ARTICLES
Urbanski, Verna
Brownson, Charles W.
Sellberg, Roxanne
Russell, Ann; Motylewski, Karen; and Tracy, Gay

RESEARCH NOTES
Nevin, Susanne

BOOK REVIEWS
Hewitt, Joe A.
Traister, Daniel
Laning, Melissa A.
Myers, Nancy
Alcorn, Cynthia
Hanscom, Martha
McCombs, Gillian M.
Epple, Margie
Davidson, Mary Wallace
Asher, Richard E.
Saunders, Laverna M.

Interaction: Letters to the Editor
Editorial: Should Old Acquaintance Be Forgot?
1987 Annual Reports
1987 Division/Section Awards
Index to Advertisers

GTO-RLIN Testing at the University of Minnesota Libraries: Preliminary Report

Technical Standards: An Introduction for Librarians, by Walt Crawford
Managing Special Collections, by A. M. Scham
LC Rule Interpretations of AACR2, 1978–1986, First Update (CSB 28–33), ed. by Sally Tseng
Microcomputers and Libraries: A Bibliographic Sourcebook, by Thomas L. Kilpatrick
The Publishing and Review of Reference Sources, ed. by Bill Katz and Robin Kinder
Preservation Planning Program: Resource Notebook, comp. by Pamela W. Darling
University Libraries in Transition, by James A. Hyatt and Aurora A. Santiago
Advances in Library Administration and Organization: A Research Annual, ed. by Gerard B. McCabe and Bernard Kreissman
Cataloging Music: A Manual for Use with AACR2, by Richard P. Smiraglia
Subject Cataloging Manual: Shelflisting, prep. by Subject Cataloging Division, Library of Congress
Editorial: Should Old Acquaintance BeForgot?

The recent announcement by the Reference and Adult Services Division of its board’s formation and approval of a Collection Development and Evaluation Section raises an old specter: duplication of interests across divisional lines.

ALA affords many possibilities for duplication of interests. It cannot be avoided entirely in an association having some divisions that serve members in specific types of libraries and others for members performing particular functions. Unsurprisingly, the Public Library Association has a Cataloging Needs of Public Libraries Committee. Although there are many committees in our own Cataloging and Classification Section, CCS did not have a Public Library Cataloging Committee before (which motivated PLA to form one), nor does it have one now; for to create it now would water down the potential impact of both committees, fragmenting their respective memberships and causing a pointless tug-of-war between them for energy, money, and time. Conscientious public library catalogers join both divisions, receive both sets of membership benefits, and participate in both kinds of projects and programs, because they are both public librarians and catalogers. Many of us support several divisions because we wish to receive their publications and serve on their committees.

Technical and public service librarians face an even larger impetus for overlapping interests. Since the introduction of bibliographic computing, we are moving inexorably toward integration of formerly separate public and technical service units. Michael Gorman’s “compleat” librarian is both cataloger and bibliographer. The 1984 preconference “Converging Catalogs—Converging Reference” explored these developments. Articles in the literature explain (“how it happened in our library”) as well as complain (“how it is creating problems for us”).

I do not doubt that reference and adult service librarians are keenly interested in collection development, but surely they recognize that RTSD’s Resources Section, RS, serves exactly that area. RS generates useful publications; committees cover all aspects of this essential function from collection management and development to micropublishing and research; discussion groups provide forums for librarians and vendors and for collection developers in large research libraries, academic libraries, public libraries, and gifts and exchange. Couldn’t RASD’s collection developers find happiness in one or more of those groups?

Does the existence of overlapping interest areas between divisions warrant duplicate sections devoted to identical territory? A likely scenario might include the following:

- Annual Conferences and Midwinter Meetings in which collection de-
Developers are bombarded with competing programs, scheduled against one another, on the same topics with the same speakers;
- division publications that contain articles covering the same subjects, perhaps even written by the same authors;
- division budgets spread thinner than usual, to support—for collection developers—two units with executive boards, committees, and discussion groups, generating twice as many minutes, programs, publications, papers, etc., as one.

Who wins? Conference hotels, who are asked for more meeting rooms; authors of articles and papers, who have two places to go to get them published; speakers on collection development, who will be chased by program planners from both sections.

Who loses? Collection developers and conference planners, who face proliferating meetings and programs with their associated frustrations and costs.

RASD colleagues—please think about the implications of your action. Collection developers have a good home in RTSD’s Resources Section. RASD collection developers should also join RTSD and participate with us, just as RTSD members with a strong interest in database searching should join RASD and participate in its Machine-Assisted Reference Section, not band together and create a ComputerSearching Section in RTSD.

As we begin a new year, friends, remember old acquaintances. And, in our honest wishes to move forward with new programs, save us from believing we discovered a great new invention—the wheel.—Sheila S. Intner, Editor.

INDEX TO ADVERTISERS

| Blackwell North America | 7 |
| R. R. Bowker | 11 |
| Cambridge University Press | 82 |
| Care Of Collections, Inc. | 91 |
| Data Trek | 81 |
| EBSCO Publishing | 2d cover |
| EBSCO Subscriptions | 95 |
| Forest Press | 87 |
| General Research Corporation | 85 |
| LITA | 71 |
| Midwest Library Service | 2 |
| MLA | 3d cover |
| PLA | 96 |
| Roth Publishing | 4th cover |
| K. G. Saur | 1 |
| University Products, Inc. | 93 |
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Interaction:
Letters to the Editor

From: Walt Crawford, Research Libraries Group, Stanford, California

Thomas R. Sanders’ article “Uniform Title as Author: A Problem in Online Catalogs?” (LRTS 31(3):231-38) is interesting, but appears to reflect a problem with Auburn’s NOTIS implementation, not a problem with USMARC.

Nowhere in the USMARC formats are fields 130 and 830 called “author fields.” Neither are the 1xx fields called “author fields.” The 1xx fields are Main Entry fields, pure and simple. Field 130 contains titles, as does field 830. The name of the field makes that clear. Nothing in MARC documentation suggests otherwise; neither does anything in MARC for Library Use.

Of course it makes sense to index 130 fields as titles. Why would any online catalog do otherwise?

From: Glenn Patton, OCLC, Inc., Dublin, Ohio

In his article “Uniform Title as Author: A Problem in Online Catalogs?” Thomas R. Sanders reports experiences similar to many other librarians as they make the transition from manual catalogs to online system. As they are presented with the many options which must be considered and the many decisions which must be made—decisions which often must be made quickly and which, once made, become irrevocable, at least for the life of that online system—technical services staff and their reference colleagues realize, as they may never have realized before, that both the MARC formats and AACR2, in spite of efforts to the contrary, retain a strong orientation toward card catalogs and traditional catalog card images.

One can hardly disagree with Mr. Sanders’ premise that users of an online catalog are not well served by having some uniform titles indexed as titles and other uniform titles indexed as authors or his conclusion that the x30 fields in bibliographic records should be placed in the same index as other titles (fields 24x, 440, 740, e.g.). I can’t agree, however, that the fact that, in one online system application, this is not true is somehow the fault of the USMARC formats or that a change in the names and tags of some fields will insure uniformity of indexing of fields which are already clearly identified as titles.

Perhaps the initial problem here is a failure to recognize that there are at least two ways to group some MARC fields. All 1xx fields can be grouped together because of their function according to the cataloging rules—i.e., main entry. Each of those fields can also be grouped with other similar fields in other tag groups which share the same data characteristics—i.e.,
personal name main entries can also be grouped with the other x00 fields (100, 400, 600, 700 and 800) because those fields share the common characteristic of identifying a personal name.

On the other hand, the problem may be an unrealistic expectation of what the MARC Formats do. The document *The USMARC Formats* . . . contains a number of statements which bear on the issue of what can and cannot be expected from the USMARC format: . . . identify and further characterize the data elements . . . provide for the exchange of records between systems [but] . . . do not mandate the internal formats to be used by individual systems, either for storage or display . . . USMARC Formats support the sorting of data only to a limited extent. . . .

All of the things which the USMARC formats do not prescribe must be decided by those responsible for the design of a system. . . . The best results will come from the active participation of system designers and data processing experts who understand libraries, library functions and library users, and librarians who have a fundamental understanding of computer systems. Each side must be willing to educate the other and both sides need to communicate clearly and understand each others’ languages. . . .

The resolution to the indexing problem which Mr. Sanders lays out is a good illustration of how system user groups must work to influence changes in an existing system. Users had made it clear that established indexing did not work adequately and that some fields in the MARC structure had been incorrectly identified as to their function and common characteristics. It is unfortunate that that had not been done earlier in the development of that system. If those of us involved in the design or selection of an online system clearly recognize our roles in various processes which are part of the implementation of a system, we can solve the problems before they become problems.

Thomas R. Sanders replies:

Mr. Crawford’s points are exactly the points I was trying to make in my article, although addressed from a different perspective [and] I find it hard to disagree with any of Mr. Patton’s main points, most of which are well known in the profession.

It is certainly true that there are at least two ways to group some MARC fields. It is also true that this construction is not uniform throughout USMARC. While the 1xx fields are always main entry, there is no 145 for title as main entry and so the 245 may also be main entry. . . . Uniform title fields may be x30 or x40. There are other seeming inconsistencies which could be noted, none of which should suggest that USMARC is badly constructed. Rather, it is the product of its time and of the inevitable give-and-take of committees. My point was not the USMARC forced improper indexing but that these seeming inconsistencies might contribute to the problem of local interpretation in developing systems. . . .

There was never any intention on my part to attack the USMARC standards. I believe that there is a potential for problems to develop in the creation of online public access catalogs because of common understandings of what the fields represent. . . .

As I tried to set forth in my article, I see the potential for problems aris-
ing from two sources which converge in the area of practical applications of standards. The first is the traditional approach by librarians and library users alike of categorizing all potential searches into 'author,' 'title' or 'subject.' This tendency persists despite efforts of the writers of AACR 2 to avoid using the word 'author' to describe many relationships commonly understood to fall into that category. While their choice of descriptors is undoubtedly more accurate, the common usage tends to linger and to be more influential in how we think about things ('cultural persistence'). . . . The second, the choice made in establishing MARC fields and numbers, is a source of potential problems primarily in conjunction with the mind-set outlined above. . . . The uniform title field is 130 if it is a main entry and 240 if not. Not only is this division potentially confusing, but all other 1xx fields can be categorized into the traditional concept of 'author.'

Certainly my interest in the problems of USMARC interpretation is more intense now that it has a more direct effect on local operations. The fact that OCLC MARC had fields and field interpretations distinct from USMARC did not concern me so long as I was primarily concerned with card production. . . . These became more of a concern once I had to deal with problems of record transfer. Unfortunate as it may be, the majority of librarians spend most of their lives in practical, applied work—and struggle hard evenings and weekends to keep up with new developments. . . .

There are two basic approaches to dealing with sources of potential problems. One is to put the burden of steering clear of shoals on each individual navigator. The other is at least to mark the shoals and, even better, to dredge them a bit. Certainly I harbor unrealistic expectations. Who does not? If we wish to make improvements, we must start out asking for the ideal and then settle for the achievable.

BIRTHS

Georgina Cathleen Cannan, Past-President Judith P. Cannan's new daughter, was born August 14, weighing just a shade under six pounds. Warmest congratulations to Judy and Philip Cannan.
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*CD-ROM (Compact Disc-Read Only Memory) = approx. 250,000 printed pages or 1,500 floppy disks.
Resources & Technical Services News: CD-ROM Takes Center Stage

Verna Urbanski

CD-ROM is a rapidly expanding field for libraries. As products standardize and multi-simultaneous use becomes a reality, application of CD-ROM to a variety of library tasks becomes increasingly practical and affordable. The products discussed below were selected specifically for their relevance to resources and technical services work. They skim the entire range of products available for library use.

Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) of Dublin, Ohio, announces development of a compact disk (CD) cataloging system that they hope to have available by early 1988. CAT CD450 is microcomputer-based and runs on an OCLC M300 or M300XT workstation. A 20M hard-disk drive and at least one CD-ROM reader are needed. The system uses a subset of OCLC’s online union catalog. It will have two collections, each containing the most frequently used Library of Congress (LC) and non-LC bibliographic records from OCLC’s database. The Current Cataloging Collection will contain 1.4 million records on two disks. These include records in the books format for titles with dates of 1980 to the present. The second collection, also on two disks, contains 1.4 million records for most-used nonbook records (all formats) plus book records with pre-1980 imprint dates. OCLC’s research indicates that these four compact disks will handle 80 percent of a library’s cataloging needs. CAT CD450 will also include the Authorities Collection, two disks containing all 1.8 million LC name and subject authority records. Current plans call for the four bibliographic CDs to be updated quarterly and the Authorities Collection, semiannually.

CAT CD450 will be able to communicate directly with OCLC’s online system. When a needed record is not found on the CDs, users will have the option to search the online system immediately or to save the search terms for batch-mode searching. The system will download records to a local save file and facilitate other batch-mode functions such as card production and holdings updating. OCLC anticipates that system users could substantially reduce their telecommunications costs and online system charges by

Verna Urbanski is Catalog Librarian at the Thomas G. Carpenter Library, University of North Florida, Jacksonville.
using CAT CD450 for the bulk of their work and going to the online system only when necessary.

OCLC is investigating the feasibility of other online system subsets. Candidates for publishing on CD include the entire collections of nonbook formats, all sound recordings, serials, and materials of interest to law or medical libraries.

R. R. Bowker’s Books in Print Plus and Ulrich’s Plus, the CD-ROM versions of Books in Print and Ulrich’s International Periodical Directory, were launched last fall and are changing the work flow in many acquisitions departments. Books in Print Plus contains the entire multivolume Books in Print, along with the Subject Guide to Books in Print, Books in Print Supplement, Forthcoming Books, Children’s Books in Print, and complete names and addresses of all represented publishers on a single CD-ROM disk. The software enables users to access the Books in Print database in the following ways, either alone or in combination: ISBN, author, title, publisher, publication date, audience, grade, language, price, subject, and keyword. Ulrich’s Plus incorporates all the information found in Ulrich’s International Periodicals Directory, Irregular Serials and Annuals, and Bowker’s International Serials Database Update. Search and retrieval capabilities are similar to those for Books in Print Plus.

A simple addition to Books in Print Plus has created another useful tool, Books in Print Plus with Book Reviews Plus, which was developed to give depth to the product as a selection source. It adds unabridged reviews from ALA’s Booklist, Choice, Library Journal, School Library Journal, and Publishers Weekly to the information available on Books in Print Plus.

Books in Print Plus, Books in Print Plus with Book Reviews Plus, and Ulrich’s Plus are soon to be joined by Books Out of Print Plus, Bowker’s latest addition to its growing family of CD-ROM products. Books Out of Print Plus contains 300,000 titles that have gone out of print since 1979. The search software is similar to Books in Print Plus with the addition of library formats 4,4 for author-title searches and 3,2,2,1 for title searches. The system supports Boolean logic and truncation with Boolean operators AND or NOT. Successful searches can be output in five formats: standard Books Out of Print citation, catalog card, MARC-tagged citation, customized citation, or detailed citation. Updates consist of new disks issued quarterly. Bowker expects to release Books Out of Print Plus early in 1988. Hardware requirements for these products consist of an IBM PC or compatible computer and a CD-ROM disk drive. New versions of Bowker’s CD-ROM products are currently being developed for use on the Apple Macintosh.

Online Computer Systems, Inc. of Germantown, Maryland, is working on a variety of hardware and software products with uses ranging from image compression and storage to packaging of some of our most familiar library tools. LC’s Cataloging Distribution Service (CDS) has announced that Online Computer Systems had been awarded development contracts to produce its bibliographic and authority records on CD-ROM from the MARC database. It will be developing four products for CDS: the complete database of bibliographic records for all formats, database of records for the books format alone, name authorities file, and subject authority
file. CD-ROM is being evaluated for its potential as a backup system to LC’s mainframe computers.

Online Computer Systems’ CD-ROM prototype of MARC subject authority records is now being tested at LC in its main reading room. CD-MARC products will be available for use by the reference staff and the public. LC’s descriptive and subject catalogers will also be testing CD-MARC Subjects, which includes the following features: display of the full ALA extended character set; automatic retrieval of cross-reference terms, including preferred and related terms; full string or keyword searching; hierarchical record structuring; choice of multiple record formats; full USMARC communications record output; and several printing options.

Online Computer Systems has also tackled the problem of tying up expensive equipment to service a single CD-ROM. At 1987 ALA Midwinter, Bowker and Online jointly demonstrated retrieval software that provides access to multiple databases on CD-ROM. These demonstrations introduced Online’s local area network, OPTI-NET. Bowker demonstrated BIP Plus and Ulrich’s Plus running on a 2-drive optical storage unit developed by Online. Online demonstrated multiple database access on the 4- and 8-drive optical storage unit with the Bowker Plus products, as well as a library public access catalog, a subset of the NTIS database, its “Tax Forms on Demand” product, and a software documentation delivery system. OPTI-NET products currently operate with the IBM PC network and Ethernet protocols. The IBM PC Network will support up to 32 simultaneous users and the Ethernet system, up to 128 simultaneous users. OPTI-NET will span multiple CD-ROMs as well as multiple CD-ROM drives with single databases resident on each drive.

