



A graphic illustration of the difference between centers and libraries may be observed in Figures 1 and 2. The primary functions of the centers are shown in Fig. 1, while the primary functions of the

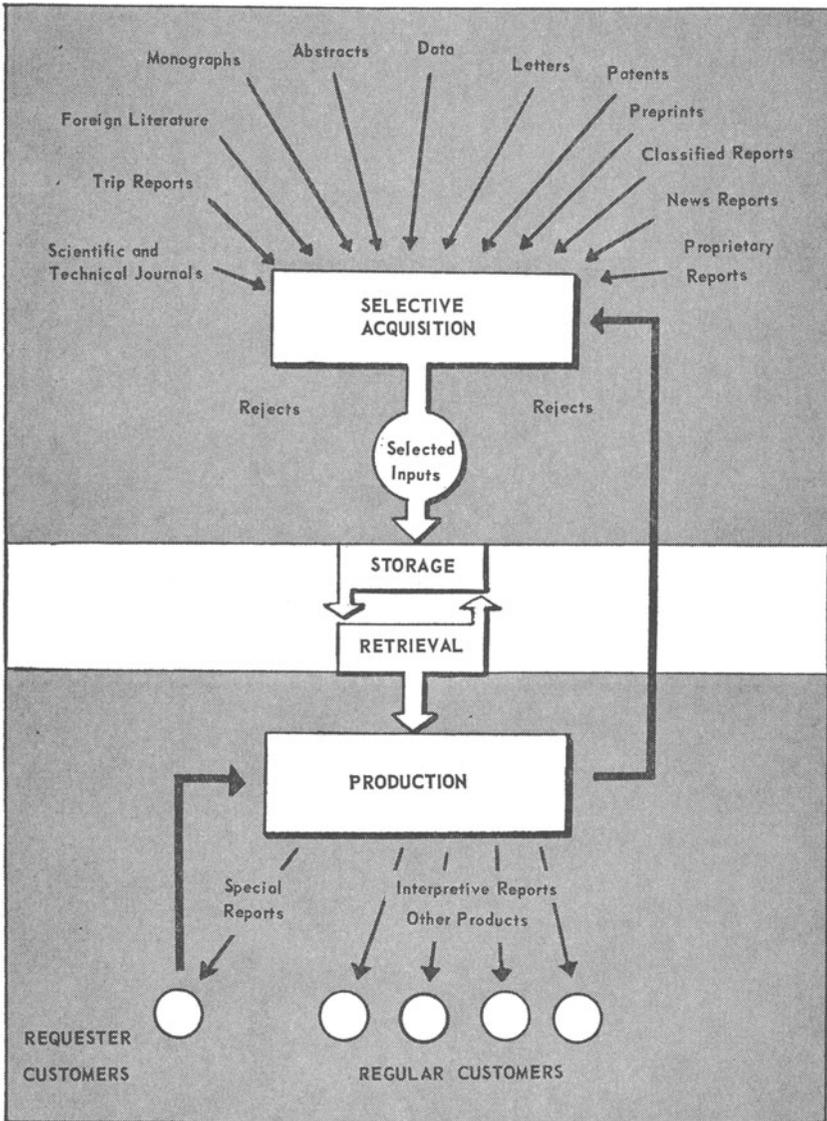
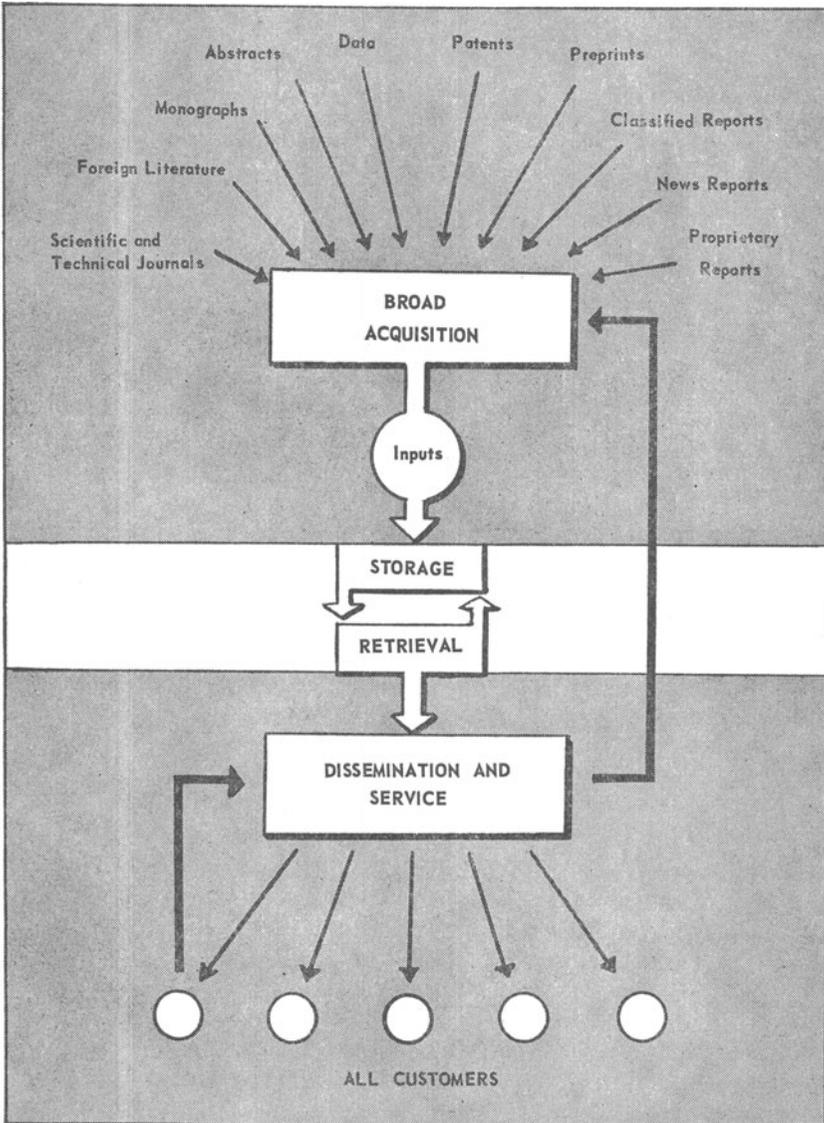


