

their meetings and conventions. The theme of the 1965 SLA annual convention held June 6-10, in Philadelphia, was "Library Cooperation—Key to Greater Resources."

Two disturbing ideas have been presented to special librarians in recent years. The first, and the one which seems to have sparked a new era of cooperation on the part of special librarians, was the bomb dropped in 1959 by Samuel Sass, a special librarian, who asked the pointed question: "Must Special Libraries be Parasites?"⁵ Obviously he hit a sore point. Some answered no, not really;⁶ others may have agreed or disagreed, but did nothing; still others plunged wholeheartedly into investigations on how they might participate in cooperative programs at the local and state level with other libraries and with regional and national bibliographic centers.

The second idea was contained in the sharp remarks made in 1964 by a federal technical information administrator who said:

The ingrained cooperation among librarians, originally developed for the laudable purpose of facilitating the joint use of collections, has been misused—probably inadvertently—to unify their resistance to technical people's demands for new kinds of services. Under these conditions, library service in general has gravitated to its lowest common denominator, a familiar phenomenon of noncompetitive situations.⁷

Some readers understand these words to mean that librarians were being accused of cooperating themselves into oblivion, and in their stead would rise a new brand of information handler with a more useful and durable function. Many special librarians have been made cautious about participating in cooperative programs, by this point of view and that of two management consultants who feel that the librarian must be persuaded in each case that cooperation is in the interest of the institution he serves.⁸

But what forces have made it impossible for any one library to meet from its own collection all needs of its users? And have not these been the same forces that have compelled librarians to cooperate as best they could to meet the needs of their users? Munn offers these reasons for the large university and research library;⁹ they seem to be equally valid for the industrial library.

(1) More than a 90 per cent increase between 1951 and 1963 in the publication of books and journals.

(2) High cost of printed materials (a 32 per cent increase for 1964

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over the 1957-59 average for science books,¹⁰ and for 1965, a 75 per cent increase for scientific periodicals, and a 187 per cent increase for serial services in science and technology).¹¹

(3) Emphasis upon research which brings insistent demand for foreign, highly specialized, and other obscure materials.

(4) Cost of processing and housing this rising tide of print.

It is staggering to comprehend the statistics which report that support of scientific and industrial research increased 3,714 per cent in the 20 years from 1940 through 1960, and at the same time support of libraries increased only a fraction of that amount—522 per cent for public libraries and 765 per cent for academic libraries.¹²

On the other hand, the increase in the number of special libraries is phenomenal. There were 1,154 libraries included in a 1935 directory;¹³ in 1953 another source noted the existence of 2,489 special libraries and special collections.¹⁴ Ten years later a comprehensive directory¹⁵ listed 8,533 special libraries and information centers. In just 1,634 of these libraries (the company or 'for profit' libraries totaling 2,221), resources include 14,349,073 books, and in 1,334 libraries 281,644 journal titles are being received currently.¹⁶ Some 2,461 professional and 3,813 non-professional staff are providing service to users.¹⁷

Although some librarians in each generation since Winsor have questioned the merits of cooperation, it has flourished and taken several forms—storage centers, interlibrary loans, directories, cooperative cataloging, duplicate exchanges, union lists of several sorts, shared resources, and cooperative acquisitions. Industrial libraries have participated to some extent in all, but have been particularly active in those mentioned below.

One of the earliest cooperative undertakings of the Special Libraries Association was compilation of a directory of specialized libraries. In fact, a call for directory information was made in the first issue (January 1910) of *Special Libraries*,¹⁸ and the April issue included a directory describing nearly 100 special libraries.¹⁹ Boston area special librarians produced their first directory of special libraries in 1920, and in 1961 issued a sixth edition. In the same year, 1920, the Special Libraries Council of Philadelphia and Vicinity came out with its first directory; in 1964, an eleventh edition was published. New York Chapter's *Special Libraries Directory of Greater New York* appeared

in a tenth edition in 1963; the first had appeared in 1928. Resources in Southern California were first described in a 1922 directory.

