Library Trends Past and Present:
A Descriptive Study

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IN HIS "INTRODUCTION" to the inaugural issue of *Library Trends* (July 1952), Robert B. Downs noted a consensus:

> That library science has reached a stage in its growth where synthesis and interpretation are required. Media for reporting original research and current developments are probably adequate. In no existing organ, however, has one been able to secure a well-rounded view of the state of progress of any particular area of librarianship. No source has brought together widely scattered fragments into a coherent and connected whole. It was agreed, accordingly, that this sort of integration should be the primary aim of *Library Trends*.[1]

He continued saying that it was decided

> to inaugurate publication by a series of issues on major types of libraries. To obtain a broad perspective and to provide a foundation for more specialized treatment later, each of the first several numbers of *Library Trends* will be concerned with a specific branch of the field, i.e., college and university, public, school, special, and governmental libraries. In substance, the purpose is to offer a general status quo statement of social, political, educational, and economic tendencies now affecting libraries, with some forecasts of things to come and attempts to identify areas in need of further investigation.[2]

Library Trends "provides a medium for evaluative recapitulation of current thought and practice, searching for those ideas and procedures which hold the greatest potentialities for the future."[3] The statement in the masthead continues: "Each issue is concerned with one

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aspect of librarianship. Each is planned by an invited Guest Editor. All articles are by invitation. Suggestions for future issues are welcomed and should be sent to the Managing Editor."[4]

Since the first issue was published by the University of Illinois School of Library Science (now the Graduate School of Library and Information Science [GSLIS])[5] in July 1952, *Library Trends* has appeared regularly each quarter. For each issue, the school's Publications Committee selected a topic and an editor(s)—often the person(s) who had suggested the topic. The issue editor(s) bore the primary responsibility for defining the topic and scope, inviting persons to write the articles, getting the articles written and submitted on schedule, and editing the articles for adherence to the issue topic and congruence with the other articles. Technical editing for style, punctuation, and the like was performed by the GSLIS Publications Office staff who were also responsible for having each issue printed, bound, and distributed.

A total of 136 issues (volumes 1-34, July 1952-Summer 1986) were examined for this study. Because of the topicality of each, there was no attempt to explore issue-to-issue citation patterns and the like. This study is limited principally to an overall description, general comparisons of early and late volumes, and more detailed comparisons of the three pairs of issues that bear identical titles. First, the introductions and articles are examined and the subject content is described, then some comparisons between selected early and later issues are made, and finally the indexes appearing at the end of each volume are noted.

Authorship

Volumes one through thirty-four of *Library Trends* are made up of 1439 articles accompanied by 141 introductions. The typical issue includes an introduction written by the issue editor and an average of 10.6 articles. Three issues have a foreword, three a preface, and one a miscellany instead of, or in addition to, an introduction. One issue includes a poem, another a portfolio of photographs, and another a summary. The typical introduction is approximately one-third the length of the typical article and has about one-fifth as many references as the typical article. Almost nine out of ten articles and introductions were written by single authors, about one out of ten had two authors, and occasionally there were three or even four authors.

Harold Lancour and Maurice F. Tauber were the primary authors of four introductions each, while Walter C. Allen was the author of three. Eight persons wrote two introductions each: Larry E. Bone, H.C.

Campbell, Robert B. Downs, Kathleen M. Heim, Alice Lohrer, Frank L. Schick, C. Walter Stone, and Robert Vosper.

The July 1955 issue (volume 4, number 1) on "Current Trends in National Libraries" was edited by David C. Mearns who combined and arranged twenty-three national library directors' responses into sixteen articles, each on different facets of their work. Thus, in this one issue, Mearns was responsible for more articles than any other one person in the thirty-four years of *Library Trends*. The second most frequent primary author of articles was Robert B. Downs who wrote ten followed by Lowell A. Martin and Laurence S. Thompson who each wrote six articles, and Genevieve M. Casey, P. Howard, David Kaser, and Margaret E. Monroe who each wrote five. These eight persons account for about 4 percent of the total articles.

