



Association Responsibilities for Publishing

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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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braries 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.¹ 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 analytics 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.² 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 led 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.

Manuals and textbooks on library methods and materials represent still another publishing activity. The British certification procedure has furthered the production and sale of its pamphlets on practical aspects of current library practice. The A.L.A.'s *Library Tracts* series and its *Manual of Library Economy* had the dual purpose of serving as teaching guides and as help in library establishment and practice. The Special Library Association with its *Technical Libraries, their Organization and Management*, and the Medical Library Association with its *Handbook of Medical Library Practice*, published in cooperation with the A.L.A., help point up methods in use in special libraries.

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.³ 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."⁴ Works such as Larned's *Literature of American History*, which required a personal contribution of \$10,000 from George Hles 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, Je. 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+
The Library Association, Chaucer House, Malet Place, London W. C. 1.
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+
School Library Association, Garraway Ltd., 11A Kensington Church St., London, W. 8.
School Library Review and Education Record n.s. 1, Je. 1950+

INDIA

- Indian Library Association, Das Gupta, University Library, Delhi 8.
Abgila: Annals, Bulletin, Granthālaya. 1, March 1949+

NEW ZEALAND

- New Zealand Library Association, National Library Service, Wellington.
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+

SCOTLAND

- Scottish Library Association, A. G. Hepburn, Mitchell Library, Glasgow.
Newsheet 1, Oct. 1950+

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 Classi-
fication) 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, Jl. 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+

Music Library Association, Mary R. Rogers, Music Division, Library of Congress,
Washington 25, D.C.

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

National Association of State Libraries, Illinois State Library, Springfield, Ill.

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+

References

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2. American Library Association: Proceedings of the Twenty-fourth General Meeting, *A.L.A. Conference Proceedings*, June, 1902, pp. 180-186.
3. American Library Association: Administrative Reports: Department of Publishing and Cooperative Services. *A.L.A. Bulletin*, 29:333-338, June 1935.
4. Couch, W. T.: *A Survey of A.L.A. Publishing*. (Mimeographed). Chicago, American Library Association, 1942, p. 3.