The Library of Congress Abroad

JOHN G. LORENZ, et al.

From its earliest beginning the Library of Congress has been aware that to serve the needs of the government and the nation it must evolve a highly developed foreign acquisitions program. The effective founding of the Library might be said to date from the placing with a London dealer in June 1800 of the first order for an initial shipment of books. The first exchange of official publications with a foreign country, France, took place in 1837. However, foreign documents did not begin to arrive at the Library in quantity until after 1867, when Congress passed a resolution authorizing the exchange of public documents. The previous year, the acquisition of the 40,000-volume Smithsonian Institution Library gave the Library of Congress an outstanding collection of foreign scientific publications. The Smithsonian exchange system provided for its continued growth and also served as the mechanism for the exchange of official publications.

As might be expected, the emphasis in the development of the Library's collections concerning foreign geographic areas was on Western Europe. However, by the end of the nineteenth century, the Library had also accumulated a considerable Chinese collection (exchange with China started in 1869), and its acquisition in 1907 of the private library of Gennadius Vasilievich Yudin placed it among the foremost institutions in the Russian field. Collections covering other areas of the world were gradually developed but it was not until the 1940s that emphasis was placed on the prompt and comprehensive acquisition upon publication of all materials the Library might later require. The increased attention to publications from overseas is reflected in the "Canons of Selection" by the then Librarian of Congress, Archibald MacLeish, which read: "The Library of Congress should possess, in some useful form, the material parts of the records of other societies, past and present, and should accumulate, in original or in copy, full and
representative collections of the written records of those societies and peoples whose experience is of most immediate concern to the people of the United States.  

American involvement in World War II and subsequent developments made it clear that any society or peoples of the world could be of immediate interest to the United States and the Canons of Selection were broadened accordingly. Following the war, the Library of Congress, in cooperation with other major American libraries, established a cooperative acquisitions project for European war-year publications. During its three-year existence, the project shipped from abroad a total of 819,000 books and periodical volumes, representing approximately 2,000,000 pieces. Of these items, 231,000 went to the Library of Congress and 588,000 to other libraries. This project was the forerunner of later efforts of a more permanent character, to be discussed below.

THE PROCESSING DEPARTMENT

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES

Turning to the present scene, the Library of Congress, through its Exchange and Gift Division, operates the largest program in the United States for the exchange of publications. In addition to administering the official exchanges of sets of United States government publications with other nations, the Library also maintains more than 22,000 unofficial exchange arrangements with educational institutions, learned societies and governmental agencies—national, state and municipal—in nearly all countries throughout the world.

The official exchanges stem from two primary sources: (1) the Brussels Conventions of 1886, which provide for the exchange of official documents of the signatory and adhering nations; and (2) executive agreements concluded with foreign governments by the United States Department of State, in which the Library is named as the recipient of the foreign documents and is charged with implementing the agreements for the United States. Under these agreements the Library supplies either a full or partial set of U.S. official publications in return for a set of the official publications issued by the other government.

The historical background of the present official exchanges is briefly as follows: in 1886, as a result of the signing by the United States of the first Brussels Convention, the Library of Congress commenced the exchange of official documents with other signatories. Henceforth all negotiations for the official exchanges of U.S. government publications have been handled by the Library, since 1943 through the Exchange
and Gift Division, while the International Exchange Service of the Smithsonian Institution functions as an agency for the transmission of these publications.

Bilateral or executive agreements, negotiated on behalf of the Library by the Department of State in the form of notes exchanged with the foreign offices of other countries, have been used to supplement the Brussels Conventions since the first such agreement was concluded with Peru in 1936. Forty-eight such agreements are now in effect. This type of dual-nation agreement is specifically sanctioned by the Convention Concerning the Exchange of Official Publications and Government Documents between States adopted by the general conference of UNESCO at Paris on December 3, 1958.

The remaining exchanges conducted by the Library, constituting the vast majority of such arrangements, are considered "unofficial exchanges." These are negotiated directly with potential exchange partners by the Exchange and Gift Division and do not stem from conventions or executive agreements. The principles upon which these unofficial exchanges are based fall into the following categories:

1. Piece-for-piece exchange (which should also include subscription-for-subscription exchanges for serials)—publications are exchanged for others of nearly the same value and character. In nearly all cases the periodicals are the publications of the exchange partners; the books may be their own publications or duplicates.

2. Priced exchanges—each partner agrees to supply publications of a set monetary value to the other in a stated period of time, thus requiring bookkeeping to insure that exchanges are balanced at the end of the period. Such exchanges, because of administrative costs, are usually limited to organizations in countries which lack a national bibliography or a reliable book trade, and where such an exchange is the best possible means of obtaining the publications of that country.

3. The open exchange—there is little or no accounting of the monetary value of the materials involved. The philosophy of such an arrangement is that if each partner supplies the other with one copy of all its publications or certain specially designated ones (perhaps also duplicates), the exchange will tend over a period of time to be balanced. As with the piece-for-piece exchange, efforts are made to strike an approximate balance.

During recent years the Library has been receiving well over 500,000 pieces annually from all exchange sources. In return for the publications received, the Library sends its exchange partners its own publica-
The Library of Congress Abroad

tions and those of other agencies of the United States government. It is authorized (under 44 United States Code 1719) to requisition for use on international exchange up to 125 copies of each publication issued by the Government Printing Office. The Library also offers books selected from its large collection of duplicates, covering almost all subject fields.

A large and growing number of books are received as gifts by the Library directly from publishers in overseas countries. Between 1,000 and 2,000 pieces per year have come from this source in recent years.

The Library also currently supplies depository sets, consisting of monthly issues and quarterly and annual cumulations of The National Union Catalog, the Library of Congress Catalog—Books: Subjects, [the National Library of Medicine Catalog], and New Serial Titles, to some fifty-seven foreign libraries and institutions. These publications are furnished at the Library’s expense to recipient libraries selected because they are major, centrally located libraries which, by virtue of their importance, serve as regional bibliographical centers. When this program was begun in 1949, it was the Library’s intention that these printed catalogs should replace the depository sets of printed Library of Congress catalog cards previously sent to foreign libraries. Many of the recipients had also already received from the International Relations Office of the American Library Association sets of A Catalog of Books Represented by Library of Congress Printed Cards (August 1898 through July 1942) and the Supplement (August 1942 through December 1947), which were purchased with funds provided by the Rockefeller Foundation.