When the twelve persons who wrote four articles each are added, almost 7.5 percent of the articles are represented, and when the thirty-eight persons (about 5 percent of the primary authors) who wrote three articles each are added, the articles accounted for rises to over 15 percent. With the addition of the 130 persons who wrote two articles each, about 17 percent of the primary authors and just over one-third of the articles are accounted for. This falls short of a generalized Zipfian distribution in which 20 percent of the authors would be expected to have written 80 percent of the articles (see fig. 1). The facts that each issue of *Library Trends* deals with a different topic, that authorship is by invitation, and that at least two generations of authors are represented may help to explain this authorship pattern.

From the beginning, *Library Trends* has followed the useful custom of noting each author's affiliation at the time of writing on the bottom of the first page of each article. The affiliation of each author was recorded as (1) library school faculty member—always selected when an available option; (2) librarian—if serving in a professional capacity in a library; or (3) other—the "other" category includes both nonlibrarians as well as librarians in nonlibrary settings. The authors' affiliations volume-by-volume are displayed in table 1.

It is quite clear, within the thirty-four year period, that the authorship of both introductions and articles has shifted away from librarians to library school faculty members, while the relative contribution of "others" has also increased but not as much. This pattern is sufficient to produce interesting coefficient values when volume number and frequency of author affiliation are correlated. When the passage of time (as represented by volume numbers) is correlated with the frequency of authorship of articles, the correlation coefficient is .53 for library school
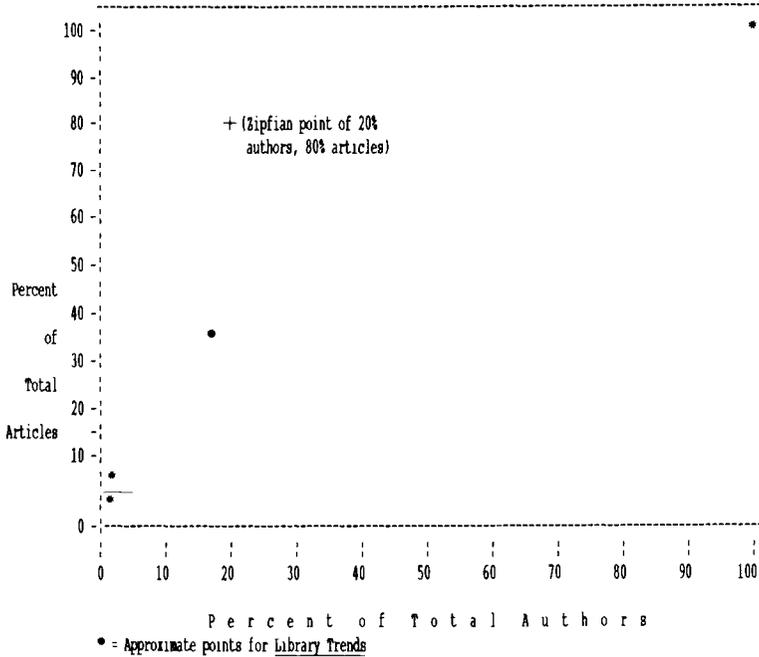
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      100 -:                                                               *
       90 -:
       80 -:              + (Zipfian point of 20%
                            authors, 80% articles)
       70 -:
       60 -:
       50 -:
Percent     :
       40 -:
  of        :          •
       30 -:
 Total      :
       20 -:
Articles  -:
       10 -:
          :•
          :•
        0 -:------------------------------------------------------------------------
          :
          :    :    :    :    :    :    :    :    :    :    :
          0   10   20   30   40   50   60   70   80   90   100

            P e r c e n t   o f   T o t a l   A u t h o r s
     • = Approximate points for Library Trends
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Figure 1. *Library Trends* (volumes 1-34; July 1952-Summer 1986): frequency of authorship of articles.

faculty, -.64 for librarians, and .40 for others. A similar but less pronounced pattern holds true for introductions. The correlation coefficients are presented in tables 2 and 3.

Subject Content

In gross classification terms, eleven issues pertain specifically to academic libraries, twelve to public libraries, two to special libraries, and four to school libraries. In a different dimension, fourteen issues pertain specifically to public services, six to technical services, and seven to administration.