The Faxon Company, a leader in serial subscription management for many years, recently introduced a CD-ROM product as part of its MicroLinx micro-based serials control system. Faxon is exploring CD-ROM as a mechanism for building efficient databases for the system and has developed a CD-ROM disk containing the complete records for the English-language LC MARC-S Serials file and software that will transfer MARC bibliographic data from the CD-ROM disk to the microcomputer’s hard disk. From there the subset of needed information can be transferred to the MicroLinx system. This data may be edited before and/or after transfer. The MicroLinx Bibliographic Interface can be used to process MARC files produced by other CD-ROM products, provided the bibliographic record is in LC MARC format.

SilverPlatter Information Services of Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts, is working with several large information providers to create a variety of CD-ROM databases. Of most immediate interest to resources and technical services librarians are A-V Online and LISA, both of which are updated annually with a replacement disk.

A-V Online is the database of the National Information Center for Educational Media (NICEM). It incorporates cataloging from LC, publisher’s catalogs, and library collections. Citations include annotations and subject descriptors, audience levels, and names and addresses of distribution sources. Thus, it is useful for both cataloging and acquisitions information.
LISA makes available the complete *Library & Information Science Abstracts* database. The file covers 1969–86 on a single disk. There are 81,000 entries from 550 periodicals, plus citations for monographs and conference proceedings on library and information science, online information retrieval, new information technologies, and publishing. It can be searched using full Boolean capability (AND, OR, NOT) as well as proximity searching (i.e., searches on words adjacent to one another) of the disk's full text. LISA has great potential for any library professional who writes or researches in the field.

The products discussed here represent one side of the CD-ROM story. They are ready-to-go, prepackaged, information-enhancing services. Another potential application of CD-ROM is the individual library's mastering of its own institution-specific CDs. Meridian Data, Inc. of Capitola, California, introduced *CD Publisher* as the first complete IBM PC-based, in-house CD-ROM premastering and simulation tool.

*CD Publisher* is a large-capacity hard disk and tape subsystem expandable to 2400M. It includes a 1/2-inch, 9-track tape drive. An SCSI (Small Computer System Interface) host adapter card provides the interface between an IBM XT or AT slot and the *CD Publisher*. The system allows an agency to create a fully tested, formatted premaster tape ready for disk pressing. Meridian Data indicates that CD-ROM database preparation can be done by a person who knows MS-DOS (or PC-DOS) and has some experience with database design, i.e., has used a PC for creating, manipulating and storing files. The system's price (from 300M for $28,500 up to 2400M for $79,900) puts it beyond the reach of most libraries, but its existence is an indication of the importance and potential of CD-ROM.

This is just a brief introduction to some interesting CD-ROM products of current research and development that are applicable to resources and technical services. Readers interested in staying abreast of products or reading about the technology may want to consult *CD-ROM Review*, an independent journal issued six times a year by CW Communications/Petersborough, Inc. of Petersborough, New Hampshire. Meckler Corporation of Westport, Connecticut, has renamed *Optical Information Systems Update/Library and Information Center Applications*. Titled *CD-ROM Librarian* since the July/August 1987 issue, it will be published ten times a year, beginning in 1988, and will feature news, editorial comment, product reviews, and articles about CD-ROM hardware/software developments and applications intended for the library community.

For further information about the products mentioned, contact

OCLC
Compact Disk Cataloging System
Marketing & User Services Division
6565 Frantz Rd.
Dublin, OH 43017-0702
(614) 764-6000
Contact: Linda Sharp

Bowker Electronic Publishing
245 W. 17th St.
New York, NY 10011
(212) 337-6989
Contact: Robert Allen

Online Computer Systems, Inc.
20251 Century Blvd.
Germantown, MD 20874
(301) 428-3700
Contact: Joseph P. Florio

Faxon Company
15 Southwest Park
Westwood, MA 02090
1-800-225-6055
Contact: LINX Services

SilverPlatter Information, Inc.
37 Walnut St.
Wellesley Hills, MA 02181
(617) 239-0306
Contact: Chris Pooley

Meridian Data, Inc.
4450 Capitola Rd.
Suite 101
Capitola, CA 95010
(408) 476-5858
Contact: John Ahrens

CD-ROM Review
Subscription Dept.
P.O. Box 921
Farmingdale, NY 11737-9621

Meckler Corporation
11 Ferry Lane W.
Westport, CT 06880
Mechanical Selection

Charles W. Brownson

Mechanical selection and expert selection are defined. The usefulness of mechanical selection is investigated in three test cases involving contemporary literature. The cost of mechanical selection is examined. An argument is put forward for more quantification in selection practice.

I want to discuss two common and conventionally opposed methods of selection and, in the course of the discussion, lay out the beginnings of an argument for more quantification in selection practice. Quantification has been resisted by selectors, I suspect to the detriment of their control of the selection process.

MECHANICAL VERSUS EXPERT SELECTION

A system of selection driven by critical judgments requiring knowledge, training, or experience I will call expert selection. Selection criteria will concern primarily the worth, or utility, of the book. A bibliographer scanning a publisher’s catalog and marking items for purchase, based on such factors as the author’s reputation or the importance of the subject, is working as an expert selector. So is a bibliographer reading reviews or rejecting a title from the week’s approval plan shipment on grounds of triviality or weak scholarship.

A system of mechanical selection, by contrast, is driven by criteria that do not require unusual knowledge or training to apply. Selection criteria address the surface characteristics of the book: its price and format, press name, publishing date, and so forth. Blanket and standing orders are instances of mechanical selection. Mechanical systems may be quite sophisticated: the familiar approval plan is an example. Given a profile to use as a filter, the approval plan vendor undertakes to supply everything that passes through the filter.

In daily practice, matters do not fall out so neatly. In the case of the approval plan, for example, expertise (or at least some knowledge) is required initially to design the profile. Then, since profiles are usually based in part on subject, the vendor needs to employ knowledgeable persons to decide ambiguous or difficult cases. On the other hand, any bibliographer

Charles W. Brownson is Humanities Coordinator of Collection Development at Arizona State University, Tempe.
finds that some relatively mechanical methods must be employed if one is to cope with the heap of information on new publications that grows constantly on one's desk. Attention will be paid to the reviews in journal X; those in journal Y will be ignored.

Overlaps, vague borders, and incomplete distinctions cannot, however, obscure the fundamental differences between these two selection styles. The expert system emphasizes attention to individual titles or selection by hand. Its strengths are its flexibility and a capacity for fine distinctions, which it achieves by being labor-intensive. Its weakness is that, being driven entirely by human judgment, it is liable to misjudgment and inconsistency. Also, learning does not accumulate in the corporate memory but as personal expertise, which is hard to document and transfer.

Mechanical systems emphasize group rather than individual characteristics, tending to be statistical in nature. Not so labor-intensive nor especially subject to human error, mechanical systems err in being somewhat unfocused; in order to get all of what one wants it is necessary to accept a certain amount of what one does not want. Mechanical systems tend to rely on cost-benefit analyses because of this and are especially useful in cases where it is cheaper to accept what is not wanted than to pay for the expertise to remove it.

If it is commonly true of selectors that they mistrust mechanical selection methods, then nowhere would this be demonstrated more strongly than in the acquisition of contemporary literature, because here, above all, the issue of critical judgment, of separating good books from trivial ones, is dominant. Genre literatures, in particular, cause the expert selector difficulty because critical judgments on this material are vexed, uncertain, and liable to quick reversal; so much so that it is common to eliminate whole genres as unworthy of attention rather than confront intractable issues. But these issues are intractable, I submit, only to expert selection.

I will examine mechanical selection in three typical cases and inquire what this method has to offer that selection by hand does not.

**POPULAR NOVELS**

The difficulty with popular novels, once it has been decided to acquire them, is to distinguish them, for an important characteristic of popular literature is that it is uniform, even formulaic, rather than eccentric and individual. Even so, some popular literature is consequential for its audience and some is not. This consequentiality is related chiefly to sales or the size of the impact the book has on its market, which can be measured by the number of reviews the book receives. No reviews, no sales; no sales, no readers. Art literature, in contrast, can easily be (and often is) of long-term significance without having been reviewed at all or even noticed in its own time.

For popular literature, then, reviews can measure collecting interest.

One doesn't want, however, to read the reviews of all the popular novels that are published. Even simply counting them would be an onerous task and the time spent on it unjustified by the importance of the problem. What is required is a simple filter: buy the book if it is reviewed in the Anchorage Times and not otherwise, for example. The question now becomes design
of the filter: which review medium (or media) can produce a selection of popular novels in the right amounts and within given tolerances?

We do not ask for a rank-order of novels but only that the resulting selection contain preferentially the more heavily reviewed books. While some heavily reviewed books will be missed and some lightly reviewed books will be purchased, it is acceptable if the sample is reasonably representative and can be assembled with a minimum of work.

This particular problem was brought to my attention by a growing pile of selection forms for popular titles generated by my approval plan. I wanted some means of rapidly sorting these forms. Allowing the approval plan to generate the base list on which the filter works has some advantages, in that this material is preselected from review sources and the mass of never-reviewed material is weeded out by the vendor.

The method was very simple: collect form selections for a year, count the reviews, and arrange the titles in frequency order by the number of times reviewed. A straightforward analysis then reveals which review medium would be the best filter.

The accuracy of each reviewing source is given in table 1. Accuracy is defined as the ability of the source to identify the target items. The figures in the table are cumulative. Thus, the New York Times Book Review (NYTBR) is able to identify 100 percent of the titles reviewed five or more times but only 60 percent of the titles reviewed four or more times.

The efficiency of each source is given in table 2. Efficiency is defined as the ability of the source to limit itself to the target items. Thus, if NYTBR is used as a filter (we buy all of the 102 titles in the sample that are reviewed there), we will acquire fifteen titles, as shown in table 3. Twelve of these will prove to have been reviewed three or more times, for an efficiency of 80 percent.

To summarize the calculations in this example: if we are attempting to acquire only those titles reviewed three or more times, there will be 44 target items and the remainder will prove to have been reviewed less than three times. If we buy all 102 titles, the result will be 100 percent accuracy and 100 percent comprehensiveness but 44 percent efficiency. We can improve efficiency to 80 percent by using NYTBR as a filter. As a conse-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACCURACY OF REVIEWING MEDIA: 102 POPULAR NOVELS</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>N.Y. Times Book Review</em></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Booklist</em></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Library Journal</em></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Publishers Weekly</em></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Kirkus Review</em></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No titles in the sample were reviewed seven times. The figures given are cumulative percentages. Thus, *Booklist* reviewed 67 percent of the titles that were reviewed a total of four or more times. Accuracy is the ability to identify all of the titles in a category.
TABLE 2
EFFICIENCY OF REVIEWING MEDIA:
102 POPULAR NOVELS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Number of reviews per title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.Y. Times Book Review</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Booklist</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Journal</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publishers Weekly</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirkus Reviews</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No titles in the sample were reviewed seven times. The figures given are cumulative percentages. Thus, of the titles in the sample that were reviewed in Booklist about 44 percent were those reviewed a total of four or more times. Efficiency is the ability to limit attention to only the titles in a category.

TABLE 3
OVERALL COMPREHENSIVENESS OF REVIEWING MEDIA: 102 POPULAR NOVELS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Titles</th>
<th>Percent of sample reviewed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N.Y. Times Book Review</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Booklist</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>22.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Journal</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>35.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publishers Weekly</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>57.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirkus Reviews</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>60.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The actual numbers of titles and times reviewed were:

Number of reviews: 8 6+ 5+ 4+ 3+ 2+ 1+ 1+ 1+ 1+
Number of titles: 1 4 7 15 44 68 102

sequence, comprehensiveness will fall to 15 percent and accuracy to 27 percent.

There is a trade-off, in this case, between efficiency and accuracy: we can acquire more of what we want only by also acquiring more of what we don’t want. Which filter one chooses to use will depend on the weight one assigns to these factors.

It is possible that the relationship among the factors could be altered to our advantage by combining filters, using Boolean logic. That is, buy the item if it appears in both sources A and B, either source A or source B, in source A but not source B. More complicated conditions can be imagined. Clearly there is a trade-off here, too: accuracy and efficiency must be purchased at a cost in selector’s time.

GERMAN LITERATURE

Because of ignorance, I find contemporary German novels as indistinguishable as popular novels are. I want to identify consequential titles. In this instance, consequence is associated with literary worth, but I have no access to critical judgment. The question is what mechanical selection principle can substitute adequately for expert judgment? We are not at-
tempting to eliminate expert judgment, only to find a way to get along with less of it.

Again, my problem involved the workings of an approval plan and again, this produced a useful simplification. A select (as opposed to comprehensive) plan is used by the library to acquire modern German literature, so that it was only necessary to increase intake a bit by the judicious use of form selections.

These form selections provide very little information for judging quality, but it would be undesirable (because cumbersome) to try to increase this information with much research. As it happens, the vendor (Harrassowitz) provides, for both the select and comprehensive plans, an author list that includes the major publisher for each author and some information on publishing volume. This additional information enables us to experiment with two criteria: press size and the tendency of a press to publish authors on the select list (that is, the more significant authors). If we concentrate our attention on larger presses that publish a higher-than-usual proportion of significant authors, will this be satisfactory?

First, presses are sorted by the proportion of select authors they publish. Then, using a two-year backlog of form selections, presses are sorted again by size; that is, the number of published literary titles that are candidates for selection. The significance of this last condition is that a small press that publishes ten works of serious literature will appear larger than a commercial press publishing 300 works of popular literature because the popular literature rarely appears among the vendor’s form selections. Thus, expert judgment is not entirely supplanted, but some of it is delegated to the approval vendor, who decides whether an author is significant enough to be treated by the plan. The mechanical strategy we seek refines, by a simply administered method, the initial selection by the vendor.

The utility of combinations of press size and significance is tested by measuring the ability of each combination to reproduce the select plan to which we already subscribe. The successful combination is the best to use in supplementing the coverage already provided.

The results of this investigation are given in table 4. Column one shows the number of titles produced by the application of each criterion. Figures in columns two to four are percentages. Efficiency and accuracy are defined as before.

The approval plan is able to bring to our attention 333 items of contemporary German literature a year. This is the base used to calculate comprehensiveness. Efficiency and accuracy are measured against the titles produced by the select author list.

When criteria are combined, the operator is Boolean. Thus, criterion four indicates that not only must the author appear on the list but that, in addition, the publisher must be of above-average size.

In this case, unlike that of popular novels, combining criteria results in a less stringent trade-off between efficiency and accuracy. This gives increased scope to the matter of comprehensiveness. One can achieve, for example, an accuracy of 87 percent with an efficiency of 61, 72, or 100 percent. Which option is chosen will depend in part (perhaps in large part) on the amount of material one wishes to receive.
TABLE 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Num</th>
<th>Comp Effi</th>
<th>Accu</th>
<th>Selection criterion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>333</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>258</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>244</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>206</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>202</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>170</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>151</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>145</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>127</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>127</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>123</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>108</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Column one (Num) gives the size of the subset.

This quantification of a selection method presents a general question of policy that very likely cannot be answered in the same quantitative terms: What is the appropriate acquisition rate for contemporary German literature? This in turn suggests other questions: How much material is needed to meet current demand if selection were completely efficient? How efficient is selection, and how much additional material is thus acquired that, because it does not meet current needs, is not being used? Of this unused material, how much can be assigned to potential need, and how much is simply unwanted? How much emphasis on use as a selection criterion is appropriate? Are we paying sufficient attention to potential, as against actual, use; that is, how much weight should we assign to the alternate criterion of building for the future?

I know of no attempt to answer such questions quantitatively on any scale. Yet the utility of the answers, if we had them, is obvious. Moreover, the pressure for quantitative answers to such questions does not come only from the application of quantitative selection techniques. It comes also from a quantified selection policy, the first signs of which are visible in such projects as the North American Inventory of Research Collections® and the opportunity provided by automation to gain management control of the collection development process.
Two simple mechanical strategies were subjected to analysis. In the first case, a statistical criterion (titles most heavily reviewed) obviated expert selection. In the second case, the same technique was used to supplement expert judgment. A general selection problem has yet to be analyzed; that is, we have yet to confront the question of whether a mechanical technique can replace expert selection. Nor has expert selection been analyzed to form any basis for comparison of the two methods.

Let us turn our attention to a real collection, the PS3551-3576 area of the Library of Congress classification: American authors who have come into prominence since 1960. The Arizona State University (ASU) catalog has been machine-readable (and hence accessible to the analysis contemplated) since mid-1975, coincidentally, the same year in which a subject specialist system was put into place. Looking only at the titles published after 1975 will allow examination of a collection that has been deliberately shaped by expertise.

Could any criteria amenable to mechanical strategies reproduce this collection?