PURCHASING ABROAD

The policy of the Library of Congress in the acquisition of publications by purchase is to buy current publications in the country of publication whenever possible. Since the emphasis on the acquisition of current materials is to acquire them as soon after publication as possible, the purchase in the country of origin not only helps meet this purpose, but enables the recommending officers to make full and judicious use of national bibliographies where they are available. To further expedite the receipt of publications as well as to keep unwanted duplication as low as possible, a blanket order system is in effect throughout the world utilizing one dealer in each country (an exception is made where the distribution of law books or the distribution of serial publications is better served by one dealer while another dealer supplies all other categories of publications).

JANUARY, 1972
The blanket order contract authorizes the dealer to select and send new publications produced in his country without further request from the Library of Congress according to the guidelines set forth in the agreement. These indicate the number of multiple copies required in numerous categories and identify the types of publications not to be supplied. This system of dealer selection coupled with the use of national bibliographies wherever available has resulted in a smoothly operating purchase acquisition program for publications desired for the collections of the Library. In those countries having no national bibliography, it is necessary to rely on the abilities and interests of the dealer for an adequate supply of current publications. In areas where no organized book trade exists or no adequate dealer can be located, the Library requests the State Department agency available in the country (embassy or consulate) to purchase new publications.

The advent of the National Program for Acquisitions and Cataloging (NPAC), which is designed to acquire all current publications of value to scholarship for the production of catalog cards rather than primarily for the collections of the Library, made necessary greatly expanded acquisition methods. The regular general and law blanket orders for books required for the collections have been retained, as have been the selections by Library of Congress specialists; however, these have been greatly augmented by books supplied for the NPAC cataloging operations as a result of their acquisition by other American libraries.

The acquisition of non-current materials recommended for purchase from citations, individual offers, dealer catalogs, auction catalogs, or other sources is through specific orders to the individuals or dealers making the offers, or by bids at auctions.

The expanding use of and need for microforms and microreproductions have greatly increased not only the number purchased but also the complexity of the problems involved in their procurement. The latter is especially true with microreproductions and moving picture films produced in countries where technical standards are often insufficient to meet archival needs. In an attempt to resolve some of these problems, the Library has joined in several international acquisition programs developed by the Center for Research Libraries—namely the Foreign Newspaper Microfilm Project (FNMP), the Cooperative Africana Microform Project (CAMP), the South Asia Microform Project (SAMP), and the South East Asia Microform Project (SEAM).

Since 1925 the Library has had a continuous and extensive program of acquiring serviceable reproductions by the best existing methods (usually microfilm) of manuscript material on American history in Eu-
ropean archives. The program has not only enriched the collections of the Library but also has assisted the archives involved in producing preservation copies of archival materials. A further advantage of programs of this nature is that they make copies of foreign archival collections available to both American and foreign investigators without disturbing the original documents. The reproduction of foreign archival materials is supported in large part by the income from the James B. Wilbur Bequest, administered under the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board, augmented from time to time by gift funds from individuals, associations, and foundations.

Subscriptions of all kinds normally are placed with the publisher or with an agent in his country, usually the blanket order dealer.

THE PUBLIC LAW 480 PROGRAM

In 1962 the Library of Congress began a limited acquisitions service for American research libraries authorized under Public Law 83-480 (PL-480), as amended. This legislation governs the sale of surplus agricultural commodities to foreign countries and authorizes the use of local currencies which accrue when they are in excess of the needs of the U.S. government, for the purchase of library materials in multiple copies.

Since 1962 offices staffed by local personnel and administered by an American field director have been established in India, Indonesia, Israel, Pakistan, the United Arab Republic, and Yugoslavia. In the New Delhi office responsibility for bibliographic coverage of Nepal was added in 1966 and of Ceylon in 1967. In that same year a transition from the PL-480 sales of surplus agricultural commodities for local currencies to sales for U.S. dollars was initiated, resulting in the gradual reduction and, in some cases, elimination of U.S. government holdings of local currencies. In the case of Indonesia, U.S. government-owned rupiahs are no longer considered "excess." Consequently, it was necessary to terminate the PL-480 program in Indonesia in June 1969. In July a cooperative acquisitions program supported jointly by the Library of Congress and ten other research libraries replaced this office.

There are now over forty institutions receiving comprehensive sets of publications from one or more of the countries involved. Each participant is required to contribute $500 toward the general cost of each program in which it participates.

In addition to the larger programs, under which research libraries receive comprehensive sets of materials, a smaller program has distributed since 1964 a limited number of English-language periodicals and
monographs to approximately 300 American libraries in fifty states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. At the present time publications from Ceylon, India, Nepal, and Pakistan are acquired through this English-language program.

The PL-480 programs have not been limited to the acquisition and distribution of library materials. An attempt is made to catalog in the country of origin the publications acquired. Before shipment to participants, each publication is given preliminary cataloging by the overseas office which acquires it. This preliminary cataloging information accompanies the publications and is made available to other libraries through the wide distribution of accessions lists published by the various overseas offices. In the countries now covered by the programs, each PL-480 office issues an accessions list, except for the office in Yugoslavia which is administered as a joint PL-480/NPAC operation. Catalog copy is adapted from the Yugoslav National Bibliography and made available through LC printed catalog cards more rapidly than is now possible in the case of other PL-480 countries, thus obviating the necessity of an accessions list.

In 1965 a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation made possible the establishment of a microfilming program in New Delhi. Newspapers and gazettes from Ceylon, India, Nepal, and Pakistan are being filmed and made available for purchase through the Library’s Photoduplication Service.

THE NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR ACQUISITIONS AND CATALOGING

In order to meet the urgent need of the American library and information community for immediate access to current research materials, the Library of Congress initiated in 1966 the National Program for Acquisitions and Cataloging under the authorization of Title II C of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. Leaders in librarianship had long recognized the economic waste and administrative incongruity of cataloging the same book more than once. However, under its traditional programs, the Library of Congress cataloged only 50 percent of the materials of potential value to scholarly research, and this cataloging information became available only after considerable delays. The practical solution was the development of a centralized cataloging effort, so comprehensive and so rapid that all libraries could depend on it to produce needed cataloging copy almost simultaneously with the receipt of books. Recognition of the national need for complete centralized cataloging, together with a growing interest in foreign bibliographical resources, led to the development of NPAC.
The Library of Congress Abroad

Under NPAC, the Library of Congress at present seeks to acquire, catalog immediately, and disseminate cataloging data rapidly for all current monographs and monographic series of research value. To avoid unnecessary duplication of cataloging already done in other countries, the Library has adopted "shared cataloging" techniques wherever possible in cooperation with national libraries and producers of foreign national bibliographies—using the descriptive cataloging data already prepared for recent publications in their countries of origin and speeding the data to Washington, D.C., for completion and distribution as quickly as possible.