In a more detailed analysis, the subjects of individual issues of *Library Trends* range from academic libraries to standards. There are

articles on services to such groups as adult learners, children, correctional facilities, ethnocultural minorities, industry, mental health patients, readers, the aging, the community, the disadvantaged, and young adults. There are additional articles on services involving abstracting, library use instruction, and bibliotherapy. Types of materials discussed include historical children's books, media, genealogy, government publications, manuscripts and archives, maps, music, periodicals, rare books, science materials, and social science data archives.

With three exceptions, each issue title is unique among the 136 issues. While some repetition of topics is to be expected in this length of time, in only these three instances was an issue topic a direct reexamination or updating of an earlier issue with the same title carried forward. More typically when a topic was repeated, it was with a different emphasis and/or point of view and a different title. For example, Hirsch (October 1972) edited an issue on "Standards for Libraries." Ten years later a pair of issues appeared, "Standards for Library and Information Services" (Weech, Summer 1982) and "Technical Standards for Library and Information Science" (Rush, Fall 1982). These reflected both a proliferation of standards and a broader range of interests. Another example is the initial issue on "Current Trends in College and University Libraries" (Downs, July 1952). Related issues included "Urban University Libraries" (Garloch, April 1962), "European University Libraries: Current Status and Developments" (Vosper, April 1964), "Junior College Libraries" (Trinkner, October 1965), "Trends in College Librarianship" (Deale, July 1969), "The Economics of Academic Libraries" (Kent, Summer 1979), and "Community/Junior College Libraries: National and International Aspects" (Lary, Spring 1985). Here the pattern is even clearer: an early general issue was followed by a number of issues devoted to one or more specific aspects. In this way, Downs's goal of providing an initial broad perspective and foundation to be followed by a more specialized treatment was achieved.

Some areas such as cataloging (three issues), acquisitions (two issues), and school libraries (three issues) received less attention than might have been expected since these are areas that have enjoyed substantial literature coverage in recent years. Perhaps the ready availability of other journal outlets was the reason issues of *Library Trends* were not proposed and accepted. Yet during the same period, both media and publishing, which also enjoyed substantial coverage, were the subjects of five issues.

TABLE 1
Library Trends (VOLUMES 1-34; JULY 1952-SUMMER 1986)
AUTHORSHIP OF ARTICLES

							Volume					
	1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*9*	*10*	*11*	*12*
Library School												
Faculty												
1st author	12	4	9	1	2	11	6	4	2	2	3	10
2nd author	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
3rd author	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4th author	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Librarians												
1st author	29	24	26	40	21	26	31	32	30	35	29	30
2nd author	-	3	3	4	-	-	4	1	2	2	-	1
3rd author	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
4th author	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other												
1st author	3	11	5	-	17	1	15	6	16	6	7	4
2nd author	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	-
3rd author	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4th author	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

							Volumes 13-24					
	13	*14*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21*	*22*	*23*	*24*
Library School												
Faculty												
1st author	7	2	10	7	4	4	9	16	7	12	9	13
2nd author	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
3rd author	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
4th author	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Librarians												
1st author	24	40	40	19	24	27	20	20	23	6	29	19
2nd author	1	4	8	-	-	-	2	1	3	-	5	5
3rd author	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
4th author	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other												
1st author	12	2	11	16	13	8	17	13	7	18	6	16
2nd author	-	2	-	2	-	1	1	4	1	2	3	2
3rd author	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
4th author	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

					Volumes 25-34					
	25	*26*	*27*	*28*	*29*	*30*	*31*	*32*	*33*	*34*
Library School										
Faculty										
1st author	17	8	16	14	8	6	9	13	7	21
2nd author	-	-	3	1	1	1	3	-	-	2

TABLE 1 *(Cont.)*
Library Trends (VOLUMES 1-34; JULY 1952-SUMMER 1986)
AUTHORSHIP OF ARTICLES

	Volumes 25-34 *(cont.)*									
	25	*26*	*27*	*28*	*29*	*30*	*31*	*32*	*33*	*34*
3rd author	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4th author	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Librarians										
1st author	15	16	17	16	34	13	17	12	7	11
2nd author	2	1	2	2	5	1	3	4	1	1
3rd author	2	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	1
4th author	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Other										
1st author	8	13	9	9	4	20	15	15	20	9
2nd	-	1	1	4	1	3	3	-	-	2
3rd	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
4th author	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

General Comparison of Early and Late Issues

Five early volumes (1-5, 1952-57) and five late volumes (30-34, 1980-86) were examined for similarities and differences. They were compared in terms of gross details, authorship, and content.