Again, we are limited to criteria based on obvious bibliographic details, chiefly author and press. If the frequency with which author and press names appear in the record and the type of press (small, academic, commercial) also is considered, the preliminary analysis shown in table 5 can be seen.

This analysis shows several interesting features. For example, the introduction of a requirement for prolific author lowers the concentration ratio for commercial presses. Evidently the bigger commercial presses (that is, those accounting for more titles in the collection) are more diverse than the smaller; they are more likely to have published the author of only one book. This really may be true of publishing, or it may be that we are inclined to buy the output of smaller commercial presses only when they publish the more important authors.

Criteria based on press show higher concentration ratios than those based on author. Authors as a whole actually show negative concentration. This does not mean that authorship has not been a selection principle; it does suggest that it has been used primarily in conjunction with other criteria, as in the example of commercial presses. It also suggests that ASU may have been adventurous in its acquisition of contemporary poetry, tending to seek out new poets, minor poets, poets outside the mainstream. If so, here is expertise at work in the most positive way, producing material by criteria that a statistical strategy could never capture.

**SELECTION COSTS AND MECHANICAL EFFICIENCY**

Table 5 reveals that the bulk of the collection (80 percent) is published by small presses. This subset is also the least concentrated, though the concentrated ratio is greater than that for the small presses as a whole (0.177 versus 0.156). Low concentration is a feature of small press publishing: many presses publishing a few titles each. The fact that the ASU collection is slightly more concentrated indicates that (for whatever reason) the out-
TABLE 5  
CHARACTERISTICS OF SELECTED SUBSETS OF  
421 PUBLISHERS OF AMERICAN POETRY 1975–84  
REPRESENTED IN ASU COLLECTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subset</th>
<th>Criteria based on press</th>
<th>Mean titles published</th>
<th>Percent of all presses (tot = 421)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concentration Ratio</td>
<td>Num</td>
<td>Range</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All academic presses</td>
<td>.36</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All commercial presses</td>
<td>.30</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial press publishing an author with more than the mean number of titles in ASU</td>
<td>.30</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All presses</td>
<td>.18</td>
<td>421</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial or small presses</td>
<td>.18</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small press publishing an author with more than the mean number of titles in ASU</td>
<td>.18</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All small presses</td>
<td>.18</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All small presses publishing poetry in 1984 (for comparison, not limited to ASU)</td>
<td>.16</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subset</th>
<th>Criteria based on author</th>
<th>Mean titles published</th>
<th>Percent of all authors (tot = 934)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concentration Ratio</td>
<td>Num</td>
<td>Range</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author published by a commercial or small press that published more than the mean number of titles</td>
<td>.10</td>
<td>510</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author published by any press that published more than the mean number of titles</td>
<td>.10</td>
<td>705</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All authors published by a commercial or small press</td>
<td>.09</td>
<td>731</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All authors</td>
<td>— .26</td>
<td>934</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Column two (Num) gives the size of the subset.

put of some presses has been preferred to others. Would it be possible to use a mechanical selection device, probably some form of blanket order, on this group?

The group of small presses may be subdivided to increase the likelihood of receiving only desirable titles on a blanket order. Set six is limited to small presses preferentially publishing authors that ASU collects, and this group may be further limited to those with output above the norm of 2.4
titles per year. This smaller group totals fifty-seven presses, which during the period 1976–84 published 1,911 books of poetry and other materials. ASU actually purchased at least 921 items from this output, but some of the published titles were not poetry and were not counted in the analysis. If we opine that 10 percent of the total output was not literary and an additional 10 percent of the literary output was not poetry (which seems to be roughly the case for these 57 presses), then we suggest that ASU acquired 1,093 titles of the 1,911 published. 

For the fifty-seven target presses the actual acquisition rate was about 57 percent. The overall acquisition rate for small press publications, for the period 1976–83, was somewhere between 7 and 14 percent, so the fifty-seven target presses certainly represent the more desirable part of the small press market.

If ASU had used a blanket order to purchase all the output of these fifty-seven presses, this would have produced 818 additional titles. The cost of these 1,911 titles is itemized in Table 6.

If we assume 100 percent selector accuracy, the total list of 1,911 contains 1,093 desirable titles; those in fact selected. (Accuracy is defined as in the discussions above.) Perfect selector accuracy is improbable, however. A success rate of 90 percent has been claimed for collection development in some circumstances, but I do not think anything is really known on this subject. If we assume an accuracy of 80 percent, there are 1,366 desirable titles in the list of 1,911, and the average cost per title of acquiring them by blanket order is $27.11. This figure is obtained by dividing the total cost of all 1,911 titles ($37,035) by 1,366 and is the figure I will use for comparison.

I assume 100 percent selector efficiency. This is also improbable, but since efficiency is the major rationale of expert selection, this assumption creates an analysis appropriately favorable to expert selection.

Expert selection at ASU produced 1,093 titles, as was estimated. Expert selection is more expensive. In addition to the cost of selection, the services of an order unit are required (searching is attributed to the cost of selection), and there is an overhead cost for invoices and extra filing.

### TABLE 6

**EIGHT-YEAR COST OF PUTTING 1,911 POETRY BOOKS ON THE SHELF BY MEANS OF BLANKET ORDER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost/Title</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purchase</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selection cost</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procurement cost</td>
<td>$2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cataloging</td>
<td>$9.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bind 400 titles</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage per year</td>
<td>$0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total for 1,911 titles</strong></td>
<td><strong>$19.38</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost/Title</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$9,555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$4,453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$18,728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$6,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$39,788</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Costs in tables 6–8 are estimates for Arizona State University. Storage computation assumes an acquisitions rate of 239 titles per year; 239 titles accrue storage costs for eight years, another 239 for seven years, and so on.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cost/Title</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purchase</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>$5,465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selection cost</td>
<td>$5.45</td>
<td>$5,957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procurement cost</td>
<td>$4.75</td>
<td>$5,192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cataloging</td>
<td>$9.80</td>
<td>$10,712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bind 300 titles</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
<td>$450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage per year</td>
<td>$0.75</td>
<td>$3,689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total for 1,093 titles</strong></td>
<td><strong>$27.25</strong></td>
<td><strong>$31,465</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Estimated additional cost of out-of-print procurement

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purchase</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selection cost</td>
<td>$5.70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procurement cost</td>
<td>$5.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cataloging</td>
<td>$9.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bind 300 titles</td>
<td>$0.12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage per year</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$36.12</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Without considering the costs of inaccuracy and inefficiency, titles that cost $19.38 to acquire by blanket order (table 6) cost $27.25 to acquire by expert selection (table 7). But, included in the ultimate cost of the blanket order was the money spent on 545 unwanted titles. The cost of expert selection should include a similar estimate for missed titles, to account for the assumption of 80 percent selector accuracy. Since we are assuming charitably 100 percent selector efficiency, there will be no unwanted titles.

An accuracy of 80 percent means that the expert selector has overlooked 273 of the estimated 1,366 desirable titles. Two options for assigning a cost to these overlooked titles are detailed in table 8.

In the first option, the cost of missed titles is estimated as the cost of acquiring them after the fact, in the out-of-print market, with an additional interlibrary loan charge for the period when the needed titles were not on the shelf. In the second option, the expense of buying and processing the missing titles is accepted and applied to any resource-sharing scheme that might make the titles available to users.

The first option brings the cost of expert selection to $29.16. The second option increases the total dollars spent but leaves the average cost unchanged at $27.25. Since the cost of the blanket order was $27.11 per title, one may conclude that the cost of mechanical selection in this case is no more than expert selection and perhaps as much as 8 percent less.

CONCLUSIONS

In the test case analyzed above, mechanical selection was shown to be competitive with expert selection, though inexactness in cost accounting leaves some uncertainty. Further research could establish both more exact costs and a tighter methodology for cost accounting. Further research might also detect a blanket-order design criterion giving a concentration
TABLE 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost/Title</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical selection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,366 target titles</td>
<td>$19.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>545 unwanted titles</td>
<td>$19.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg. cost of 1,366 titles</td>
<td>$27.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expert selection case one</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,092 target titles</td>
<td>$27.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>274 out-of-print titles</td>
<td>$36.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 interlibrary loans</td>
<td>6.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg. cost of 1,366 titles</td>
<td>$29.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expert selection case two</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,092 target titles</td>
<td>$27.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource sharing</td>
<td>$7,467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg. cost of 1,366 titles</td>
<td>$27.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the second case of expert selection, the money that would have been used to buy the 274 titles, which in fact were missed, is contributed to resource sharing at the same rate of $27.25 per title.

ratio higher than 0.18, which would raise the efficiency and so lower the cost of mechanical selection. In a practical way, the cost of the blanket order could be reduced by dropping a few of the smaller presses. The cost estimate provides the means for calculating exactly how many presses to drop in order to achieve a predetermined efficiency, and the analysis also demonstrates a general methodology for the construction and costing of blanket orders.

The test case was deliberately favorable to expert selection by assuming 100 percent selector efficiency, giving an effectiveness (combined accuracy and efficiency) of 80 percent. But if expert effectiveness were a bit lower (which is very likely), or if it were necessary to scrutinize the whole list of 1,900 titles in order to obtain an acceptably high rate (a distinct probability that would increase the cost), mechanical selection would be more than simply competitive in many cases.

If there is any uneasiness with my analysis, it comes, I suspect, not from the titles overlooked (the inaccuracy of expert selection) but from the importance assigned to the "undesirable" material that a mechanical selection system inevitably brings into the library (mechanical inefficiency). We have an ingrained desire to purchase "good books" and to measure our skills as selectors solely by our ability to buy all of the good and none of the bad. But even if we make every effort to free ourselves from parochialism in defining what "good books" are and take due account of the changes in taste and fashion that are likely to render our judgments risible to future generations, clearly we are not prepared to accept the costs of full expert selection. The very existence of the various kinds of gathering plans
suggests that, however cautiously, we would like to use cheap substitutes for expensive expertise. The best strategy would be to acquire the easily identifiable material by some mechanical means and utilize expertise to locate the remainder.

That something like this is the standard strategy in libraries of any size would probably not be questioned. How many of these libraries attempt to evaluate their performance and achieve the best mix of strategies?

A second source of unease with mechanical selection undoubtedly derives from a vague feeling that to grant it validity would be to question the purpose of expertise. But what is the business of the selector? Is it primarily the evaluation of individual books, or is it primarily the evaluation and improvement of method? What is the proper proportion of these two functions in the daily work of the subject specialist?

Without tackling these questions here, I wish to suggest that an interest in mechanical selection and some attempt at refining it is very likely to advance us in this direction. We see the richness of hypothesis that even crude investigations such as these throw off and the naturalness with which large issues are opened. I suggest that mechanical methods are more useful to collection development than we suppose. Sophisticated use of mechanical selection may be retarded by the expense of acquiring the information used in the three analyses given here, but that expense could be much reduced by online acquisitions if we have the wit to see more in these new systems than accounting and computerized order files. They are collection development tools of greater power than anything we have seen.

A third objection to mechanical selection methods may be the feeling that they are not appropriate for small libraries. But in transferring this analysis from ASU to a smaller collection, what changes are not the selection principles but the size of the universe to which the principles are applied. The same questions will still be asked: How well am I doing? How much of the core literature (the target area of the universe) am I getting? Could I do better? A small library, unlike a large one, can sometimes give useful answers to these questions without quantification, but I suggest that the small library would prefer a quantified answer if it could get one, because the quantified answer is more accurate, contains more information, and so is more suggestive of action. Test cases show that mechanical methods need not be limited to massive blanket orders, approval plans, and such but can be applied to very small universes of 100 titles. Indeed, the test cases suggest that the efficiency of selectors in libraries of any size would be improved by an effort to shift the burden of selection away from expertise wherever possible. With such a reduction in drudgery, the work of collection development can become even more satisfying and enjoyable.

REFERENCES AND NOTES

1. An earlier version of this paper was read before the Association of College and Research Libraries’ Literature Librarians Discussion Group on July 8, 1985.
3. Popular literature structures are the subject of genre theory. See, e.g., John G. Cawelti,

5. This figure is obtained by reducing 1,911 by 10 percent to account for the nonliterary materials outside collecting parameters and adding 10 percent of the result, for collected but uncounted material that is not poetry, to the ASU figure of 921.


The Teaching of Cataloging in U.S. Library Schools

Roxanne Sellberg

U.S. library schools have recently been criticized for preparing librarians inadequately for cataloging and the management of cataloging operations. Historical review reveals that space for cataloging instruction in library school curricula has been decreasing since the 1930s. Meanwhile, the challenges facing catalogers have increased. The gap between knowledge needed by new catalogers and knowledge gained in library school is too wide to be bridged by the traditional, one-year master's degree program. In order to ensure future generations of competent and creative catalogers, large research libraries and library schools must work in partnership to develop programs, facilitate important new research into catalog problems, and create a market in which catalogers are rewarded for their expertise and responsibility.

Cataloging is one of the perennial activities of librarianship. In the centuries before public services were emphasized, cataloging and classification was a very large portion of the work of all keepers of libraries. Cataloging always fascinated "bookmen" and librarians with a detective bent. In recent years, the central importance of the cataloger's art was reaffirmed with the development of online catalogs. When put together expertly, the traditional cataloging record is a complex collection of information that can be coded for automated manipulation and retrieval in sophisticated combinations. When inexactly created, the cataloging record defies automation and hides its information from the users who need it.

Recently, U.S. library schools have been criticized for preparing librarians inadequately for the important work of creating, managing, and automating catalog records. In order to consider this criticism fairly, it is important to understand how instruction for cataloging evolved. The issues under debate in the 1980s are the same ones that have been debated in previous decades. Rather than simplifying them, technological advances have made these issues harder to understand and resolve. In the author's view, library schools will have to seek the help of the profession and its associations to prevent a crisis in cataloging education.

Roxanne Sellberg is I/O Bibliographic Database Coordinator and Head, I/O Catalog Management Department, Indiana University Libraries, Bloomington.
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Cataloging has always been an important subject in the curriculum of American library education. It had a prominent place in Melvil Dewey’s original library school, organized in 1887 at Columbia College in New York City. Although Dewey’s cataloging course was divided into preparatory, lecture, and apprenticeship terms, its content was not much different than that of the apprenticeship programs offered by large public libraries of the time. All three terms were characterized by laboratory practice work. In fact, Dewey said of his whole curriculum, “its aim is entirely practical.”

A decade later, a new period of development in library education began when the library school of the Armour Institute was moved to the University of Illinois. In the following years university library schools became the norm. There is little evidence that academic association had much effect on the teaching of basic cataloging. It remained altogether practical, drawing heavily on Dewey’s Library School Rules, Cutter’s Rules for a Dictionary Catalog, and the American Library Association’s List of Subject Headings. Students were required to spend many hours in class preparation, perfecting their skills in book and accession numbering, shuffling, binding, and even stylized library handwriting. Rachel Schenk characterized cataloging courses of 1910 as “the dread and the terror.”

The Williamson study of the early 1920s revealed some variety in the cataloging instruction offered by library schools in the United States. At least one offered an advanced cataloging course in which different classification schemes and cataloging codes were compared. Agreement was lacking among the schools about the time devoted to cataloging and related subjects. Williamson reported that “cataloging gets 105 class-room hours in one school and only 35 in another, the average for the eleven schools being 60... Classification claims 47 hours in one school and only 20 in another.”

Despite these differences, a very practical, procedural approach to cataloging instruction was dominant in all the schools. Later in the decade, however, some significant changes became apparent. In 1926 the Graduate Library School of Chicago was established as “a professional school devoted to research and study at the higher levels of library science.” In regard to cataloging, more theoretical content was suggested and eventually adopted. Akers of the University of North Carolina described a new set of aspirations for library school courses:

all cataloging courses can do is 1) to give the theory of cataloging and classification, 2) to make somewhat familiar the tools and aids of the cataloging librarian, 3) to show how to use the catalog as efficiently as possible, 4) to emphasize the fact that our present-day catalogs are by no means perfect, that it is a challenge to the new generation of librarians to ascertain more fully what catalogs can do to give the users of the library the information they want, and to train for working always with the queries, why do this? And 5) to state the problems of cataloging and classification.

The effect of increased attention to theory was not addition or lengthen-
ing of cataloging courses. Practical laboratory work was simply reduced to make room for theoretical study. Cataloging course work was in fact reduced in the 1930s, as graduate degree programs developed. On one hand, increased awareness of the social role of libraries led to the introduction of new courses to compete for places in curricula. On the other hand, libraries—and then library schools—began to use ready-made catalog cards from the Library of Congress and H. W. Wilson. This revolution in cataloging practice seemed to all but eliminate the need for instruction in catalog card form and to forecast a reduction in the necessity for practical cataloging skills for every librarian. 