With NPAC appropriations totaling $33,369,950 to date (fiscal years 1966-1972), the Library has increased its cataloging and support staff; arranged to "share" the cataloging data of twenty-four foreign national bibliographies, before publication of these bibliographies; established ten shared cataloging centers abroad (staffed chiefly by local personnel in the countries where they are located); inaugurated a specialized Shared Cataloging Division in the Processing Department; altered its recommending procedures for acquisitions so as to speed book selection and ordering; established three regional acquisitions offices abroad which publish accession lists covering several countries where there is neither a current national bibliography nor an effective book trade; initiated an extra printing shift to hasten the production of printed catalog cards in the library branch of the Government Printing Office in Washington, D.C.; and arranged to distribute daily to major research libraries complete depository sets of all currently printed LC catalog cards.

In implementation of the policy of shared cataloging and in agreement with the resolutions of the informal Conference on Shared Cataloging held in London on January 13, 1966, the Library of Congress describes on its printed catalog cards all current foreign monographic titles received from certain countries in the same terms used by the respective national bibliographies. This means that the title transcription, the collation, and the imprint reflect the foreign practice, which is considered to be as comprehensive, or more so, than current LC practice. The price in foreign currency and the distinctive registry number in the issue of the national bibliography are indicated when available to identify the source of the description and to facilitate the ordering of books directly from the catalog card information. The choice and form of author entry and secondary entries, the repetition of the author statement, the subject headings, and the LC and Dewey decimal classification numbers continued to follow LC practice. The first cards pro-
duced according to the principle of shared cataloging were printed
during the week of April 15, 1966. Since that time several hundred
thousand titles have been cataloged by LC according to this revolu-
tionary principle, in addition to its traditional cataloging output.

The present shared cataloging centers abroad—in London, Vienna,
Wiesbaden, Paris, Oslo, the Hague, Belgrade, Florence, Tokyo, Barce-
lona—acquire publications and cataloging information not only from the
countries in which they are located, but also from Switzerland, Sweden,
Denmark, Finland, Belgium, and East Germany. At the Library of
Congress shared cataloging practices are also applied to publications of
Canada, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, the U.S.S.R., Czechoslo-
vakia, Bulgaria, and Romania. Since speed is considered essential to
NPAC's success, the books are selected and bought as quickly as possi-
ble according to blanket order specifications by dealers abroad, prelimi-
ary cards are prepared and matched with the appropriate books in
the overseas shared cataloging offices, and are sent, generally by
weekly air freight shipments, to the Library.

As a result of NPAC efforts, catalog cards are usually available now
for about 75 percent of the books within a few weeks after their arrival
in other major research institutions. Provisions have been made for
LC's dealers in countries covered by shared cataloging to duplicate for
LC, orders which they fill for other American libraries, thus ensuring
the acquisition and ultimate cataloging of currently published titles of
research value, in the broadest sense of the term.

In preparing shared cataloging cards, cooperation is received from
the following national bibliographies (dates in parentheses show when
cooperation began): Australia (1966), Australian National Bibliogra-
phy; Austria (1966), Oesterreichische Bibliographie; Belgium (1966),
Bibliographie de Belgique; Bulgaria (1969), Bulgarski knigopis; Can-
ada (1966), Canadiana; Czechoslovakia (1969), Ceské knihy, Slovens-
ske knihy; Democratic Republic of Germany (1966), Deutsche Nation-
albibliographie; Denmark (1966), Det danske bogmarked; Finland
(1968), Suomen Kirjallisuus; France (1966), Bibliographie de la
France; Federal Republic of Germany (1966), Deutsche Bibliographie;
Italy (1967), Bibliografia nazionale italiana; Japan (1968), Nōhon
Shūhō; Netherlands (1966), Nieuwsblad voor de boekhandel, Brink-
man's Cumulatieve Catalogus; New Zealand (1966), New Zealand Na-
tional Bibliography; Norway (1966), Norsk boekhandel tiderende;
Republic of South Africa (1966), South African National Bibliography;
Romania (1971), Bibliografia republicii socialiste România; Spain
(1971), Bibliografía Española; Sweden (1966), Svensk bokhandel;
The Library of Congress Abroad


This significant step toward the international sharing of cataloging may well lead to other developments in international bibliographical cooperation and standardization. Although much progress has been achieved since the Paris Conference of 1961 on the principles of cataloging, many differences in cataloging still persist, and efforts toward international standardization are continuing both formally and informally.

In addition to the implementation of shared cataloging techniques, three regional acquisitions centers have been established under NPAC in areas where there is no comprehensive national bibliography and where the Library does not already have PL-480 programs in operation. These centers are located in Nairobi (covering Ethiopia, French Territory of the Afars and the Issas, Kenya, La Reunion, Malagasy Republic, Malawi, Mauritius, Seychelles, Somali Republic, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia); Rio de Janeiro (covering Brazil); and Djakarta (covering Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei). The chief concern of these offices is to track down and obtain either through purchase, gift, exchange, or other means virtually all current publications in these areas. Based on the materials thus acquired accessions lists are published as follows: Accessions List: Indonesia/Malaysia/Singapore/Brunei which is distributed monthly by the Library of Congress Office, c/o American Embassy, APO San Francisco, 96356; Accessions List, Eastern Africa which is distributed quarterly by the Library of Congress Office, P. O. Box 30598, Nairobi, Kenya.

When the lack of excess currencies brought the PL-480 program in Indonesia to an end in 1969, an arrangement was developed under NPAC permitting multiple set acquisitions to continue under a system of joint support. Participation was opened to all interested American libraries. Uniform sets of monographic publications are provided to all participants, though serial publications are distributed on a selective basis depending on the needs of the individual recipients. Each participant contributes a uniform amount based on the average cost of a set of publications, including shipping and related charges as well as a share of the administrative overhead cost. Depending on funding, it is anticipated that such cooperative acquisitions endeavors can be extended to other areas of the world where the book trade is not yet fully developed.

JANUARY, 1972
MACHINE-READABLE CATALOGING AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

The activities already described point up the fact that in practical terms the world is becoming smaller and the volume of published material to be controlled is increasing geometrically. It is no longer enough for a national bibliographic service to handle just its own country's publications. The needs of the intellectual community require that the scope of available material be broadened to include the important literature of all countries. In order to accomplish this and to avoid costly duplication, economics dictate that bibliographic information must be pooled.