The average introduction in volumes 1-5 was slightly longer than the average introduction for all volumes (1-34), while the average introduction in volumes 30-34 was slightly shorter. The numbered references for the introductions followed the same pattern. The average article in volumes 1-5 was about two pages shorter than the average article for all volumes (1-34), while the average article in volumes 30-34 was about two pages longer. The average article in volumes 30-34 had almost 50 percent more references than the average for all articles (volumes 1-34) or for the articles in volumes 1-5.

The guest editors for volumes 1-5 and volumes 30-34 formed two entirely separate populations. With one exception, the authors also formed two separate populations. The exception was Dan Lacy who wrote on "Aid to National Policy" in July 1953 and on "The Book and Literature in the 1980s" in Fall 1984. It would be interesting to see if other professional publications in librarianship displayed this same almost complete replacement of writers in the field during this quarter-century period.

TABLE 2

Library Trends (VOLUMES 1-34; JULY 1952-SUMMER 1986)
CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS FOR AUTHORSHIP OF
INTRODUCTIONS BY VOLUME NUMBER

	r	r squared
Library School Faculty		
First Authors	.38	.14
All Authors	.48	.24
Librarians		
First Authors	-.34	.11
All Authors	-.28	.08
Others		
First Authors	.03	.0008
All Authors	.16	.03

TABLE 3

Library Trends (VOLUMES 1-34; JULY -SUMMER 1986)
CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS FOR AUTHORSHIP OF ARTICLES
BY VOLUME NUMBER

	r	r squared
Library School Faculty		
First Authors	.53	.28
All Authors	.55	.30
Librarians		
First Authors	-.64	.41
All Authors	-.54	.29
Others		
First Authors	.40	.16
All Authors	.47	.22

Harold Lancour wrote two introductions in volumes 1-5, and
Walter Allen wrote two in volumes 30-34. Paul Howard wrote three
articles in volumes 1-5, and fifteen other persons wrote two articles each.
Of course Mearns is an exception, having assembled the July 1955 issue
by himself as well as writing one article which appeared in January
1957. Mary Jo Lynch and Jane Robbins-Carter each wrote three articles
in volumes 30-34, and six other persons wrote two articles each. Fewer

persons writing multiple articles in the later volumes is a trend consistent with what may be an increasing specialization among librarians.

Three times as many librarians as library school faculty edited early issues and wrote introductions, while five times as many librarians as library school faculty wrote early issue articles. In contrast, three times as many library school faculty as librarians edited late issues and wrote introductions, while about equal numbers of library school faculty and librarians wrote late issue articles. "Other" authors of early articles (excluding Mearns) were even fewer than library school faculty, but were one-third more prolific than either library school faculty or librarians as authors of later articles (for specific details see table 1).

Among the twenty-four subjects represented in the five early and late volumes, nine are in the early volumes only, nine in the late volumes only, and six in both the early and the late volumes. Among the subjects that appear only in the early volumes are such standbys as acquisitions, cataloging and classification; government and national libraries; rare books; and school libraries while the late volumes include newer subjects such as bibliometrics, collection development and evaluation, and standards. For a complete display of the incidence of particular subjects in the early and late volumes, see table 4.

Comparison of Three Early and Three Late Issues on the Same Topics

Three issue titles were each used twice: "Conservation of Library Materials" (Tauber, January 1956, and Lundeen, Fall 1981), "Current Trends in Reference Services" (Goggin, January 1964, and Vavrek, Winter 1983), and "Research in Librarianship" (A.A.L.S. Committee on Research, October 1957, and Lynch, Spring 1984). The choice of identical titles by the Publications Committee indicates that the later issue in each pair was conceived as a deliberate attempt to present an updated statement on the same topic. These three pairs of issues are compared and contrasted. Implicit in the second of each pair was the understanding that it was to supplement the first and bring it up to date.

