



Introduction

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AS EDITOR OF this issue I have assumed the role of a professional editor—assigning each chapter, evaluating manuscripts, and editing all writing before coordinating it into an integrated whole for publication. Consequently, the issue has evolved with alterations of assignments and chapters being added as the need became apparent through the development of each chapter.

All chapter manuscripts were edited—some severely—and some were returned for enlargement, more comprehensive coverage, and additional citations. Several manuscripts were reviewed by authoritative readers, while some became the work of a joint authorship. Unfortunately, some manuscripts were rejected. Therefore, the editor accepts the final responsibility for not only the coverage of this issue but also the development and emphasis of each chapter.

Library cooperation is often uttered as a symbol of goodwill, an intent to share resources, knowledge, bibliographical data, facilities and other fruits of technology, man's ingenuity, and the results of accumulated wealth. Gentlemen's agreements and professional pride in service to humanity are noble ideals that library historian Joe Kraus carefully documents in "Prologue to Library Cooperation." The historical treatise is an examination of available literature to establish a succession of thought expressed through individuals, institutions, associations and governing bodies. Foundations and individual philanthropists have made substantial contributions to cooperative activities among libraries in the United States over a seventy-five year period. Kraus sees five common elements in the reports of the cooperative library projects examined and a trend toward a national network for the benefit of library users.

Current trends in cooperation seem heavily dependent on

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technology and a high level of energy consumption. Political scientist Boyd Keenan examines these assumptions, agreeing with their importance and predicting that major changes in existing cooperative arrangements will probably be influenced more by external pressures than by the pressures internal to a library system. Keenan not only urges librarians to maintain a keen awareness of political trends, but also encourages them to actively inform both the general public and political leaders as to the basic issues of our society. Although he is optimistic about the future network development of librarians, Keenan, a recent UNESCO fellow on world political energy discussions in Paris, is far less certain of the rational system of energy distribution needed in our technological society.

Informal agreements and tacit understandings between individual librarians in a simplistic and rural-oriented society, apparently sufficient in an earlier era, hardly satisfy the needs of our highly integrated and technologically advanced society of the late twentieth century. Harry Martin has undertaken the monumental task of setting forth a method whereby formal cooperation may take place across state lines. A legal basis for interstate library cooperation is essential to the establishment of documented agreements, assurances of services rendered, and funded programs that include participation by libraries from more than one state. Martin concludes that compacts between states have been demonstrated effective and appear to be the most advantageous approach at this time to library coordination. Federal-interstate compacts are also cited as an ideal form for channeling federal funds into multistate services while maintaining a high level of continued state interest and participation. Martin provides the insight needed for librarians to overcome legal barriers to cooperation.

In his capacity as Deputy Director of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, Roderick Swartz has enjoyed a unique vantage point for assessing the need for cooperation among libraries in the United States. He stresses the need to examine closely user needs and also nonuser needs—the total information requirements of our society. Both traditional and newer formats of technological communications are needed, according to Swartz, who gives four trends in cooperative endeavor as seen from the users' viewpoint. These trends are examined for their effect on the information poor and the information rich.

Cooperative endeavors of lasting value require careful planning, an activity that can only be done with appropriate statistical information.

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Mary Edna Anders has recently completed the most comprehensive survey of data ever taken, the Southeastern States Cooperative Library Survey. This experience has led her to the conclusion that reliable and valid data as a tool for decision-making can contribute significantly to the planning and implementation of cooperative library programs. Her analysis of historical and current trends indicates an optimistic picture for library administrators who will utilize the full array of data becoming available for planning and decisions. Perhaps the single most important agency for statistical data is the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES); its personnel emphasize their determination that statistics be collected for utilization by those involved in planning and administrative decision-making.

A governmental agency more directly involved in library cooperation is that of the Office of Libraries and Learning Resources in the U.S. Office of Education. Dorothy Kittel, coordinator of Title III programs under the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) has sketched observable trends in states of the United States since the inception of the federal LSCA programs in 1964. Requiring a coordination of efforts at the state level, this program has also benefited from the direct involvement of regional coordinator in the planning of a system of library service in each state. This overview reveals encouraging trends throughout the country, with some programs of excellence cited.

