association's four volume directory of Special Library Resources, now in need of revision, the Association of Law Libraries' List of Law Libraries in the United States and Canada and the South Africa Association's Directory of Scientific, Technical and Medical Libraries. The A.L.A. Board on Resources sponsored R. B. Downs' works, Union Catalogs in the United States and American Library Resources.

Materials presenting special problems of handling and use have resulted in such volumes as Newspapers on Microfilm and Doctoral Dissertations Accepted by American Universities under the auspices of the Association of Research Libraries and the Library Association's Survey of Thesis Literature in British Libraries. Serial Slants issued by the Serials Round Table of the A.L.A. and Vital Notes on Medical Serials of the Medical Library Association and the law association list.

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of Anglo-American Legal Periodicals and the monumental List of Serial Publications of Foreign Governments, 1815-1931 published by the Wilson Company for the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Research Council and the A.L.A. illustrate the variety of practical library work and its publication needs.

The volume of publication in the field of librarianship demands some sort of bibliographical control. The Year's Work in Librarianship published by the Library Association since 1929 has been a useful tool. Now that the association is issuing Library Science Abstracts the future of the annual survey is not assured. The continuation of the A.L.A. publication, Bibliography of Library Economy, 1876-1920, was initially undertaken by the Junior Members Round Table and is now published by Wilson under the title of Library Literature.

Philosophical and retrospective analyses of the library profession are few in number. The American Library History Round Table, organized in 1946, may in time serve as an impetus for the preparation of a comprehensive history of the association. The A.L.A. Pioneer Series has been published at a loss. British librarians have undertaken retrospective surveys of library legislation and public library development. The philosophy of librarianship as it has emerged in the United States and the Commonwealth has still to find adequate expression. Munthe's American Librarianship from a European Angle is perhaps the most provocative and interesting analysis to date.

Library associations have a responsibility to identify the need for works which will add to the competence and understanding of their professional and lay members. Their editorial boards and committees foster the publication of books, pamphlets and other works in the field of librarianship and bibliography of value to the profession and to users of libraries. They must keep in mind the profession as a whole, remembering that libraries are organized for widely varied groups of people and varying types of service. In attempting to meet the needs of the small libraries for practical aids in book selection and services they should not neglect even at the cost of occasional financial loss the more expensive and scholarly publications which will be of use to a limited number of libraries. Few of these titles would normally be issued by commercial firms because they cannot do so profitably. This is partly due to distribution methods which are usually direct to the consumer. In some instances association activity has served as a sparkplug for publishing. The Essay Index and Public Affairs Information Service and others on the Wilson list were initiated by associations. The modest success of the A.L.A. printed cards laid the ground work for
Library of Congress cards. When an association undertakes to enter the publishing field it must rely upon individual librarians who are sufficiently dedicated to the profession to be willing to contribute their time and abilities with little thought of financial returns. Near-print and microprint may reduce production costs, as is the case in the Association of College and Reference Libraries' *Monographs* and *Microprint Series*, but the real costs of compilation and distribution remain the same.

Capital is needed to finance any ambitious publishing program. The A.L.A.'s first substantial gift, made by Andrew Carnegie in 1902, was for publishing and enabled the association to engage its first full time employee. In 1942, W. T. Couch, who made a survey of A.L.A. publishing, wrote, "Between 1920 and 1930 around $175,000 was given to the A.L.A. for the making of a number of studies and the preparation of MSS to be published by the A.L.A. Among these were the Catalog Code Revision, the A.L.A. Catalog, the Reading with a Purpose Series, several text books and the Winnetka list. . . . From its beginning in 1886 until the present, the A.L.A. Publishing has flourished or faltered according to the interest and vitality of the leadership in the field."¹ Works such as Lamed's *Literature of American History*, which required a personal contribution of $10,000 from George Iles are more likely to be undertaken today by a scholarly association or a university press. Best books lists may result from collaboration as in the case with *Good Reading*. Aslib has collaborated with the British Council, the Library Association with the National Book League, and the A.L.A. has a possible future collaborator in the newly organized National Book Committee.

Possibilities of collaboration between national libraries, national associations and commercial publishers are well illustrated in the case of union lists of serials and printed catalogs. The British Museum catalog antedates the Library of Congress book form catalog by decades. The *British National Bibliography*, started in 1950, required the joint efforts of the British Museum and the Library Association. The *Union List of Serials in the United States and Canada* enlisted the cooperation of several national associations, the national library, foundation support, and a commercial publisher. Its continuance under Library of Congress auspices is heartening. International concern over bibliographical control is illustrated by the joint activities of Unesco and the Indian Library Association in work on a *Union Catalogue of Learned Periodical Publications in the Libraries of South Asia*.

Within the larger associations there is a natural tendency to identify
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special groups within the organization, each having its own interests and publication needs. A strong argument can be made for a consolidated publication program serving all units of an association. In both England and the United States the merging interests of collectors and practitioners lead to the organization of the Bibliographical Society of London and the Bibliographical Society of America. The archivists and the documentalists tend to establish their own associations. Library schools located in institutions with an active university press have established their own journals and engage in book publishing to a modest degree. What needs to be written and published whether related to library architecture or personnel practice, a national plan for library development or a specialized tool such as a state author heading list, depends upon individual initiative within the profession. Furthermore, there must always be a willingness to devote personal time and attention to the preparation of a manuscript which may have limited sales value but will be of genuine practical usefulness.

The needs of the library profession for a wide variety of publications for all types and sizes of libraries will continue. Still needed are better controls over knowledge to supplement card and printed catalogs. A competent librarian working in his own library may develop a technical process which must be recorded in print before it can be adapted to use by other libraries. An active committee dealing with improved library equipment or intellectual freedom may produce a volume that merits publication. These publications which can and do benefit the profession at large must be financed somehow. Librarianship is a profession dedicated to the use of print. Librarians are responsible for the preparation, production, and distribution of the tools of their trade. In the library associations are the means, often faltering and slow, but nevertheless there to further both the broad and specific publications needs of the library profession.

Selected Serials of Library Associations in the United States and British Commonwealth

AUSTRALIA

Association of Special Libraries and Information Services, Box 9A, Elizabeth Street, P.O., Melbourne C.1.
Information 1, Jl. 1947+

Library Association of Australia, Public Library, Macquarie Street, Sydney, N.S.W.
Australian Library Journal 1, Jl. 1951+
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CANADA

Canadian Library Association, 46 Elgin St., Ottawa
  Bulletin 1, Oct., 1944+
  Canadian Index to Periodicals and Documentary Films 1, Jan. 1948+

GREAT BRITAIN

Aslib (Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux), 4 Palace Gate, London W. 8.
  Journal of Documentation 1, Je. 1945+
  ASLIB Book-list; Monthly Recommendations of Recently Published Scientific and Technical Books 1, 1935+
  Proceedings 1, Jan. 1949+

Aslib (Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux), 4 Palace Gate, London W. 8.
  Journal of Documentation 1, Je. 1945+
  ASLIB Book-list; Monthly Recommendations of Recently Published Scientific and Technical Books 1, 1935+
  Proceedings 1, Jan. 1949+

  Library Association Record, ser. 4, 1, Jan. 1934+
  Library Science Abstracts 1, Jan. 1950+
  Library Association Yearbook 1892+
  Subject Index to Periodicals 1915+ (Annual through '53, quarterly, '54)
  Year's Work in Librarianship 1929-1950 (Five Year's Work in Librarianship, Planned to Cover 1951-55)

Assistant Librarian (Association of Assistant Librarians) 1, Jan. 1898+

  New Zealand Libraries n.s. 1, Ag. 1937+
  Index to New Zealand Periodicals 1, 1940+

PAKISTAN

Pakistan Library Association, Lange Mandi, Lahore.
  Modern Librarian n.s. 1, Dec. 1949+

SOUTH AFRICA

South African Library Association, 181 East Avenue, Arcadia, Pretoria.
  South African Libraries 1, July 1933+
  Index to South African Periodicals 1, Jan. 1940+

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TRINIDAD

Trinidad and Tobago Library Staff Guild
*Eastern Caribbean Library Review* 1, 1951+

UNITED STATES

American Association of Law Libraries, Law Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.
*Law Library Journal*, 29, Jan. 1936+ (Formerly included in *Index to Legal Periodicals*)

American Documentation Institute, Western Reserve Library School, Cleveland, Ohio.
*American Documentation* 1, Jan. 1950+

American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago 11, Ill.
*A.L.A. Bulletin* 1, Jan. 1907+
*Booklist* 1, Jan. 1905+
*Subscription Books Bulletin* 1, Jan. 1930+
*College and Research Libraries* (Association of College Reference Libraries)
1, Dec. 1939+
*Hospital Book Guide* (Hospital Libraries Division) 1, Jan. 1940+
*Journal of Cataloging and Classification* (Division of Cataloging and Classification) 5, Fall 1948+ (Supersedes *News Notes*)
*Public Libraries* (Division of Public Libraries) 1, Jan. 1947+
*School Libraries* (American Association of School Librarians) 1, Oct. 1951+
*Serial Slants* (Serials Round Table) 1, J1. 1950+
*Top of the News* (Division of Libraries for Children and Young People) 1, Oct. 1942+

American Theological Library Association, Bonebrake Theological Seminary, Dayton 6, Ohio.
*Summary of Proceedings* 1, 1947+

Catholic Library Association, Maryknoll Seminary, Glen Ellyn, Ill.
*Catholic Library World* 1, Jan. 1930+
*Catholic Periodical Index* 1, 1930+ (Published by the H. W. Wilson Co.)

Inter-American Bibliographical and Library Association, University of Florida Library, Gainesville, Fla.
*Doors to Latin America* 1, Jan. 1954+
*Inter-American Bibliographical Series* 1, 1936+

Medical Library Association, Estelle Brodman, Armed Forces Medical Library, Washington 25, D.C.
*Bulletin* n.s. 1, July 1911+
*Vital Notes on Medical Periodicals* 1, Oct. 1952+

*Notes*, ser. 2, 1, Dec. 1943+

*Newsletter* 1, Jan. 1953+
*Proceedings and papers*, 1898+

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Special Library Association, 31 East 10th Street, New York 3, N.Y.
Special Libraries 1, Jan. 1910+
Technical Book Review Index 1, Sept. 1935+
Theatre Library Association, George Freedley, New York Public Library, New York 18, N.Y.
Broadside 1, May 1940+
Theatre Annual 1, 1942+

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Qualifications of Personnel: Training and Certification

LOUIS SHORES

Universally, associations define their memberships by qualifications. Library associations are no exceptions. The constitution of virtually every professional organization studied by this writer supports this fact. The section or paragraph on objectives is almost always followed by one on "who may join." Inevitably the association must establish classes of membership and the qualifications for each.

Even the 1853 Librarians' Conference in New York City planned to qualify its members almost as soon as it set up its objectives. On the very first day of the meeting a resolution to Congress was under way asking that Charles Coffin Jewett, then librarian of the Smithsonian Institution, be authorized to prepare a library manual with which better to qualify the membership. Similarly, after Justin Winsor and his six colleagues received the American Library Association charter from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on December 10, 1879, it was followed shortly by a bylaw authorizing the Executive Board to appoint a committee of eight on library training. Again, Roy Stokes has described elsewhere in this issue how the Royal Charter and Bye-Laws of the Library Association contains two specific commitments on qualifications: "To promote whatever may tend to the improvement of the position and the qualifications of Librarians" and "To hold examinations in Librarianship and to issue Certificates of efficiency."¹

If there is agreement among associations that promoting qualifications of personnel is a major professional objective, there is also some disagreement among national library organizations as to the medium through which the association can best influence better qualifications among its members. Stated simply and with all the cautions that should accompany simplification, national library associations can be divided

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today into two camps on this issue of improving qualifications. In one the national library associations stress certification of individuals, in the other the national associations favor accreditation of institutions. Although most national library associations exert influence on both certification and training of its members, it is safe to say that in those nations where the national association administers a national examining agency there is relatively less control of training agencies. Conversely, where professional opinion is opposed to a national professional examination, the association tends to exert greater influence on the training agencies.

For the sake of contrast some of the activities in the areas of personnel qualification by the Library Association of the United Kingdom and by the American Library Association are compared. These two national associations, more than perhaps any two others, illustrate the positions of each camp. They are the two oldest professional library organizations in the world. For three-quarters of a century they have rather consistently indicated the direction in which they think a library association can best influence the development of personnel qualifications.

Almost from the start the A.L.A. evidenced a greater interest in training than in certification. Within seven years of its organization and hardly four years after the receipt of its charter, the blueprint for the first professional library school in the world was on its conference table. As a matter of fact, in the very year A.L.A. was chartered Melvil Dewey wrote, "we need a training school for preparation for the special work. The village school mistress is provided with normal schools by the hundred, where the best methods of teaching are taught. Physicians, lawyers, preachers, yes even our cooks have special schools for special training. But the librarian, whose profession has been so much exalted, must learn his trade by his own experiments and experience." The plan for a library school was accepted by Columbia College at a full meeting of its trustees in 1884, and on January 5, 1887, the School of Library Economy was officially opened.