Daniel N. Handy, Chairman of the Committee that produced the 1920 Boston directory, the first done by an SLA Chapter, later reminisced:

Now it seems very simple. It was not simple then. Few special librarians knew what the city offered by way of specialized information and it was a matter of more or less guessing and fumbling if one were called upon to give an intelligent answer to requests for information for someone outside one's own immediate field. . . .²⁰

Nationwide directories sponsored by the Association appeared in 1921,²¹ 1925,²² 1935,¹³ and 1953,¹⁴ and resources were described in depth in *Special Library Resources* which appeared in four volumes dated 1941, 1946, and 1947.²³ The *Kruzas Directory*¹⁵ and the recent expansion of Bowker's *American Library Directory*²⁴ provides up-to-date country-wide information on current resources and lending practices of special libraries. Local Chapters of SLA in the United States and Canada continue to compile directories of local library resources, in many cases using automated or computerized methods. Each library listed is, in a sense, advertising its resources and at the same time learning the specialties and usefulness of neighboring libraries. Two other units of the Association, the Metals/Materials Division and the Pharmaceutical Section, have specialized directories in preparation.

The journal is a principal resource of the technical library. It is the journal—some 60,000 of them and increasing by 10 per cent each year—that the scientist and engineer use to report his own research and to learn of the research of his colleagues. The company library is usually small,²⁵ and is geared to make use of another company library or a larger university or public library for needs outside its immediate field and for the more esoteric titles. The union list serves as the principal source of location of such titles.

The idea of the union list is not new but dates back at least to 1859 when one was issued in Milan.²⁶ Special librarians have used the union list since 1921 when the Special Libraries Association of Boston issued its first *Union List of Periodicals and Annuals Taken By Eleven Special Libraries in Boston*, a 16-page alphabetical list. At least 27 of SLA's 33 Chapters have been involved in union list projects as have three Divisions and two Sections. Examples of such undertakings are

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found in New Jersey and New York.²⁷ In the forty-five years since the first SLA sponsored union list appeared, something like sixty-three different editions and revisions have been issued. Some were preliminary editions with a limited distribution; some reported journal holdings of libraries within a single Chapter, region, state, or metropolitan area; some have ambitiously given holdings within a single subject field within a restricted area or on a nationwide basis. Most of the subject lists have covered science and technology journals, but others have included holdings in social science, Russian scientific journals, Latin American materials, Russian journals in translation, transportation, military science, health sciences, and science-technology house journals. Seven SLA Chapters cooperate with a larger research library in their area to maintain and to keep up-to-date a union list on cards, and to provide a telephone reference service for its use.

The union list is criticized as an outmoded method of bibliographical control. This may be so, yet it has not discouraged compilers of the fourteen lists issued by SLA since 1960 (four carry early 1965 imprints). Six more are being prepared currently and are to be published shortly. The concept of the union list may be over a century old, but the methods now being used in its preparation and updating are modern and provide evidence of the compilers' familiarity with the latest techniques of information handling.

Other projects of the Special Libraries Association have provided service to the industrial libraries represented in the membership. Probably an early intention for the Association was an information service such as that established in 1911 as the Boston Cooperative Information Bureau or as provided by Aslib in the United Kingdom. In the Boston instance, ten different participating sponsors were responsible for information in the ten general divisions of the Dewey Decimal Classification. The Association has not developed such a service, but has left this to other agencies to provide.