"Conservation of Library Materials"

The introduction and twelve articles in the 1956 "Conservation of Library Materials" listed nearly twice as many references (including *ibid*. and the like) as the 1981 issue. Also,the earlier issue cited nearly one-third more items (not counting *ibid*. and the like, but counting multiple citations in each reference) than the later issue.

TABLE 4
Library Trends (VOLUMES 1-5 AND 30-34)
COMPARISON BY SUBJECT

Subject	Volumes 1-5	30-34
Academic Libraries	1	1
Access to Materials	1	
Acquisitions	1	
Administration	2	1
Automation and Mechanization	1	
Bibliometrics		1
Cataloging and Classification	1	
Collection Development and Evaluation		1
Conservation and Preservation	1	1
Copyright and Public Lending Right		1
Education for Librarianship and Information Science		2
Government and National Libraries	3	
Library Associations	1	
Media		1
Personnel		2
Public Libraries	1	
Publishing	1	1
Rare Books	1	
Reference Services		2
Research		1
School Libraries	1	
Services to Special Groups	1	2
Special Materials and Services	3	2
Standards		2
Total	20	17

In the June 1956 issue two items were cocited in five articles: *Library Binding Manual* by L.N. Feipel and E.W. Browning (Chicago: American Library Association, 1956) and *Technical Services in Libraries* by Maurice F. Tauber and Associates (New York: Columbia University Press, 1954). In the same issue, a dozen items were cocited in two articles. In the Fall 1981 issue, three items were cocited in two articles. There were no cocitations between the two issues. In other words, none of the items cited in the June 1956 issue were cited in the Fall 1981 issue, the citations in the two issues representing entirely different sets.

The date of publication of the items cited in January 1956 extended over a period of nearly 60 years, while the date of publication of the items cited in Fall 1981 extended over nearly 130 years, twice as long a period. The half-life of the citations in both issues was six years. For additional details, see table 5.

Citations to anonymous items (mostly news stories from professional publications) accounted for forty-two citations in January 1956 and twenty-four citations in Fall 1981. The most frequently cited authors were Williams (eight citations in Fall 1981), the American National Standards Institute (seven citations in Fall 1981), Barrow (seven citations in January 1956), Tauber (six citations in January 1956), Feipel (five citations in January 1956), and Waters (five citations in Fall 1981).

The *Library Journal* and *College & Research Libraries*, the two most frequent sources of periodical citations in January 1956, accounted for almost one-third of the citations. Another one-third of the citations came from periodicals which were cited only once, and, except for the *Library Journal* with citations extending from 1902-55, the periodicals with the single citations represented the greatest span of years (1935-55). About one-half of the Fall 1981 citations came from periodicals which were cited only once, and the periodicals with the single citations represented by far the greatest span of years (1955-80).

The most notable difference between the two issues was the general absence of scientific sources in 1956 compared with the much greater reliance on scientific sources in 1981, reflecting the considerable advances in paper chemistry that had occurred during the twenty-five-year interval. For example, no ANSI standards were cited in 1956. Also, the 1981 issue relied on slightly fewer sources and one-third fewer citations.

"Current Trends in Reference Services"

The introduction and nine articles in the 1983 "Current Trends in Reference Services" listed about one-sixth more references (including *ibid.*) than the 1964 issue and cited nearly twice as many items (not counting *ibid.* but counting multiple citations in each reference). In the Winter 1983 issue, more than twice as many items were cocited as were in the January 1964 issue.

Eight items were cocited in both issues; otherwise, the citations in the two issues represented different sets. *The Development of Reference Services Through Academic Traditions, Public Library Practice and Special Librarianship* by Samuel Rothstein (Chicago: ACRL, 1955) was cocited five times. Two items were cocited four times: *Introduction to*

TABLE 5
DATES OF CITATIONS APPEARING IN THREE
PAIRS OF *Library Trends*

	Earliest Date	Quartile			Late: Dat
		1st	2nd	3rd	
"Conservation of Library Materials"					
January 1956	1900	1944	1951	1954	195(
Fall 1981	1855	1968	1976	1979	198
"Current Trends in Reference Services"					
January 1964	1876	1945	1957	1961	196;
Winter 1983	1884	1974	1978	1980	198;
"Research in Librarianship"					
October 1957	1911	1945	1951	1954	195
Spring 1984	1886	1970	1976	1981	198

Reference Work by Margaret Hutchins (Chicago: ALA, 1944) and *Basic Reference Sources* by Louis Shores (Chicago: ALA, 1954). One item was cocited three times: *Practical Administration of Public Libraries* by Joseph Wheeler and Herbert Goldhor (New York: Harper & Row, 1962).