In 1890 the first standing committee on training for librarianship was established by the A.L.A. Two years later the second library school, that at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, opened its doors. Drexel Institute in Philadelphia followed in 1892 and Armour Institute in Chicago in 1893. By 1917, the year of American entry into World War I, no fewer than fourteen full-fledged library schools had been activated and an Association of American Library Schools organized. Meanwhile Mary Wright Plummer for the A.L.A. Committee on Training for
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Librarianship had issued a comprehensive report in 1903. Then in 1909 the A.L.A. created a Professional Training Section for its membership providing a forum to support committee action.

Quite different from this early, continued, and distinguished effort to improve qualifications of library personnel through training is the more deliberate and casual professional interest in certification. One searches the literature in vain for an impassioned appeal for certification like Melvil Dewey’s for a library school, or for an exhaustive report on national certification comparable to Mary Wright Plummer’s tremendous job on training. Not until 1916, the year before the end of this early pre-World War I period, did the A.L.A. Council appoint a Committee on Standardization of Libraries and Certification of Librarians. After three years more the outlines of a national certification system were presented at the Asbury Park Conference in 1919, informally approved, and referred to the Council. Two years later the Committee on National Certification and Training submitted a suggested plan of certification. Still nothing significant happened. By 1923, the year of the Williamson Report, the total result of all efforts toward certification were laws in two states, Wisconsin and New York, requiring some form of certificate for persons employed in public libraries. Four other states, California, Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota, had adopted some scheme of voluntary certification.

In Britain the story of the Library Association’s first fifty years was almost exactly the opposite. The Royal Charter itself authorized the association to proceed to certification by holding national examinations in librarianship. In July 1885 the Library Association held its first examination in accordance with a syllabus it had previously prepared. Three candidates presented themselves then, and every chartered librarian since has had to pass the national examinations in order to be certified as professional librarians.

On the other hand, not until 1919, with the beginning of the University of London School of Librarianship, could Britain be said to have established a library school. Provisions for library training had been made long before, of course. At the fifteenth annual meeting of the Library Association J. J. Ogle of the Bootle Public Library read a paper on a “Summer School of Library Science,” and in the summer of 1893 such a school was held. Subsequently the association’s Summer School Committee changed its name to Education Committee, and a program of training library assistants began in 1898. But that program was quite different from the one fostered through the library schools by the A.L.A.
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In 1902 the Library Association began a period of cooperation with the London School of Economics where courses were offered in bibliography, classification, cataloging, library law, and library economy. This arrangement, though it failed to create a complete library school, nevertheless provided instruction in an academic center for librarians in the London metropolitan area. But it still left library assistants in the rest of the United Kingdom without adequate opportunity to prepare for the national examination. Consequently in 1904 the Library Association launched its correspondence program and called upon certain provincial colleges to offer lectures on library economy and bibliography. Several agencies responded, notably Manchester School of Technology, John Rylands Library (also in Manchester), the University of Leeds, and Armstrong College, Newcastle. All of this instruction had a single purpose: to enable the students to pass the national examination.

Inevitably these early emphases—on certification in Britain and on training in the United States—continued. That is not to say the Library Association has been disinterested in training agencies nor that the A.L.A. has ignored certification. It is to say that the trends in both countries as described in the following paragraphs establish clearly the fact that in the United Kingdom training exists almost exclusively for the purpose of preparing candidates to pass the national certification examination; in the United States certification or evidence of professional competence is dependent upon graduation from an accredited training agency.

After World War I the Library Association steadily encouraged creation of more training opportunities for those who desired to pass the national examination for certification. Nevertheless, all of the efforts pointed in a direction quite different from that taken by its American counterpart. With one possible exception not a single British library school can be said to be accredited today by the national library association in the way American library schools are accredited by the A.L.A. The possible exception is the University of London School of Librarianship. To the extent that its graduates are exempt from the registration examination, (the examination which leads to an associate-ship in the Library Association) the London school is comparable to an accredited American library school in its relationship to the national association. But to the extent that its graduates, after graduation from the library school, must take the final examination to be admitted to full fellowship in the association, the London school is unlike American accredited library schools.
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The other nine British library schools have no accreditation from the Library Association in the American sense. Their college graduates, like the graduates of any college, are exempt from the first or entrance examination. But they must take both the registration examination for the associateship, and when the time comes, the final examination for the fellowship to be certificated. The Library Association, however, does list these nine schools in its Yearbook along with the University of London, under “Facilities for Study and Training for the Examinations” as “Schools of Library Training.”

In addition the Library Association lists correspondence courses conducted under the auspices of the Association of Assistant Librarians, part-time courses offered by various schools and colleges to prepare for various aspects of the examination, summer schools, and occasional courses. Above all, the Library Association prepares and publishes a detailed syllabus on which the examination is based, a very full bibliography, and the most recent examination itself. There can be no question that the Library Association devotes a considerable portion of its resources to training, but it is also evident that the direction of its efforts is quite different from that taken by the A.L.A.

That difference can be further shown by reviewing the greater emphasis placed by the A.L.A. and its members on training during the period since World War I. At the Asbury Park Conference in 1919 C. C. Williamson, then with the Rockefeller Foundation, recommended to the association that they create a board with a permanent staff headed by a competent expert as executive to (1) formulate a standard scheme of grading library positions; (2) decide minimum qualification of training and experience for each grade and issue certificates to all applicants who qualify; and (3) examine and approve schools that meet standards and give graduates of such schools, automatically, certificates of appropriate grade.* In successive steps the association appointed a Committee on National Certification and Library Training in 1920; a Temporary Library Training Board in 1923; and a permanent Board of Education for Librarianship in 1924 of which Adam Strohm of the Detroit Public Library became the first chairman. It is worth noting that even though Williamson placed great stress on certification, and the first of the three groups appointed by the association named certification first in its title, the permanent board that resulted, nevertheless, had only education in its name.

The famed Williamson Report, itself, made much of certification.9 One of its major recommendations was for a national examining board with responsibilities not only for the quality of library training but for
the qualifications of individual librarians. The fact that the institutional accreditation recommendation alone has been adopted in the two decades since would seem to indicate the American climate for national examination is much less favorable than that in Britain.

During the period of transition from the old fifth year Bachelor of Science degree programs to the present Master's degree programs there was a slight flurry in behalf of national examinations. Mary D. Herrick made a strong appeal for such an examination in 1950, but a questionnaire survey seemed to indicate lukewarm interest if not genuine professional allergy toward the idea.

In summary, the British professional position on the qualifications of personnel, as reflected by the action of the national library association, has been to establish qualifications through a national examination administered by the Library Association and to encourage the development of training opportunities to prepare candidates for this examination. The American position has been to accredit the training agencies through careful supervision, evaluation, and inspection and then to accept the graduates of these institutions as automatically certificated.

The reason for the comparative neglect of certification by the A.L.A. is not difficult to understand. Britain is a small compact geographical unity; the United States comprise forty-eight autonomous units, jealous of their individual certification authority. Recent resistance to federal concentration of powers probably has not helped any national certification movement. The range of library development in the various sections of the country and the diversity of problems found in the different states complicate an over-all plan of national certification.

Nevertheless, considerable A.L.A. effort has gone into various aspects of certification and standardization. Following the appointment by the A.L.A. Council in 1916 of a committee on Standardization of Libraries and Certification of Librarians, considerable professional discussion of certification ensued. Although a potent opposition expressed the belief that national certification would stifle librarians of the "original, genius" type, the association nevertheless proceeded to study positions and personnel through several committees and boards. One of these committees sponsored a survey of all library activities in the United States which resulted in significant pictures of library personnel.

The A.L.A. Board of Salaries, Staff, and Tenure, and its co-operating committees have probably advanced the United States farthest along the road of certification. From its activities several important publications have resulted. The first of these was the so-called Telford Report of 1927, Proposed Classification and Compensation Plan for Libraries.
Developed in cooperation with the Bureau of Personnel Administration of the Institute for Government Research, the report represented the findings of numerous job analyses of library positions. For the first time the duties of various library positions were described and the qualifications necessary to perform those duties stated. For the first time, also, library positions were graded. Here was a truly solid foundation for national certification if the nation of librarians had a notion to permit anything of that sort.

The Telford Report was followed in 1929 with a separate report for budgets, classification, and compensation for university and college libraries, which superseded that part of the original report. These reports were monumental. They affected certification in states and municipalities subsequently. Because of these reports the various regions of the nation moved toward standardization of position specifications in libraries. Revisions of these reports followed with the publication of budgets, compensation, and classification plans for municipal libraries in 1939, and for institutions of higher education in 1943, the latter a joint project with the Association of College and Reference Libraries. Taken together, these reports of the Board on Salaries, Staff and Tenure, the work of various state and municipal civil service groups, and the interest of the Board of Education for Librarianship, as well as individual librarians, represent a considerable associational effort in behalf of certification. The fact remains, despite the current action of the Council, that as a nation the United States is still far from any general professional acceptance of national certification by government or by association.

Agreeing that some greater measure of uniformity in assuring a minimum standard of professional competence is needed in the United States if librarianship is to take its place among the strong professions, what can be done? In this writer's opinion a national plan of examination and certification such as the British have, although it has many advantages, would have little chance of professional acceptance here. Both the medical and law precedents are for state rather than federal control. The accredited library schools feel very strongly that they are more competent to examine their own graduates. There is, besides, the American educational objection to making the end-all of the learning process a final examination.

In view of these considerations it appears to the writer that national certification in the United States of professional librarians must come not through federal government action but through increased professional influence on training agencies and on state certification agencies.
This influence should follow American historic lines rather than the British direction. But this influence should also become more positive at certain points in both the training and certification areas.

In the training area, the new standards of 1951 are a significant and forward step in the direction of establishing a professional minimum for the qualifications of personnel. These standards are daily consolidating the position of librarianship in the graduate faculties of American universities. It is these standards which have restored a measure of that uniformity which is essential to the unity of any profession or of any academic discipline. Through these standards the drift and chaos which followed World War II were halted and replaced by direction and order. But the 1951 Standards and the interpretative manual that accompanies them provide a guide for only one segment of the profession, albeit a very important segment.

What is needed now is some direction below and above. Despite the desirability of a five-college-years basic program, the need and the necessity for something less still exists. Community libraries everywhere, urban as well as rural, could use a four-year graduate for a variety of reasons related to supply, salary, and the actual requirements of the positions involved. Indeed, there is considerable evidence that many of these libraries could do well with some junior college graduates. Further, beginning teachers in the nations' school systems need not have more than four years of college. For these and other reasons, there is an urgent need to plan two- and four-year programs with junior colleges, teachers' colleges, and other institutions of higher education offering courses in librarianship that are not part of accredited five-year programs. That considerable work has already been done in this area is abundantly evident in such publications as Standards for Library Science Programs in Teacher Education Institutions and in other efforts to arrive at a common pre-core in short courses.

Many of the leaders in the profession are not graduates of accredited library schools. Through experience, academic specialization, and self-study these librarians have arrived at a high stage of professional competence. Neither in Britain nor in the United States is there a method by which these librarians may be certificated except through the regular channels. In Britain it means passing of the national examination; in the United States professional acceptance comes through graduation from an accredited library school. Although eventually one or both of these should be the only gateway to certification, the time does not appear to be here for librarianship to turn its back upon either academic competence or leadership in closely related fields.
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In consequence it might be desirable for the A.L.A. to establish a type of advanced seminar-examination certification. Admission to this type of examination might be based on such prerequisites as a number of years of highly successful library experience, an outstanding contribution to librarianship, a distinguished academic record in one of the university disciplines, or creative work in one of the peripheral areas like publishing, archives, museum curatorship, bibliography, and documentation. The examination itself might take the form of a major essay in the examinee's specialty followed by an oral defense before his peers.

For all others who wish to enter the profession and cannot through an accredited library school, the A.L.A. might well administer jointly with the library schools a set of national examinations. These examinations and the syllabi accompanying them would serve to standardize the work of the many short course programs offered. Certificates to fit the various levels of examination would be of inestimable help to state certification agencies and to civil service commissions.

A library association's responsibility for the qualifications of personnel is inescapable. Whether the association can be most effective by regulating training agencies more or by administering certification through examination is debatable. The American and British associations exemplify each emphasis. It is probable that the qualifications of personnel can be best influenced by equal attention to training and certification.

References

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The American Library Association has been somewhat reluctant to enter the field of legislative action and the accompanying political maneuvering which is its necessary accompaniment. This reluctance stems from two motives: an ideological abhorrence of the rough and tumble conflict of politics, reinforced by a feeling of weakness and insecurity, and from the traditional development of libraries as local as opposed to regional or national institutions.

Although a statement as brief as the one above cannot be comprehensive enough to present the whole complex nature of a profession's thought and attitudes, it is essentially true and will explain much of the history of A.L.A. legislative action in the last two decades. The other library associations with fewer members, less income, and being less universally representative have engaged but very little in legislative activities.

This attitude was also realistic in that the library profession has been weak in numbers as compared to other groups with legislative programs. It has been engaged in a struggle to establish itself as a profession with a large proportion of its membership not having been subjected to professional training and discipline. In addition, members of the profession have been individually engaged in a series of local struggles to maintain and advance standards of library service.