Foreign scientific and technical literature was in great demand during the World War II period. In 1946, the SLA Engineering-Aeronautics Section began a card file recording the location of translated material available on loan. The index soon became a pool as the translations themselves were brought together in one location. A permanent home for the pool was found in 1953 when 927 translations were transferred to a Translations Center organized at the John Crerar Library in Chicago. Since 1956 the Center has had both government and private foundation grant and government contract support. Hold-

ings of the Center in late 1965 were 110,000 items, many contributed voluntarily by the company, society, or university responsible for the translating. Government agencies have contributed their translations through the Clearinghouse for Federal Scientific and Technical Information of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Since October 1958, nearly 37,000 translations have come from private sources. In September 1965, a gift of 3,700 translations from Monsanto Company was announced. Another service, a second edition of a directory of *Translators and Translations* was published last year.

The Pharmaceutical Section of the Special Libraries Association provides three special services to the pharmaceutical industry: the 16-year old *Unlisted Drugs, COPNIP List*, published by the Committee on Pharmacomedical Nonserial Industrial Publications, and "Drug Information Sources." The Bibliographical Series begun in 1955 by the Metals/Materials Division includes each fall a number of specialized and continuing bibliographies. An information service on *Scientific Meetings* has been issued since 1957 and the *Technical Book Review Index* since 1935. Since World War II, technical reports have rivaled the journal as a source of research results. The Rio Grande Chapter of SLA has taken the initiative in report literature control through its *Dictionary of Report Series Codes* (1962) and in a fall 1965 conference.

Still another cooperative effort of librarians, and one popular with special librarians, is the duplicate exchange. The San Francisco Bay Region Chapter of SLA, for example, organized such an exchange in the early 1930's. Others soon followed suit, and today a number of Chapters and two Divisions maintain such a service. Industrial librarians, too, participated in the development of the United States Book Exchange and 294 company libraries (25 per cent of the membership) were members in 1964.

For several years, 1958-1961, a Committee on Science and Technology Resources of the Science-Technology Group of the New York Chapter considered cooperative means of solving resources problems, both of the smaller user library and the larger resource library. Numerous solutions were discussed, but the Committee disbanded to await developments in a statewide program. In Cleveland the SLA Chapter is considering a preliminary report which suggests a deposit center for microform copies of bulky and infrequently used materials and a staffed telephone reference service for industry in a large research library. The Rio Grande Chapter for several years has been

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identifying and aiding the research and reference needs of New Mexico business and industry. A storage center for little-used materials is being considered by the New Jersey Chapter. Willingness of one small library to help another is well-known and well-developed in the special library world even though the parent organizations may be fierce business rivals such as is often true among advertising agencies, investment counsellors, and accounting firms in New York. Being "in the Book"—that is, in a local SLA Chapter membership directory—provides automatic entrée and privilege in a number of cities.

There is scarcely an industrial area in which some kind of cooperative program of library service is not in existence—Hartford, Kalamazoo, Buffalo, Chicago, Kansas City, central New Jersey, Akron, Wilmington—to name a few. Several others are of particular interest. The "Insiders"²⁸ have been characterized as a refinement of the interchange which is provided by SLA and through the subject Divisions and locally in a utilitarian and workaday way through the Chapters. In the land of cooperatives, six company libraries in a complex of buildings called Northstar Center in downtown Minneapolis typify the possibilities of cooperation and of shared resources without sacrificing sovereignty, proprietary interests, or convenience. Each of the existing libraries—advertising, finance, public utilities, paper, banking, and food processing—has retained the same physical appearance and user group. Initial accomplishments were adoption of a plan whereby the journal, serial, and reference services of any one of the libraries are available to all six libraries. Beyond compilation of a union list, decisions were made on short-term and long-term retention of journal holdings. The same idea has been extended to include services, directories, reference books, the general book collection, as well as in several other areas for "inside" and outside cooperation.