As laboratory work was reduced, it became important to use it as efficiently as possible. Schools such as Emory, Pratt, Virginia, Minnesota, and Peabody developed practice-work programs that were introduced, analyzed, and boasted of in the literature. Meanwhile, the University of Illinois Library School revised its cataloging courses to make room for the Library of Congress classification system and provide separate study for academic and public library cataloging. In addition, the 1930s witnessed Margaret Mann’s trend-setting revision of cataloging instruction at the University of Michigan. She integrated description, classification, and subject heading assignment into one course and introduced visual aids to her teaching. Cataloging rules were studied, not memorized. Mann required that students write papers analyzing commonly used codes, schemes and lists.

In the 1940s the curricula of library schools were evaluated in several studies. Most applauded the attempts to emphasize theory rather than practice in cataloging instruction. The Wheeler report suggested that the delineation of a core curriculum would relieve some of the overcrowding of library school master’s program schedules. Berelson specified that a line be drawn between the cataloging knowledge required of every librarian and that offered in elective courses for prospective cataloging specialists. He also suggested that the management of cataloging operations be studied in library school.

Trends introduced in the previous decade—reduction of required cataloging coursework, use of visual aids in the classroom, subordination of practice work to theoretical study, and integration of cataloging and classification—became the norm in the 1950s. By 1961 there was more standardization of the content and requirements of basic cataloging and classification courses in U.S. library schools. Meanwhile, the most popular cataloging textbook of the previous decade, Mann’s *Introduction to Cataloging and the Classification of Books* (2d ed., 1943), was outdated. In the winter of 1955, catalogers, cataloging teachers, and administrators tried to formulate a plan for a new kind of text. Their desires were too varied to be addressed in one book, and no new text resulted from the exercise.

In the late 1950s and through the 1960s, the American library community began to realize and write about the negative results of these developments. It seemed to some that the new, graduate cataloging education was ill fit for the demands of modern libraries. Library schools had reduced cataloging coursework requirements; more advanced cataloging courses
competed with newer and more exciting elective subjects for students’ attention. Most new graduates were not ready to assume the duties of cataloging specialists in large libraries or to catalog part-time competently in small libraries. At the same time, new codes and standards seemed to be making cataloging a more complex task that required more rather than less training. As early as 1953 Maurice Tauber recommended a second year of graduate library education for students preparing to be professional catalogers, so that meaningful practice work and research as well as basic theory instruction could be accomplished. 16

Some felt that library schools’ de-emphasis on practical training had gone too far. To them, new librarians seemed prepared to discuss cataloging but not to do it. Speaking of the situation in school libraries, DeHart described what she called “the dichotomy in the goals, or objectives, which practitioners and library educators set for the education of school librarians in cataloging,” which “appears to center primarily around the theory-practice relationship in cataloging and in the administration of the cataloging function.” A cataloging teacher, DeHart acknowledged the criticism that library schools did not prepare their graduates for their first school library jobs. One reason, she contended, was the quite unprofessional nature of many positions filled by new school library specialists. 17

Automation was just beginning to affect libraries in the late 1960s, but some library educators confidently, prematurely and somewhat inaccurately predicted its effects on cataloging and cataloging instruction. In 1967, Daily of the University of Pittsburgh was especially enthusiastic in his description of the coming revolution. In his view, a golden age of cataloging, when the Library of Congress would be the only significant employer of original catalogers in the U.S., was about to begin. LC would supply cataloging copy—even cards—for every book most libraries needed to buy. Many fewer cataloging librarians would be needed; the remaining super catalogers would (1) manage clerical and paraprofessional employees and activities, (2) perform occasional, “snag,” cataloging, and (3) design computer systems. All this would create an interesting challenge for cataloging teachers. 18

The 1960s was a decade when traditional structures were challenged and the criticisms leveled then produced some significant changes during the 1970s. U.S. library educators found that they no longer agreed on the core program that ought to be mastered by all library students. The 1972 ALA Standards for Accreditation referred to “a foundation of general academic and professional education on which specialization can be built” but could not articulate the components or characteristics of that foundation. 19

A number of schools reduced their cataloging requirements, and 11.7 percent dropped cataloging altogether from their required core curricula. According to Marco,

When library schools began to remove cataloguing and classification from the group of required courses, they were saying that . . . cataloguing as it has been taught, no longer represents a basic professional concern. Indeed, within the United States library environment, there is certainly a declining need for individual librarians to carry out original cataloguing. Because of shared cataloguing networks, much of the cataloguing activity in hundreds of libraries is now largely
routine and mechanical in nature. The “task which librarians will be expected to perform” in the realm of cataloguing and classification is—for most new librarians—one that is much simpler than the task expected of them a generation ago. Accordingly, the teaching of cataloguing can be given less emphasis. This line of thought is consistent with the most basic principle of all in professional education, that a professional school must harmonize its activities with the real needs of the profession it serves. Today’s student has a greater need to “understand” cataloguing than to “perform” cataloguing.20

Some schools dropped separate cataloging courses and specific cataloging methods from their core curricula but retained some discussion of the more theoretical aspects of cataloging and classification in “integrated core” courses intended to view librarianship in its widest possible context. At North Carolina, for instance, 50% of one semester’s coursework was devoted to “library services and materials, including areas before covered by courses in selection, technical services, and public services.”21 Instructional methodology also underwent change. Case method was first applied to cataloging instruction at Simmons College.22 Soon, other schools were experimenting with the problem-analysis approach to learning cataloging. The difficulties encountered initially only served to show the desirability of continued development: (a) cataloging teachers had some trouble finding appropriate true-to-life problem cases to study—it was several years before casebook texts began to appear; (b) beginning cataloging students had difficulty analyzing case studies intelligently because they had neither cataloging nor analytical skills.23 Nevertheless, cataloging teachers integrated case study with other approaches for a general improvement in instruction.

In terms of course content, there were two significant developments. First, library schools realized a responsibility to include nonbook considerations in their teaching. Some added elective courses in nonbook cataloging; others developed nonbook librarianship courses in which cataloging problems were considered along with problems of storage and retrieval, preservation, copyright and equipment.24 Second, library schools tried to address the implications of widespread library automation. Cataloging issues were especially problematic. A new descriptive cataloging code (designed in part for online catalog use) had to be studied. Bibliographic utilities required online searching skills and detailed knowledge of MARC formats. Shared cataloging systems made standardization of cataloging practices vital. Ironically, many cataloging teachers felt that automation should lead to an emphasis on cataloging in core curricula rather than the elimination of cataloging course requirements. Chan argued,

In recent years, tremendous advances have been made in the application of modern technology to library cataloging which, along with the related developments in cooperation and standardization, have rendered the catalog a much more sophisticated tool than ever before. Cataloging is no longer something that one can “pick up” on one’s own . . . and the library school program often represents the last and the only opportunity for training in this area. It is regrettable to see the trend toward eliminating cataloging as a required course in some library science programs, allowing some prospective librarians to graduate without ever touching cataloging. . . . Some have predicted that in the future with networks and shared
cataloging, fewer and fewer catalogers will be needed, assuming the rate of publishing output remains stable. Yet, on the other hand, one should also recognize that the demand of quality will be much greater. In cooperative efforts, a mistake or “sloppiness” committed by a cataloger will not be confined to the catalog of one library alone since the record input into a database will be used by many other libraries. The consequences of a “small” mistake in a cooperative cataloging database can be extremely costly.

**CURRENT ISSUES**

Today, cataloging is still an important part of library school curricula, but the time devoted to it is much less than in the early decades of American library education. The majority of graduate library schools require at least one cataloging course for students earning master’s degrees. A few ALA-accredited programs do not require specific cataloging course work, although virtually all either offer cataloging electives or include some cataloging in courses with broader scope. Practica and internships allow some interested students to gain hands-on experience in addition to formal class work in cataloging. At least one library school (UCLA) offers students opportunities to specialize in cataloging through the completion of advanced course work, internship experience, and specialization projects during the second year of study toward the master’s degree.

Library school faculty apply a wide variety of teaching methods to cataloging study. In addition to traditional lectures, discussions, readings, laboratory assignments, and papers, cataloging teachers note success with computer simulation and direct use of online systems. OCLC, for instance, offers library schools subsidized online time in which to use the system for teaching cataloging and database searching. Research indicates that programmed instruction may be very effective in teaching both factual information and problem-solving skills related to cataloging. The new, computer-assisted methods seem better suited to practical than theoretical aspects of cataloging. They appear particularly promising for assisting students who wish to accumulate hands-on experience and specific skills beyond the requirements or content of their courses.

Current problems and controversies in cataloging education are much the same as those of previous decades. The inclusion of nonprint cataloging instruction remains problematic, although in the 1980s computer software is the newest material to be cataloged. It is difficult to keep good textbooks current. For many library school students, the cataloging codes, classification schemes, and subject heading lists serve as textbooks. Achieving the proper balance of theoretical knowledge and practical skill remains an important goal in cataloging instruction. A recent study, carried out by Ryans, indicates that groups of cataloging administrators and educators agree that (1) both theory and practice are important, (2) slightly more emphasis is placed on practice in beginning cataloging courses, and (3) insufficient time is devoted to either theory or practice in the curricula of today’s library schools.

This last issue—time devoted to cataloging instruction—is the most serious one facing educators in the 1980s. This review reveals that space for cataloging instruction in library school curricula decreased throughout the
century as other worthwhile topics were introduced, as clerical training was eliminated from graduate programs, and as technological advances seemed to reduce the long-term need for cataloging instruction. In the last decade a vision of a world with very few, highly specialized catalogers and technical services administrators assisted by increasingly sophisticated computer equipment and software seems to have guided library school program designers. It justified the virtual elimination of cataloging from some curricula and its reduction and de-emphasis in most library schools.

Whether or not the vision has long-term validity will be decided in the next century. In the twenty years since Daily described his vision, it has not proven valid. Exponential growth in publishing output and federal budgetary restraints have prevented LC from assuming responsibility for cataloging all the materials acquired by most libraries. The demand for skilled, professional catalog librarians has remained high—particularly in large academic and other research libraries. Automation has brought more complexity and expense to the job. The need to follow form and content standards in nationally shared databases makes it imperative that even part-time or occasional catalogers know a great deal. Incompetent and nonstandard cataloging by improperly trained catalogers diminishes the cost-effectiveness of shared bibliographic utilities. In many libraries catalog librarians find it necessary to revise database records for local use. This work distracts them from cooperative original cataloging and system design efforts and, thus, slows progress toward the long-predicted era of “supercatalogers.”

The library community’s need for well-trained, creative and committed catalog professionals is as great now as it has ever been, yet that need is not being met. Response to a recent article about the problem by employers of catalog librarians nationwide was energetic—prompting ALA to become involved. Although no one entirely blames library schools for the lack of good catalogers, library educators are receiving their share of criticism for de-emphasizing cataloging in master’s degree curricula and for steering the best students away from a specialty that they may erroneously believe is past its prime. Janet Swan Hill, head of cataloging at Northwestern University, led this criticism:

Library schools are somehow conveying the impression that cataloging is an undesirable occupation; that cataloging is a dead end; that catalogers are shy, retiring, and organizationally invisible; that cataloging is a dry, picky, mechanical, menial process involving the exercise of neither thought nor imagination; and that cataloging has nothing to do with service. . . . In conveying this image of cataloging as a career dead end, library school faculty have been assisted in the last few years by a spate of articles and editorials asking whether there is any future for professionals in cataloging or technical services. No matter that the answer has almost always been “yes,” . . . the fact that the question is asked so often can only discourage potential candidates.

Some library educators defended themselves against this criticism by asserting that students entering library school have already rejected cataloging as a specialty. White, dean of Indiana University’s School of Library and Information Science, argued,
In 1985, the Cataloging and Classification Section of ALA’s Resources and Technical Services Division appointed a task force “to conduct preliminary investigations into the state of recruiting for professional cataloging positions.” Its report was delivered at the 1986 Annual Convention and published recently in RTSD Newsletter. Though preliminary, the findings are worth examining at some length, because they reflect a level of concern only hinted at in previous literature and because they represent the chief challenge for cataloging education in the next few years.

The CCS Task Force’s study had several components, two of which are important here. First, a questionnaire was completed by library administrators who recently recruited librarians for cataloger positions or middle-management positions with responsibility for cataloging operations. A majority (77 percent) reported that they had serious difficulty locating qualified professionals for cataloging positions in recent years. Of the positions posted in 1985, in fact, employers reported that 56 percent were open seven months or longer. In 64 percent of the cases, the advertisements were reposted, or the searches had to be extended. Fifty-one percent of the pools from which candidates were finally selected were characterized as “disappointing.” Whether this shortage of qualified applicants results immediately in long, difficult searches, extended on-the-job training, or the hiring of ill-qualified catalogers, the long-term result is diminished productivity in cataloging operations nationwide.

Second, the task force examined the course catalogs of sixty-three ALA-accredited master’s degree programs for clues to the extent and type of cataloging instruction available. Although there was a wide variety of requirements and electives, most library schools offered two or three term-long courses with substantial cataloging content, one or two of which are required. “The overall informal impression gained,” the investigators said, “was that cataloging occupies a relatively small part of the collective curriculum, especially when compared to multiple ‘bibliography (reference, etc.) of the . . . (subject or discipline)’ offerings.” The task force speculated that underrepresentation of cataloging in library school curricula helps explain why few students want to become catalogers: “Many have little notion that cataloging is a reasonable career choice.” It further charged that the bulletin descriptions for cataloging courses were indicative of library schools’ negative attitudes:

Cataloging course descriptions were generally vague, and de-emphasized applications in general and description in particular, creating the impression that library schools are unclear about what cataloging consists of, are hesitant to indicate that cataloging is part of a legitimate curriculum, and are reluctant to indicate that course content may have a practical application.

Cause and effect are always difficult to pinpoint in the analysis of complex problems. Two issues presented in the task force’s report are relevant
to the question of library education’s role in the apparent reduction of qualified catalogers; yet one wonders whether they are causes, effects, or symptoms of the problem. First, library educators and students alike note a shortage of qualified cataloging teachers in library schools. If schools employ few, ill-qualified instructors, students will not be encouraged to pursue cataloging and will not be well educated for that activity. On the other hand, if the ranks of professional catalogers are not producing librarians who can be hired and tenured by library schools, who can teach competently and inspire imitation, there is a negative impact on the schools’ ability to develop future catalogers—and also to improve the tools, techniques, policies and productivity of cataloging through scholarly research.36

Second, it is widely acknowledged that cataloging, as performed by both paraprofessionals and professionals in this country, has become a more complex activity in recent years due to automation, standardization, and new material types. Despite this increase in what catalogers need to know, library schools reduced cataloging requirements and electives and broadened their approach to cataloging instruction. Consequently, the gap between what new librarians know and what they need to know is very wide indeed. Some angry employers imply that library schools have failed to keep up out of disrespect for the complexity of cataloging and have caused the problem. One might argue instead that library schools continued to broaden and shorten cataloging course work in acknowledgement of their inability to train cataloging librarians properly within the constraints of master’s-level programs.37,38

The CCS Task Force presents a long list of recommendations, only some of which are directly related to library school education:

1. Library schools should examine their curricula to consider whether offerings in cataloging are sufficiently numerous and deep or are required to meet today’s needs.
2. A formal study of the relative concentration of the various librarian-ship topics within the combined graduate curricula should be carried out, as a first step in identifying and rectifying imbalances such as the apparent underrepresentation of cataloging.
3. Library schools and their faculty should examine the way in which cataloging is portrayed throughout the curriculum, regarding both its nature and its future.
4. Accreditation criteria should be examined in light of the shortage of cataloging professionals to see how they might be revised to assure improvement in the situation.
5. The ALA Committee on Accreditation and its visiting teams should keep in mind the central importance of cataloging instruction and convey their perspective to schools seeking accreditation or reaccreditation.38

THE FUTURE—PERSONAL SPECULATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It will be interesting to see how the CCS Task Force’s recommendations are received in the library and library education communities, whether its recommendations will be followed, and whether ALA’s involvement will
have any direct or indirect positive effects on the cataloging personnel market problem. Since the task force has not recommended radical change, one might anticipate that the report will be met with unenthusiastic approval by librarians and library educators, that most of its recommendations will be followed in letter if not in spirit, and that ALA’s attention to the problem will have some positive, consciousness-raising effect. Heightened awareness may lead some library schools to consider offering more cataloging electives and discouraging students less from pursuing cataloging as a specialty. It may also help employers understand and tolerate less-than-excellent employment pools and extended training periods for new cataloging librarians.

These modest changes, however, will not be sufficient to increase significantly the numbers of skilled and qualified applicants for cataloging, catalog management, and related supervisory positions. They will not affect the prejudice against cataloging with which some students begin library school. They will not change the fundamental imbalance between the body of cataloging knowledge to be taught and the resources available in U.S. library schools. Library schools do not have the teachers, the internship opportunities, nor—most importantly—the time to prepare professional catalogers under current circumstances. Those circumstances must be changed dramatically in order for the market to be supplied with sufficient, well-qualified, beginning catalogers from whose ranks future supervisors, administrators, system designers, and cataloging teachers can be drawn.