In spite of these handicaps, after an initial proposal by its Committee on Library Extension in 1929, the pressure of events led the A.L.A., in 1934 and 1935, to embark upon an attempt to establish a national legislative program. In those years, over strenuous opposition, its Council approved the idea of federal aid for libraries. The reasons for this action and its implications cannot be fully understood unless it is studied against the background of the entire socio-political complex of our times. The library as a social institution was caught up in the tremendous movement of which the federal government became the center. As a result of this movement many social, economic, and

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political obligations, which traditionally had been met by individuals or by local governments, were assumed by the national government, either through default, necessity, or by aggressive action. Library leaders met the situation with varied reactions. Some looked upon it as an opportunity for developing libraries into institutions of broader, more effective service. Others regarded it as destructive to the fabric of our traditional system. Still others accepted the idea that the library profession should strive for inclusion in the benefits in order to hold its relative position, if nothing more. A growing segment became convinced that library problems along with other educational and social problems had become national in scope and nature, and required action on a national basis for their solution.

The program, which was so strenuously debated and finally adopted by the association, was fourfold. It included:

1. Establishment of a federal library agency.
2. Cooperative collection of library statistics by federal and state governments and the A.L.A.
3. A study of library finance by the A.L.A.
4. Federal aid for library service.¹

At this point it may be helpful to examine federal services to libraries as they existed at that time. Libraries received exemption from import duties on certain books; they received special low postal rates on books, while books for the blind were postage free. The Office of Education published library statistics biennially for colleges and universities and less frequently for other libraries. The Library of Congress sold catalog cards at the cost of printing and distribution. It furnished sixty-eight depository catalogs, it maintained a union catalog on a national basis, it provided an interlibrary loan service and a library service to the blind. The superintendent of documents distributed public documents and catalogs and lists to selected libraries. The Smithsonian Institute operated an international exchange service and an international library loan service to libraries primarily to carry out their own programs.¹

It will be noted that some of these services—such as library service to the blind, and distribution of public documents—were direct services to citizens toward whom the federal government felt an obligation, with libraries chosen as instruments through which the government acted.

Other services, such as interlibrary loan, were on a reciprocal basis. Others, such as distribution of catalog cards and bibliographies, were
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residual in that they were provided by the government for its own use after which additional copies were made available to libraries at cost. Very few services were provided to libraries because the federal government felt a responsibility for developing library service in the United States.

The action of the A.L.A. Council in resolving to seek federal aid for libraries was revolutionary and far-reaching. Its results have been more significant in the development of libraries and the library profession than might be realized from a casual examination of tangible results. It aided in the coalescence of library thinking on a national basis and in a tremendous development of library planning. It furnished a focal point around which library planners could gather and work toward universally-available library service.

The first step in the program for federal aid was agreed to be the establishment of a library agency in the federal government. Although this step was much simpler than subsequent steps, it was not easy to achieve. Only one federal agency, the Library of Congress, was primarily a library agency. Though it had gradually become recognized as the national library of the United States by all but members of the Congress, there were valid reasons for not attempting to place the federal library agency there. The most compelling of these reasons was that the Library of Congress is a part of the legislative branch of the government. To set up an agency in the legislative branch with the functions of the new library agency would do violence to the concept of separation of powers so firmly established in the constitution.

The functions of the federal library agency were considered to be within the broad scope of the responsibility allocated to the Office of Education, which was then a part of the Department of the Interior. Because of this fact enabling legislation was not required. However, it was necessary to campaign strenuously to secure an appropriation in the budget of the Office of Education for these purposes. This campaign was successful by 1936 when, on June 23rd, the President signed the Department of the Interior appropriation bill carrying an amount of $25,000 for a Library Service Division during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1937. It should be noted that this amount represented a compromise between the House and Senate reducing the Senate's appropriation from $40,000. It was not until January 1938 that a staff was employed and the division began to function.

In the meantime, on January 26, 1937, Congressman R. A. Collins of Mississippi introduced a bill to create five regional national libraries. This bill, although it made little progress toward enactment, did
have considerable significance in its influence on library planning. The idea of regional libraries as a second line of defense in the provision of library service on a national basis was later developed in the "National Plan for Public Library Service."³

During the whole period which has been under discussion, the federal government was having a rather remarkable impact upon library programs. The relief programs, the W.P.A., N.Y.A., T.V.A., C.C.C., and others, were in some cases reluctantly and in others generously including libraries as part of their assistance and educational activities. The difficulties encountered by libraries in gaining consideration as legitimate participants in these programs and in establishing standards and securing qualified personnel for their programs when they were established, emphasized the importance of having a permanent agency in the federal government to speak for library interests.

With the establishment of the Library Service Division in the Office of Education, the way was now open for work toward securing federal aid. A great deal of study had already gone into preparation for this project. All of the arguments, pro and con, had been developed. Thorough analyses of the federal aid programs in various fields had been made. These studies were climaxed by publication of C. B. Joeckel's *Library Service* as Staff Study No. 11 for the Advisory Committee on Education in 1938.⁶ This memorandum recommended:

1. Aid to states for public library service, especially to rural areas.
2. Aid to school libraries and to library service in the system of public higher education.
3. Aid to demonstration and experimental libraries of various types.
4. Aid to public and educational libraries for library buildings.
5. Generous support of federal library agencies.

The amount of money recommended by a special A.L.A. committee for support of library service in the various states was approximately $17,000,000. The final report of the Advisory Committee on Education nevertheless recommended only $2,000,000 to $6,000,000 specifically earmarked for library service. The A.L.A. consoled itself in the belief that libraries would be able to receive assistance under numerous other special categories.

The strategy adopted by the A.L.A. for promoting legislation for federal aid to libraries was to include library aid in bills for federal aid to education. This strategy was dictated both by desire and by a feeling that federal aid to education could arouse much broader and
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stronger support than federal aid to libraries. In addition, the A.L.A. secured the help of a wide group of national organizations as well as that of its own members and library groups such as "Friends of the Library."

The recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Education were embodied in the Harrison, Thomas, Fletcher Bill which was introduced in the Senate on April 19, 1938, and in the House on April 21. The Federal Relations Committee of the A.L.A. worked closely with the National Education Association on this and the subsequent bills. The 1938, 1939, and 1940 reports of the Federal Relations Committee tell of an active campaign both in Washington and in the country as a whole. By 1939, forty-six state library associations had endorsed the measure. Twenty-five thousand copies of a leaflet, *Federal Aid to Libraries* had been distributed. A pamphlet, *The Equal Chance*, which was originally published in 1936, was used throughout this and subsequent campaigns. The campaign continued through the 76th Congress, but by the time the 77th Congress convened in 1941, the urgency of the defense program had eliminated any possibility of federal aid on the basis recommended by the Advisory Committee on Education.

During this time the A.L.A. had gradually widened its legislative interests until it was concerned with a full-fledged legislative program. In 1938 the President signed an Executive Order reducing the postage rates on books to the same flat rate as that applying to magazines, for which it had actively campaigned. The A.L.A. Committee on Annuities, Pensions and Life Insurance was concerned with new social security legislation. In 1939 the Federal Relations Committee reported on attempts to increase the budget of the Library Service Division; Congressman Collins' bill to establish five national regional libraries; a proposal for a Federal Library Council; extension of the new low postal rate on books; extension of federal income tax to librarians in public and quasi-public libraries, and action by the A.L.A. in connection with the appointment of a librarian of Congress. In 1940 the chairman of the committee protested a cut in appropriations for the National Youth Administration.

In 1941 the defense program was accelerated to such an extent that library relations to the federal government were radically altered. As early as September 1940 the need of a study of the special services of public libraries in national defense was planned. In December the Council of the A.L.A. voted to authorize the Federal Relations Committee:
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1. "To recommend to the appropriate officials interpretations or rulings permitting emergency federal appropriations for education to be spent for library service.

2. "To seek in future federal emergency education bills or appropriations the inclusion of specific provisions for library service.

3. "To seek direct federal emergency appropriations for libraries through separate legislation, if opportunity offers." 9

This action was the result of the impact of the defense program upon libraries and library services which were subjected to increasing demands especially in the fields of technology and industrial training.

From this point until the end of the war the legislative program of the A.L.A. was concerned with an effort to secure recognition of libraries as providing essential services in time of war. In 1940 an attempt was made to secure an appropriation of $2,750,000 to be included in the budget of the Office of Education for public library service in defense areas and for library service to defense workers elsewhere.10 This item was disapproved by the Bureau of the Budget and later attempts to have it included by amending the appropriations bills were unsuccessful. A similar fate met attempts to provide for library service in the Lanham Act which provided for additional community facilities in defense areas. Subsequent attempts to secure administrative interpretations which would enable libraries to obtain assistance under general provisions of this act were also rebuffed. However, by the end of the war constant effort was rewarded by establishing some priorities for library materials.

The A.L.A. continued to interest itself in legislation affecting book postage, Library of Congress appropriations, Library Service Division appropriations, etc.11 There was also a great deal of effort spent upon attempts to secure favorable interpretation of law by government agencies so that libraries would not suffer from discrimination in the allocation of priorities and distribution of surplus property at the end of the war.12

By 1944 it was evident that a permanent representative in Washington was required if the A.L.A. was to make further progress on its legislative program. As current revenues were inadequate to support a Washington office an effort was made to raise a fund of $105,000 for the following purposes:

1. To maintain a representative of libraries in Washington under direction of the A.L.A.:
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(a) To help secure Army camp library books and equipment primarily for rural library service when no longer needed by the Army;

(b) To help make other federally-owned surplus property, including books, available to college and university libraries, school libraries, public libraries, state library extension agencies, and other publicly supported or tax-exempt libraries.

(c) To provide federal agencies with information concerning the nation's needs for improved and extended library service;

(d) To help interpret to federal officials the needs and functions of libraries of all kinds.

2. To enable the A.L.A. to carry on a national public relations program directly and indirectly in support of these and related objectives.13

Although legislative action was not mentioned in this statement of objectives it was implied, and it was later stated that one of the functions of the Washington representative was to be library legislation.

The campaign for funds was officially opened in April 1945 and continued until June 1946. While only $88,639 of the $105,000 goal was raised,14 the amount was sufficient to get started. The campaign was also successful in other ways especially in generating wide spread interest in the proposed activities. By August more than 8,100 librarians had contributed to the fund and in October 1945 an office was opened in Washington.13

With the opening of the A.L.A. National Relations Office hopes were high that the legislative program could begin to produce results. In November, a program of action was formulated and later endorsed by the Council. The first year's work of the office seemed to bear out these hopes. Libraries were specifically included among those agencies eligible to receive surplus property. The Army Map Service was distributing maps to 150 libraries. Some surplus Army camp libraries were being made available to state library agencies. Low postal rates on books had been maintained in spite of attempts to raise them. Libraries were specifically included in public works proposals and in a bill to provide federal aid to education. The Library Demonstration Bill had been introduced and approved by a Senate committee and a House subcommittee. In addition, forty-four state federal relations committees had been established to bring national support to the program.15

The Library Demonstration Bill and its successors was to prove the
focus of legislative activity for the next nine years, so it might be well to examine it in relation to former proposals. In a sense it represented a compromise with an all-out drive for federal aid though it stemmed from one of the initial recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Education for “aid to demonstration and experimental libraries of various types.” It also grew out of library extension experience in various states, notably in Louisiana where state demonstrations of library service in rural areas had proved successful in establishing locally supported library service on a permanent basis.

The basic idea of the bill was simple. It sought to provide a grant of $25,000 per year for five years to each state for the purpose of establishing demonstrations of library service primarily in rural areas. In addition, any state might receive an additional $25,000 to $50,000 on a matching basis for the same purpose. Provisions for reporting upon and studying the demonstrations were also included in the bill.16

The bill differed from other federal aid proposals in that it was temporary in nature—calling for five years of demonstrations. The amount of money involved was much less, ranging from $25,000 to $75,000 per state, whereas the amount included for libraries in bills for federal aid to education ran to $30,000,000 annually. Finally, the bill was entirely for libraries and represented the second attempt of the A.L.A. to go-it-alone in the complicated field of national legislation.

The strategy in support of the bill was to keep it bi-partisan, to establish a broad basis of national support by establishing state committees of librarians and library trustees, and by soliciting the aid of other national organizations such as the National Education Association, farm organizations, women’s clubs, and many others. In following this strategy the A.L.A. became concerned with a great deal of legislation in related fields. Since 1935 it had supported federal aid to education. It added support for educational facilities and the National Science Foundation. It took an interest in social security legislation. In 1947 the report of the National Relations Office listed eight specific pieces of national legislation on which it had assisted. Thirty national organizations cooperated in support of the library program.15

The efforts on behalf of this bill and its successors were more nearly successful than any other A.L.A. major legislative attempts except establishment of the Library Service Division. At various times the bill was approved by both Senate and House committees. At one time it passed the Senate and in March 1950 was defeated in the House by 164 to 161.17 In spite of this defeat plans were immediately laid to
carry on the program on a revised basis including legislation concerning public library development, social security extension, retention of preferred postal rates, federal aid to education, the Care/Unesco book program, labor extension service through libraries, school building construction grants, technical assistance abroad, and for increased appropriations for the Office of Education Service to Libraries Section, the Library of Congress, and the overseas library, and exchange of persons program of the Department of State.

During this period the A.L.A. was undergoing a series of crises which had an undoubted effect on its activities, including legislation. It was having increasing difficulty trying to make its income stretch to cover its program, it was in the throes of reorganization, and also changed executive secretaries. In 1949 the Library Development Fund was exhausted.