One specific statewide program—that of Washington—was selected for more detailed consideration. Gerald Brong reports this state's step-by-step search for intrastate cooperation, in which he was personally involved. Brong's perspective as an audiovisual specialist gives him a unique vista from which to observe activities in the state of Washington. As director of the Library Futures Planning Task Force, Brong was also involved in plans for the implementation of components of the statewide program for library service. Brong found cooperation to be a very fragile way of accomplishing tasks, but was convinced that cooperation does enhance present services without relinquishing the uniqueness of individual library programs. He is also persuaded that intrastate library/information service programs are the building blocks upon which a national program of service must be based. Both Brong and Kittel agree that a "national network" must be designed to encourage the development and use of networks currently being formed at the state and regional levels.

Federal support of cooperative library service is also influenced by the direct participation of federal libraries in consortia and various

networks. An overview of federal library activity reveals many instances in which leadership for major cooperative programs was given by librarians in federal libraries, e.g., the LC shared cataloging begun in 1901. Russell Shank and Madeline Henderson document trends in cooperation by the more than 2,000 libraries of the federal government.

The Library of Congress is recognized as a national library, in fact if not in law, as are the national libraries of medicine and agriculture. These libraries have created national systems and networks for bibliographic and physical access to information for their patrons and immediate agencies. In doing so, they have also created elements of a unified system of library service for the entire country. Shank and Henderson note that the trend among federal libraries of the United States is toward systems or networks made up of many parts, whether labeled libraries, information centers, data centers, or clearinghouses. The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science has proposed a comprehensive planning effort for a total national library program, including a White House Conference on Library and Information Service.

The need for close coordination of governmental agencies and library associations is dramatized by the frantic and combined efforts of both to prepare for a rapidly approaching American bicentennial year and the White House conference scheduled shortly thereafter. Typical of his professional ability and personal dedication, Edward Holley prepared the manuscript on the role of professional associations in a network of library activity during his term as president of the American Library Association. Citing the formation of a Cooperation Committee in 1876 by the newly created American Library Association, Holley documents major contributions of library associations to cooperation, providing several tables of statistical data heretofore unavailable. This information is needed for a more comprehensive perspective of library associations in the United States and their potential strength as partners in a "network of knowledge." Pertinent data for state, regional and national associations are given with tabulations for purposes of analysis and comparison. Evidence of accomplishments at all levels of professional association work were found, and closer cooperative planning by the various professional association were recommended in order to achieve maximum levels of library service in the nation. Holley also noted that while deliberations on a national network are in various stages of progress, many of the same functions need to be performed at the state and regional levels.

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One regional library association, multistate in coverage and in a period of dynamic development, has been chosen for close scrutiny. Heartsill Young, Lee Brawner and Allie Beth Martin, principal movers of the Southwestern Library Association (SWLA), have recorded the unparalleled accomplishments of their association during the six year period 1969-75. Beginning with the J. Morris Jones-World Book Encyclopedia-ALA Goals Award of 1969, the authors provide both a narrative and a chronological account of the association's numerous achievements, e.g., grants from the Council on Library Resources, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the U.S. Office of Education, each of the region's six state library agencies, and their respective state library associations. Library cooperation is believed paramount in SWLA, as reflected in its reorganization whereby the vice-presidents of each state library association serve on the regional association's research and development council. They progress to the SWLA executive board the following year, during their term as presidents of the state associations. This carefully documented evolution of SWLA may become a model for other professional library associations at all levels.

Regionally organized programs of service are growing in number and importance. Perhaps the most sophisticated thus far is the regional medical library program, which is candidly addressed by Donald Hendricks. He provides an insight into the actual functioning of the national network system designed and supported to facilitate the sharing of resources. Existing strengths and weaknesses of the program are relevant to all library applications of networking concepts. Hendricks recounts the difficulties of bringing together state and regional programs in a nationwide system. He also asserts that the foundation has been laid for the national goal of equal access to knowledge, which will lead to better health care for the medical welfare of the nation.