In the author’s opinion, cataloging should continue to occupy a relatively small portion of the common, one-year library school master’s degree program. The one or two courses most library school students take should be designed to introduce cataloging concepts and the principles of catalog use, to acquaint them with the availability and desirability of cataloging as a career specialty, and to identify those with aptitude for and interest in such a specialty.

The specialty should be available in the second year of two-year master’s degree programs and in “sixth-year” degree or certificate programs. Specialty programs should be rigorous and structured, including theory, practical problem solving, and research. Only library schools closely associated with research libraries should attempt to teach cataloging past the first, introductory level.

These special schools must cooperate with their related research libraries to provide half-time graduate assistantships that help prospective cataloging students to support themselves while attending school and to gain realistic, substantial, practical experience. In addition, part-time cataloging instructors as well as prospective full-time library school faculty should be recruited from the ranks of professional catalogers in research libraries. The library–library school relationship must also be exploited for the purposes of faculty research resources and continuing practice opportunities for cataloging teachers.

Those in the market must cooperate if these reforms are to work. Prospective employers should seek candidates with a second-year master’s specialty, a sixth-year specialization, or an “ordinary” library school degree combined with substantial preprofessional experience for each posi-
tion to be filled. Then, employers must be willing to pay new catalogers directly for their improved education, rather than for extended on-the-job training, as they do now. Libraries must also be willing to reward experienced catalogers with money, expanded responsibilities, and opportunities for job enrichment and professional renewal. A competent, productive cataloger takes years to develop; cataloging must no longer be considered a job for beginning librarians only.

By affording catalogers money, respect, and the growth opportunities they deserve, libraries can also address the problem White has described; both libraries and library schools must work to improve the professional reputation of catalogers. Catalog librarians themselves must value their own contributions and communicate the challenges and rewards of cataloging to their colleagues outside the specialty as well as to student assistants and other potential catalogers.

When the belief that any M.L.S. graduate can perform original cataloging is abandoned, libraries too small to employ specialists must be offered an alternate source. Private or public cataloging services should be established, so that small libraries can pay for occasional original cataloging by skilled specialists. With the quality of the nationally shared databases thus assured, nonspecialists and paraprofessionals could handle copy cataloging to a much greater extent than they now can.

Finally, library schools should join with resource-rich, large libraries and with ALA to manage regional continuing professional education and paraprofessional education programs in cataloging. The benefits of this three-way participation to practicing catalogers are obvious. Perhaps not so obvious are the benefits to library schools of keeping the skills of cataloging teachers up-to-date and of using such programs as opportunities for recruiting prospective catalogers and library science faculty for master’s and Ph.D. programs.

REFERENCES AND NOTES

1. Unless otherwise specified, the term cataloging is used in this paper to include descriptive cataloging, classification, and the assignment of subject headings.

10. Mann, p. 322.


33. Ibid., p. 74.

34. Ibid., p. 73.

35. Ibid.

36. Ibid., p. 75.

37. Ibid., p. 74.

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ADDITIONAL READINGS


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Northeast Document Conservation Center: A Leader in Preservation

Ann Russell, Karen Motylewski, and Gay Tracy

As today’s librarians become increasingly aware of the scale of the book deterioration problem, they find themselves in an important and difficult role as preservation advocates. Statistics compiled from 118 members of the Association of Research Libraries show a higher level of preservation activities than ever before: 87 percent report some preservation activity; 37 percent have in-house preservation departments; 14 percent have devoted five or more staff members to this concern.

The effort is like David’s battle against Goliath. Books are painfully fragile. Paper yellows, deteriorates, and, if left untreated, can disintegrate to dust. Bindings tear, detach, and through their chemical contributions, speed the decay of paper they were designed to protect. Yale University, one of many research institutions that have begun to survey the problem, reports that 20 percent of its nine million volumes are so deteriorated that paper breaks from pages and falls to the floor each time a book is opened. Some 40 percent of the books in major research collections will soon be too brittle to handle. At a recent hearing before a congressional committee, a panel of distinguished witnesses—including Daniel J. Boorstin (former librarian of Congress) and Varten Gregorian (head of the New York Public Library) warned that we are on the verge of losing our cultural heritage as words, images, and precious artifacts succumb to the acids consuming our books.

In an effort to grapple with the library preservation crisis, the New England Library Board established the New England Document Conservation Center (now the Northeast Document Conservation Center or NEDCC), the first regional conservation center for materials in libraries and other document-holding institutions. The center opened in 1973 under the direction of George M. Cunha, former conservator for the Boston Athenaeum. Several states provided start-up grants; additional funding came from the Council on Library Resources. Support was to be shared by non-profit organizations on a fee-for-service basis.

The original center operated in the basement of the Museum of American Textile History in North Andover, Massachusetts. By 1978, work and space demands, as well as the need to establish a microfilm facility for
fragile artifacts, resulted in a move to NEDCC’s present home, Abbot Hall, on the campus of Phillips Andover Academy in Andover. By 1980, NEDCC was fully self-supporting, and incorporated as an independent nonprofit organization, no longer an arm of the New England Library Board. New York and New Jersey state libraries joined the center, and the name was changed to reflect the expanded regional base.

NEDCC’s board of directors consists of the directors of the eight member state libraries. While the dearth of conservation facilities and expertise in other regions makes the center a national resource, membership through a state library permits nonprofit agencies in NEDCC’s region to use the center’s services at the lowest of three fee scales.

The center has grown steadily in size, scope, and reputation since its founding. Today 35 full-time employees staff a paper conservation lab, conservation bindery, specialized microfilm service, and photographic copying lab. The center’s Field Service Office, funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), provides preservation planning surveys, lectures and workshops, and a free disaster-assistance program. NEDCC is widely recognized for its treatment of an unusual variety of paper-based objects and for its staff of fifteen conservators with outstanding credentials.

Each object must be individually examined by a conservator, a highly trained, manually skilled professional who designs a treatment proposal with the object’s condition, future use, and probable storage circumstances in mind. Finally, a cost for treatment is estimated. Photographs taken before, during, and after treatment provide documentation of every object, and a detailed report describing the pretreatment condition and conservation procedures is written.

Conservation is an intense activity, intellectually and, often, physically demanding: NEDCC conservators have removed brittle, acidic layers of tissue-paper corrections on Frank Lloyd Wright’s drawings; each layer preserved important records of the design process, and a false move would have meant tears in one or another irreplaceable component. Moving of a 4-by-10-foot, hand-drawn, nineteenth-century competition design for Central Park by Frederick Law Olmstead required strength and coordination from a team of conservators. Misidentification or incomplete testing of media in a collection of Civil War photographs from the West Point Museum could have resulted in complete loss of the images.

The ten conservators in NEDCC’s paper laboratory are typical of the profession. Most have undergraduate training in art history and studio art as well as organic and inorganic chemistry. They go on to formal graduate training programs in conservation, followed by postgraduate internships under the supervision of experienced professionals. In other cases, years of apprenticeship may substitute for classroom training. In addition to this exceptional human resource, NEDCC provides the highly specialized equipment of conservation. Few institutions can afford to equip themselves with such sophisticated machinery as vacuum suction tables or ultrasonic encapsulators. NEDCC has one of the two original, Israelidesigned leaf casters in the United States (the other is at the Library of Congress). This remarkable device enables a conservator to calculate pre-
ciscely the amount of paper required to fill losses in a map, document, or other flat paper object. Fiber is added to a water bath and drawn through the object under vacuum, providing perfectly fitted "patches" in the damaged original. It has been used to reconstruct, among other objects, a unique, sixteenth-century Spanish world map and a nineteenth-century captain's log mistakenly exploded by a police bomb squad.

The bindery is the center's conservation laboratory for books. Basic treatments for the paper in these artifacts are the same as those of the paper lab: surface cleaning, washing, deacidification, mending, and replacing (filling). While conservation in the paper lab often includes cosmetic replacement of lost areas of an image (inpainting), the bindery’s special skill is the repair and replacement of the coverings of books, pamphlets, and other bound objects.

Many books treated at NEDCC are valuable as historic artifacts. Although the binding of such a book may be in shreds, it may be necessary to preserve it in that condition for research or historical purposes; in this case conservators stabilize the binding and paper and construct a protective box to prevent further deterioration. More frequently, it is appropriate to repair the binding, using as much of the original material as possible. Some books are deacidified nonaqueously, since this technique can be used without disbinding. When finances and the condition of the book permit, it is usually preferable to disbind a volume completely, wash the pages, and rebind using traditional binding techniques. Every effort is made to use materials that match the original: conservators choose from a large supply of leathers and cloths, tinting them to the correct tone. More extensive restoration can include stamping and gold tooling. Again, NEDCC has assembled a collection of traditional and contemporary binder’s tools unavailable to most institutions.

The bindery’s conservators have treated objects ranging from a collection of Abraham Lincoln’s handwritten telegrams, to Laura Ingalls Wilder’s *Little House on the Prairie* manuscripts (written on pads of brittle, deteriorated, yellow-lined paper), to an *Interrogatorium Nurnberg* printed in 1482 on linen paper bound in leather and wood. The bindery is probably best known for its treatment of incunabula and governmental records. Recent examples include many town records, the Treaty of Versailles, and the oaths of allegiance for officers of the Revolutionary War.

Microfilming is increasingly important as a practical solution to the preservation of information contained on deteriorating paper. For books whose information value is paramount, and especially for newspaper, it may be the whole preservation strategy. For artifacts, microfilming may be the first step toward restricting access to the original object while insuring the availability of information to researchers. In some cases, an artifact will be microfilmed as a first step before conservation treatment in NEDCC's laboratories.

Increased demand for services resulted in expansion of the microfilm department in 1986 with funding from NEH, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and Mabel Pew Myrin Memorial Trust. Expanded equipment and facilities have given NEDCC the capacity to handle the large volume of current and anticipated work resulting from new national initiatives to address
the brittle-book crisis through systematic microfilming. Unlike most commercial filmers, NEDCC’s department has specialized equipment for filming of brittle bindings, oversized books, architectural drawings, and newspapers. Filmers are specially trained to handle objects that other vendors consider difficult or impossible to reproduce because of size, deterioration, or lack of contrast. In addition, NEDCC filmers can often preserve artifacts that others would routinely sacrifice to expedite photography.

A photographic copying facility was added in 1981 to reproduce deteriorating negatives on modern safety film. Collections sent to the center for copying typically include unstable nitrate negatives, deteriorated premodern safety film, or glass-plate negatives popular in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A recent project included microfilming and copying negatives from the complete photo archives of Margaret Bourke White at Syracuse University. Filming insured preservation and access to many famous images—among them, the well-known portrait of Gandhi at his spinning wheel.

Of all NEDCC’s activities, the field service function is, perhaps, most consistent with the center’s original goal: bringing preservation within reach of institutions with limited funds by emphasizing prevention rather than restoration. Funded by grants from NEH since 1980, field services include conducting workshops, performing collection surveys, and providing free telephone consultation and disaster assistance. The Field Service Office has provided nearly 200 surveys, many at substantially reduced cost, to institutions ranging from historical societies and small public libraries to archives and research libraries. Such surveys examine building structures, environment, and storage and handling procedures with the goal of identifying hazards and prioritizing actions for long-term protection of books and paper.

The field service program has enabled many small collections with rich local, regional, and national resources to reorder internal priorities, enlist administrative support, and obtain funds for conservation. The survey often serves as a catalyst, and survey clients have found that the report can add the weight of authority that tips the balance toward active preservation efforts.

Emphasizing prevention includes education for disaster preparedness. A twenty-four-hour disaster-assistance service provides information, advice, and hands-on help in the face of water and fire damage to paper collections. Telephone assistance is always free. In a major disaster, physical help may also be provided without charge. When the Frederick Law Olmstead national historical site was flooded, NEDCC’s field service director was at the archives a few hours after receiving an emergency call.

The center as a whole is committed to education. Staff members in all functional areas are available to speak to professional and lay audiences, conduct workshops, and write articles in order to increase awareness and build practical skills for preservation planning and conservation. The paper and conservation laboratories offer advanced internships to student conservators. Several staff members share teaching responsibilities in preservation courses at Simmons College’s School of Library and Infor-
information Science. It is NEDCC’s hope that participation in these activities will help alleviate the scarcity of trained paper conservators and preservation administrators that currently impedes ongoing protection of our paper heritage.

During its fifteen years, NEDCC has established itself as a model for other cooperative library-conservation efforts. The structure of the center has proven effective for making conservation facilities and expertise available to a broad spectrum of organizations for whom in-house laboratories are impractical or impossible. Having achieved a sound financial footing, the center anticipates a growing market for its services as collection-holding institutions join forces to demand a national preservation strategy. NEDCC’s leadership and capacity for expert conservation services will continue to be a critical part of this effort.
Research Notes

GTO-RLIN Testing at the University of Minnesota Libraries: Preliminary Report

Susanne Nevin

The University of Minnesota libraries are in the process of implementing the NOTIS integrated system. The three technical processing units of the university libraries and the Law Library intend to order, receipt and catalog all new materials via NOTIS, which will consist of the libraries’ tape-loaded RLIN and OCLC records and all their conversion records currently being processed by various vendors. In addition, they will load Library of Congress, National Library of Medicine, and Government Printing Office tapes, as well as the LC name and subject authority files.

As soon as the local online system is implemented, the libraries will stop cataloging on RLIN. They will continue using RLIN for search purposes only and will periodically tape-load their NOTIS records into the RLIN database. In addition, the libraries plan to use the GTO-RLIN program to pass catalog records from RLIN to NOTIS directly. The records can either create or overlay NOTIS records. They plan to use GTO (Generic Transfer & Overlay) at least until the Linked Systems Project (LSP) is fully operative.

THE GTO-RLIN PROGRAM

The GTO-RLIN program has been developed over the past two years by Roberta F. Kirby and Bruce A. Miller, systems analysts at NOTIS Systems, Inc., and others. The program currently is being tested by staff of the university’s biomedical and law libraries, the two beta-test sites chosen by NOTIS for this task. The following report outlines the program and summarizes preliminary test results at the Law Library.

Training on GTO took place June 15–16, 1987; active testing began June 17. Training consisted of a four-hour introduction to the GTO-RLIN pro-

Susanne Nevin is Associate Librarian and Principal Cataloger at the University of Minnesota Law Library.
gram, presented by Miller, that included actual hands-on experience. The testing staff (two members of the Bio-Medical Library’s staff and one, the author, at the Law Library) were given two draft chapters from *NOTIS Terminal Operator’s Manual. Vol. 1: Technical Services* (April 21, 1987): chapter E5a, “Creating NOTIS Bibliographic and Holdings Records Using the NOTIS Generic Transfer & Overlay Program for RLIN Data,” and chapter E6a, “Updating NOTIS Bibliographic and Holdings Records Using the NOTIS Generic Transfer & Overlay Program for RLIN Data.” Training presumed a basic knowledge of how to create and edit records on NOTIS and how to manipulate NOTIS copy and volume holdings structures.

Prior to training, NOTIS staff installed the GTO equipment. An RLIN terminal, in this case an RLG40, is linked to an IBM microcomputer equipped with custom-designed software to support the transfer of RLIN records to NOTIS using the RLIN PASS command. The microcomputer, in turn, is linked to the university’s mainframe computer. (For detailed specifications for GTO installation, see the *NOTIS Manual*, draft chapter L3, “Implementing GTO-RLIN.”) Printed products include work sheets (i.e., printouts of the full bibliographic record passed); generic transfer and overlay reports listing all records transferred and overlaid that day; and exception reports displaying various error messages produced by the system for each record passed or overlaid. These lists are produced by the university’s mainframe computer on a daily basis and are sent periodically to the GTO testing staff for examination. Examples of the GTO and exception reports appear in figures 1 and 2.

The GTO-RLIN program supports creation and updating of NOTIS bibliographic, copy holdings, and volume holdings records. The NOTIS database is first searched by author and title. If the record does not already exist there, the RLIN database is searched and the desired record passed by dis-

| TRANSFERS   |     |     |     |     |
| REC # | TIME | SOURCE | PORT | PC ID |
| ABB8521 | 11:56:49 | R | 01 | LB05 |
| ABB8524 | 13:13:44 | R | 01 | LB05 |
| ABB8527 | 13:21:22 | R | 01 | LB05 |
| ABB8531 | 13:43:33 | R | 01 | LB05 |
| ABB8532 | 13:48:24 | R | 01 | LB05 |
| TOTAL: | 5 |

| OVERLAYS   |     |     |     |     |
| REC # | CHR | VHR | TIME | SOURCE | PORT | PC ID |
| ABB8536 | Y | N | 14:27:22 | R | 01 | LB05 |
| ABB8537 | Y | N | 14:35:25 | R | 01 | LB05 |
| TOTAL: | 2 |

*Figure 1*

Generic Transfer and Overlay Report for Law Library
IMPLEMENTATION AND PROBLEMS

Each of the two test sites was given a test database consisting of some of its institution’s tape-loaded RLIN records. The Bio-Medical Library, as one of three NOTIS technical processing units at the University of Minnesota libraries, was given a specially profiled account enabling it to transfer RLIN records for the other two processing units and to manipulate them in NOTIS as if they were its own. The Law Library, as a separate processing unit, was to transfer and manipulate only its own (MNUL-RLIN) records; other university libraries’ (MNU-RLIN) records were to be handled like any other RLIN member copy. It did not turn out that way, however.