At the 1948 annual A.L.A. conference the Council unanimously adopted a resolution to maintain an office in Washington. Plans were later proposed for another subscription campaign for this purpose. However, in June 1949 the budget committee of the A.L.A. reported that it was unable to find funds to continue the office, and its termination was planned for the end of the fiscal year. The announcement of this decision brought an insistent demand to keep the office open and in December 1949 it was announced that the Executive Board and Federal Relations Committee had agreed on a plan for supporting and maintaining the office. Thus the trend for the A.L.A. to keep actively interested in national affairs and legislation was further confirmed.

During the years from 1950 to the present time the familiar pattern was repeated. There was hard work on legislation, postal rates for library books were held in line, the Korean War brought up problems of priorities and allocations, the Library Services Bill became a hardy perennial.

In 1953, a subcommittee of the Federal Relations Committee was formed to make a study of responsibility of the federal government in the development of library services. Another special Committee on Federal-State Relations was created by the A.L.A. Executive Board in June 1953, to work on the problems which fall within the agenda of the President's Commission on Federal-State Relations. The creation of these two committees suggests a reappraisal of the library legislative program.

This history of the A.L.A. interest in federal legislation is necessarily brief and is an attempt to sketch the highlights. Since it is the descrip-
tion of a movement on a broad scale, it has not been concerned with individual contributions or work. It should be noted that the development of this movement did not occur in a vacuum, either in relation to national affairs or in relation to the work of the A.L.A. During this period the United States underwent a major economic depression, fought two wars, suffered a series of crises and achieved tremendous technological and industrial development. There were great forces in ideological conflict, not only here but throughout the world. The resolution to extend and improve library service through national action was part of a great social movement.

In the A.L.A. response to this movement was not limited to legislative action alone. The work of the various library extension organizations within A.L.A. the development of library standards and of the National Plan for Public Library Service are a few examples of ways in which the profession attempted to create a pattern for library development which both supported and profited from the legislative program.

The public relations program was closely allied to the legislative program and, in a sense, the legislative program has been the greatest of the association's public relations ventures. Perhaps it has been most successful in that respect.

All this time the library movement was developing through state and local action. Immediately after World War II there was an accelerated increase in the strength of state library extension agencies, in the development of county and regional libraries, and in the general strengthening of the library movement. In this development the A.L.A., the state library associations, the state library agencies, and the service to libraries section of the U.S. Office of Education worked in close cooperation.

The development of A.L.A. standards, of its National Plan for Public Library Service, and its campaign to support the library services bills stimulated state planning and state campaigns for library support. The Service to Libraries Section sponsored planning conferences, gathered information and helped unify the movement. On the whole, the national program was responsible for much of the local gain.

In summary, the library profession in the United States became involved in a national legislative program through the pressure of events and the desires of its members for the development of a more effective library service. The A.L.A. and state library associations became the instruments for a nationwide program of legislative action focused on planning library development and on assistance to local and state li-
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Library agencies in implementing these plans. The A.L.A. legislative program grew broader as time passed so that now it includes not only federal aid to libraries but a number of auxiliary services and support for legislation in related fields.

References

Adult Education

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The function of the library in the continuing education of the adult citizens of their respective countries has been the concern, to some extent, of national library associations in all of the countries of the British Commonwealth and the United States. This interest is expressed in publications, in papers and discussions at conferences, in action taken both by these associations and by their members. The associations of the various countries differ, as they properly should, as to where the emphasis should be placed in the total educational program, but the objectives are essentially the same—and so are the disagreements.

A statement of objectives is almost sure to result in a demand for a definition of adult education. Countless man hours have been expended in this fruitless intellectual exercise during the past thirty years. American librarians have too often insisted on defining adult education by categorizing it; adult education is reader’s advisory services, discussion groups or film forums. Mary U. Rothrock suggests that this may be because we as librarians “find it easier to assimilate ideas which have been duly related to the [Dewey] Decimal Classification.”1

When the American Library Association took its first major step in adult education in 1924 with the appointment of the A.L.A. Commission on Libraries and Adult Education, that commission defined adult education as follows:

“To some, adult education means the teaching of reading to illiterates; to a few it means the Americanization of the foreign born; to others it signifies vocational training. But adult education goes far beyond all these. It is based on a recognition of the great truth that education is a lifelong process, and that the university graduate, as well as the man of little schooling, is in constant need of further training, inspiration and mental growth; that the training obtained in school and college is necessarily limited to fundamentals, and that the real de-

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vlopment of the individual lies in the independent effort of later years. . . . It is based on that inherent urge forward which distinguishes the human spirit. It must be voluntary. ²

At the opposite end of the telescope is this definition offered in 1954: “. . . the definition of adult education which is now commonly accepted in library parlance, and which seems usually to limit the concept to group activities involving discussions, lectures, or forums.” ³ The disparity between these points of view made it necessary for the A.L.A. survey of adult education to adopt an operational definition “in terms of what a library does when it is said to be providing adult education services.” ⁴

That our colleagues in the British Commonwealth also wanted a definition was expressed as recently as 1948 by Edward Sydney, Borough Librarian, Leyton, England, at the Unesco Summer School who said it was “no easy term to define.” ⁵ Earlier M. M. Stirling of South Africa had remarked: “Whatever our definitions of Adult Education may be, and these may differ with the individual, there is one fundamental principle on which we will all agree and that is that all such education must be voluntary and not forced.” ⁶

If librarians agree on the need of a definition they still are not in agreement on the need of adult education, as they define it, as an activity of the library. For thirty years librarians have argued the merits of adult education, an argument that often appears a matter of semantics. Adult education is spoken of in terms of specific activities and education is interpreted only in the narrow sense of class-work leading to grades and degrees.

The A.L.A. Commission on the Library and Adult Education ⁷ in 1926 recommended to the A.L.A. Council the establishment of a permanent Adult Education Board and listed the needs to be served if libraries were to meet their responsibilities in adult education. Some librarians in the United States did not consider servicing these needs either possible or proper for libraries. One of the great librarians of that time, John Cotton Dana, wrote:

“we librarians have been much concerned over a new phrase, “Adult Education.” I regret to say that we have been moved to worship the phrase, and to speak of it almost with bated breath. In our quasi-religious frenzy we imagine that in the world with us now a vast multitude of young men and women, limited in the formal education of the schools; but awakened now to the verities of life, yearning to become “educated,” and not knowing how to go about it. . . . To do what the shibboleth “Adult Education,” as we now interpret it, asks
us to do, that is, to act as guides and teachers . . . all that is quite im-
possible. Libraries have not now and never will have an income which
will suffice to do it.”

That this difference of opinion was as strong as ever nearly twenty-
five years later was evidenced by Jesse H. Shera’s statement,

“A quarter of a century ago librarians, . . . seized with missionary
ardor upon the newly invented term, “adult education.”

Today the adult education movement, if not dead, is certainly suffer-
ing a lamentable malaise; but the popular faith in the self-education
of the adult still persists, and, if there has been disillusionment con-
cerning the efficacy of “reading with a purpose” and the generosity of
Andrew Carnegie, faith has found restoration in the ‘American Herit-
age’ and the benevolence of Henry Ford. . . .

The misconceptions that underlie both the adult education move-
ment and the Public Library Inquiry derive from the same fallacious
definition of the “educational” function of the library. The concept of
the library as an educational agency is a direct transfer to librarianship
of nineteenth century faith in the education of the masses, a faith that
had its roots in the eighteenth century Enlightenment and the belief
in the idea of progress and the perfectibility of man.”

The democratic government of the United States was founded on
the same faith.

In England the Library Association in its “Proposals for the post-
war development of the public library service” issued in 1943, stated
as follows: “It is the function of the public library to provide books;
the adult education it provides will be mainly in the informal study
of these books by individual users of the library.” Edward Sydney said
of this part of the proposal that, “It tended . . . to exclude public
libraries from any and every form of informal education and stimula-
tion . . . ”

As recently as 1947 a New Zealand librarian wrote: “The library
evangelist . . . is devoted to the cause of democracy . . . And yet, in his
arguments about libraries, he is extremely, even dangerously, confused
about quite fundamental points. At their best, his discussion groups
and social engineering have awakened in apathetic communities some
conception of democratic responsibilities; . . . Let the librarian stay a
librarian and give people a chance to think.”

Opposed to this European derivative of libraries and librarianship,
this “pure librarianship” with, perhaps, a modicum of snobbery, an
ever increasing number of libraries and librarians were convinced that
the library was, or could be, an instrument of adult education. From all
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over the United States and the British Commonwealth come statements of philosophy and definitions of functions of libraries in recognition of this.

Ernest Green in England said in 1939, "The claim of the public library to recognition as an essential partner in the public educational system rests upon its consistent and prolonged contribution to educational progress." J. F. W. Bryon expresses this more strongly in 1947, "Adult education is coming to stay and either librarians will adapt themselves to the new conditions or become atrophied. Those who set themselves and their craft on a pedestal will end by being left on the shelf." 

Roisin Walsh, addressing the Library Association of Ireland in 1935, asks why Ireland is backward in the adult education movement and discusses the part libraries may play in the existing educational schemes. Half-way round the world in Australia W. G. K. Duncan was saying, "The librarian in Australia . . . has an opportunity of bringing new life and vigour into the realm of adult education." Thousands of miles away R. F. M. Immelman was expressing his conception of the library's role in adult education as follows, "Just as the public library was the outgrowth of the early nineteenth century adult education movement, so the regeneration of adult education is a matter of vital concern to the modern public library . . . It is only the educational basis of library service which gives it an irrefutable claim on the public purse." 

In 1941 the Minister of Education of the Canadian Province of British Columbia requested the Public Library Commission to make a general study of adult education facilities existing in the province. The Commission found the libraries very deficient in specialized service to adults, but made recommendations for better library service which would make such services possible. Canada, Australia and New Zealand, with their relatively new, vast and sparsely settled territories, have many unsolved library problems. The Canadian Library Association was formed too recently to have provided any substantial support for adult education, though several Canadian libraries have stressed their adult education role, particularly in the use they have made of films. In opposition to O'Reilly's opinion mentioned above, the New Zealand Library Association in 1945 issued a comprehensive and detailed statement of the adult education services which should be provided by New Zealand libraries.

Why all this disagreement, or seeming disagreement? What are the objectives of library service, why are taxpayers in all of these countries
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willing to support libraries with varying degrees of adequacy? In Great Britain and the Commonwealth public libraries were an outgrowth of the Workers Education Association movement. Their principal function was, and to some extent still is, to provide books for the tutorial classes sponsored by this organization. The public library movement in the United States received initial impetus from libraries established "in connection with lyceums, young men's associations, and civic groups, or opened to readers by private philanthropists, were conceived of as strictly educational. They were not intended for the use of the young, nor as auxiliary to regular educational institutions, but as a means by which mature men and women might pursue enlightenment and culture." 19

The concept of the library as an institution for the informal education of adults was expressed more than a hundred years ago by the newly founded Boston Library. "For it has been rightly judged that,—under political, social and religious institutions like ours,—it is of paramount importance that the means of general information should be so diffused that the largest possible number of persons should be induced to read and understand questions going down to the very foundations of the social order, which are constantly presenting themselves, and which we, as a people, are constantly required to decide, and do decide, either ignorantly or wisely." 20

Adult education activities in libraries vary according to time and place and people. Education means literally "to lead forth" as Shera pointed out, and then went on to say "... the social responsibilities of the librarian remain the collecting, organizing, servicing, and administering of the graphic records of civilization and the encouragement of their most effective utilization." 21 Adult education activities are aimed at this "most effective utilization." It began years ago with efforts to make reading easy and comfortable through the open shelf, (still not completely accepted) departmentalization, library extension, the card catalog. As these innovations were accepted new devices were developed for encouraging the reader and stimulating his interest; the readers' advisor, a multitude of services for a multitude of community groups, lectures, discussions, film forums, drama clubs, and musical programs.

Publications of the library associations of all the British Commonwealth countries and the United States reveal that these adult education activities are more or less common in all of the countries and their validity is debated within the associations to about the same extent. The debate centers not on the educational function of the library, but
on what form it shall take. The librarian who defined adult education
as "group activities involving discussions, lectures or forums" then
described a standard of service for his library that was one of the
best adult education programs a library could have to live up to.

The New Zealand Library Association's Consultative Committee on
Adult Education recommended that a public library adult education
service should provide printed materials, music scores, recordings,
films, paintings and other museum materials, information services on
the availability of adult education classes, meeting rooms suitable for
discussion groups, lectures, hobby work, music rooms, drama produc-
tions, trained staff, and cooperation with other adult education
agencies. Edward Sydney describing the adult education activities
of the Borough of Leyton Library mentions provision for local group
meetings, and library sponsored lectures, discussion, music, literature
and art groups, saying that through these activities "there is a revela-
tion to many persons of new avenues of interest and a resultant greater
discrimination and satisfaction in the use of books." Canadian li-
braries have for several years cooperated with the National Film Board
of Canada in making films available to their borrowers, and have spon-
sored film showings and film discussion groups. Australian libraries
also promote the use of films in this way. There is now sufficient docu-
mentation of this type of adult service in Great Britain and the Com-
monwealth, but through the literature available and through conversa-
tions with British librarians it would seem that the trend, particularly
in England, though less developed in the countries of the Common-
wealth, is much the same as that in the United States.