The dates of publication of the items cited in the January 1964 and Winter 1983 issues extended over nearly a century. The half-life of the citations in January 1964 was one-third longer than for Winter 1983 (for more specific details see table 5).

Citations to anonymous items (mostly news stories from professional publications) accounted for twenty citations in January 1964 and twenty-seven citations in Winter 1983. The most frequently cited authors were Samuel Rothstein with thirteen citations, Mary Jo Lynch with nine citations, Louis Shores with eight citations, Thomas Childers, Marjorie Murfin, and Bernard Vavrek with six citations each, Gerald Jahoda and Joseph Wheeler (three in conjunction with Goldhor) with five citations each, Margaret Hutchins, and Jesse Shera with four citations each and Martin Carnovsky, Mabel Conat, Wayne Crouch, Margaret Egan, Samuel Green, Eugene Jackson, F. Wilfrid Lancaster, Patrick Penland, Sarah Rebecca Reed, Elizabeth Stone, Judith Wanger, and Constance Winchell with three citations each. An additional fifty-five persons had two citations each.

The principal difference between the January 1964 and Winter 1983 issues was that the former was mostly concerned with the processes of doing reference work, while the latter was also concerned with performance evaluation. In 1964 there were doubts about whether reference services could be the object of research or even whether they could be measured and evaluated. In 1983 there was a consensus that measurement and evaluation were possible, and research efforts in reference services were abundantly cited. Further, there was recognition of the changes in reference services brought about by new technologies that had an impact on libraries especially the computer and related telecommunications media. These changes were visible in Winter 1983 by the heavy reliance on *RQ* and on a wide range of nonperiodical sources.

"Research in Librarianship"

The introduction and thirteen articles in the 1957 "Research in Librarianship" listed about three-fifths as many references (including *ibid.*) as the 1984 issue. Similarly, the earlier issue cited about one-half as many items (not counting *ibid.* but counting multiple citations in each reference) as the later issue. Nearly seven times as many items were cocited in the Spring 1984 issue as in the October 1957 issue.

An Introduction to Scientific Research in Librarianship by Herbert Goldhor (Urbana-Champaign: University of Illinois Graduate Library School, 1972) was cocited five times in the Spring 1984 issue. "Searching for Research in ACRL Conference Papers" by Coughlin and Snelson (*Journal of Academic Librarianship*, March 1983) and "Darwin, Bacon and Research" by Shera (*Library Trends*, July 1964) were cocited four times each. "Research" (*ALA Yearbook*, 1983), "Publishing the Results of Research" by Carnovsky (*Library Trends*, July 1964), "Academic Library Research: A Twenty Year Perspective" by Kim and Kim (In *New Horizons for Academic Libraries*. K.G. Saur, 1979), and "Library Science Dissertations" by Schlachter & Thomison (Littleton, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, 1982) were cocited three times each. Only six items were cocited in both issues; otherwise the citations in the two issues represented different sets.

The range of the dates of publication of the items cited in October 1957 was about one-half the range of the items cited in Spring 1984. The half-life of the citations in the October 1957 issue was seven years compared to the half-life of nine years for the citations in the Spring 1984 issue (for more specific details see table 5).

Citations to anonymous items (mostly news stories from professional publications) accounted for five citations in October 1957 and forty citations in Spring 1984. The most frequently cited authors were Shera (thirteen—four in 1957 and nine in 1984), Berelson (ten in 1984), Carnovsky (eight—four in 1957 and four in 1984), Cooper (seven in 1984), Buckland (six in 1984), Garrison (six in 1984), Goldhor (six in 1984), Harris (six in 1984), Ranganathan (six in 1957), Asheim (five in 1957), Leimkuhler (five in 1984), Tauber (four in 1957 and one in 1984), and Van House (five in 1984). Eight authors had four citations each, eighteen authors—three citations each, and twenty-seven authors with two citations each.