After testing the first few records, a major problem for the Law Library became obvious. All records (our own RLIN and member copy) passed into the university libraries’ test processing unit (P3) instead of into Law’s (LT). (This bug is partly fixed at this writing. The Law Library’s own RLIN records are now being transferred into the correct processing unit, but RLIN member copy passed by Law still goes into the university libraries’ test unit.) This hampered testing of certain transactions. For example, location and holdings manipulation of NOTIS records in LT and subsequent overlay with an RLIN member record currently is impossible. It is a programming problem and can be resolved by associating the processing unit with the individual GTO microcomputer.

Another problem concerns the MARC 035 field and affects both pro-
cessing units. Whenever a record is passed from RLIN to NOTIS, an 035 field containing the RLIN ID and record number is created. The 035 field is instrumental during the overlay transaction. The system will overlay a NOTIS record correctly only if its first 035 field is identical to the RLIN ID and record number of the record passed. In other words, if one wants to overlay a previously passed NOTIS record with the same RLIN record (e.g., for updating), the 035 field is already present; if one wants to overlay an existing NOTIS record (e.g., a provisional, erroneous, or substandard record) with a better RLIN record, one needs to add the RLIN ID and record number into the first 035 field position of the NOTIS record. Currently, however, only the numeric portion (year, format code, and record number) of the RLIN ID is converted to the 035 field, preceded by a default code (MNU) regardless of the source of the RLIN record. As the numeric portion of the RLIN ID is not unique, accidental overlays or creation of duplicate records may occur.

The structure of the GTO-created 035 field is being corrected as follows:

1. For the institution’s own record, the 035 would include its NUC
Figure 4
Same Record after Transfer to NOTIS

code, followed by the complete RLIN ID and record number. An example of a record passed by the Law Library from RLIN to NOTIS is (MNU-L) MNUL85-B4450 (see figures 3 and 4).

2. For a member record, subfield $a$ of the 035 field in NOTIS would include a default NUC code used for RLIN member copy in general, followed by the complete RLIN ID and record number of the member record passed. The default code currently under consideration is (CStRLIN). An example of a passed RLIN member record for an 035 field in NOTIS is (CStRLIN)ABCD86-B234.

**SUMMARY OF GTO TEST RESULTS**

**AS OF SEPTEMBER 15, 1987**

Catalog and acquisitions records pass; temporary "Save" records do not pass (an RLIN restriction).

The program supports transfer of records from the following formats: books, serials, maps, machine-readable data files, recordings, scores, and visual materials. (Archival records were not tested at the Law Library). There are problems with the way RLIN fixed field values for the MARC 007 field are converted to NOTIS. Values appear in one consecutive string of letters on a separate line in the NOTIS record. This is a bug that still needs fixing.

Records containing diacritics and romanized letters pass correctly. However, a few diacritics on NOTIS are not equivalent to RLIN’s and may appear to be transferred incorrectly. For example, lowercase script $L$ translates into lowercase roman $L$. At this time, the RLIN PASS command cannot be used with an RLG CJK (Chinese/Japanese/Korean) terminal.

The GTO-RLIN program supports most fields within the MARC 000–999 range. All bibliographic data in this range are converted, including local fields such as 035, 590, and 690. Passing holdings information
depends on record ownership, however. When passing member copy from RLIN to NOTIS, only information from the upper portion of the RLIN holdings segment (i.e., record-level information) is retained and passed into NOTIS field 090. Information from the lower portion of the RLIN holdings segment (i.e., location- and copy-level information) is dropped by RLIN. This includes the location-level call number (LCAL) field that most often includes the classification number, assigned by an institution. As we are interested in using good RLIN member copy, including the classification number, this is a field we wish to see retained during the transfer process.

When passing an institution's own record (after cataloging and/or updating it first on RLIN), all local data are converted to the corresponding NOTIS fields—e.g., the footnote (FNT) field, and all record-level holdings fields are passed to NOTIS field 090; location- and copy-level information is passed into NOTIS fields 950 and 955 respectively, as well as into the appropriate fields of the NOTIS copy and volume holdings structures. RLIN fields for permanent shelving location (LOC), LCAL, and location-level additional note (LANT) are converted to the 950 field and to the copy holdings structure (some of these NOTIS fields are of limited length, and information gets cut off); copy information (COP) and material description (MDES) are converted to field 955 and to the NOTIS volume holdings structure. Multiple-location information is passed exactly as the RLIN profile for that library was set up (i.e., if RLIN rearranges locations, they will be rearranged in NOTIS as well.)

Currently, when passing RLIN member copy, a default location is created. This is unnecessary and should be eliminated from the program.

When overlaying an existing NOTIS record with an RLIN record, the system will match with the 035 field (as explained earlier), as well as by location and copy statements. The overlay transaction completely replaces the bibliographic portion of the existing NOTIS record with the newly passed record. Currently, even the provisional NOTIS fields disappear after overlaying a provisional record with a fully cataloged RLIN record. This is another bug to be fixed, because retention of provisional fields is desirable for better record matching.

Overlay transactions also replace NOTIS copy statements for matching locations. If the RLIN record contains a location and copy statement not in the NOTIS copy holdings record, a new copy statement will be created in the NOTIS copy holdings structure. If, in turn, the NOTIS copy holdings record contains a location and copy statement not in the RLIN record, the NOTIS copy statement remains as is.

**CONCLUSIONS**

GTO-RLIN testing has been a satisfying experience thus far. With the exception of bugs that still need fixing, the program works well. The entire transaction time spans only a few seconds, depending on RLIN response time. We had our share of hardware and software problems with the GTO microcomputer, but, with the help of the NOTIS staff and our local computer center, we were soon up and running again.

We are waiting for installation of major bug repairs. After that, we wish
to run another series of tests for the corrected program. Early in 1988, RLG will implement its latest version of the PASS command, which will support passing of authority records. We plan, therefore, to follow this report with a final examination and evaluation of the program. At that time we expect to make recommendations concerning work flow and job assignments based on our experiences with NOTIS and GTO.
1987 Annual Reports

RTSD Annual Report

Judith P. Cannan, RTSD Past-President

FINANCIAL AND MANAGERIAL MATTERS

Dramatic changes have taken place in RTSD since June 1986. Perhaps the most significant is appointment of a new executive director. On December 5, 1986, William I. Bunnell resigned after more than eight years of service. During this period he developed and expanded RTSD's regional institutes, to mention but one of his many accomplishments. On June 8, 1987, Karen Muller assumed the executive director position, vacant since April 30.

At year's end, RTSD has a staff of three, down from five. For a six-week period the office was staffed by Ann Menendez and Sarah Baron.

Many changes since June 1986 were due to RTSD's financial situation. It became apparent that RTSD would end FY1987 with a deficit, despite the budgetary measures taken between January and June 1986 that included release of the deputy executive director for lack of funds. The exact deficit, $9,804, was confirmed in October, when the division took immediate steps to cut expenses. The distribution of NISO documents was greatly reduced; RTSD withdrew from the joint RASD/RTSD cruise planned for the 1987 Annual Conference; the Duplicate Exchange Union's membership list was reduced to one distribution; and the task force on an RTSD orientation program to attract new members was disbanded. The division announced it could no longer sponsor international travel; the RTSD luncheon was cancelled, and it was agreed that RTSD would not issue the 1987-88 division manual in FY1987.

When the Executive Committee met in Chicago in late November, further measures were taken to reduce expenditures. Eileen Mahoney reported on reducing production of RTSD Newsletter, which was never self-supporting; in FY1986 RTSD spent $25,084 on it. The committee agreed to reduce the Newsletter from eight to four issues and decrease the total number of pages. Although it would be desirable to initiate advertising in the Newsletter, the start-up costs were considered too high.

Throughout the year RTSD's budget has been closely monitored by both the Executive Committee and newly created Budget and Finance Committee, the chair of which was made an ex officio voting member of the RTSD Board. RTSD COPES was abolished during the Midwinter meeting. The Budget and Finance Committee produced operating guidelines and "RTSD Institute and Preconference Budget Planning Guidelines," implemented in September, and monitored all institute and preconference budgets as well as the division budget. Henceforth, institutes and preconferences must show net revenues of at least 20 percent over estimated total costs, including overhead.

RTSD continued to have financial concerns. In April, a deficit was forecast for FY1987 because of lower revenue than predicted from both membership and ad-
Advertising in *Library Resources & Technical Services (LRTS)*. Several institutes from which RTSD had budgeted a profit were canceled, and of the four held, one ran a deficit. Because of this, the Executive Committee reluctantly agreed in March 1987 that the final issue of *LRTS* for FY1987 must be limited to sixty-four pages.

Because much of the energy of the RTSD Office and Executive Committee had been spent on RTSD’s financial concerns, developmental programs took a backseat. Of particular concern is the implementation of accrual accounting in FY1988. RTSD must defer $72,442 in expenditures to meet the accrual accounting requirement. Fortunately, the division has several years to achieve this goal and hopes to end the year with sufficient balance to settle last year’s debt and make a reduction in the accrual deferral. Throughout the year, members have been most understanding and cooperative, helping the Executive and Budget and Finance committees rebuild RTSD’s financial strength.

To strengthen the division’s officers and raise their awareness, RTSD revised its orientation program for newly elected and appointed officials. In 1986, Bunnell introduced an *Administrative Newsletter* for the RTSD Board of Directors that was extremely helpful in summarizing current events of importance to RTSD at ALA headquarters. It will be continued by Karen Muller.

**ACHIEVEMENTS RELATING TO THE ALA MISSION**

The officers and membership pursued activities that enhanced the association’s priority areas and goals despite its preoccupation with finances.

During Midwinter Meeting, the division conducted a strategic long-range planning (SLRP) session. Led by Brooke Sheldon, it was a most productive meeting. Each of the division’s five sections was charged with setting objectives to support and enhance ALA’s priority areas. These reports were submitted to RTSD’s Planning and Research Committee, which drafted a working document for the division’s next SLRP session at Midwinter 1988. During Annual Conference, the Executive committee reviewed the ALA SLRP mission and goals statement and during the course of the year passed several significant motions directly relevant to ALA’s mission, e.g., a motion introduced by the preservation of Library Materials Section (PLMS) that RTSD convey to GPO its concern regarding the increasing amount of government information issued only in electronic forms. RTSD encouraged GPO to discuss the problem with the Depository Library Council to ensure development of a plan to provide access to data of historical importance. PLMS directed two additional motions about access to information to the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), supporting and encouraging the exchange of preservation information between PLMS and IFLA’s Conservation Section and the development of an international database of bibliographic and resource information.

The RTSD Board endorsed resolutions drafted by the Federal Librarians Round Table and Government Documents Round Table (brought by the Resources Section) concerning the Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB) proposed privatization of National Technical Information Service (NTIS). The need for Congress to authorize funding to implement a pilot project for dissemination of government information in electronic format through the depository library system was recommended.

Thomas J. Galvin, executive director of ALA, asked the RTSD Board to review issues concerning the governance of the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) and the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR2). An ad hoc committee was established to examine JSC and the AACR2 revision and publishing agreement. The resolution endorsed by the board reads as follows:

The RTSD Board proposes that existing contractual agreements be revised or
new ones drawn up that include clear definition of the following terms:
AACR author bodies
AACR copyright holders
AACR publishers—with an accurate statement of the responsibilities and
relationships between AACR author bodies, copyright holders and publi-
shers.

Furthermore, we recommend that the composition of the voting/non-voting
membership of the JSC be therefore expanded to include formal appointments,
representing ALA, CCC, the LA, LC, the British Library and the Australian
Committee on Cataloging, but allow for no further expansion, allowing for other
contributors to serve in consultative roles. A precedent has been set for the fund-
ing of these consultants in the examined documentation.

We also recommend that the present three copyright holders remain the only
copyright holders.

Finally, an updated publishing agreement be written to accommodate the inclu-
sion of modern technologies and references to revised and future U.S. Copyright
Laws."

At a later date, detailed comments were sent to Galvin concerning the involve-
ment of JSC in the revision of AACR2 and relating particularly to the following
matters:
- terms of representation on JSC
- adding to JSC representation
- use of proceeds that go into the common revision fund
- method of approval for AACR translations
- appropriate individual to represent ALA.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

The President’s Program on the Linked System Project (LSP) turned into a pre-
conference, “LSP—The Linked Systems Project and the Library Community,”
cosponsored by the Library and Information Technology Association (LITA) and
the Reference and Adult Services Division (RASD). Beacher Wiggins chaired the
Planning Committee responsible for developing, designing, and producing the
preconference. The two-day institute was directed at decision makers involved in
applications of LSP and accountable for its success. About 170 persons attended.
All felt the institute met its objective: to familiarize the library community with
LSP technology and its current and future implications. Five plenary sessions
were attended by all participants, and there were five additional sessions for users
and technicians to attend separately. Attendees felt they gathered a wealth of use-
ful, practical information.

Serials Cataloging Institutes were held in Pittsburgh and Los Angeles. The sec-
ond Preservation Microfilming Institute was planned and will be held at Yale Uni-
versity in 1988. The first Classification Regional Institute was held in Crystal
City, Virginia, and the first Business of Acquisitions Institute was held in conjunc-
tion with the Texas Library Association’s annual conference in April.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, ETC.

During 1987 Elizabeth Tate stepped down as editor of LRTS, after eight years of
exceptional service in the position. She handed over the editorship to Sheila
Intner. One of Tate’s last significant contributions was introduction of an award
for the best LRTS article of the year.

The Best of LRTS Committee, under the able leadership of Stephen Wiberley,
was faced with a difficult task. Being a new committee, it had no previous experi-
ence to guide it in the selection of a candidate. The committee dedicated a consid-
erable amount of time to preparing guidelines for those responsible for selection of the 1988 recipient. Patricia McElung was the 1987 recipient.

An ad hoc committee, chaired by Nancy Williamson, was appointed to analyze and revise a procedural manual for the Esther J. Piercy Award jury. The board approved the manual presented by this committee with minor changes. The manual does not substitute for the award committee’s judgments when assessing potential candidates and making a final selection. John K. Duke was the worthy recipient of the 1987 Piercy Award.

Catalog Form and Function, led by Randal Ericson, is another new committee formed in FY1987. Its forerunner was an interdivisional committee, but members decided against establishing formal liaisons immediately. The chair is responsible for maintaining communication with related committees within ALA, and the committee focused its attention initially on identifying the functions of a catalog.

The RTSD Organization and Bylaws Committee, chaired by Marcia Tuttle, past-president, had a full agenda. Motions recommending changes to some by-laws and committee function statements were passed and brought to the board. The committee also drafted a motion recommending that ALA promptly analyze the structure of the association and its divisions to determine if the needs of members are adequately supported. The motion recommended that no new standing organizational units be established without approval from ALA Council until the analysis is complete. Because the traditional distinctions between given areas of library science are blurred, it is no longer clear which areas of responsibility fall within each division of the association.

The Audiovisual Committee, led by its new chair, Bruce Johnson, completed existing projects and initiated new ones, including review of all the liaisons to the committee. As a result, communication among AV librarians improved considerably.

Under the able leadership of Beth Shapiro, the Publications Committee implemented draft procedures for the submission of proposals and manuscripts prepared within RTSD. The final version of this document was completed during Annual Conference. Initiated by the Resources Section (RS), the first number in a new series titled Collection Management and Development Guides was published by ALA in August 1987.

These are only a few of the accomplishments of twenty-three divisionwide committees and numerous discussion groups.

The Council of Regional Groups continued increasing its visibility within the division. It investigated methods by which state and regional associations could initiate requests for institutes to be held in their locales.

At very short notice, Paul Mosher agreed to serve as RTSD Councillor when Doralyn Hickey’s ill health caused her resignation. The board, grateful for Paul’s able and dedicated service, expressed regret that it was precipitated by Doralyn’s loss. An active and outstanding RTSD leader, she died in the spring.

CONCLUSION

FY1987 was productive. A new executive director was appointed, and significant changes were made in the division’s financial policies. RTSD furthered ALA’s mission and goals and developed its own SLRP. Continuing education programs flourished, and all committees recorded significant accomplishments. Most important, the financial situation is resolving and the division office is operating smoothly. All of this was accomplished with the cooperation and dedication of members and officers. Thank you.
Cataloging and Classification
Section: Annual Report

Doris Hargrett Clack, Past-Chair

Activities of the Cataloging and Classification Section (CCS) progressed on schedule. The various committees, discussion groups, and task forces were successful in planning and executing a wide variety of activities. Encountered problems were analyzed, and viable solutions found in a timely manner.