In the United States, since the appointment of the A.L.A. Commiss-
ion on Libraries and Adult Education in 1924, specialized services to
adults have gained wider acceptance and greater strength. In the be-
inning the emphasis was on the readers' advisor, and A.L.A. promoted
and published the very popular Reading With a Purpose Series. Sub-
sequent activities through the late twenties to the late thirties included
efforts to identify existing, and promote publication of, readable books;
cooperation with other national adult education organizations; and
establishment of standards for training for adult education work. In
the middle thirties a number of libraries began cooperating with the
Public Forum Program of the United States Office of Education, the
beginning of real group activities for many libraries. The decreased
budgets of depression years, and the restrictions of war-time brought
about a decrease in A.L.A.'s support of these special services for
adults.
The war was partly responsible, however, for the development of the use of audio-visual materials, particularly films, in libraries; and this, in turn, helped to promote and strengthen library work with community groups. In 1951 this work with community groups was further stimulated by the grant to A.L.A. from the Fund for Adult Education for the American Heritage Project.

This project which operates through local public libraries to establish adult community discussion groups has in three years reached 15,223 people through 764 discussion groups all over the country, from cities the size of New York to a town on the slope of the Rockies numbering 18 inhabitants. It has trained 824 voluntary community leaders. In 1952 the Fund for Adult Education made another grant to A.L.A. to enable the association to make a survey of adult education activities in public libraries and state library extension agencies. The report of this survey, published in June 1954, provides the association with a foundation of knowledge upon which to base future plans. In 1953 the Fund for Adult Education made another grant to A.L.A. making it possible for the association to make sub-grants to individual libraries for adult education projects which they had originated. Twenty sub-grants were made to libraries and the projects submitted are now in operation.

These projects have made it possible for many libraries which had never had adult education programs before to activate a successful program. They have provided training and experience in organization, administration, and program planning at the national, state and local levels. They have, in many cases, increased the prestige of local libraries, and, more important, they have inspired librarians to interest in adult education and confidence in undertaking it.

In June 1953 the executive secretary of A.L.A. established, as a part of the headquarters office, the Office for Adult Education for the administration of national adult education projects resulting from foundation grants. Later in the year the Fund for Adult Education made a grant to A.L.A. for the support of this office for five years. The A.L.A. Adult Education Board, which acts in an advisory capacity to A.L.A. adult education projects, will use a portion of these funds to make an intensive study of the role of libraries in the total adult education field. The board has enlisted the aid of many units within the association in carrying out this project. The office is undertaking other studies and projects which will strengthen adult education services through libraries.

If there is an emphasis on group services in libraries today it is be-
cause libraries are sensitive to, and a part of, the world they live in. Two great wars have made us conscious of the necessity to get along with other groups of people from the small neighborhood group to the community of nations. That emphasis is apparent in everything. In school a child's ability to get along "in the group" is rated as important as his grasp of mathematics. Group work is stressed in the church, the professional and service organizations, the government structure, and in our international relations.

Over and over again statements made in association meetings or in association journals reveal that librarians regard libraries as educational institutions. "Theoretically every librarian is supposed to be interested in adult education; he himself runs what is virtually an adult education organisation." 28 "To-day the public library is the only continuous adult education agency provided by law. The place of the public library in the modern community and its hopes for future development depend on the effectiveness of its activities in the field of adult education." 29

What form those activities are to take would seem to be the decision of the local librarian in relation to his own resources of buildings, materials and staff. The librarian in New South Wales may think his community is better served by more adequate book service to the tutorial classes; in Leyton, England, it may be music clubs the people need; in South Africa better book collections; in the Canadian prairies film discussion groups. As a community institution, supported by community funds, a library is obliged to be completely informed on that community and to devise a program that will best serve its people. Whether this be a new building, a different shelf arrangement, a readers' advisor, a film and recordings collection, or a discussion group should be a decision based entirely on the community's needs.

The trustees of the Boston Public Library set forth the need for public libraries a century ago. Many years later one of the best known and most loved of adult educators, Father J. J. (Jimmy) Tompkins of Nova Scotia, said, in speaking of librarians, "They have no degrees to offer, no compulsory education laws. They have no hold upon their students, other than their ability to arouse and direct interest, but they are the key people in adult education." 30

References


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22. Hamill, op. cit., p. 211.
29. Immelman, op. cit., p. 42.
Intellectual Freedom

WILLIAM S. DIX

The librarian's concern with intellectual freedom is a natural one, for the library, whatever else it may be or however specialized its function, is a link in the vast modern network of communication channels through which ideas are collected and passed on again from one individual to his contemporaries or to posterity. This function the library shares in varying degrees with the school and college, with radio and television, with the motion picture, with the newspaper and magazine press, and with the book publisher. Unlike many of these other agencies, it is usually supported, directly or indirectly, by public funds. It operates under legislation or a charter giving it peculiar immunities, such as tax exemption, and peculiar responsibilities, such as that of serving the interest of all the people in its own special way. While it is possible to conceive of a library dedicated to the dissemination of a single and restricted economic theory, such as the single tax, or a particular religion, such as Zoroastrianism, or an authoritarian concept of government, such as Soviet Communism, such a library could be in no sense "public" in a democratic society.

A society posited upon the principles embodied in the Bill of Rights demands and depends upon free institutions. In the realm of ideas, it leans heavily upon free communications. Where the people are sovereign, as in the United States, where the course of public policy reflects the will of these sovereign people, and where this majority will reflects the freely formulated will of each individual citizen, the public interest demands the unrestricted and uncensored flow of fact and opinion. That a fact may be ugly or an opinion unpopular cannot be allowed to serve as an excuse to bar it from the channels of communication. It has been pointed out that every breeder of roses, or of race horses, or of thinkers knows that progress springs from differences. For a democratic society to flourish, it must keep its communication channels open

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to differences. It is not in the public interest for American librarians to allow any individual or group with an authoritarian concept of truth to prescribe what ideas or opinions shall or shall not be represented in their collections. This is the essence of intellectual freedom to librarians in a democratic society.

Neither the metaphysic nor the ideology of democracy is an easy one, and the application of these principles to the practical operation of a library raises a host of problems. But this is not the place for a discussion of details of theory or of application; the literature of librarianship in recent years has examined and discussed a great many of these problems. Having glanced briefly at the reasons why intellectual freedom is an important issue to librarians in a democratic society, we must now turn to a consideration of just what the proper function of a library association is in maintaining intellectual freedom.

It should be noted of course that the concept of intellectual freedom as a professional responsibility of librarians is a relatively recent one. Indeed, such related abstractions as academic freedom and freedom of the press were not really formulated until the eighteenth century, even though they had earlier spokesmen in such men as Socrates, Galileo, and Milton. Thus although the nineteenth century was the seed time of the public library movement and the American Library Association was organized in 1876, there seems to have been no formal recognition of the responsibility of libraries in this sphere for more than fifty years after the founding of the A.L.A. The relative newness of the concept thus becomes an important factor to be considered in assessing the work of the library association in relation to intellectual freedom. We are dealing here not so much with the steps taken to implement a universally accepted principle as with the comparatively rapid evolution of a concept that is new in its applications, even though its roots lie deep in Western tradition. While political democracy has ancient Greek antecedents, its theory as well as its practice is still evolving through public debate and undergoing formulation through legislation and court review.

Thus any discussion by an individual of what ought to be the functions of a library association in relation to intellectual freedom has the status of individual opinion only. The A.L.A. is a voluntary organization, conceived along completely democratic lines. Its principles and policies are evolved through a representative assembly, the Council, and have only the authority that is inherent in the democratically determined will of a majority of its members. No one has authority to
pronounce a dogma or lay down a party line which it is incumbent upon all members to follow.

In the light of the brevity of the history of library associations in this country and the even greater brevity of their concern with intellectual freedom, and in the light of the democratic, antiauthoritarian structure of library associations, what we are concerned with in this paper is the record neither of the public actions of an organization pursuant to a rigid and dogmatic code nor of its internal activities in disciplining and policing its own members in adherence to rules. Our subject rather is an observation of the activities of American library associations, under the leadership of the A.L.A., in formulating the concept of the intellectually free library, in promoting discussion and understanding of this concept among librarians, library trustees, and the public, and in responding to the recurring threats to intellectual freedom in an era marked by strong currents of anti-intellectualism.

The first official recognition by the A.L.A. of the existence of problems in the area of intellectual freedom was the appointment in 1939 of a Special Committee on Censorship. This committee drafted a “Library Bill of Rights” which was adopted by the A.L.A. Council in June of 1939 as an official policy statement of the association. The Library Bill of Rights, amended in 1944 and revised and readopted in 1948 remains the basic statement of principles, and its drafting and adoption has been probably the most effective single act of the A.L.A. in defining the librarian’s professional responsibility for maintaining the right of the public to unobstructed channels of communication. Reprinted countless times in various forms and media, it has been adopted as a policy statement by state and regional library associations and by individual library boards and has been continually effective as a focal point for local opinion and a precedent for local action.

It is doubtful if the mere approval of a statement would have been effective had there not been continuing action by the association to implement the Library Bill of Rights. Thus in May 1940, upon the recommendation of the Special Committee on Censorship which had drafted the Library Bill of Rights, the A.L.A. Council created the Committee on Intellectual Freedom to Safeguard the Rights of Library Users to Freedom of Inquiry. This committee remains to the present the principal agency of the A.L.A. in interpreting, promoting, and safeguarding the right of free inquiry.

Although its name has been shortened to the simple Committee on Intellectual Freedom, its principal concern has been that indicated by
the original title: to safeguard the rights of library users to freedom of inquiry, rather than to protect any rights peculiar to librarians themselves. The sole directive under which the committee was established was "To recommend such steps as may be necessary to safeguard the rights of library users in accordance with the Bill of Rights of the United States and the Library's Bill of Rights as adopted by the Council." 5

Pursuant to this directive the committee has made various recommendations to the Council. Among these are the several changes in the Library Bill of Rights already mentioned and another, approved in 1951, making it clear that the Library Bill of Rights applies "to all materials and media of communication used or collected by libraries," such as films, which have increasingly been the subject of controversy in various communities. 6 Also in 1951 the Council adopted a strong statement prepared by the committee in opposition to the practice of "labelling" library materials, proposed from time to time as an alternative to the complete suppression of materials. 7

That the Council has not been a mere rubber stamp, automatically accepting all proposals made by the committee, was indicated by a series of resolutions in 1948, 1949, and 1950. In 1948 the Council adopted, after considerable debate, a resolution condemning the use of loyalty investigations in libraries. 8 The following year, against the recommendations of the Committee on Intellectual Freedom and the Board on Personnel Administration, which has primary jurisdiction in matters affecting the tenure and employment of librarians, the Council reversed itself and rephrased this resolution to condemn only the abuse rather than the use of loyalty investigations. 9 Finally, in 1950 after the committee had pointed out that this change made the resolution almost meaningless, the Council passed a new resolution on loyalty programs, reconciling various differences of opinion within the association. 10

Early in 1953, alarmed by increasing evidence of inroads into freedom of inquiry and communication, the committee joined the American Book Publishers Council in planning a small, off-the-record conference to consider the steps which might be taken to preserve the basic freedoms of the public in these areas. Held on May 2 and 3 at Rye, New York, the "Westchester Conference" was attended by leading librarians, publishers, representatives of related groups, and citizens reflecting the public interest. A statement entitled "The Freedom to Read," drafted by a small committee, was signed by individuals who had attended and others invited but unable to attend, was adopted by the A.L.A. Council and the American Book Publishers Council, and
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was released to the press. In part because of the temper of the times it has received more widespread national and international publicity than any other action of the A.L.A. in the field of intellectual freedom. It was reprinted in full by a dozen newspapers and magazines, received editorial approval by many more and condemnation by a few, was endorsed by a number of other organizations, and led to the adoption of parallel statements by such groups as the American Bar Association and the National Education Association. The New York Times editorialized,

The librarians at Los Angeles produced and accepted in their manifesto a document that seems today to belong, civilian and unofficial though it is, with America's outstanding state papers. It belongs there because of the nobility and courage of its expression, because it rests on experience, because it grew out of knowledge, not out of emotion, because it came from individuals who have found out day by day, in ill-paid and obscure positions, what the thinking people of this country really want.

While objective measurements are impossible, there can be little doubt that "The Freedom to Read" had a favorable effect upon public opinion at a critical time in publicizing and clarifying the position and the responsibilities of librarians and publishers.

This effect was undoubtedly strengthened by a letter from President Eisenhower to the president of A.L.A. made public at the Los Angeles Conference at which "The Freedom to Read" was adopted by the Council—a letter in which the President reaffirmed his belief that "The libraries of America are and must ever remain the homes of free, inquiring minds" and reiterated the condemnation of the "book-burners" made in his Dartmouth speech.

At the same meeting the Council adopted a strong protest against the attacks upon the U.S. Information Libraries, presented by the A.L.A. International Relations Board. In earlier conversations between the chairman of the board and the chairman of the Intellectual Freedom Committee it had been agreed that the government's overseas library policy was the special concern of the International Relations Board rather than the committee, since it concerned foreign policy rather than the right of American citizens to free inquiry.

