



Introduction

ANDREW H. HORN

THE HANDLING and use of rare books, fragile books and non-book materials are not new problems to librarians. In recent years, however, and especially since World War II, libraries seem to have been acquiring non-book materials and developing special collections (which, if exhaustive, are sure to go beyond the conventional book) at an accelerated rate. As a result, a body of experience has been developed which might profitably be summarized at this time. The papers which comprise this number of *Library Trends* touch upon several categories of special library materials, excluding rare or manuscript books, memorabilia, and some of the less common special collections such as bookplates, little magazines, etc.

Even a casual comparison of the latest, 1954, *American Library Directory* with the 1945 edition will demonstrate the proliferation of special collections. This trend is being reflected in the organizational structure of libraries also. From the earlier *Directory* it appears that in 1945 only the libraries of Columbia, Indiana, and Stanford universities had coordinated their special collections under a department head. In the 1954 edition of the *Directory*, however, the following additional college or university libraries are listed as having departments, divisions, or supervisors of special collections: Brown University, Butler University, University of California at Los Angeles, University of Chicago, Dartmouth College, University of Georgia, University of Kansas, University of Kentucky, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of New Mexico, Northwestern University, University of Oregon, Rutgers University, Syracuse University, and Wellesley College. The libraries mentioned range in volume size from less than 200,000 to over 2,000,000; and "special collections" means something different in each institution.

The U.C.L.A. Department of Special Collections is perhaps the most comprehensive of all, including specialized services as well as collections: rare books, maps, manuscripts, pamphlets, posters, broadsides,

Mr. Horn is University Librarian, University of North Carolina.

newspapers, music (scores and records), non-musical recordings, microfacsimiles, microfilms, university archives, subject collections, slides and films, bookplates, pictures and prints, paintings, graphic arts materials, coins and currency, stamps, little magazines, scrapbooks, clipping files, blue-prints, photoduplication service and laboratory, and the library's exhibitions service.

The most commonly encountered materials in special collections units are rare books, manuscripts (i.e., collections of papers), local history (manuscripts, imprints, often museum objects), institutional archives, and unit collections on either subjects or types of materials. Of course a local history or unit collection, if at all comprehensive, is apt to include maps, manuscripts, microfilms, pamphlets and even slides and recordings. The preservation, organization and use of these valuable, or at least treasured, materials continue fraught with difficulties. Nevertheless, substantial progress has been made toward solutions of problems and toward fuller exploitation of the fragile or awkward library assets in question. The major research libraries and some of the large public libraries of the United States, the leviathans among our libraries, have pointed the way in many cases through their enormous specialized collections organized as separate departments. Such research libraries as the Clark, Clements, John Crerar, Folger, Huntington, and Newberry have provided technical as well as bibliographical patterns. Ideas of value have also been developed in the departments of miscellany found in smaller libraries where similarities in physical format (e.g., maps, prints, posters), or relationships between divergent formats (e.g., newspapers and microfilms, or manuscripts and pamphlets), or interdependence between equipment and holdings have been necessarily emphasized as a result of efforts to achieve maximum effectiveness with limited space, facilities, and staff.

Another post-war trend which has contributed to better exploitation of non-book resources in libraries is the spectacular development, particularly in public, college, and school libraries, of audio-visual facilities. Library literature between 1876 and 1920, if the Cannons *Bibliography of Library Economy* is to be trusted, made no reference to audio or visual aids as such; but there is ample evidence that already librarians were concerned with pictures, photographs, prints, lantern slides, motion pictures, and phonograph records. In *Library Literature* for 1921-1932 there is no subject heading for visual aids; but in the 1933-1935 index "visual aids" appears with two articles listed, a number which increased to 17 in the 1936-1939 index. In *Library Literature* for 1940-1942 there is a reference from "audio-visual aids" to

Introduction

"visual aids." In the 1943-1945 index articles are listed under both "visual aids" and "audio-visual aids," the latter with subdivisions for the first time. Since 1952 "audio-visual materials" is the term used in *Library Literature* and the amount of writing on the subject, which rose sharply immediately after the war, has become prodigious. There seems also now to be a departure in audio-visual studies from emphasis on gadgetry and library service for illiterates to a fuller recognition of content value and the true relationship between "audio-visual media" and the more traditional types of library materials.

These two post-war trends in special collections and audio-visual organization, combined with others such as Army Map Service depository distribution and the better appreciation of archival or records management techniques on the part of librarians (this latter was substantially enhanced by the summer training institutes on archives and manuscripts collections conducted by Ernst Posner in Washington) are clearly leading toward improved service to scholars and the enrichment of libraries for the general patron.

The nine articles which make up this issue do not presume to encompass all non-book or special book materials in libraries. Rather they single out for review only a selection of types, with emphasis on care, preservation and use. Earlier issues of *Library Trends*, particularly that of October 1953, on cataloging and classification, and that of April 1955, on acquisitions, and the issue announced for January 1956, on conservation of library materials, should be examined for their bearing upon the articles here presented. A few references are cited below as supplementary introductions to this issue on special materials and services. The references listed do not constitute a bibliography, but they have directly influenced the spirit of this introduction and such little hand as the guest editor has been able to lend toward the organization of this issue.

General References

Bennett, Fleming: Audio-Visual Services in Colleges and Universities in the United States. *College and Research Libraries*, 16:11-19, Jan. 1955.

Collison, R. L.: *The Cataloguing, Arrangement and Filing of Special Materials in Special Libraries*. (Aslib Manuals Vol. 2) London, Aslib, 1950.

Collison, R. L.: *Modern Storage Equipment and Methods for Special Materials in Libraries*. London, Library Association, 1955.

Dale, Edgar: The Challenge of Audio-Visual Media. In Shores, Louis, ed.: *Challenges to Librarianship* (Florida State University Studies, No. 12). Tallahassee, Florida State University, 1953, pp. 93-106.

ANDREW H. HORN

Shores, Louis: Audio-Visual Dimensions for an Academic Library. *College and Research Libraries*, 15:393-397, Oct. 1954.

Stone, C. W.: The Place of the Newer Media in the Undergraduate Program. *Library Quarterly*, 24:358-373, Oct. 1954.

Tauber, M. F. and associates: *Technical Services in Libraries*. New York, Columbia University Press, 1954, pp. 332-336+.

Who's Afraid? *Library Journal*, 80:418, Feb. 15, 1955.

Wilson, L. R. and Tauber, M. F.: *The University Library*. Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1945, pp. 137-139, 353-381.