The Executive Committee participated in a daylong, how-to workshop on strategic long-range planning sponsored by RTSD. With input from section committees, it prepared a SLRP that projected CCS goals, activities, and programs through 1988. In other business, the committee reaffirmed its position restricting the distribution of section documents to ALA-affiliated organizations authorized to receive them. The committee accepted Arnold Wajenberg’s resignation of his position as CCS representative to the IFLA Standing Committee on Cataloguing; Nancy John was selected to fill the vacancy. Patricia Thomas was nominated as CCS representative to the Classification and Indexing Section of IFLA’s Bibliographic Control Division.

The Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access (CC:DA) reviewed documents from the Cataloging of Children’s Materials Committee and responded to suggestions and inquiries from practicing librarians. It was also concerned with the forthcoming consolidated reprint of AACR2, and its task forces investigated a variety of proposals for changes. The CC:DA Task Force on ISBD for Computer Files completed a draft report on the ISBD and Chapter 9 of the new AACR2.

The Cataloging of Children’s Materials Committee completed work on a guide for cataloging children’s materials that was the focus of a program sponsored by the American Association of School Librarians. The committee is negotiating to have the work published and disseminated to a wider audience.

CCS sponsored two programs at the ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco: “Linked Systems and the Online Catalog,” which focused on emerging technologies that impact on the online catalog, and “Subject Authorities in an Online Environment.” Both programs were well received by capacity audiences.

The Committee on Cataloging: Asian and African Materials (CCAAM) is currently working on a romanization table for Armenian and Kurdish. It assisted in revising areas of the DDC relating to South African political parties, area schedules of Palestine, history and area schedules of Africa, Tables 5 and 6 relating to Pidgins and Creoles, and period tables for Chinese and Japanese literature. It is beginning work on qualifications to be used with Malaysian place names.

The Subject Analysis Committee (SAC) spent time and energy on a myriad of relevant issues. It reviewed sections of DDC’s abridged edition and documentation from the CCMC. It studied the issues relating to LC proposals to change its indirect subdivision policy and to add a classification number for Eastern Europe in the H Schedule. It also studied issues relating to terminology in LCSH and the LC policy on subject access to individual literary works.

The CCS Policy and Research Committee works hard to keep the section operating smoothly and its policies current with the changing needs. It reviewed the LITA/RTSD CCS Authority Control Interest Group (ACIG) bylaws in an attempt to make the policies of the two “parent” organizations compatible as sponsoring bodies.
CCS discussion groups sponsored numerous forums that provided opportunities for the general membership to explore a wide variety of issues. The MAGERT Map Cataloging Discussion Group sponsored forums on cataloging map series, aerial photographs, and remote sensing images. The Copy Cataloging Discussion Group focused its forums on the impact of microcomputers on copy cataloging and on the management of work flow in copy cataloging units. The ACIG continues to increase the library community's awareness of authority control issues. Those discussed include linking authority and bibliographic records, online displays and patron interaction, and online maintenance. The Heads of Cataloging Departments Discussion Group sponsored a forum that focused on managing turnover, including the turnover of professional and support staff and "plateaued" professionals. Its forum at the Annual Conference focused on staff morale and job enrichment for veteran catalogers. "How Catalog Management Can Provide Feedback to Catalogers" was the theme used by the Catalog Management Discussion Group for its annual meeting.

Several outside committees impact on CCS and its work. CCS representatives to those committees kept its membership informed of relevant policies and activities to ensure that the section acts in an informed manner and in harmony with approved policies. The Task Force on Education, Training, and Recruitment for Cataloging is continuing its research into the issues relating to the quality of education and training for catalogers. The group made informal liaisons with the Association for Library and Information Science Education and the Committee on Accreditation to encourage input from professional catalogers into relevant decisions and policies. Because of the dynamic character of cataloging, CCS will always be faced with new issues, changes, and challenges. Working with members of the section has been both challenging and rewarding. I am pleased to report that at year's end the section achieved a majority of the goals that it set for itself. I wish to thank everyone who contributed so generously, cooperatively, and ably to this work, so that CCS could provide superior leadership and service not only to its members but to the profession as a whole.

**Preservation of Library Materials Section: Annual Report**

Margaret M. Byrnes, Past-Chair

For the Preservation of Library Materials Section, the year was characterized by broadening interests and activities and an intensive self-study intended to ensure continued effectiveness of the section. New efforts were made to develop better communication and a closer working relationship with several groups within ALA as well as with national and international organizations concerned with preservation. PLMS members were appointed to work with committees in ACRL and GODORT and to serve on the new RTSD Catalog Form and Function Committee. Input was provided on a number of NISO draft standards, and suggestions made for several new standards. PLMS members are working to identify for the National Endowment for the Humanities areas in which preservation research is most needed, develop for the National Institute for Conservation a list of the most urgent library preservation concerns, and recommend to the Conservation Section of IFLA issues and activities of common interest. At the Annual Conference, the
Section Executive Committee passed resolutions supporting IFLA Conservation Section activities and encouraging the regular exchange of information with PLMS. With the assistance of staff from the Council on Library Resources, the section presented three showings at the San Francisco Conference of Slow Fires, an excellent documentary on library preservation produced under the cosponsorship of CLR, National Endowment for the Humanities, Andrew Mellon Foundation, and Library of Congress.

The PLMS Task Force on Committee Restructure completed its draft report and distributed it to interested Section members for comment. The report contains a number of recommendations for changes in the scope of several committees and the formation of new committees and discussion groups designed to address more directly preservation concerns that have emerged since the section was established seven years ago. An open meeting of section members was held at the Annual Conference to discuss the proposed new structure. After the report has been revised to incorporate members’ comments, it will be presented to the Section’s Executive Committee for approval at Midwinter 1988.

The new Library Binding Discussion Group held its first meetings in 1987. They proved to be excellent opportunities for the exchange of information on library binding materials, equipment, and computer systems. The Library Binders Relations Committee produced a new draft of the guide to the Library Binding Institute’s Standard for Library Binding and made preliminary plans for a field study to test the serviceability of various binding constructions under conditions of heavy use in libraries.

The Preservation Administrators Discussion Group, now in its second year, continued to draw a large number of observers. Subjects chosen for discussion included the need for assistant preservation librarians, the value of internships for training preservation administrators, the location of the preservation department within a library’s organizational structure, and the role of preservation in institutional fundraising programs. Among the topics reported at PLMS Discussion Group meetings this year were the activities of CLR’s Commission on Preservation and Access and the Office of Preservation of National Endowment for the Humanities, ARL preservation statistics, experiences of preservation librarians hired to establish new programs, and the World War I microfilming project of the New York Public Library.

A need to avoid duplication of effort by sharing information concerning titles that have been preserved makes the incorporation of preservation information in bibliographic records a topic of steadily increasing interest. Two proposals concerning the placement of preservation data in MARC records were reviewed by PLMS members before their consideration by MARBI. Following the June 1987 approval by MARBI of the 583 field for preservation, a PLMS Task Force is being formed to assist in development of a controlled vocabulary of preservation and conservation terms. A second task force will develop a list of bibliographic control issues related to preservation for consideration by the new RTSD Catalog Form and Function Committee.

A concern of growing importance is the preservation of information in electronic format. It is an emerging field that requires further research into such problems as image longevity, incompatible and obsolescent hardware, and data conversion costs and techniques. Because of the gradual increase in the amount of government information made available only in electronic form, the PLMS Executive Committee drafted and approved a resolution urging the U.S. Government Printing Office to address this issue in discussions with the Depository Library Council and to draft a plan for ensuring access to future users of government-produced electronic data judged likely to be of historical importance.

The Education Committee continued working at a busy pace. The annual pro-
program on staff and user preservation education was well attended and well-received. An array of speakers provided the theoretical background for preservation education as well as practical tips on training. Particularly appreciated were the generously stuffed packets of sample educational materials distributed to program attendees. Task forces of the Education Committee are now organizing the 1988 New Orleans preconference on disaster prevention and planning and an institute on commercial library binding scheduled for late September 1988. Just beginning to take shape for the following year are plans for a preconference on teaching preservation in library schools and an institute on planning and implementing preservation programs. Other Education Committee activities include revision of the PLMS bibliography on preservation, updating of the Preservation Education Directory, and a compilation of preservation course outlines and teaching aids.

Meetings of PLMS committees and discussion groups during the past year seem to have been imbued with a new sense of excitement and optimism. A major factor, of course, is increased involvement in preservation by both CLR and National Endowment for the Humanities and hopes for the success of CLR’s new Commission on Preservation and Access. A second cause, however, may be the recognition that, after seven years, PLMS has reached a level of maturity and thus can begin to concentrate more energy on examining new issues and building stronger relationships with other groups. Third may be anticipation of a reorganized and revitalized committee structure that should be able to address more effectively the current and future concerns of section members. Finally, there is the constantly renewed feeling of satisfaction that comes from working with such an energetic and committed group of people. It has been a great pleasure to serve as PLMS chair this year.

Reproduction of Library Materials: Annual Report

Jack Pontius, Past-Chair

The fifty-first year of RLMS began with discussions of whether the section was still viable or should be combined with the Preservation of Library Materials Section (PLMS). The problem is that the interests RLMS represents are essential in every library (could we exist without copy machines and microforms?), but few librarians are involved on a day-to-day basis with them, and many are primarily public service librarians. By year’s end, although examination of RLMS continues as part of the overall review of all RTSD sections and committees, there were many signs of life in the section.

The Executive Committee approved a new goals and objectives statement for the section, emphasizing both traditional and future areas of interest. RLMS reaffirms its responsibility to study and disseminate information about library reprographics, including eye-legible, microform, and optical formats; to provide a discussion forum on reprographics that will involve librarians and manufacturers of equipment; to advance the field through research, development, education, and publication; to cooperate with other organizations, within and outside of RTSD and the profession; and to promote the development, use, and administration of library reprographics.

Efforts to disseminate information about library reprographics continue to be a major emphasis. More than 300 attendees heard the section’s program in San
Francisco. "Microforms: Dead or Alive?" examined the role of the format and focused on production (both commercial and noncommercial), acquisition, cataloging, and public service of library microforms. Speakers included Scott Bullard, Kent State; Phelix Hanible, University Microfilms; Ann Swartzell, New York State Library; Shirley Leung, University of California at Irvine; and Glenda Pearson, University of Washington. Pearson's story about a political refugee saved from deportation and probable death by information found hidden in a government translation service summed up the need for better access to and reference service for microform collections.

After the program, the new Public Service Managers of Microforms Facilities Discussion Group met for the first time. Topics included selection of reader-printers, need for a copier for opaque materials, appropriate information services, staff training, and locally produced guides to collections. More than two-thirds of the attendees ordinarily would not participate in RLMS meetings, indicating a continuing need for this discussion group.

Vice-Chair Tamara Swora is planning another interesting program for New Orleans. Tentatively titled "U.S. Copyright in Libraries," it will seek to clarify issues relating to traditional copying of paper and microforms as well as newer technology. RLMS representatives have taken an active role in RTSD's New Orleans program on emerging technologies. The second regional program institute on preservation microfilming, scheduled for fall 1987 at Yale, was rescheduled for spring 1988. This institute will focus on the needs of middle management.

The Committee on Copying continues to sponsor discussion between vendors and librarians about photocopying equipment. Led by Francis Spreitzer, the forum included the problem of using copiers designed for office use to copy bound volumes in libraries and a status report about two prototype copiers built for work with tightly bound or valuable books. The growing role of magnetic card vending operations in library copying was discussed, including ways of protecting a library's interests in cases of vendor demise.

Katherine Mawdsley, RLMS representative to the RASD Interlibrary Loan Committee, worked on a guideline for packaging and shipping microforms, important because microforms can be damaged in the mail if they are not carefully packaged.

The RLM Discussion Group, chaired by Myron B. Chace, covered problems with service-copy color microforms, demands for hard copy on permanent paper from microforms, need for some control of master negatives produced by small micropublishers (What happens to the negatives when they go out of business?), and reactions to the documentary film Slow Fires. Since this group has no agenda, it can offer a way to share information or ask questions about reprographic concerns.

The Standards Committee, chaired by Max Willocks, discussed the permanence of a new color microfilm and problems with the durability and archival permanence of microfilm boxes and reviewed two new NISO standards for eye-legible information on microfilm leaders and trailers and on containers of processed microfilm. Standards work is essential when dealing with developing technologies, particularly where permanence is a goal.

One area of great recent progress is the bibliographic control of microforms. Few of the major monographic sets identified by the ARL Microform Project remain uncataloged. Much of the coordination and information sharing related to advances in the cataloging of large microform sets can be attributed to the work of the Bibliographic Control Committee chaired by Marty Joachim. Monitored projects included the cataloging by two libraries of the 60,000 titles in the Goldsmith-Kress Collection and work to identify and microfilm missing titles in the American Fiction Collection. The committee is now turning its attention to other forms
of access, such as collection guides.

Consideration of new technologies is the job of the RLMS Technology Committee, chaired by Joseph Nitecki. This year, the committee heard reports of optical disk projects by the National Library of Agriculture, Syracuse University, and University Microfilms International.

In RLMS as in other RTSD sections, a successful year is the result of hard work by members and various committees. Much was accomplished this year; much still waits to be done.

Resources Section: Annual Report

Gail Kennedy, Past-Chair

In an era when libraries’ shrinking materials budgets are relentlessly buffeted by escalating prices and volatile currency exchange rates, the Resources Section strengthened its leadership role in the struggle to continue building strong library collections. During 1987, RS focused on a variety of issues facing all types of libraries. Through programs, publications, and resolutions, members contributed considerable energies to the field of collection development and acquisitions.

The year began with participation by the section’s Executive Committee in a divisionwide strategic long-range planning session held prior to the ALA Midwinter Meeting. At that session the committee set the following ongoing goals: (1) to support basic and continuing education for acquisitions and collection development at the local, regional, and national level; (2) to continue the publication of needed monographs and articles (particularly standards and guidelines); and (3) to increase outreach and cooperation with other ALA divisions sharing common interests. Members of the 1987 Executive Committee were: Gail Kennedy, section chair; William Schenck, vice-chair/chair-elect; Connie McCarthy, past-chair; Sharon Bonk, secretary; Sara Heitshu, Ross Atkinson, Carolyn Bucknall, Martin Faigel, and Arnold Hirshon, members-at-large. Ex officio nonvoting members were Carolyn Fields, Policy and Research Committee chair; John H. Whaley, Jr., LRTS assistant editor; and the RTSD executive director.

One of the most successful section activities in 1987 was the preconference entitled “The Business of Acquisitions,” held in San Antonio in April prior to the Texas Library Association conference. This event was planned by the Acquisitions Committee, chaired by Sharon Bonk, in collaboration with members of TLA. RTSD and TLA were cosponsors. Attendance was solid, and represented a near equal split between academic and other types of libraries. The program was well received and profitable as well. It was cited as a model for low-budget promotion, use of local talent, and mutually beneficial cooperation and resulted in a high return on the division’s dollar. The Acquisitions Committee plans another presentation of this program as a regional institute in 1989.

The Acquisitions Committee also developed and cosponsored with RASD a creative program at the 1987 ALA conference in San Antonio entitled “Information is the Link: Acquisitions, Collection Development, and Reference.”

The Blackwell North America Scholarship Award Committee was chaired by Sara Heitshu. The 1987 award was presented to Ann Okerson for her article “Periodical Pricing,” published in Advances in Serials Management, volume 1. Okerson named the University of British Columbia School of Library, Archival, and Information Studies recipient of the $1,000 scholarship.
The growing involvement of public librarians in the Resources Section was confirmed by the election of Nora K. Rawlinson of Baltimore County Public Library as vice-chair/chair-elect for 1988. The Nominating Committee was chaired by Barry Baker.


The Collection Management and Development Institute scheduled for Denver in 1987 was canceled, but planning is underway for a Midwest institute in 1989. The committee is sponsoring a 1988 preconference for ALA in New Orleans on collection development in the electronic age.

The Library Materials Price Index Committee published its annual list of price indices in the *Bowker Annual’s “Prices of U.S. and Foreign Published Materials.”* The committee reorganized to incorporate subcommittees for all the standard indices, which are critical tools for budget planners. This structure is designed to provide continuity and stability for the indices. Under the leadership of chair Rebecca Lenzini, the committee added the challenge of sponsoring a program in New Orleans focusing on the periodical price dilemma. This promises to be an “SRO” event, bringing publishers, agents, and librarians face-to-face to discuss one of the most frustrating library issues of the decade.

The Chief Collection Development Officers of Large Research Libraries Discussion Group, chaired in 1987 by Linda Gould, originated an important resolution presented by RS to the RTSD Board, where it passed and was sent to ALA Council. With the able assistance of RTSD’s ALA Councillor, Paul Mosher, the resolution entitled “The Impact of Dollar Devaluation” was adopted by Council during the San Francisco Annual Conference. The resolution, printed in its entirety in the summer 1987 *RTSD Newsletter*, urges the focus of national attention on the impact of dollar devaluation on library collections and the international flow of information.

The RS Executive Committee charged an ad hoc task force, chaired by Gay Dannelly, to continue developing an RFP for software to update the National Shelflist Count and to recommend a permanent structure in which to support this valuable effort in the future.