It is obvious that these policy decisions and statements made by the A.L.A. did not spring full-grown into being. Behind them lay an active schedule of conferences and correspondence carried on by the Committee on Intellectual Freedom. In carrying out its assigned function
the Committee has found it essential down through the years to act first of all as a clearinghouse for factual information about any threats to library freedom. Its members, scattered across the country and in Canada, have been alert to report on incidents, and all librarians have been urged repeatedly to bring to the attention of the committee local situations which merit attention. The various state and local library associations have been stimulated to form committees on intellectual freedom, to report to the A.L.A. committee, to stimulate regional discussion of the principles involved, and to act more effectively in local situations. It has been the policy of the committee to intervene locally only when requested by the local librarian or library association. In general it has been found that active interference in local affairs was less effective than the substantial moral force of the national association’s policy statements when used by local groups. In nearly every controversy the Library Bill of Rights or the Freedom to Read statement have been used effectively by local groups in mobilizing public opinion. In many more instances open controversy has been avoided because library boards and citizens’ groups have discussed one or both of these statements as policy and have thus been prepared in advance to take a firm stand on the basic principles of intellectual freedom.

While collecting information, acting as a clearinghouse, and attempting to assess the attitudes of the A.L.A. members and formulate this collective attitude into democratically conceived national policy, the committee has attempted to stimulate discussion and understanding of the problems through frequent reports to the A.L.A. Council and membership, through speeches to library and citizens’ groups, through articles in the A.L.A. Bulletin and other professional journals, and through special meetings held in conjunction with library conferences. In recent years the committee has distributed the mimeographed “Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom” for the purpose of keeping librarians and related groups informed.

Perhaps the most effective of the special meetings have been two two-day institutes held just prior to the A.L.A. annual conferences at New York and Los Angeles in 1952 and 1953. These institutes provided forums at which difficulties in the application of principles could be discussed and differences of opinion could be resolved. Both resulted in very large areas of general agreement (Lest some outsider should think that there has been within the A.L.A. a slavish conformity, it should be recorded that there have been from time to time sharp and explosive differences of opinion on the application of accepted general principles. It is a tribute to the stability of democratic processes to
report that means were found in each instance to compromise these differences without sacrifice of principle.)

It should be noted that although within the past fifteen years the democratic way of life has been threatened by two vast international conspiracies, Fascist and Communist, and while the association has been particularly alert to discover any attempt on the part of these conspiracies to infiltrate its membership or influence its policies, there has never been any serious threat from these sources. The most formidable organized attempts to limit the freedom of the citizen to read what he wants seem to have had their origin in native super-patriotic or religious groups with a narrow or coercive concept of Americanism.

It would be neither discrete nor illuminating for a former chairman of the A.L.A. Committee on Intellectual Freedom to attempt any evaluation of the success of the association's activities in defense of the freedom to read. Such an appraisal should come from a pen less partisan and more skilled in the analysis of intangibles. A few generalizations can be made safely, however.

There are a number of things which the association has not done in this field. It has not attempted a large-scale continuing program of molding public opinion. It has not attempted systematically to influence federal legislation in the area of intellectual freedom. It has not set up machinery to bring prompt and effective legal counsel to libraries and librarians under attack. All of these things have been discussed by committees, but the necessary financial resources have been unavailable. (It should perhaps be noted here that lack of funds has been the most formidable obstacle faced by the Committee on Intellectual Freedom. In recent years some assistance from the A.L.A. Executive Board and from foundation grants has enabled it to plan its projects somewhat more freely.)

On the other hand, the A.L.A. through its officers, boards, and committees, has led the way to several positive achievements in the past fifteen years. Perhaps the most important is that it has evolved from the consciences of individual librarians a general concept of the librarian's professional responsibility for the freedom to read, not as dogma but as a living principle. It has gained widespread acceptance of this concept, not only among librarians, but among library trustees and substantial segments of the general public. It has stimulated the application of these general principles to specific problems as they have arisen. Although in our time there have occurred hundreds of attacks upon the freedom to read in libraries, these incidents have been resolved without sacrifice of principle in all but a tiny handful of cases;
although local action has been the deciding factor in each instance, in the background of nearly every one the moral effect of A.L.A. principles has been apparent. Finally, it has developed powerful allies among individuals and groups, and it has assumed the leadership in protecting freedom of inquiry proper to an association of 20,000 librarians unselfishly dedicated to the democratic use of books by the American people.

An editorial which appeared in the *Minneapolis Sunday Tribune* on the occasion of the 73rd Annual Conference of the A.L.A. may serve as a summary:

The strength that lies in knowledge is a subject the nation's librarians are well fitted to explore. The public libraries, especially, have done yeoman service in the cause of making knowledge widely available.

The librarians have done more than this. Through their association they have fought with courage and devotion for the great principle of freedom to read. Their stand has done much to hamper the movement toward censorship and thought control in the United States.\(^{16}\)

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Intellectual Freedom


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International Cooperation

HELEN E. WESSELLS

International cooperation is a deeply ingrained tradition among librarians in this country. In 1877, less than a year after the American Library Association was formed, sixteen Americans journeyed to London to help in the establishment of the Library Association of the United Kingdom (now The Library Association) and in 1893, the first so-called "World Congress of Librarians" was held in connection with the Chicago Conference and the Columbian Exposition.¹

The war years and the decade following V-J Day have witnessed an expansion of international activity on the part of American librarians that is probably without precedent. Early impetus was gained from such undertakings as the establishment in 1942 of the Biblioteca Benjamin Franklin in Mexico City, with A.L.A. assuming responsibility and funds provided by the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs. The extension of American libraries throughout the free world continued under the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs and the Office of War Information during the war years, later by the State Department, and now by the United States Information Agency. Today, aided by the Smith-Mundt Act, the Fulbright program, Unesco, and foundation grants, American librarians are playing an active, constructive role in promoting international understanding and the best practices in librarianship as never before in the history of their profession.

This activity stems from the initiative of individuals and individual libraries, and much of it originates with, or is stimulated by, national library associations. This article deals with association activities for the United States and the British Commonwealth, and will be confined to that area, with principal emphasis upon the post-war period.

Inasmuch as the A.L.A. is the largest and most inclusive of the professional library associations in this country and was the pioneer in the field, it is only logical that its international activities should be examined at the outset. The association's international relations pro-

¹ The author is Editor of Library Journal in New York City.
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gram is centered under the International Relations Board, established in June 1942, although a number of activities are carried out by the various divisions of A.L.A. During the period, 1943-1948, an International Relations Office was maintained in Washington as a secretariat for the International Relations Board. Supported mainly by Rockefeller grants which expired in 1948, the office had to be discontinued in August 1949 although its services were invaluable to the library profession throughout the world. The A.L.A. Washington office, operated on a restricted basis between the summer of 1949 and February 1950, was placed on a regular basis again beginning in 1950, financed by donations.

In 1946, the International Relations Board, working with the A.L.A. Board on Resources of American Libraries, discussed the interest of librarians in the free exchange of cultural, scientific, and educational information at a Princeton conference. The pooling of knowledge and method and the free discussion at this conference helped to turn the attention of library associations and libraries from war relief methods to the long term acquisition needs of libraries throughout the world.

The International Relations Board works closely with agencies of the United States government and with intergovernmental agencies in order to carry out programs of exchange of persons and materials. Foundations and other private agencies which are endeavoring to assist and co-ordinate the work of libraries and librarians turn to the board for assistance and provide funds for the work of the board. The list of activities during the years is impressive. Currently, for instance, the board continues to advise the library school faculty at Keio University, Tokyo. The school was established in 1951 with funds from the United States Army; now the Rockefeller Foundation is assisting in its maintenance. Within a short time, the school will be self-sufficient with its own faculty and American faculty members will leave. Another library school has been established at the University of Ankara, Turkey, through the efforts of the board. Discussions held in the summer of 1954 with Turkish government officials and with the Ford Foundation have led to a grant of money from the foundation and the start of the school. Overall planning has been in the hands of a committee made up of the immediate past-president of the A.L.A., the chairman of the International Relations Board, and the chairman of the Board of Education for Librarianship.

Exchange of librarians has long been an interest of the International Relations Board. Contracts with such agencies as the State Department and the United States Information Agency have enabled many
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librarians from other countries to visit the United States. The India Wheat Loan funds will soon, it is planned, enable a group of Indian University librarians to come to this country for approximately six months of special library school courses and internships in appropriate libraries. Another program is underway to bring a group of public librarians from various countries to this country for a similar program.

Technical library materials are difficult to find in other countries and the International Relations Board is responsible for granting translation rights and approving translation manuscripts for A.L.A. publications. The board continues to be active in the gift coupon program of Unesco and has cooperated in a Carnegie-U.S. Book Exchange program for developing libraries for technical colleges in British Africa.

The A.L.A., through its various divisions, is presently engaged in a variety of other international activities for which the International Relations Board serves as a co-ordinating body. The Division of Cataloging and Classification, for example, is working for the international acceptance of a few basic principles of cataloging, as contrasted to the development of a standardized cataloging code. The Children's Library Association has compiled a list of foreign children's books available in the United States; has helped to sponsor a travelling exhibit of foreign children's books and paintings, circulated through Smithsonian channels; and is continuing to co-operate with the Care children's program and the International Youth Library in Munich. Other divisions and the A.L.A. as a whole are working directly with the International Federation of Library Associations, (I.F.L.A.) the International Federation for Documentation (F.I.D.), and Unesco.

The Association of Research Libraries, affiliated with A.L.A., continues its activities in relation to the Farmington Plan,5 developed in 1942 from numerous proposals made frequently in the past, for ensuring that at least one copy of every important foreign book of scholarly value will be imported for each of the U.S. libraries co-operating in the program. The Association of Research Libraries among its other activities has continued its efforts to ease consular invoices regarding library materials, and is active in the Bibliography Committee of A.L.A. which works closely with Unesco.

The Special Libraries Association also is active in the international field. It is a member of the I.F.L.A. and works closely with Aslib, the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux, of Great Britain. The Special Library Association has helped to establish a special libraries association in Japan; has sponsored a survey 6 of study facilities for foreign library students in this country; and is engaged in

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efforts to promote an overseas exchange of librarians. It also mails a bulletin to 700 foreign librarians yearly and operates a correspondence plan between its members and overseas librarians for the exchange of specialized information.

The Medical Library Association, also a member of I.F.L.A., is concerned with exchange relations overseas and with the establishment of fellowship awards. It co-operates with the United States Book Exchange in sending lists of medical books to other countries and was represented at the First International Congress of Medical Librarianship,7 held in London in 1953, in which 32 nations participated. The question of adequate professional training and education for medical librarians was one of the principal matters considered by the congress.

The American Documentation Institute,8 has existed for more than a decade as an active operating entity in the field of documentation, interested in the assembling, classifying, preservation, reproduction, and distribution of documents in all fields of human activity. This interest extends throughout the world, for a standing committee on international relations supervises the relationships with the International Federation for Documentation. Affiliated since 1947, an American is currently treasurer of the international organization.

The Music Library Association is a very active member of the International Association of Music Libraries. Stimulated by Unesco, the American group is co-operating, among other activities, in the preparation of an international inventory of musical sources. The chairman for the Fourth Congress of Music Librarians to be held in Brussels, September 11-18, 1955, is R. S. Hill.

The Society of American Archivists participated in the International Congress on Archives at Scheveningen, Holland, in 1953, and is active in promoting a guide to international archives, as well as in exploring the possibility of preparing a universal bibliography on archival administration. The society and its overseas colleagues also are concerned with matters of uniform terminology, training, the interloaning of archival materials and the preservation and reproduction of such materials.

Most of the country's principal national library associations are affiliated with the Council of National Library Associations, which functions as a clearinghouse and as a catalyst for plans and programs rather than as a closely knit organization. The Council of National Library Associations originally sponsored the American Book Center which, during the war years, distributed 3,660,000 items to forty-five countries. The center is now the U.S. Book Exchange, a private non-
profit organization sponsored by national learned societies and library associations, which serves as a co-operative clearinghouse for the national and international exchange of publications. Approximately 450 American and 150 overseas libraries, embracing forty-five nations, currently are participants in the United States Book Exchange program. The Council of National Library Associations sponsors Committee Z-39, a committee of the American Standards Associations interested in standards in library practice and documentation. Z-39 is the United States counterpart of Technical Committee 46 of the International Standards Organization. Members of the committee include library groups, publishing groups, and printing and binding interests. The Council of National Library Associations also works closely with PH-5, another committee of the American Standards Association, which deals with standards of photographic reproduction.

As the records are examined, it is obvious that the national library associations of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth are carrying out internationally many of the same activities as American associations. There is a strong tie with international library associations and with the library operations of Unesco. There is also a close fellowship between the Commonwealth library associations and the "home" association. All visitors from abroad, and especially those from the Commonwealth, quickly find Chaucer House, the London headquarters of the Library Association.

The Library Association, established in 1877, has set the pattern for many of the newer associations throughout the Commonwealth. International interlibrary interloan has been stimulated; bibliographical problems have been handled; technical advisors have been sent to underdeveloped areas, and through various auspices, to libraries in the Commonwealth. For instance, the visit of Lionel McColvin to Australia at the time of the reorganization of the library association there was a great stimulant to the librarians struggling with the many problems involved. The Manchester seminar for librarians, held in 1948 under the auspices of Unesco with active participation by the Library Association, stirred much international activity.

