



Introduction

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FOR MANY YEARS the librarians in urban universities have been struggling with problems brought about by the uniqueness of their locations in urban areas. Not until the Washington Conference in 1959, however, did a group of urban university librarians formally organize as a committee of the University Section of A.C.R.L. This committee had a program at the Montreal Conference in 1960, an open meeting under the auspices of the University Section at the Cleveland meeting in 1961, and are now presenting the unique features of their problems in an issue of *Library Trends*.

Birenbaum's article is an introduction to the atmosphere of city life with its urbacultural complexities. These complexities extend into the university, into university libraries, and affect the men and women who are librarians in these urban institutions of higher learning.

Grazier in his "Development of the Urban University Library" gives amazing statistics on the growth of the urban university library. But the truly interesting point brought forth so strongly in his story of the development of the urban university library is the question of the future part which this type of library should play in the continued growth of the university: "Should it lend its resources and services to the cause of the good urban society?"

The clientele of the urban university library reaches far beyond the faculty and university students themselves, and it is the problems of this diversified clientele—high school students, alumni, business and industry—which are dwelt upon by Hardin Craig, Jr., and Richard Perrine of Rice University, by Donald T. Smith of Boston University, and by Natalie Nicholson of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The public librarian of the metropolitan area of Miami, Florida, states that "The American Public Library is there for whoever will use it." However, he realizes that the American college student has

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greatly increased the problems of public libraries and that the public and university librarian must work together for common solutions.

Robert Talmadge and Roy Kidman of Tulane University in New Orleans discuss the nonresident student, the student so common to the urban university. He may work part-time; he may work full-time; he may commute. Questionnaires were sent to 38 urban universities, and the answers were so different that few generalizations could be made. This result confirms the realization that the problems of urban universities are even greater than they seem to the casual observer. The state, the region, the city, and the type of university, whether it be municipal, state, or private, all affect the type of student body.

Haas has presented statistics for the New York metropolitan area which might appear pertinent only to the unique area of New York City and not applicable elsewhere. And yet, a closer reading of the article reveals that to a lesser degree the same general findings would, in all probability, apply to Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston, or Pittsburgh.

The off-campus unit has become a powerful force in the urban university. The University of Chicago, the University of Illinois and Northwestern University have three such units in the city of Chicago. Rutgers University, located in New Brunswick, New Jersey, a city of some 40,000 persons, has its off-campus unit at Newark in a much more heavily populated area than that of the parent institution. Newark has a population of almost 406,000. Off-campus units in urban areas have a rugged path, for they are too far away from the parent institution to utilize the main library. Because they are in an urban area, there is a great tendency to allow them to be dependent upon the public library, upon the libraries of other educational institutions in the community, or even upon special libraries.

In the great population centers with clusters of institutions of higher learning it would be natural to try to establish a program for cooperative purchasing among those institutions. In Pittsburgh the feeling of cooperation was at one time exceedingly high. The public library, the university libraries, the college libraries, and the special libraries worked together to promote cooperation. In spite of promotion, willingness, and pilot projects, efforts directed toward cooperative purchasing could not be termed completely successful. Where and how the plan fell short, Miss Moore attempts to explain. Even without total success the Pittsburgh project is worthy of study because where one area has fallen short another may succeed.

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And what of the future demands upon the urban university libraries? Everett Moore of California makes pronouncements. All types of libraries must become knowledgeable of each other in respect to services, books, and personnel. As time goes on, the libraries at urban universities will be in greater and greater demand, not only with the student, but with the public, with industry, and with business. It will only be through the greatest cooperative effort with all libraries that these urban university libraries may continue to be useful and productive.

This issue of *Library Trends* ends with a short article on recruiting by the chairman of the recruiting committee of the Pennsylvania Library Association. The urban area is a fertile field for recruitment in any profession. Unfortunately, librarians have come nowhere near to realizing its full potential.

Urban areas are under constant study. Such recent books as Jane Jacobs's *The Death and Life of Great Cities*, James B. Conant's *Slums and Suburbs*, and Jean Gottmann's *Megalopolis*, evidence this great interest. The city is emerging as an area of extreme controversy—should there be a central city; is migration to the suburbs permanent? The whole span of urban life presents problems which have not been solved. But they are being studied, and answers to some of them are unfolding. The urban university, too, is changing just as completely as is the city. And like its parent institution, the university library is undergoing change. How and to what extent, and the nature of the relationships involved, the contributors to this issue of *Library Trends* have tried to assess. Like the city itself, the problems of urban university libraries are being studied, and answers to some of them may be unfolding.