The need for a cooperative library service to industry is likely often to precede the ability to organize such a service to meet acknowledged conditions. One such example is the proposed Houston Technical Information Center.²⁹ Houston's situation is typical of that existing in other metropolitan areas. The city has experienced tremendous growth; industry has diversified and expanded, company libraries have not kept pace or do not exist; public and university libraries are cooperative and willing but over-used, under-stocked, and understaffed. An ad hoc Committee for the Development of Library Resources was formed late in 1961. The Committee developed a plan

for a Technical Information Center, intended to provide access to information sources of the area. To companies without libraries, it would serve as a principal resource and to those with libraries as an auxiliary source. A 1963 conference assessed the information needs of the area and an SLA Texas Chapter conference late in 1965 appraised existing resources and future patterns of development of science information for the entire state. Progress on financing has been slow although support from the Houston Chamber of Commerce has been secured.

The Houston List,³⁰ showing the location and availability of more than 8,000 scientific and technical serials, appeared in 1963. Since that time the *List* has been expanded to become *The Texas List of Scientific and Technical Serial Publications*; in addition to reporting on holdings of 12,000 titles, it describes library services of 100 participating libraries throughout Texas. It will be kept up-to-date by quarterly and annual supplements.

Another recently formed cooperative is The Library Group of Southwestern Connecticut, Inc.³¹ Informally organized in the Stamford and Norwalk area in 1963 and incorporated in 1964, the agency is attempting to meet the growing research needs of lower Fairfield County. Affiliation with the Management Council of Southwestern Connecticut has strengthened the Group. Accomplishments to date include a directory of library resources and a union list of over 2,000 scientific serials, both maintained in the Ferguson Library (public library in Stamford). Other approved programs include joint purchase of equipment and research materials and the acquisition of microfilm copies of journals.

Shared resources, but improved by materials acquired with government funds, are the basis for many of the cooperative plans being discussed among reference and research libraries. The proposed New York State 3R's program (Reference and Research Library Resources), which has experienced difficulty at the hands of the State's Governor and Legislature, is not unlike, although perhaps more ambitious, than programs in various stages of thinking, talking, and planning in Pennsylvania, Michigan, West Virginia, New Jersey, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Connecticut, and elsewhere. Special librarians have an integral part to play in such plans as those proposed for the Rochester area,³² New York City,³³ and Long Island.³⁴ Expanded direct service to industry by state libraries in a number of states such as New Jersey and Oregon is also being planned.

Progress in providing library service to industry is being made in

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California. Well-known for their long-time useful services are the Pacific Aerospace Library, the Engineering Library at the University of California, and the Technical Information Service at Stanford University.³⁵ An automated library service to meet academic and industrial needs has been proposed at Harvey Mudd College, Claremont, California.³⁶ Associated Science Libraries of San Diego, another example of cooperation, was originated by seven scientific and technical libraries hoping to give better library service, to avoid duplication of expensive publications, and to provide quick and easy access to the specialized collections of the area.³⁷ In the Los Angeles area both the SLA Southern California Chapter and the Los Angeles Technical Societies Council have considered improved information services, the latter in connection with a proposed Council building.

Medical librarians have made some of the most dramatic progress in cooperative programs. One major example is the Medical Library Center of New York,³⁸ although not intended to serve industry primarily, does provide services of value. Present programs include a Union Catalog of Medical Periodicals, a storage center for little-used materials, cooperative acquisitions, and an extensive medical inter-library loan study.

A unique self-help group formed in Europe in 1959 is the *Dokumentationsring der Chemisch-Pharmazeutischen*, which in 1963 had one American pharmaceutical firm as a member. Its purpose is to provide for its members a current, machine-searchable index to the most important segment of biochemical and biomedical published literature and patents. In 1964 the operation was expanded and is being commercially operated as Ringdoc.³⁹

It would seem evident from the foregoing that there is no lack of planning for library service or lack of existing services to industry. Critics will contend that there is little rhyme or reason to the paucity of planning in some areas and a multiplicity of plans in other areas. Some would place great faith in plans for development of a national science information system or network of systems, as is presently being studied by the Federal Council for Science and Technology's Committee on Scientific and Technical Information (COSATI). Others would place hope in the voluntary programs which develop invariably to meet existing needs.

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