Library cooperation is carried out by personnel, usually those aware of its capabilities, possibilities and potential results to our quality of life. Those involved in these pursuits stress the need for continuing education to raise the level of awareness among all library personnel. Marion Mitchell and Donald Foos examine continuing education and institutes as a function of interstate library cooperation. Surveys indicate that continuing education is usually the first mentioned by librarians as a recognized need, but one of the last indicated by professional library educators. This factor is symptomatic of the chasm between graduate library school faculty and library practitioners. The

phenomenon has encouraged the federal government to support continuing education institutes conceived and held beyond academic campuses, a dramatic divergence from established patterns of government funding. The recent impact which institutes have had on the development of continuing education is emphasized by Mitchell and Foss, who stress the need for a nationwide program of continuing education for personnel in the library/information service field, a trend that is gradually emerging in the United States.

Accreditation standards and procedures have traditionally encouraged islands of independent library service and given little more than lip service to the development of cooperative programs. Johnnie Givens and Wanda Sivells examine the role of accrediting agencies in library development, citing the amazing variation of involvement by librarians. They note the lack of literature on this topic, which seems to reflect a mutual lack of interest both by librarians and officials of accrediting agencies. Givens and Sivells see some trends toward a closer relationship between the two, although there is presently uncertainty about the future role of national, regional and state accrediting bodies. Their findings seem to indicate that accreditation is of vital importance to library development and that therefore more attention should be given to this matter within the library profession.

Library developments in other countries are also encouraging programs of cooperation among libraries. William Jackson surveys library cooperation in Latin America and finds an uneven picture. Although the situation is encouraging at some levels, no basic pattern of development is evident. Jackson provides an insight into those programs of particular significance, suggesting a growing movement of library cooperation within Latin America. He emphasizes the necessity of adaptation of programs from one area of Latin America to another, noting that what will succeed in one part of the region may need to take a different form in another.

Elizabeth Morton notes the bilingual tradition of Canada in her historical survey of cooperation among Canadian libraries and governmental agencies. She documents a full array of activity, while noting the impact of recommendations of a royal commission as well as the dynamic leadership that indicates a bright future for coordinated cooperation in Canada. Morton recognizes the deliberate manner which marks the Canadian but points with pride to what has been achieved in her nation through voluntary cooperation.

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The close ties with U.S. libraries are apparent as trends toward a national system of library service are examined.

Library cooperation in England is highlighted by Jean Plaister, who stresses the importance of the British Library, a newly integrated system of five previously separated "national libraries" bringing together library resources that may be without rival in the world. The British Library's Lending Division has forged ahead in international library cooperation, evidence of a trend that may have an impact on U.S. library service. All major projects undertaken in England with implications for library cooperation are recorded, revealing a definite trend toward the development of a national system which brings together the resources of virtually all libraries in the country. Regional and national networks in England include not only those features found in the United States but also an evolving system of transportation to facilitate the cooperative sharing of resources.

The sixteen chapters in this issue do not fully encompass the topic. Areas identified but not covered in this issue include international library cooperation, trends in special libraries and other types of libraries, economic factors as a determining element in trends toward or away from cooperation among libraries, and the existing consortia that are indicative of cooperative endeavors among librarians. Some of these topics, e.g., the latter, are adequately covered elsewhere, others are still in need of original research.

The preparation of the manuscripts for this issue has required numerous typings and reworking of the material. Without the able assistance of an excellent office staff this would not have been possible. I am especially indebted to Jeannette Terry Maddaford and Diane Watson for their devoted service and superior work under the most difficult circumstances. As usual, most writers "owe their souls to the company store" and I am no exception, for creative productivity is encouraged by administrators at Eastern New Mexico University where, as Library Director, I undertook the editorial responsibility for this issue. I am especially indebted to James B. Sublette, Dean of Graduate Studies, and George L. Jones for their support of publication endeavors.

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