Machine processing of this information will be a vital part of all future large-scale systems if speed of access is an important criterion for the success of such a system. While standardization has been important in information exchange in manual systems, the need for standards becomes critical in machine systems. In recognition of this need, the Library of Congress, with the support of the Council on Library Resources, took the first step in 1966 by implementing the MARC (Machine Readable Cataloging) Pilot Project. The purpose of this project was to test the feasibility and utility of exchanging bibliographic data in machine-readable form. With the success of the project, emphasis turned to the standardization of a machine format for bibliographic records. The MARC format developed at the Library of Congress subsequently served as the basis of the American National Standards Institute Format for Bibliographic Information Interchange on Magnetic Tape. It is now under consideration by the International Standards Organization.

The MARC Tape Distribution Service began at the Library of Congress in March 1969. Weekly tapes containing records for the Library's current English-language cataloging are sent to approximately sixty subscribers in this country and abroad, including Canada, Great Britain, Australia, Japan, and Denmark. The operation of the distribution service has also served as an impetus to the development of similar services in other countries and in international agencies.

The British National Bibliography (BNB) has instituted a United Kingdom MARC Project to produce machine-readable records for the...
compilation of the bibliography and for distribution purposes similar to the MARC Distribution Service. BNB has also begun a project to produce a bibliography called Books in English from LC and BNB MARC tapes. Data from both tapes are transferred to microfilm using the computer output microfilming (COM) technique which in turn is transferred to a transparency by using the photo chromic micro image (PCMI) system. This project is significant not only because of the use of the above techniques, but also because it has merged large quantities of records from two sources. Minor differences exist between LC and BNB MARC records, and programs were written to make some adjustments. In addition, other national bibliographic services based on the MARC format have been planned or implemented in Canada, Japan, Australia, and France. Studies are also under way in West Germany and Italy.

During the developmental work on the MARC format, one of the most important requirements was that this format be designed to handle a variety of materials, ranging from printed books to single photographs. The structure of the MARC format is identical for all types of material, but the contents and content designators (e.g., tags, indicators, and subfield codes) of each format may vary according to the kind of material being described.

It would seem that the requirements of the library community in the United States are not the same as those of the scientific and technical community in this country and abroad in terms of recording bibliographic data. Although the Committee on Scientific and Technical Information (COSATI) in the U.S. and the International Nuclear Information System (INIS) have adopted the MARC format structure as a standard, their methods of representing bibliographic data are quite different from those used by the Library of Congress; hence, the contents and content designators of the COSATI and INIS formats differ from the MARC format for printed book material used at the Library. Although these dissimilarities in content reflect the differences in function of the bibliographic services concerned, they present a fundamental problem in our current attempts to control information exchange. Therefore, standardization in this area should receive a high priority at the national and international level.

With the adoption of a standardized machine format structure, attention has turned to another critical area, the standard bibliographic description. An International Meeting of Cataloging Experts Working Party of the International Federation of Library Associations was established in 1969 to develop a standard for the descriptive portion of a
bibliographic record and to adopt this standard for use in catalogs, listings, and bibliographies (including national bibliographies). The adoption of such a standard would make it possible for users to recognize the elements in a bibliographic record, regardless of language, and would facilitate the conversion and exchange of these records in machine-readable form on an international scale. A member of the Library of Congress staff is a member of this working party.

The progress in the development of a standard machine format for bibliographic records has coincided with the development of unique numbering systems for books and serials. The International Standard Book Number (ISBN) is presently used by the British National Bibliography as the control number for their machine records. (Since the ISBN has not been assigned to all titles included in the MARC Distribution Service, the Library of Congress has not been able to use it as a control number.) The Library of Congress has worked closely with the American National Standards Institute in the development of a standard serial number (SSN), and when the resources become available, the Library has indicated a willingness to serve as the U.S. agency to assign the SSN to serial publications.

The international acquisitions and cataloging programs have provided the Reference, Law Library, Congressional Research Service and other departments of the Library of Congress with world-wide resources to exploit through reference and other user services.

**OVERSEAS INTERESTS AND IMPACT OF THE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT**

The international aspects of the work of the Reference Department are reflected in three major activities, which can be broadly categorized as: (1) general bibliographic and reference services of importance to foreign users and all others interested in international affairs; (2) reference, research, and bibliographic services concerning foreign geographic areas and based, primarily, on the Library's extensive collections; (3) the development and utilization of foreign and international collections in the Library's large special format collections, i.e., music, maps, motion pictures, and manuscripts. The department's area, language, and subject specialists actively participate in the Library's overseas acquisitions programs and in international conferences, meetings, and projects.

**GENERAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC AND REFERENCE SERVICES**

Throughout the Reference Department, requests for information on subjects related to foreign nations or international affairs are answered
The Library of Congress Abroad

by telephone, by correspondence, and in person. Foreign patrons, including representatives from diplomatic missions, are frequently assisted, and foreign visitors to the department's many sections are welcomed. Inquiries by letter from overseas often request information regarding the United States and American publications. In response to this demand, the General Reference and Bibliography Division annually compiles a report for UNESCO on U.S. national bibliographic services and related activities. The Library's *A Guide to the Study of the United States of America* (1960) was undertaken initially in response to foreign inquiries about the United States and the books needed to support American studies in foreign institutions.

The Reference Department's Union Catalog and International Organizations Section provides specialized reference and bibliographic service on the aims, activities, and publications of international groups and, particularly, their conferences. Its *International Scientific Organizations; A Guide to Their Library, Documentation, and Information Services* (1962) is still a basic reference source. General bibliographies of international importance prepared by the Reference Department include *Arms Control and Disarmament* and the *Bibliography on Cold Regions Science and Technology*. Another important, but more specialized bibliography prepared in the department was *Nuclear Science in Mainland China; A Selected Bibliography* (1968). The Children's Book Section's *Children's Literature: A Guide to Reference Sources* (1966) contains many references to foreign literature.

**AREA STUDIES ACTIVITIES**

There are four units within the Reference Department which are directly concerned with reference and bibliographic work regarding specific geographic areas: the African Section of the General Reference and Bibliography Division, the Hispanic Foundation, the Slavic and Central European Division, and the Orientalia Division. The activities of the language and subject specialists within these sections are focused on developing, utilizing, servicing, and facilitating the access to the holdings of the Library of Congress.

The African Section advises and cooperates in the Library's acquisitions program, provides reference and bibliographic services, and maintains liaison with other institutions in the United States and abroad concerned with African studies. The major activity of the section, however, has been its bibliographic compilations, which bring the rich and varied collections of the Library to the attention of scholars and librarians throughout the world. In the past decade the section has
JOHN G. LORENZ, ET AL.


