



# *Introduction*

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THE EXPLOSION of scientific knowledge, the increased production of materials, and the amount of money being spent by government and industry for research and development have created problems for libraries of all types and sizes in their efforts to serve industry and applied research. This service has many facets and it is the intention of this issue of *Library Trends* to explore them. Areas not to be covered are service to business as opposed to science and technology, service to labor, or, except for the case study of the General Motors Research Library, service by individual special libraries to their own parent agencies.

A few significant statements made recently point up the problem. Robert Vosper in his American Library Association (ALA) inaugural address in Detroit, July 9, 1965, emphasized the tremendous increase in demands for research materials placed on libraries because of federal contracts for research. He said:

The plain and cruel fact is that research library and information services have fundamentally been left dependent on local and inadequate financial resources at a time when these immense injections of federal funds into academic and industrial research have produced a staggering increase in demands for library services.<sup>1</sup>

In this issue of *Library Trends*, Daniel R. Pfoutz and Jackson B. Cohen point out the inadequacy of much of the public library service to industry, even though these needs have been recognized for a long time. Natalie Nicholson describes the burden placed on university libraries by industrial research requests and the means of meeting

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them. This may take the form of fees for service, contractual arrangements with industry or even refusal to answer the demands. The needs of industry for services beyond their own libraries is summarized by Winifred Sewell with an indication of the resources available.

Fortunately not all the requirements of industry have to be met by public and university libraries. Professional and trade association libraries, independent research libraries, information centers, and federal government agencies all have a part in serving these requests. The extent and importance of the services are pointed out by Ralph H. Phelps, William S. Budington, Charles A. Brophy, Jr. and John W. Murdock, and Dwight E. Gray and J. Burlin Johnson in their chapters covering these areas. The federal government, through its Committee on Scientific and Technical Information (COSATI), may play an even larger role in the future planning for information systems in science and technology. William T. Knox, the Chairman of this Committee, in his speech in Detroit at the ALA Convention, July 8, 1965, foresees drastic changes in the role of libraries. He says:

But for science and technology, I would guess that, if one or two libraries in the United States had a complete collection of published material and could find a requested item and supply a copy promptly on request, every other library in the nation could safely discard all published material more than twenty to thirty years old in science and technology. The savings in library space and construction costs are staggering to contemplate.<sup>2</sup>

E. B. Jackson's analysis of the General Motors Research Library's inter-library loan requests bears out this statement. He found that 60 per cent of the requests were for material published since 1960. Knox made a further point when he said:

They (the scientist and engineer) do not want access to all information, much of it outdated, bearing on the problem. . . . The need is for less, not more, information—but information of a higher degree of pertinence.<sup>2</sup>

Stephen McCarthy and Raymond Swank in their analysis of the Midwest Inter-Library Center (now The Center for Research Libraries) have also pointed to the changing role of the research library. They say: "What he (the research scholar) seems really to need is a more evaluative, selective, and personalized kind of service than our libraries have ever presumed to offer."<sup>3</sup> F. R. Taylor in his chapter in this issue on "Library Service to Industry in Great Britain and on

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the Continent" refers to this in contrasting "passive" and "active" service. The former applies to the collecting and making available of materials, and the latter to their evaluation and selection for a particular demand.

Whether the bulk of research material for industry is stored in great national centers with specific subject responsibility or in regional centers or maintained locally, it all points to a need for cooperation between libraries of all kinds. The need to know *where* material is available and how to obtain it through loan, photocopy, or telecommunication is imperative. Bill Woods discusses many of these plans for cooperation and shows the role which the Special Libraries Association has been playing in these schemes for many years.

The need for better and quicker means of communication between libraries, if they are to serve industry adequately, and the importance of new copying devices to replace interlibrary loan, is emphasized over and over in these papers. They substantiate the points made by Verner Clapp in *The Future of the Research Library*, when he reports that while local self-sufficiency is a goal justifying much effort and expense, the improvement of techniques of sharing resources is of utmost importance.<sup>4</sup> If strong representation can be substantiated for the regional resource library interfacing with compatible facilities, then it will be possible for these resource libraries to maintain the Clapp concept of local self-sufficiency and at the same time provide copies or graphic representation of the material at the industrial location of priority need.

## References

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2. Knox, William T. "The Changing Role of Libraries," *ALA Bulletin*, 59:722, Sept. 1965.
3. Williams, Gordon. "The Center for Research Libraries: Its New Organization and Programs," *Library Journal*, 90:2948, July 1965.
4. Clapp, Verner. *The Future of the Research Library*. Urbana, University of Illinois Press, 1964, p. 31.