Figure 1. The Primary Functions of Scientific Information Centers

*Comparison of Functions of Libraries and Information Centers*

libraries are shown in Fig. 2. Acquisition, storage, retrieval, and service to customers are common to both. In Fig. 1, the block indicating "Production" shows an important function peculiar to information



*Figure 2. The Primary Functions of Libraries*

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centers. It is in this area where specialists evaluate and analyze information and produce interpretive reports. In fact, it is in this area where new information is generated.

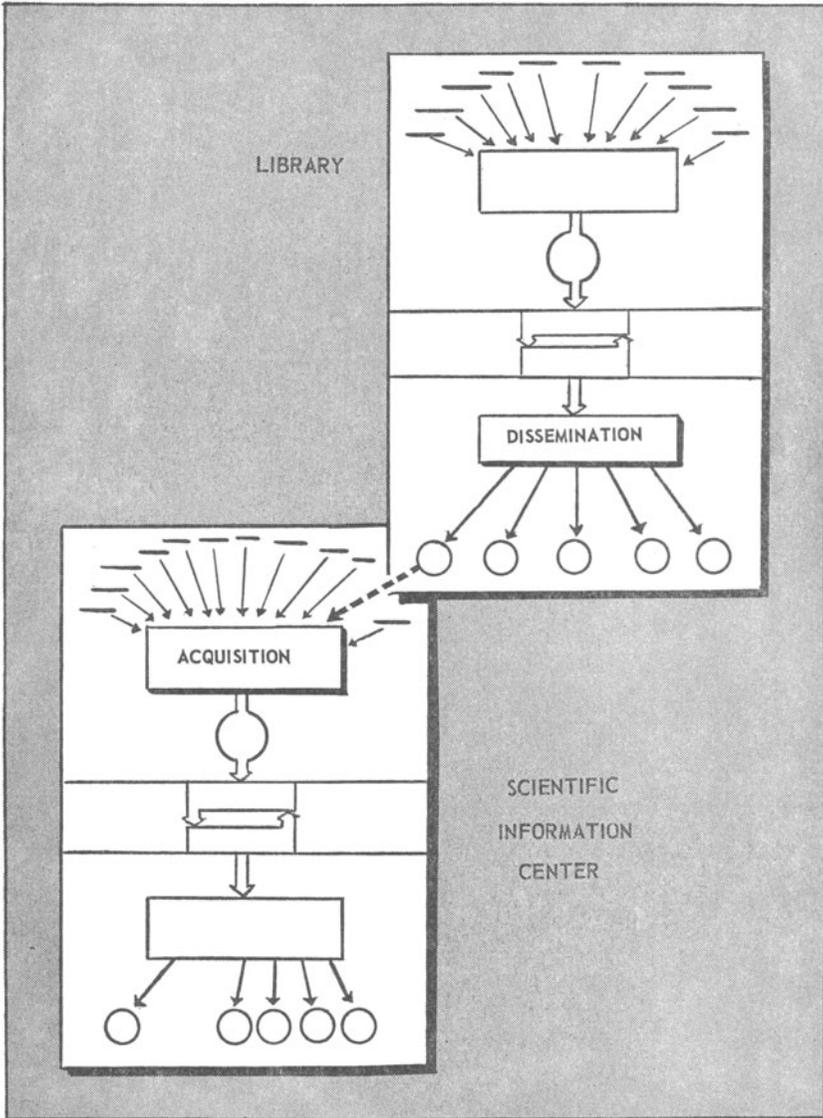


Figure 3. The Primary Support of Libraries to Scientific Information Centers

### *Comparison of Functions of Libraries and Information Centers*

Both libraries and information centers are involved in the acquisition of materials. Librarians familiar with the bibliographical tools of the world, identify, locate, and acquire foreign and domestic publications for the library. In this sphere of activity, the libraries support the centers, as illustrated in Fig. 3. The amount of support will vary, depending upon the needs of the centers. At Battelle, where there are several centers, large and small, the acquisition support is substantial. It is safe to say that the presence of the information centers at Battelle has increased library acquisition activity by several hundred items per month.

There is another phase of acquisition that is unique to the information centers. For example, they may send the specialists on extensive tours to acquire information, some of which may never be published. Interviews with authors, visits to universities, conferences, conventions, test fields, laboratories, test facilities, design laboratories, and production plants, and exchanges of foreign communications are ways in which materials are acquired for information centers. This activity may be justified in terms of dollars when a center is involved in a highly competitive field or if the technical problem is sufficiently critical to warrant such intensive effort.

Libraries and centers are involved in the indexing of information, but here again their procedures differ. Libraries usually index books by author, title, and subject. With some rare exceptions, they do not attempt to index or abstract journal articles to any great extent. In a large scientific and technical library, it would take millions of dollars to index and abstract all the journal articles pertinent to the multiple interests of its users. The obvious solution is to buy all the necessary indexing and abstracting services. On the other hand, it is logical for a center, working in a highly specialized field, to abstract journal articles of interest immediately upon receipt. The center must also index them in depth and from its own viewpoint for effective and timely retrieval.

The number of information centers will increase if the present trend continues, but any radical changes in the relationship between libraries and information centers in the near future is not anticipated. The information centers at Battelle have not changed the library operations to any extent, but they have increased library activity in practically every department, including interlibrary loan work.

Both centers and libraries are experimenting with machines and automation. When the cost is justifiable and when the machines are

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able to increase the efficiency of a particular operation, they will be used by the libraries and the centers.

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