The Hispanic Foundation serves as a center for the pursuit of studies in Spanish, Portuguese, and Latin American culture. The foundation holds international conferences and seminars related to library problems, such as the International Conference on Cuban Acquisitions and Bibliography, held in 1970, which was designed to improve the flow of scholarly materials between the United States and Cuba and to provide better bibliographical control of Cuban library materials. The proceedings and working papers of the conference, Cuban Acquisitions and Bibliography (1970), constitute a valuable working tool for scholars and librarians. Like the African Section, the Hispanic Foundation is bibliographically oriented. The Handbook of Latin American Studies, the oldest continuing bibliographical record of materials published about Latin America, is prepared by the foundation with the cooperation of an international group of over eighty contributing editors; a number of which are Latin American scholars, each a specialist in his own discipline. The National Directory of Latin Americanists and Latin America: An Annotated Bibliography of Paperback Books are other representative Hispanic Foundation publications. Both are periodically updated. Latin America in Soviet Writings: A Bibliography (2 vols., 1966) was prepared in cooperation with the Library's Slavic and Central European Division. The Archive of Hispanic Literature on Tape, another continuing program of the foundation, represents a unique collection of original voice recordings of selections from the works of over 200 poets and prose writers from the Iberian Peninsula and Latin America.

The Slavic and Central European Division provides reference service and prepares bibliographies and special studies relating to the U.S.S.R. and the Baltic, Central, and Eastern European countries. Division specialists, as in other area studies divisions, not only aid scholars in the use of the Library's collections, but also provide information to scholars and officials preparing for trips abroad. In quest of up-to-date informa-
tion on cultural developments, the Slavic Division also maintains continuing official contacts with the cultural staffs of foreign embassies in Washington, D.C. The division’s publications program has the dual objectives of increasing awareness of research sources related to the countries within its field of responsibility, and of bringing U.S. scholarly contributions to the attention of interested foreigners. For example, its publications list includes: *Newspapers of East Central and Southeastern Europe in the Library of Congress* (1965), *Czechoslovakia: A Bibliographic Guide* (1967), *The USSR and Eastern Europe: Periodicals in Western Languages* (1967), and *Poland in the Collections of the Library of Congress* (1968).

The Orientalia Division’s geographic area of responsibility includes Asia and the Middle East, and the division maintains and provides reference service on the Library’s Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Southeast Asian, South Asian, Near Eastern, and Hebraic collections, totaling over 1 million volumes in over forty different languages. The division also assists visiting librarians from the Orient engaged in survey and study tours and aids foreign students and scholars by making available, through direct loan or photoreproduction, rare or unique materials in its Oriental-language collections. It works closely with other Library units involved in the acquisitions process, particularly the Exchange and Gift Division and prepares bibliographies, such as *Southeast Asia: An Annotated Bibliography of Selected Reference Sources in Western Languages* (1964). Individual staff members participate directly in the acquisition of material from abroad, frequently making trips to acquire material or arrange for its acquisition. The language and subject specialists also participate in international conferences. For example, the Orientalia Division was represented at the first Japan-U.S. Conference on Libraries and Information Science in Higher Education (Tokyo, 1969) and the Library Seminars on International Cooperation in Oriental Librarianship of the twenty-eighth International Congress of Orientalists (Canberra, 1971). Members of the staff also work in and with the various international committees and the International Relations Office of the American Library Association and in professional associations.

**SPECIAL FORMAT COLLECTIONS**

The music and map collections of the Library of Congress are particularly strong in international holdings, and the specialists from the Music and Geography and Map Divisions, along with those from the Motion Picture Section, actively participate on international committees and in international projects.
The international music holdings of the Music Division are among the largest and most comprehensive in the world, and unrivaled in at least one important branch of music, the history and development of opera. A large proportion of the division’s reference service by correspondence is directed to scholars in foreign countries, and researchers from abroad frequently visit the division to use unique material not elsewhere available. The foundations established by Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge and Serge Koussevitzky regularly commission distinguished foreign composers to write new works of chamber music, and the resultant holograph scores are added to the Library’s collections. Thus, the division’s holograph holdings of the twentieth-century composers are probably unparalleled anywhere (e.g., Bartók, Britten, Chávez, Dallapiccola, Ginastera, Henze, Hindemith, Honegger, Malipiero, Martinu, Messiaen, Milhaud, Prokofiev, Ravel, Schoenberg, Stockhausen, Stravinsky, and Villa-Lobos). Music Division specialists serve as officers in the International Association of Music Libraries and the International Association of Sound Archives.

The Geography and Map Division receives approximately 90 percent of its foreign cartographic acquisitions through the Interagency Map and Publication Acquisitions Committee (IMPAC), a committee which provides for the acquisition of cartographic materials through geographic attachés attached to U.S. embassies abroad. Division staff members helped establish a Geography and Map Subsection within a section of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) and are responsible for the listings of U.S. cartographic publications which appear in two international serials, *Bibliographie Cartographique Internationale* and *Bibliotheca Cartographica*.

The collections of artists’ documentary and photographic prints as well as posters and political cartoons in the Prints and Photographs Division are international in scope. They are frequently used by publishers and researchers from abroad, as well as by Americans seeking pictorial material in Europe and Asia.

Along with the other special format sections, the Library’s Motion Picture Section answers numerous international requests for information about its holdings. The section participates in an active program of preserving and making available to scholars a large and unique collection of films acquired from the Department of Justice after World War II. Because the commercial rights to these films were returned to the countries of origin, the Library established cooperative preservation programs with leading national film archives in the countries involved: Germany, Italy, and Japan. Through this program reference copies of
The Library of Congress Abroad

the films are available for use at the Library. Since 1969, Motion Picture Section staff members have participated in the work of the International Federation of Film Archives.

As a result of its program to acquire copies of European manuscripts related to America, the Manuscript Division has accumulated a collection of reproductions of more than 3 million manuscripts copied from several hundred libraries in twenty-three foreign countries. Between 1965 and 1970, its Center for the Coordination of Foreign Manuscript Copying identified extensive photocopying projects in foreign archives, recorded the location of copies of foreign collections in the United States, and disseminated this information to the scholarly community in its publication, News from the Center.

THE LAW LIBRARY

Since the United States emerged as a world power in the twentieth century, the Law Library of Congress has been developing its foreign legal collections and expertise in order to meet the informational needs of Congress, federal agencies, academic institutions and numerous other publics. Though its primary responsibility in the areas of foreign, international and comparative law is to respond to the research needs of Congress and then to the judicial and executive branches of government, the Law Library answers numerous reference queries from international organizations, diplomatic missions, foreign governments, foreign citizens living both in the United States and abroad, and United States citizens living overseas.