There are other national library associations, of course, in the United Kingdom which are becoming increasingly active but, in the international field, the work of the Association of Special Libraries Information Bureaux (Aslib), is particularly effective. Since 1951, when Aslib was able to become the British member, there has been an intensified interest in international activities. Constitutional reorganization of the F.I.D. and the need to redefine its philosophy have occupied much of
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the time of the British members but they have also been able to act as British agents in the compilation of the Manual on Document Reproduction and Selection, and are working currently on the "Science and Technology" part of Index Bibliographicus. Members of Aslib are discovering that international activity may be a national boon, for the resolution adopted by the International Library Committee at Rome in September 1951 has made them re-examine the local problem of education for librarianship; and the association is discussing with the Library Association the possibility of a joint syllabus.

The Library Association of Australia, formerly the Australian Institute of Librarians, founded in 1937, is a participant in an interesting plan: the Colombo Plan for co-operative economic development in South and Southeast Asia. This plan has provided an opportunity for the training of librarians from that area. Originally proposed to the Unesco Committee for Libraries, and carried out by the Commonwealth Office of Education of Australia in co-operation with the Library Association, a plan was proposed for a number of librarians to go to Australia for a three month period of training consisting of approximately ten days of lectures at the beginning and end with the opportunity to work and study in appropriate libraries in the intervening period. Participants came from India, the Philippines, and Indonesia. In addition, fellowships have been offered to other librarians to come individually to Australia for study and observation as a part of the plan which is aiming to raise living standards through planned cooperation on the part of the British Commonwealth and countries of South and Southeast Asia.

In addition to this important activity, the Australian association is a member of the I.F.L.A.; works with the International Standards Organization; is actively represented on Unesco matters through a local Unesco group which has the Library Association's desires clearly outlined; and through the United States Educational Foundation, is able to bring American librarians to lecture, teach, and carry on research in Australia. The British Dominions Fund of the Carnegie Corporation of New York has made it possible for a number of members of the Library Association to visit England and the United States in order to strengthen international ties and to help in the development of libraries in Australia. This opportunity is given also to New Zealand librarians.

New Zealand, even more isolated, is engaged in vital local programs which demand the full energy of the members of its library association. However, the association joins in such activities as the celebration of
United Nations Week and Children's Book Week and the members are aware of activities in other parts of the world through the exchange of librarians and materials.

South Africa is active in the F.I.D. and has worked on standardization. As in the case of Australia and New Zealand, exchange of librarians has been helpful. The bibliographical sub-committee, keeping in mind that the Union of South Africa is only a part of a far wider area of regional activity, has undertaken to establish liaison with bibliographical correspondents in each of the principal countries south of the Sahara. The South African Library Association also was represented at the First International Congress on Medical Librarianship.

The Canadian Library Association actively co-operates with the A.L.A. with which it is affiliated. It is also a member of the I.F.L.A. and works actively with Unesco projects.

In the South Asia area, the Pakistan library association is only a few years old but is alive to opportunities in the international field. Librarians in Ceylon are beginning to think in terms of international co-operation, spurred by the Colombo Plan and its related library activities.

India has long been active internationally, especially in the fields of bibliography, standardization and classification. An Indian Library Association is firmly established and works closely with the Unesco Science Co-operation office for South Asia on the production of a union catalogue of periodical publications in the libraries of that area. An all-India Library Conference at Indore in 1951 recommended the formation of an Asian Federation of Libraries. A project which is being watched by all countries is the Delhi Public Library, started through Unesco interest. A seminar on public library development in South Asia will be held in the library in 1955.

Of necessity, international bodies such as the I.F.L.A., F.I.D., and Unesco have been mentioned in connection with the activities of the various national library associations. Inasmuch as important segments of international library programs center around these organizations, it is appropriate that they should be considered at this juncture. Probably the most important single factor in international library relations today is Unesco which, despite its wide scope and limited funds, is a potent catalyst for library progress and an initiator of programs whose long range contributions promise to be substantial. In the library field, Unesco functions through the governments which comprise it, working both directly and through international bodies such as the I.F.L.A. and F.I.D. While it is interested in matters affecting all of its member

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nations, Unesco’s principal concern is with countries whose library services are comparatively under-developed.

Unesco’s library program has taken several principal forms. Over the past several years, it has sponsored seminars in Manchester, England; Malmö, Sweden; Sao Paulo, Brazil; and Ibadan, Nigeria for the purpose of discussing common problems and interchanging information regarding best professional practice. A closely allied activity has been the establishment of demonstration libraries, of which the one at Delhi was the first. The organization also sponsors fellowships whereby qualified librarians are sent to under-developed countries to provide technical assistance in the initiation of programs and to counsel with regard to specialized matters.

In addition, Unesco has published technical library tools; has played a leading role in initiating programs designed to develop and improve national bibliographies; and has sponsored an international conference on microfilm readers. Unesco is the originator of the book coupon scheme designed to circumvent international currency barriers to the movement of publications and it has played an important role in the development of an international agreement regarding the importation of educational, scientific, and cultural materials which went into force in 1952 and is applied today by 17 nations.

Of the international bodies, the I.F.L.A. is essentially a body of professional librarians joined nationally through their respective library associations and concerned primarily with libraries. The A.L.A., the Special Library Association and the Medical Library Association are members of this body which meets annually as a council and which also attempts to hold periodic world conferences. Before World War II, congresses were held in Spain and Italy. However, since the war the I.F.L.A. has been able to hold only council meetings, the last of these at Zagreb, Yugoslavia, in 1954. The federation has established two new sections—one for learned libraries and the other for public libraries—a move which may stimulate increased activities in these areas. The I.F.L.A., also attempts to promote improved library techniques. It has developed rules for international loan and is interested in library education, statistics, periodicals and serial publications, as well as in hospital libraries, and the exchange of publications. During the past five years the federation has intensified its work and today is attempting to co-operate more actively with other international associations.

The F.I.D. includes libraries and library associations in its membership, but it is comprised also of others who are interested in docu-
mentation and who have scientific and industrial interests. For a number of years, the F.I.D.'s main emphasis has been upon the development of the Universal Decimal Classification, the copyright for which is owned by the F.I.D. It is now publishing the *Directory of Microfilm and Photo-copying Service* and a *Guide to Document Reproduction and Selection*. Americans are among the officers of both I.F.L.A. and F.I.D. D. W. Bryant serves as first vice-president of the former, and M. O. Lee, of Washington, as treasurer of the latter organization.

The International Association of Music Libraries is the latest addition to the list of organizations by which national library associations are being brought together for joint effort. The association currently is engaged in preparing an international inventory of musical sources and is working on a basic design for an international periodical index. The association also is developing an international code for the cataloging of musical materials. The first section, a history of music cataloging, is virtually completed and a second section, a preliminary code restricted to the main principles in the field, is taking form rapidly. The third and final section will be a comprehensive international code for music cataloging.

What could become the point of departure for a new major step forward in international library co-operation will occur in Brussels, September 11-18, 1955, when an International Congress of Libraries and Documentation Centers will bring the I.F.L.A., the F.I.D., and the International Association of Music Libraries together in joint sessions. Deliberations of the Congress will center principally around common problems involving bibliography, the international flow of materials, the use of materials in countries that seek assistance, standardization, and education for librarianship. The Brussels Congress\(^{16,17}\) is the culmination of eight years of evolution and what it will accomplish will depend chiefly on the courage and dynamism of the participants who, if they choose, could use the Congress to plan a more effective international scheme of inter-library co-operation. It is to be hoped that this will be one of the by-products of the Congress; if not immediately, then in the long run.

Several reasonably clear-cut trends emerge from an examination of the international activities of American and British Commonwealth national library associations, working of themselves or through international co-ordinating bodies. One such trend is the achievement of slow but nevertheless concrete progress in a joint attack upon common problems of professional techniques. This progress undoubtedly is slower than would be necessary if parochialism were less prevalent.
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among the various national segments of the human race, but certainly
is not much less rapid than has been achieved since the war in many
broader fields of sorely needed international co-operation. Another
and very probably a vastly more consequential trend, is the increasing
attention which is being given to the problem of adequate education
and training for librarianship; for it is upon this foundation that last-
ing progress in the more circumscribed segments of professional prac-
tice ultimately must depend.

But it must always be borne in mind that, not withstanding their
many concrete contributions to closer international co-operation, na-
tional associations and their international co-ordinating bodies comprise
but one element by which the world of books and related communica-
tions materials are being brought more closely together among free
nations. Since World War II, there has been a ground swell of indi-
vidual initiative, often aided by government programs and foundation
funds, which most probably has been of equal or even greater signi-
ficance. The task of national associations, therefore, is to apply a “new
look” to their respective activities, to examine how they can work to-
gether more effectively and to determine how, severally and jointly,
they can fashion themselves into more useful agencies by which the
ever growing interest in international co-operation can be directed into
increasingly fruitful channels.

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State and Regional Library Associations

JOHN S. RICHARDS

DEVELOPMENT OF STATE LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS began in 1890 when five states perfected state organizations. New York was the first, followed by Ohio, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and New Jersey. Five more state organizations joined the ranks in 1891, in Connecticut, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Maine, and Michigan. By 1905, associations had been organized in 28 states.

As in the case of earlier library development, the organizing of state library associations received encouragement from Melvil Dewey. In June 1891, we find Dewey writing, 1 "In the Library Journal for June 1890, I pointed out that the time had come when we needed local associations to carry on the rapidly developing modern library work . . . I write these notes in the JOURNAL to urge A.L.A. members in each State which has not yet organized to take immediate steps toward a beginning. After years of constant study of this question, I am fully convinced that as soon as there are five or more earnest library workers in any State, they ought to put their names together as a State association, which shall grow with the growth of public sentiment and keep its place on the State roll of honor."

Dewey then listed five objectives of the New York Association which included the stimulation of interest in New York by addresses, articles in the press, circulation of printed material etc.; the securing of the fullest possible cooperation with A.L.A. in promoting general library interests; the promotion among New York libraries of the exchange of duplicates, inter-library loans and other forms of cooperation; securing of adequate library legislation; and the enrolling of all interested in library development.

Subsequent issues of the library press carried accounts of activities and proceedings of A.L.A. meetings and usually included a round-up of progress of state programs under the developing state associations and library commissions.

In some cases, local library clubs preceded the state associations

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and later contributed to their growth. In New York, the New York Library Club of New York City was founded in 1895 and enrolled a strong membership of leading librarians. W. R. Eastman in writing on *The First Ten Years of the New York Library Association* indicates that members of the New York Library Club were at first, not enthusiastic about journeying up-state for meetings of the state association until J. H. Canfield of Columbia and Melvil Dewey established *Library Week* at Lake Placid. Quoting from Eastman's article, "New York and Brooklyn went to Lake Placid, went gladly, and with enthusiasm . . . It was a delightful week and the New York Library Association, then ten years old was born anew."

Another example was the fore-runner of the California Library Association when three librarians issued a call, inviting librarians around San Francisco Bay to meet and decide whether an association was needed. As a result, the Library Association of Central California was organized on March 8, 1895, and for the first three years, the meetings and interests were confined mainly to the district around San Francisco Bay. In March 1898, the name was changed to the Library Association of California.

Herbert Putnam, in a paper on local library associations in the United States, given at the Second International Library Congress, held in London in 1897, lists twenty-five associations existing in that year. Of the twenty-five, sixteen were state organizations, four were city organizations, three represented certain districts of a state, one represented two cities, and one, the Massachusetts Library Club of which Putnam was then president, included libraries from two states. Putnam, computing total library activity in the United States as of 1897, reports, "If, therefore, one were to attempt an estimate of the organized effort by and in behalf of the library interests of the United States, one must add to the American Library Association, with its 750 members at its one meeting a year, these twenty-five local associations with their 1,985 members and their aggregate of ninety-two meetings a year."

Since state and local government together bear the primary responsibility for library planning and administration, the state library association has played an important part in library development. The public library is largely a municipal concern and has grown up as a local institution. There is, however, an increasing tendency for the state to supervise and assist in library development. C. B. Joeckel, in *The Government of the American Public Library* reported in 1935 that extension agencies existed in forty-four states.

Because of this dual responsibility of local and state governments
for libraries, the state association has become the logical planning unit, a unit which cannot be replaced on either the regional or national level. While the A.L.A. heads up the work on library standards and library organization, the individual state associations have had to adapt these standards and their organizations to their own particular needs and often they do pioneer work through the combined resources of the state association and the state extension agency.

The type of state organization varies with the needs and strength of the state. The California Library Association might be taken as a good example of a state system which has solved its library problems so well that it has felt no need to become a part of a regional association even though California is remote from other library centers. Second only to New York in A.L.A. membership, California has been in the fore-front of library development. The association in the early days was able to take its state library out from political control and secure dynamic leadership for it. With the closest cooperation between the state library and the state association, California pioneered in the county library movement early in the century.

Because of its close cooperation between the state library and the state association, the California Library Association has been a highly effective instrument. Under the present constitution, the state is divided into seven districts through which all libraries and librarians are kept informed and active.