Among October 1957 citations, the *Library Quarterly* was the source of about one-fourth of the periodical citations. The second most frequent source was *College & Research Libraries* which accounted for only about one-ninth of the citations. About two-ninths of the October 1957 citations came from periodicals which were cited only once, and these represented the longest span of years (1911-57). In Spring 1984, the most frequent source of citations was *Library Trends* which accounted for less than one-ninth of the citation sources. This was followed, in descending order, by *Library Journal, College & Research Libraries, Journal of Education for Librarianship*, and *Journal of Academic Librarianship*. While the *Library Quarterly* was the most frequent

source of citations in the earlier issue, it was the sixth most frequent source in this later issue and accounted for about 4 percent of the citation sources

Publications of the American Library Association were the most frequent nonperiodical sources of citations in both October 1957 and Spring 1984, but they represented only small portions of the totals (one-eighth in 1957 and one-fourteenth in 1984). In 1957, the second through the seventh most frequent sources were either library schools or university presses, and ALA, together with these six academic sources, represented nearly one-half of the total nonperiodical citation sources. Within this group, Columbia University's School of Library Service and Press together accounted for almost one-fifth of the citation sources, somewhat more than ALA. At the same time, nearly one-fourth of the citations came from sources cited only once. In contrast, in Spring 1984, the nonperiodical citation sources were distributed among nearly twice as many publishers as in October 1957 with commercial publishers accounting for much of the difference. Twenty percent of the sources accounted for only about two-thirds of the citations rather than the 80 percent that would result from a Zipfian distribution, and 80 percent of the citations came from between one-third and one-half of the sources rather than the 20 percent that would result from a Zipfian distribution.

By page count alone, there was a significant difference between the October 1957 and Spring 1984 issues. The text of the former extended over 152 pages, while the latter extended over 218 pages, an increase of 43 percent. This is not surprising since the former was anticipatory in its outlook, while the latter took justifiable pride in the research that had been accomplished during the intervening quarter-century. This is reflected in the much greater reliance on scholarly sources for citations.

Volume Indexes

An index appears at the end of each volume with the exception of volume nine for which an index is lacking. The indexes appear uniform in the use of key words and phrases taken from the texts of the articles. Cross-references are used sparingly since the indexes are relatively short (about six pages each). The authors and titles of the articles and the items cited in the articles are not indexed. At least nine different individuals and one firm prepared the indexes.

Summary

How might the first thirty-four volumes of *Library Trends* be described? Perhaps the best description can be taken from the words of Robert B. Downs in the first issue's "Introduction" in which he anticipated that each volume would present a "well-rounded view of the state of progress" in particular areas of librarianship.[6] The wide range of topics is readily seen in a list of issue titles. Just as each issue had its own title, each issue had its own editor. On the surface, there were strong similarities among the 136 issues. The typical issue began with an introduction by the editor, followed by a little less than a dozen articles in which the context was established, recent and current developments and problems discussed, and future developments and problems considered. The typical article was just over a dozen pages and had about twenty references.

When five early and late volumes (1-5 and 30-34) were compared, the general long-term tendencies were more obvious. Chief among these was the shift away from librarians as the most frequent authors to a much greater role by library school faculty and "others" as authors. Among the "others" were both former librarians employed outside of libraries and nonlibrarians.

Only three issue titles were repeated. A comparison of these three pairs of issues suggested that there may have been a long-term trend toward citing more research (there is more to report now than there was a few years ago). The citations and their sources tend to bear this out with more specialized sources selected from a broader spectrum.

Thus, the general approach used successfully in the first issues has been continued into the present. The tradition of an issue editor bringing together a group of timely articles has worked well. It will be interesting to compare the next thirty-four years with these.

References

1. Downs, Robert B. "Introduction." *Library Trends* 1(July 1952):3.
2. Ibid., pp. 3-4.
3. This statement, quoted from vol. 1, no. 1, appears inside the front cover of each issue of *Library Trends*.
4. Beginning with vol. 33 of *Library Trends*, this statement was omitted from the masthead, and a full-page "Procedures for Proposing and Guest Editing an Issue of *Library Trends*" first appeared inside the back cover.