The Law Library is organized in five divisions, each responsible for developing and maintaining the collections of legal literature of its assigned jurisdictions and for providing scholarly research on them. The American-British Law Division covers the law of the United States, the United Kingdom and its colonies, and the British Commonwealth countries. Latin America, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, Spain, and Portugal are assigned to the Hispanic Law Division. The European Law Division is concerned with the remaining countries of Europe. The Far Eastern Law Division handles Nationalist and Mainland China, Japan, Korea, Southeast Asia, Tibet, and Indonesia. The Near Eastern and African Law Division deals with Islamic law and with the countries of the Middle East and Africa (except the Spanish and Portuguese possessions).

The Law Library, as far as possible, staffs its foreign law divisions with persons who have received their legal education in at least one of the countries whose laws they are to interpret and who have met the
requirements to serve as lawyers, judges or administrators. Twenty of the twenty-six foreign legal specialists are qualified to practice law abroad and nine are members of an American Bar. The specialists perform research in over forty languages.

As an aid to foreign legal research and scholarship, the Law Library began, in 1912, the publication of a series of guides to the law and legal literature of selected foreign countries. During the 1940s the Hispanic Law Division compiled guides to the law and legal literature of the Latin American jurisdictions and is now engaged in the revision of these guides. The Mid-European Law Project, created in 1949 with funds from Free Europe, Inc., and staffed by lawyers from Eastern Europe, helped to provide legal scholars with the studies and bibliographic tools necessary to make a reasoned evaluation of the legal, economic, political and social conditions of the new Soviet Bloc countries. The project culminated with the publication, in the late 1950s and early 1960s, of the Legal Sources and Bibliography of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, the Baltic States and Yugoslavia.

In addition to the compilation of guides, several of the foreign law divisions index legal periodicals and primary legislative materials. The Hispanic Law Division has had published four folio volumes covering fifteen years of legislative indexing for Latin America. The second supplement to this index is now being prepared. The Far Eastern Law Division indexes twelve Japanese, Chinese and Korean legal journals and the European Law Division indexes the Ukrainian journal Radians'ke Pravo for the Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals. The Law Library is considering plans to index primary legal materials from the Far and Near East.

Law Library personnel are regular contributors to foreign legal and library journals. Recent articles have appeared in Osteuropa-Recht (Germany), Law in Eastern Europe (the Netherlands), The Review of the International Commission of Jurists (Switzerland), the Bulletin of the International Association of Law Libraries (the Netherlands), and the Bulgarische Jahrbucher of the Bulgarian Academic Society (Heidelberg, Germany).

The Foreign Affairs Role of the Congressional Research Service

The Library of Congress was created in 1800 primarily as a parliamentary library to assist in the work of the Congress and has included since 1915 a Legislative Reference Service which has concentrated solely on matters of legislative interest. After more than thirty years of service to Congress, the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 gave
The Library of Congress Abroad

the Legislative Reference Service an expanded role and a permanent statutory basis as a separate department of the Library of Congress. The legislative role of the service was redefined and enlarged by the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 which changed the name of the service to the Congressional Research Service (CRS) and expanded its responsibilities and services to Congress in order to meet its growing need for increased and improved access to information and research. Throughout this development of the CRS, the primary focus has remained the needs and concerns of the members and committees. For this reason, the foreign affairs role of the CRS directly reflects the broad foreign affairs interests of the Congress, and consequently a large part of its work is internationally oriented.

To meet the research and information needs of the Congress, one of the seven subject divisions of CRS is specifically concerned with foreign affairs. The Foreign Affairs Division has twenty-five research analysts who are dealing with the problems of U.S. foreign policy, international relations and organization, international development, as well as following the significant events and problems in every foreign country or region in the world. These researchers deal with most of the requests that come to CRS from members and committees for information and research on foreign affairs questions. However, the entire service is involved in doing work in this area. The other CRS research divisions also have the resources to meet the need for the analysis of the international aspects of the economic, scientific and technological, environmental and other problems which are of continuing congressional concern. Since the Congress is constantly aware of the international implications of the actions of the U.S., as well as the impact of actions elsewhere on problems and events here, the CRS must be prepared in all policy areas to provide the needed information and research support.

The research in international affairs done by CRS serves Congress in many ways. Members of Congress making overseas visits for first-hand looks at particular problems of concern to the United States, or attending international conferences such as NATO parliamentary meetings and the annual conferences of the Interparliamentary Union, may receive research and writing assistance from CRS specialists before, during, and after the occasion.

Committees holding hearings on such matters as U.S. overseas commitments, international trade agreements, or support of the United Nations look to CRS for help in assessing proposed legislation and in writing or contributing to committee reports. The results of the work of this research arm of the Congress are often found in documents published

JANUARY, 1972 [567]
by the House of Representatives and the Senate. These publications form a continuing literature on the foreign relations of the United States and the international problems of concern to the nation.

The Congressional Research Service is thus one of the mechanisms by which Congress can gain information about international affairs and the conditions and legislative activities in other countries. In order to fulfill this role, CRS relies heavily on the material acquired for the general collections of the Library of Congress through its overseas programs. In addition, the service does acquire for its own use material not available elsewhere in the Library which is needed to meet the congressional information requirements in the area of foreign affairs. The acquisitions program of the service is, therefore, a direct outgrowth of the wide foreign affairs interests of the Congress. The relevant material that comes into the service is then fed into the legislative issue tracking systems of the research divisions so that there can be easy retrieval of the needed information in order to answer specific congressional inquiries.

In order to increase the control of this input of material the Library Services Division of CRS has a staff of bibliographers working on current material which is of top priority and importance to modern legislative research. A product of this work is a computer-based selective dissemination of information (SDI) system which generates weekly selected bibliographic reports to 250 subscribers. By this means, CRS researchers, congressional offices, and congressional committees (including the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations) have access to the significant research in the area of foreign affairs and information about international events.

The foreign affairs role of the Congressional Research Service is not static. As the responsibilities and functions of the service have expanded, the international aspect of the service to Congress has also grown. As the focus and concerns of the Congress have shifted with events and the development of new problems, CRS has responded with the appropriate resources to meet these congressional needs.

Copyright Office

The role of the Copyright Office in international activities is worldwide in scope. It encompasses the development and implementation of copyright relations with other countries at the multilateral and bilateral levels.

Foremost among the activities of the Copyright Office is the representation of the United States at international copyright meetings.
amples include meetings of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) which administer, respectively, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works. These conventions, multilateral in scope, are revised periodically with resultant changes in the level of international copyright protection. Such revisions are, therefore, of great interest to United States authors, publishers, producers, and others interested in literary and artistic rights.