The organization of the regional library association in the United States, the earliest dating from 1909, is of much later date than the development of state associations. The five regional associations presently active take in 32 states and one Canadian Province. The accompanying table shows the date of organization of each, the states included and the number of A.L.A. members in each. Most of the states which have banded together to form regional associations have two characteristics in common. They are for the most part on the periphery of the United States and they are sparsely settled and include comparatively a small A.L.A. membership.

If some of the states of the Mountain-Plains Association do not conform to the first characteristic and the New England States do not conform to the second, it is still true that in the main, the states forming the regional associations are inaccessible to A.L.A. headquarters and the centers of library population and are sparsely settled. From the accompanying table (p. 322) it can be seen that two-thirds of all the states are included in the five regional associations but that to-
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TABLE 1

Development of Regional Library Associations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regional Associations</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>States Included</th>
<th>A.L.A. Membership</th>
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<td>1909</td>
<td>British Columbia</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Total</td>
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Together they include only about one-third of the A.L.A. membership in the continental United States.

Certainly the Pacific Northwest Library Association, the oldest of the regional associations came into being in part because of the isolation of its libraries and the feeling on the part of its librarians that there was
need to pool resources. C. W. Smith in his historical sketch, *The Early Years of the P.N.L.A.* has this to say about the conditions under which the association was formed:

"Before scanning the record of the early years it may be well to consider the background and conditions under which the Association functioned. One of the important factors to be considered is the long distance separating the Pacific Northwest from the eastern and central portions of the United States. As gauged by travel time and by the length of time required to secure mail the difference then was much greater than it is today. The Pacific Northwest was in fact well isolated and largely dependent upon its own resources. The libraries were also far apart in the sparsely populated areas of British Columbia and the northwestern states. Although the future loomed large, it was a time of small beginnings—a small population, small libraries, small book appropriations, small salaries. Few of the librarians were trained and in some quarters there was a question even as to the desirability of securing professionally trained personnel.

"On the favorable side of the ledger mention should be made of the character and quality of the people. The population was made up of a vigorous, forward-looking class of citizens, all bent on improvement. This was true in all lines of endeavor and schools and libraries were no exception. Library progress was due in no small degree to the personality of the early librarians. The list includes a considerable number who entered the profession without benefit of formal training. There were, however, a fine group of young recruits from the library schools . . ."

Because of the isolation of its libraries and the need to pool resources, the PNLA perhaps more than of the other regional associations took the place of the state associations. At least three of the states had state organizations before 1909 and the meeting of the Washington Library Association in that year became the means of the organization of PNLA. This fifth annual conference of the Washington Library Association was held on the University of Washington campus with W. E. Henry, University librarian, as its president. This was during the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition and with the Exposition as an additional drawing card, librarians from Northwest states and the Province of British Columbia were invited to attend the meeting. There was a generous attendance from outside Washington and at the first session the president appointed a committee to consider a permanent organization of Pacific Northwest Librarians. This committee consisted of Franklin Hopper of Tacoma, chairman; Minnie Oakley of Seattle for Washington; Cornelia Marvin of Salem, and Mary Frances
Isom of Portland for Oregon; E. O. S. Scholefield of Victoria for British Columbia and Ellen Garfield Smith of Walla Walla for the Inland Empire, which presumably represented Idaho and Montana. At the last session of the three day meeting, the report of this committee recommending permanent organization was adopted and the Washington Library Association was, by vote of its members, merged into the PNLA with the dues already paid being paid into the PNLA treasury.

Through the early years of PNLA, state business was largely conducted at regional meetings and carried on between meetings by state and provincial executive committees. In 1931, a second Washington Library Association was formed and at present, the four states and the Province of British Columbia have active state or provincial associations. While several of these state associations hold yearly meetings with programs, there has been a tendency for the state association to pay particular attention to legislative programs and other matters of special interest to the individual states and leave to PNLA the type of programming generally associated with library conferences.

PNLA has from the beginning had an active program of library cooperation for the region. The Subscription Books Bulletin, now an A.L.A. activity, started in the Pacific Northwest with a Subscription Book Committee and was carried on through two series from 1917 to 1929. When the number of non-regional subscribers exceeded those from PNLA territory, the A.L.A. was asked to take over the project.

The Committee on Bibliography over a thirty year period and under the chairmanship of C. W. Smith of the University of Washington library carried on a notable list of co-operative projects, many of these culminating in publications such as Special Collections in Libraries of the Pacific Northwest and Manuscripts in Libraries of the Pacific Northwest. In 1940, as a result of committee activity, the Pacific Northwest Bibliographic center was made possible by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation.

The Bibliographic Center located at the University of Washington library is a truly co-operative venture and since its inauguration its entire cost has been born by the libraries of the region. Its notable achievements have been reported by Smith in one of his reports as chairman of the Bibliography Committee:

1. "It has described and located through its Union Catalog the books owned by many of the more important libraries of the region. It has simplified and accelerated inter-library loans. Through this service the books of each library have in a very real sense become the property of all.

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2. “It has made and published a survey of regional library holdings. A Conference on Specialization has been held and subsequent annual specialization reports have been received. Thus the Center has become an agency to guide the direction and increase the extent of future book accumulations.

3. “It has pooled the purchasing power of a large group of libraries and through the means of a Joint Agent has saved thousands of dollars to the libraries of the region.”

The association published proceedings from the beginning and in 1936, started a quarterly publication, *The PNLA Quarterly*, which has since been the official organ of the association.

This first of all regional associations is unique in that it is the only one which is international in scope. The inclusion of British Columbia librarians in the formation of this association has done much to give it color and distinction. Nine of our annual meetings have been held in British Columbia and ten Canadians have served the association as president. Librarians of British Columbia have been active participants in the joint co-operative ventures and not a little of the dynamic leadership has come from our colleagues north of the border. This practical co-operation across the international boundary has given a breadth of vision to regional planning which it might not otherwise have had.

In contrast to the tightly organized PNLA, the New England Library Association is most informal. There are no dues, and meetings are financed through conference registration fees and exhibitors fees. The purpose of the New England Library Association is to “plan and to hold regional conferences of librarians and trustees (or directors) of New England libraries for the exchange of ideas and the welfare of libraries through addresses, discussions and similar measures, directly sponsored by the several library associations of the New England states.”

Officers are nominated by a committee appointed by the president and are elected at the conference business meeting. Since counter-nominations may be made from the floor, it is not technically a self-perpetuating system. The four officers and the two directors at large shall not have more than one representative of the same New England state.

Meetings may be held biennially or in any year, when in the opinion of the conference or the Executive Board, the annual conference of the A.L.A. shall be held at a point too distant to attract a considerable attendance from New England.

Since this association was not formed until 1939, it can be readily
understood why New England with its well established libraries and its long settled state pattern did not need an association pledged to regional cooperation. The need here is for library conferences, especially in those years when A.L.A. meets in places remote from New England.

The two Southern associations present still different patterns. Tommie Dora Barker in a brief historical sketch of the Southeastern Library Associations says: 10

"It began in 1920 primarily as a forum. About 100 librarians from Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, and Tennessee met at Signal Mountain, Tennessee to consider their common library problems in the light of Southern conditions, economic, social, and governmental, and in relation to the stage of library development in the South.

"This was the first of fourteen biennial conferences that have been held. At the second conference, in 1922, the Southeastern Library Association was formally organized to include nine states, Kentucky and Virginia being added to the original seven. Generally speaking, the pattern set at the first conference has been continued: conditions with their underlying causes have been analyzed and action recommended for their improvement.

"Development of detailed blueprints for programs of action were necessarily left to the individual states, but committees were brought into play when region-wide action was needed. The work of two committees, which operated in the late 1920's and early 1930's, may be cited as of special importance. The indefatigable efforts of the School Library committee in cooperation with similar committees from the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools resulted in the adoption of standards for high school libraries and for the training of school librarians which have made for a phenomenal improvement of school library service in every Southern state. The program of the Policy Committee adopted in 1929 constituted a stirring platform for action, many parts of which were carried out in the following years."

In 1950 the Southeastern Library Association was reorganized and adopted a new constitution. Under this new organization the association now has a headquarters office, a part-time paid executive secretary, a quarterly journal and a paid membership of well over a thousand members. A study of the reports of the long list of committees of the Southeastern Library Association gives some idea of the many activities carried on by the association. Here as in PNLA there is
State and Regional Library Associations

emphasis on co-operative ventures which will raise standards and benefit the whole region.

The Southwestern Library Association was organized on October 22, 1922, at the twentieth annual meeting of the Texas Library Association. The first meeting was held in Hot Springs, Arkansas, in 1923. In October 1934, a joint meeting was held with the Southeast Library Association and in November 1952, the association met in Mexico City.

Membership is financed by twenty-five cents per capita of the total regular membership of each state association. Payment of these dues of representative state associations automatically makes the individual members of the state associations active members of the Southwestern Library Association. The programs are largely devoted to subjects and problems of special interest to libraries of the region.

The Mountain-Plains Library Association, youngest of the five, was organized at Estes Park, Colorado, in 1948. This first meeting was attended by two hundred individuals from an immense territory comprising seven large states. Annual meetings have been held since organization. The purpose of the Mountain-Plains Library Association as stated in their constitution is, "The object of the Mountain-Plains Library Association is the promotion of library service in the mountain-plains area. The following states are included: Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Utah and part of Montana. Any person or Institution interested in this objective is eligible for membership."

About three newsletters are published each year. The North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies in the North Dakota Agricultural College Library is the headquarters for all archives belonging to the association.

From this admittedly incomplete survey of state and regional associations it seems clear that both types of organization have worked together to develop libraries in the United States. While states like New York and California, to mention two of the largest on opposite sides of the country, have demonstrated their ability to solve their own problems within the framework of state organization, at least thirty-two other states have found help from regional association. As the idea of larger area service has come to the fore, regional co-operation has taken on a new meaning. At least three of the regional associations are at present working for foundation grants which will enable them to go deeper into regional co-operation for libraries than has been possible in the past. An example of this changed emphasis can be seen in the PNLA project which it is hoped will be a complete regional
JOHN S. RICHARDS

survey of economic, geographic, political, human and international factors affecting library service and development in the Northwest. The Library Development Committee of PNLA, in a report on this project at the last conference envisaged the following six specific objectives which they hope to achieve: 12

"First, a complete analysis of the financial support necessary for adequate library service, the most efficient units of service and a practical and feasible suggestion of ways in which necessary funds may be secured and recommended service units established. Due to the great geographical, economic and political variety of the Northwest, these recommendations are expected to vary widely for the various sections of our region.

"Second, a careful consideration of how our libraries are now governed and how they can be improved and developed through the coordinated efforts of adjoining municipalities, counties, states and the province through the establishment of larger service areas. It is possible that such agreements could, in some instances, be on interstate and, conceivably, even on an inter-national basis.

"Third, an impartial and detached analysis of the place and activities of the five state and provincial library agencies in the region to the end that each of these agencies may more effectively promote the growth of libraries and the use of books in its area.

"Fourth, a further study of coordination of library growth and service in the Northwest in support of research and scholarly work. This is a field in which we have had our most conspicuous success. It is also a field where, through complete understanding of the nature and extent of the problems involved, we can, being a young region, avoid the unplanned growth and waste of funds found among scholarly libraries of older sections of the country.

"Fifth, a detailed study of school libraries of the region, their staffing, use and effectiveness. This can be an important contribution and one which would be reflected in an intelligent future use of public libraries as well as in their financial support.

"Sixth, an analysis of the education, training, aptitudes and personalities of the people who work in our libraries, including a discovery of ways in which they can be better prepared to discharge their important responsibilities."

From this it can be seen that the regional association may do for library development what the individual states cannot do through their own resources. It would appear that the national association together with the state associations and the regional associations form a partnership, each type of organization having its special contribution to make.

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State and Regional Library Associations

References

7. Ibid., pp. 70-76.
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In 1949 we published a book edited by Wilbur Schramm that was widely acknowledged to be a first-class introduction to a new and burgeoning field. Its title was Mass Communications. It is now out of print, but we are pleased to announce the publication of a new book, which is its successor.

In this volume there is a somewhat different approach and an entirely new set of articles. The purpose of the book is two-fold: to give the reader a basic understanding of the communication process and particular information on one of its aspects—international communication. The second goal is achieved by drawing many of the illustrations from international communication and by devoting the latter part of the book exclusively to that field.

The articles are arranged under the following subdivisions: the process of communication; the primary effect (attention); the effect of different channels; getting the meaning understood; modifying attitudes and opinions; effects in terms of groups; and special problems of achieving an effect with international communication.

There are thirty-eight articles. Among the authors are: Allport, Berelson, Cantril, Davison, Doob, Glack, Hovland, Janowitz, Klapper, Krech, Lasswell, Lazarsfeld, Leighton, Lerner, Lumsdaine, Merton Osgood, Riley, Selznick, and Speier.
Library Trends

Forthcoming numbers are as follows:

April, 1955, Current Trends in Acquisitions. Editor: Robert Vosper, Director of Libraries, University of Kansas.


October, 1955, Special Materials and Services. Editor: Andrew H. Horn, Librarian, University of North Carolina.

The numbers of LIBRARY TRENDS issued prior to the present one dealt successively with college and university libraries, special libraries, school libraries, public libraries, libraries of the United States government, cataloging and classification, scientific management in libraries, the availability of library research materials, personnel administration, and services to readers.