In addition, the Copyright Office sends representatives to attend meetings of working groups, committees of experts, and other bodies established by the United Nations, its specialized agencies or other intergovernmental, international organizations. These groups often adopt recommendations concerning changes or improvements in particular aspects of international copyright protection which affect domestic law and practice.

Further, the Copyright Office maintains a continuing dialogue with interested officials in foreign countries for the exchange of information concerning foreign regulations, practices, and procedures. Such information is brought to the attention of appropriate groups and private interests in the United States. Based upon its knowledge of the comparative copyright laws of other countries, the Copyright Office, in cooperation with the Department of State, may assist United States citizens seeking to obtain protection for their works in foreign countries.

Finally, through its contacts with officials in foreign governments, and by its attendance at international meetings, the Copyright Office seeks to improve the level of copyright protection throughout the world and, thereby, to foster the creation of literary and artistic works.

**OTHER LIBRARY OF CONGRESS ACTIVITIES ABROAD**

The foregoing describes major international programs administered by the Library relating to international activities. In addition to these, several other unique library-related programs relate to the international scene.

**THE PHOTODUPLICATION SERVICE**

The Photoduplication Service has contributed scholarly, technical, custodial, consultative, and financial assistance to a variety of foreign projects in the past thirty years.

In late 1949 at St. Catherine's Monastery on the slopes of Jebel Musa, traditionally identified with the Biblical Mt. Sinai, preliminary
arrangements were made between Verner W. Clapp, then of the Library of Congress, and Wendell Phillips of the American Foundation for the Study of Man; these arrangements provided that the latter would furnish the Library with negative microfilm of selected manuscripts from the Sinai collection. The foundation engaged Kenneth W. Clark of Duke University to carry out all scholarly responsibilities; Wallace Wade from the Library's Photoduplication Service headed the technical team assigned to the actual filming. Complete cooperation by monastery authorities was instrumental in making the project productive in spite of inevitable delays and difficulties in communications. By late July 1950, Wade returned to Cairo after seven months on the mountain with 1,694 reels of 35 mm. film of Greek and Arabic manuscripts. By July 1951 Clark and his wife had completed the long task of assembling and editing the film. The final Checklist of Manuscripts in St. Catherine's Monastery, Mt. Sinai was published by the Library of Congress in 1952.

In early November 1949, about a month before the start of filming on Mt. Sinai, the same combination of the scholarly and technical expertise represented by Clark and Wade was utilized in similar operations in the Greek and Armenian Patriarchates in Jerusalem under the sponsorship of the American School of Oriental Studies and the Library of Congress.

After the Mt. Sinai interlude, the Jerusalem activity resumed in early August 1950, when Wade returned to the Greek Patriarchate to continue filming under the direction of Clark, now joined by Lucetta Mowry from Wellesley College. In late August, Mowry assumed the chief scholarly direction on Clark's return to the States.

As with the Mt. Sinai film, Clark and his wife assembled and edited the 1,030 manuscripts and 1,187 miniatures. The Checklist of Manuscripts in the Libraries of the Greek and Armenian Patriarchates in Jerusalem, Microfilmed for the Library of Congress, 1949-50 was published in 1953.

Somewhat similar in its filming of manuscripts in a unique environment was the one-man expedition of Ernest W. Saunders of the Garrett Biblical Institute. On a United States Educational Exchange Grant, Saunders was welcomed by the monks of the monasteries on Mt. Athos in Greece. Early 1953 saw the termination of a six-month period needed to film 200 selected manuscripts. A Descriptive Checklist of Selected Manuscripts in the Monasteries of Mt. Athos was published in 1957.

Also of interest was the grant in 1942 by the Rockefeller Foundation
The Library of Congress Abroad

to the American Library Association of funds for the establishment of a photographic laboratory in Mexico City. In 1948, when the American Embassy undertook the administration of the Benjamin Franklin Library in Mexico, the State Department requested that the Photoduplication Service of the Library of Congress operate the laboratory. George T. Smisor directed this activity and also headed technical teams in the filming of official records in Mexican state capitals and in Guatemala. These operations were concluded in 1951 when it was felt that the groundwork was well established for subsequent local supervision. The results of the project are summarized in Library of Congress Microfilm Clearing House Bulletin (Supplement No. 1 published in 1953).

A Japanese Microfilming Project was undertaken in 1948 to film Japanese archival material for the Library of Congress and other depositaries in the United States. In 1949, filming was greatly expanded by a microfilming team which worked for two years under the auspices of the U.S. Department of State to film for the Library of Congress over two million pages of archives of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A total of 2,116 reels were completed, and are indexed in a Checklist of Archives in the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo, Japan, 1868-1945) which was published in 1954.

Surveys of material of possible interest for later filming were undertaken in Western Europe in 1949-51, by Lester K. Born, special assistant on the Microfilm Program for the Library of Congress. Visits were made to Italy, France, the Netherlands, England, Belgium, Scotland, Switzerland, and Germany. Although actual filming was negligible, important groundwork was accomplished.

Several additional undertakings may be identified briefly by country. The Library’s involvement varies in regard to camera, technical film, and bibliographical advice. These factors or combinations of the same were present in varying degree in Argentina, Burma, Chile, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, and the Philippines.

Newspaper projects of importance that have been recently concluded were: La Prensa of Buenos Aires in cooperation with the U.S. State Department; El Sol; diario independiente of Madrid, combining the holdings of five American libraries with those of the Library of Congress; and O Estado de Sao Paulo, an important source for historical research.

Notice should be taken of answers by the service to many requests for advice on equipment, storage, and procedures, not only for these ongoing operations just noted, but also from many other foreign sources.

JANUARY, 1972

[ 571 ]
Several on-the-job training programs have been conducted for foreign technicians in the service’s laboratories. For example, in 1952 and 1953, Boh Thein Sive, Ichiro Sugi, and N. K. Nagarajan from Rangoon, Tokyo, and Karachi, respectively, spent varying periods in the Library in actual laboratory training to prepare themselves to assume technical positions of responsibility in their own countries.

Another index of the service’s international activities is the fact that of the more than 92,000 orders and requests for estimates processed in fiscal year 1970, approximately 22 percent originated outside the United States.

PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES

The preservation and restoration of books, documents and other library materials have been a matter of growing concern for libraries and archives around the world. For many years the Library has exchanged information concerning developments in this field with interested institutions both in the United States and abroad.

From time to time the Library has made available its expertise in preservation matters to other countries needing assistance in preserving documents of national importance. Of particular interest in this connection was the restoration in 1951 of the 375-year-old manuscript “True History of the Conquest of New Spain,” by the Conquistador Bernal Diaz del Castillo, for the Guatemalan government. In 1966 the Library undertook to restore a second document for the National Archives of Guatemala, the “Libro Viejo de la Fundacion de la Ciudad de Guatemala.” This work was performed in the Library’s restoration shop, at that time under the jurisdiction of the Government Printing Office. (These functions were transferred directly to LC in 1968.) During the mid-1950s the Library also undertook the restoration of a number of valuable historical maps for the National Library of Peru.

In 1967, the Library arranged with the Government Printing Office to send a hand binder and restorer from the Library staff to Florence, Italy, to assist in the restoration of the collections of the Biblioteca Nazionale damaged in the 1966 flood of the Arno.

During recent years, LC’s participation in the international aspects of preservation has increased. In 1970, the Library’s assistant director for preservation was one of two United States representatives to a conference convened in Florence to discuss the establishment of an International Training Center for the Restoration of Books and Manuscripts, and continues as a member of the organizing committee for the proposed center.
The Library of Congress Abroad

Following congressional approval in 1970 of U.S. participation in the Rome Center, officially known as the International Center for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, the Library was asked to appoint a representative to the U.S. Standing Committee for the Rome Center and as a result has taken an active part in the important work of this international preservation activity.

Increasingly, then, the Library of Congress participates in restoration activities on a broad international level. At the same time, it is called upon with increasing frequency to assist libraries and archives in other countries with the solution of preservation problems. Such assistance usually takes the form of general advice on preservation problems. Less frequently, the Library's well equipped and expertly staffed restoration shop undertakes the actual restoration of some national treasure or item of special value. In addition, the Library's Restoration Officer occasionally serves as a consultant to the Biblioteca Nazionale in Florence and to the Gulbenkian Museum in Lisbon, and with the assistant director for preservation serves on the organizing committee for the proposed International Training Center in Florence.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS EXHIBITIONS ABROAD


The Library of Congress cooperates with the U.S. Information Agency in lending materials from its collections for display abroad, subject to certain conditions of loan, which are agreed to by the agency in advance. These include conditions to be observed in the field to assure careful handling and adequate protection. The agency also agrees to reimburse the Library in case of damage or for repair (if the material can be repaired) or to indemnify the Library in case of loss. Such loans have in the past included the full preparation of traveling exhibit.

PUBLICATIONS

Publications are created and designed for the exchange of information. Because in a free society their distribution has no geographical limits, Library of Congress publications of value and interest are distributed around the world, wherever their contents are valued and needed. The publications of a national library, through international exchange agreements and active library acquisitions programs, are valuable assets in the free flow of information between scholarly communities. To bring its publications to the notice of individuals and institutions in other countries, the Library of Congress has exhibited books and periodicals at the Frankfurt Book Fair, the London International Periodical Exposition in 1971, and the International Biennial of Scientific Publications of Universities and Academies of Science. The latter, held in Bologna, September 4-14, 1969, resulted in an award contributed by the Italian Ministry of Defense to the Library’s quarterly bibliography Arms Control and Disarmament. The award was made because of the publication’s importance to the study and research in the field of military science and the maintenance of peace. The Library’s publications have also been exhibited at U.S. conferences, many of which are attended by librarians and scholars from abroad.

International exchange of ideas and information enters into the publishing effort long before the work reaches the distribution stage. Frequently, U.S. scholars writing for the Library of Congress will check a particular point of information with a colleague abroad who specializes in the particular field under study. The Quarterly Journal of the Library of Congress draws upon writers and institutions of other countries for many of its articles. In the last few years its pages have carried articles by a Dutch authority on papermaking, by French scholars on research resources for American scholars in France, by an Australian
The Library of Congress Abroad

poet and professor of literature, and by an English author of children's books. From this side of the Atlantic there have appeared uncounted articles on the bibliography, libraries, learned institutions, history, and the literary, historical, and leading figures of other nations, as well as accounts of such special Library of Congress collections as Slavica and Orientalia.

The weekly Library of Congress Information Bulletin which contains up-to-date information on library activities here and abroad in addition to being a staff bulletin is made available free to many libraries and related institutions abroad.

Printing has been called the art preservative; it is also a medium of international scholarly exchange, whose value is unaffected by declining stock markets or rising interest rates.

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

From many parts of the world librarians look toward the Library of Congress as the preeminent library in the world—partly because of its vast collections and partly because of the many staff members who participate in international library affairs. There is a continual flow of foreign librarians who visit LC with the aim of broadening their professional knowledge and widening their personal contacts. Planning for such visits involves much preliminary correspondence which is handled by the Library's International Relations Office. It assists with arrangements for the visitors at the Library and elsewhere in the Washington area, if needed, and also is prepared to offer suggestions about other appropriate American libraries to be included in the itinerary. Another type of correspondence received regularly comprises requests for advice on possible sources of financial support or employment for foreign librarians who wish to obtain further library training in the United States. In reply to these queries, the International Relations Office supplies the most promising and practical suggestions possible.

AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL

Since the fall of 1969 the Library has had a team of historians specializing in the period of the American Revolution at work on a program for the celebration of the two-hundredth anniversary of American independence. Part of their work involves the writing of a comprehensive guide to manuscripts in the Library of Congress relating to this momentous event, including documents copied in public and private archives in Great Britain, France, Germany, Spain, Holland, and Belgium. Guide entries will provide considerable detail on these collec-

JANUARY, 1972
tions and should supersede previously published descriptions in the works of Charles M. Andrews, Waldo G. Leland, Marion D. Learned, David W. Parker, and Grace Gardner Griffin. Guides to maps, music, and cartoons are also planned. The Library’s major bicentennial project, the publication of letters of delegates to the Continental Congress and to the Congress of the Confederation, will include materials on foreign relations during this crucial period of U.S. history. In addition, the Library plans to call attention to many English pamphlets in its collections that were written in support of the American colonies. One volume of select pamphlets entitled *English Radicals in Support of the American Revolution, 1774-78,* will appear later in 1971. A series of five symposia on the American Revolution, to be presented from 1972 to 1976, will examine other contributions of foreign nations and nationals to American Independence and will involve scholars from abroad as well as from the United States. Special exhibits at the Library of Congress will also feature the significant roles played by America’s allies. In short, the Library’s bicentennial program will follow its theme “Liberty and Learning” without regard to national boundaries, just as many of the Library’s other programs know no national limitations.

The foregoing is indicative of the scope of the Library of Congress abroad which is interested in and interfaces with all parts of the world. As developing countries expand their publishing activities, the Library of Congress will expect to be there to acquire this material and join with librarians from all countries of the globe in advancing the international exchange of ideas and information.

References