In other action, the RS Executive Committee supported two GODORT resolutions to the RTSD Board, one opposing the privatization of NTIS, the second urging federal funding for the GPO’s pilot project on dissemination of electronic information to depository libraries.

The Executive Committee expressed the extreme concern of section members by formally requesting that the RTSD Publisher/Vendor/Library Relations Committee intercede with publishers to discuss the spiraling costs of serials and the disastrous impact on library materials budgets.

A clear indication of the complexity and overlap in ALA’s divisions was the creation in RASD of a new section on collection development. RS participated in discussions, during both Midwinter and Annual Conference, regarding this significant development and now looks forward to close cooperation with this fledgling group.

The Resources Section had a productive year. The stressful climate for acquisitions and collection development librarians brought us together with renewed
vigor and a firm belief that only by facing the challenges collectively will we and our institutions prevail. William Schenck, incoming section chair, takes the reins of an organization deeply involved in supporting a variety of needs in the field of library resources.

Serials Section: Annual Report

Marlene Sue Heroux, Past-Chair

Cooperation between the Serials Section, RTSD and other ALA divisions committees prevailed. The Machine-Assisted Reference Section of RASD co-sponsored a successful SS Program and SS will cosponsor the 1988 Resources Section Program on Library Materials and Price Indexes. The list of section representatives to division-level committees grew as Linda Bartley began a term on the newly formed RTSD Catalog Use, Form and Function Committee. Reports were also heard from the LITA/RTSD Serials Automation Interest Group, the RTSD GODORT Liaison, and non-ALA groups including the North American Serials Interest Group (NASIG) and the Serials Industry Standard Advisory Committee (SISAC).

As the association as a whole continues examining its goals and objectives, SS Executive Committee members took part in the RTSD strategic long-range planning meeting held at the Midwinter Meeting. Serials Section review committees began an in-depth evaluation that will take five years to complete.

The Committee to Review the SS Education Committee pioneered new territory as the first established section review committee. Working under guidelines established by the section’s Policy and Research Committee, the Review Committee, chaired by John Reimer, ably accomplished its task while making helpful suggestions for refinement of the review process. The Committee to Review the Regional Serials Workshop Committee, chaired by Rex Bross, is in the midst of its evaluative efforts and will present a final report at the 1988 Midwinter Meeting.

The overriding issue this past year was publications. RTSD has had to take a hard look at finances this past year, and the RTSD Publications Committee had to compare costs with the potential market for publications. This is another area where cooperation and introspection are critical.

Committees responsible for making nominations worked swiftly to accomplish their goals. The Nominating Committee, chaired by Libby Hoefsas, presented the section with a slate of candidates that reflected the high quality of accomplished serialists willing to take on even more responsibilities, with Alex Bloss emerging as the 1987-88 vice-chair/chair-elect. Doris Ann Bradley is the newest member-at-large, joining Linda Visk and Mary Ellen Clapper. Candidates Carolyn J. Mueller and Kathleen Schweitzerberger deserve thanks for their willingness to run for vice-chair and member-at-large, respectively. Julia Blixrud continues in her key role as section secretary.

James P. Danky, newspaper and periodicals librarian from the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, received the prestigious Bowker/Ulrich’s Serials Librarianship Award in honor of his accomplishments as a leader in the field of serials librarianship. Danky has been especially instrumental in providing access to the serials literature of alternative presses, Native Americans and women, as well as overseeing Wisconsin’s role in NEH’s U.S. Newspaper Project.

The Bowker/Ulrich’s Serials Librarianship Award Committee carried out its charge under the tutelage of Linda Haack Lomker, who brought her expertise to
the committee as its first member to serve a two-year term. Ann Vidor, as Chair of
The Worst Serial Title Change of the Year Committee, worked hard with her com-
mittee to lighten the load of serials librarianship with their humorous perspective
on the zany world of serials publishing. This year’s overall Worst Serial Title
Change of the Year Award is the Multiple Disaster Award earned by the Journal
of Polymer Science for changing the names and letter designations of all of its
parts.

Munching on Captain Crunch and miniaturized Shredded Wheat, approxi-
mately 250 people were treated to a most stimulating program entitled, “High
Tech Shopping for Serials Automation: Linking Public and Technical Services.”
Jean Farrington (University of Pennsylvania), Wilma Reid-Cippola (SUNY-Buff-
falo), and Rian Miller-McIrvine (PALINET) addressed serials automation con-
cerns from technical services, public services and vendor perspectives, respec-
Cochairs Pamela Bluh and Will Hepfer of the Program Committee worked with a
diverse committee membership including representatives from NASIG and
RASD MARS.

The Policy and Research Committee, directed by Carolyn Mueller, spent the
year refining the Section Committee Review Document to streamline the review
process, compiling a list of SS liaisons to other sections and working with the
division-level Planning and Research Committee on SLRP.

In its second year as a standing committee, the Acquisitions Committee, chaired
by Lynn Cummins, served as a forum to examine the need for a methodology of
vendor performance evaluation, clarify the issues surrounding the Gordon &
Breach license to copyright proposal and discuss ever-escalating serial pricing.

It was a year of self-study for the Library Education and Regional Serial Work-
shops Committees, which were slated to undergo the review process. Chaired by
Jean Perrine Altshuler and Mary Stout, respectively, both groups turned their
thoughts inward, as they examined their charges in a joint meeting. A recommenda-
tion to merge these two committees was tabled pending submission of the final
report by the Committee to Review the Regional Serials Workshops Committee.
Both committees worked with the RTSD Publications Committee, as both had
submitted publication requests to that committee. The Library Education Com-
mittee’s “Annotated Bibliography of Articles of Interest to Serials Librarians,
1983–85” will be published in Serials Review. The 1986 bibliography overlaps
with LRTS “The Year’s Work in Review” and awaits a final decision. The “Dir-
ecory of Speakers” compiled by the Regional Serials Workshop Committee was
turned down for publication, and the committee tabled publication efforts.

Another committee whose efforts have resulted in a volume for publication is
the Committee on Union Lists of Serials. Cochairs Dianne Ellsworth and Mark
Kovacic received responses from at least 140 union list groups for inclusion in the
second edition of the Directory of Union Lists, making the next edition at least
twice as large as the first. Endorsed by the RTSD Publications Committee, the
Directory is being wooed by four publishers. Get ready to place your orders!

The ways in which national and local standards are applied in serials records
was the subject of a survey undertaken by the Committee to Study Serials Records,
chaired by Patsy Ross. Response to the survey was small and revealed little utiliza-
tion of standards, despite their importance in an automated environment.

Dedicated to helping catalogers wrestle with thorny issues that surround the cat-
aloging of serial publications, the Committee to Study Serials Cataloging worked
under the direction of Frank Sadowski. Current activities include a proposal to
include the contents page as an alternate choice for the chief source of information
in the cataloging rules, as well as a minor rewording of what constitutes a title
change.
The Research Libraries Discussion Group had 140 enthusiastic people crowded into its meeting at Midwinter and Annual Conference. Miriam Palm and Mary Case enthusiastically cochaired the Discussion Group Meetings on topics including the license to photocopy, vendor selection for foreign materials, CD-ROM technology, and strategies for coping with serials price increases.

Two more regional Serials Cataloging Institutes were held in Pittsburgh in October and in Los Angeles in March. The section looks forward to upcoming institutes scheduled for Fort Worth and Boston.

**Decimal Classification**

**Editorial Policy Committee:**

**Annual Report**

Lois Mai Chan, Chair

The ninety-first and ninety-second meetings of the Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee (DCEPC) were held at the Library of Congress (LC) on November 3–5, 1986, and April 6–8, 1987. The meetings were extended from two to three days each, because of the large number of revised schedules and policy matters relating to Edition 20 that were presented by the editorial office to DCEPC.

At the November meeting, the committee welcomed David A. Smith as the newly appointed chief of the Decimal Classification Division.

Discussions and actions taken during the November 1986 meeting include the following:

1. **Policy matter**
   
   As work on Edition 20 progresses, the committee feels that the number of relocations should be monitored closely. There are five reasons for relocations: (1) to eliminate dual provision; (2) to regularize the use of standard subdivisions; (3) to provide uniformity of development for parallel subjects; (4) to ensure proper subject relationships; and (5) to rectify erroneous placement of subjects. Most of the relocations in Edition 20 made so far appear to fall into the first two categories. The committee agreed that, in determining the relocations to be made, the extent of their effect on library operations should be considered. This can be evaluated on the basis of literary warrant among other factors. A relocation affecting a large number of bibliographic items should be carefully considered before it is made.

2. **Draft schedules for Edition 20**
   
   A. After careful examination and lengthy deliberation the following schedules were approved for incorporation into Edition 20 with minor adjustments, subject to editorial refinement:
   - 280 Denominations and Sects of the Christian Church
   - 310 Statistics
   - 330 Economics (question of 334.5086 versus 658.8707, management of con-
sumner cooperatives, will be reviewed again when the 658 schedule is revised

790 Recreation and performing arts

Table 1 Standard subdivisions

Table 7 Persons

B. The following schedules were approved in principle with a number of details to be reexamined by the editors and presented to the committee at a later meeting for further review:

320 Political science—The following numbers will be reviewed again: 323.1, 323.3, 323.4 (Civil rights); 324.2411–2429 (Political parties of Great Britain) to be reviewed by the British representative; 324.268 (Political parties of South Africa) to be referred back to the Decimal Classification Division for further research and consultation with experts on South Africa.

370 Education—The committee asked to see the schedule again with the following changes: 376 (Education of women not to be relocated in view of a possible phoenix schedule in a later edition); 379.1 (Finance of education in Canada) to be reviewed again; 374 (Adult education) to be divided like 371 (Generalities of education).

380 Commerce—The following changes were recommended by the committee: order of precedence proposed for 384 (Communication) be applied to 385–388 (Transportation) also; 384.55 (Television) be revamped using the same numbers as Edition 19 instead of relocating to 384.56.

400 Language, Table 4 (Subdivisions of individual languages), Table 5 (Racial, ethnic, national groups), and Table 6 (Languages)—These schedules were approved with the exception of numbers relating to South Africa, which will be reviewed after consultation with experts and appropriate ALA committees.

Table 2 Areas—The draft schedules for Table 2 were approved with the exception of numbers relating to Ontario (−713+), which will be reviewed by the committee again, captions and notes for British cities to be reviewed by the British representative, and numbers relating to South Africa (−68+) to be reviewed after consultation with outside experts and ALA groups.

C. The following schedules, approved in principle at earlier meetings contingent upon further revisions, were reviewed again and approved by the committee:

780 Music

301–307 Sociology and anthropology

070.1 Documentary, educational, news media

025.2 Collection development and acquisitions

091 Manuscripts

3. Editorial advice

The editor-in-chief sought advice from the committee regarding upcoming draft schedules. The committee agreed that the division should proceed with the revision of 621.38 (Electronic and communication engineering) in accordance with the proposed outline. With regard to the editor’s proposed change of citation order in the 340 (Law) schedule, the committee decided that the matter should be brought back for consideration after the publication of Edition 20.

Concerning the index, the committee agreed that primary reviewers be responsible for in-depth review of individual parts of the index. Committee members will be asked to indicate their choice of indexes to be reviewed.

4. Other business

Arnold Wajenberg was elected by acclamation to serve his second term as vice-chair of EPC beginning in January 1987.

Discussions and actions taken at the April 1987 meeting are summarized below:
1. Draft schedules for Edition 20
   A. After careful review and lengthy deliberation, the committee approved
      the following schedules for incorporation into Edition 20 with suggested adjust-
      ments, subject to editorial refinement:
      200 Religion excluding 280, approved in Nov. 1986
      350 Public administration and military science
      366–369 Association and insurance
      510 Mathematics
      530 Physics
      560 Paleontology
      590 Zoology
      600–609 Generalities of Technology
      610–619 Medicine except for topics related to substance dependence and to
      public health to be reviewed in conjunction with the schedule for 360–365
      (Social problems and services)
      650 Management and auxiliary services
      800 Literature
      900 History except period subdivisions for Central America
      Table 2 Areas: Regional treatment; Turkey in Europe; the Ancient World
      (−3); Europe (−4); Asia (−5); Africa (−6); United States (−73-79); and On-
      tario (−713)
      Table 3 Literature
      B. Approval of the schedule for 621.38 (Electronic and communication engi-
      neering) was deferred, pending consultation with outside experts.
      C. The following schedules, which had been reviewed at an earlier meeting,
      were reexamined after further revision by the editors:
      306.44 Sociology of language
      323 Civil rights
      324.2 Political parties
      324.268 Political parties of the Republic of South Africa
      370 Education
      384.55 Television
      The revisions were approved by the committee.
   2. Editorial advice on index
   900 History—The committee felt that recapitulation of schedule captions in
      the index would be unnecessary. Library of Congress Subject Headings should
      be consulted for additional terms to be included in the index.

IN MEMORIAM

Jeanne M. Holmes, former chief, Resource Development Division, Na-

tional Agricultural Library, died of cancer March 28 at her home in Sea Is-

land, Georgia. Holmes was a life member of ALA and an active member of

RTSD.

Mary Lee Bundy, faculty member since 1965 at the College of Library

and Information Science, University of Maryland, died on August 2.
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1987 Division/Section Awards

Best of *LRTS* Award, 1987
Patricia A. McClung


The Best of *LRTS* Award, sponsored by the Resources and Technical Services Division, is presented to the author of an article appearing in the previous year’s volume of *LRTS* that, in the opinion of the jury, makes the greatest contribution to the literature of librarianship.

Since 1983, Patricia A. McClung has been associate director of program coordination at the Research Libraries Group, where she manages cooperative programs and has special responsibility for preservation projects. Previously she held positions at Harvard University in collection development and preservation (1971–75); at the University of Virginia where she
was North American bibliographer (1975–81); and at the University of California–Los Angeles, where she was a Council on Library Resources management intern (1981–82). She earned a B.A. from Randolph-Macon Women’s College (1971) and an M.A. in American History from the University of Virginia (1982). Her M.S. in library science is from Simmons College (1974).

In 1986, McClung was corecipient of the Resources Section/Blackwell North American Scholarship Award for Selection of Library Materials in the Humanities, Social Sciences and Sciences, for which she was general editor as well as a section editor. She has also published articles in Wilson Library Bulletin, Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society, and Collection Management.

In her winning article, McClung reports on a study conducted in 1984 at seven RLG institutions that measured the times and costs involved in the Cooperative Preservation Microfilming Project. The study included the identification and physical preparation of materials, filming and inspection, recording on RLIN, cataloging, and storage. The results, which varied significantly among the seven participants, constitute valuable data for other libraries planning preservation microfilming projects.—Stephen E. Wiberley, Jr., Chair, Best of LRTS Award Committee.
John Kenneth Duke, recipient of the 1987 Esther J. Piercy Award, received his M.L.S degree from the University of California–Los Angeles, in 1978. His first professional position was as assistant librarian in the UCLA Physical Sciences and Technology Libraries. In 1979, John moved to the staff of the Iowa State University Library, where he served initially as a cataloger and later as OCLC Systems Specialist. After five years there, he relocated, in 1983, to Virginia Commonwealth University, where he is currently head of the Bibliographic Control Department.

John Duke’s primary interests are cataloging and classification and library automation. His master’s thesis explored the main entry. He wrote articles for regional and national publications, winning first place in the Iowa Library Association’s writing competition. His articles dealt with serial records, authors and names in AACR2, and policies for microcomputers in libraries. He taught a course in basic cataloging in the small li-
library for the Central Iowa Regional Library System and also led statewide sessions on AACR2 cataloging sponsored by the Iowa State Library Commission. He worked with public and private academic libraries to help them understand and deal with automation and did a computer analysis of interlibrary loan traffic for Iowa. He presented papers on OCLC archive tape processing and maintenance to the Iowa Library Council and on microcomputers in the ISU Library to the MIDNET OCLC Users Group. John received high praise and appreciation from all of these groups.

The Resources and Technical Services Division benefited greatly from Duke’s contributions. He is very active in RTSD, serving as a member of the division’s Planning and Research Committee and chair of its Statistics Institute Planning Committee. He also served as member and chair of CCS’ Policy and Research and Executive committees. Fellow RTSD members give high marks to Duke’s work in the division and applaud his willing acceptance of responsibility.

One of those who nominated John Duke for the Piercy Award referred to him as “one of the brightest young professional librarians with whom I have had the pleasure to work.” His contributions have not been limited to one area of librarianship, but cover publication, research, committee work, and administration. His accomplishments are many, especially for one who has been a librarian for only nine years, and they suggest a future of continuing achievement and leadership in the library profession.—Judith N. Kharbas, Chair, Esther J. Piercy Award Committee.
Margaret Mann Citation, 1987
Dorothy J. Glasby

The thirty-seventh Margaret Mann Citation in Cataloging and Classification was presented during the 1987 American Library Association meeting in San Francisco to Dorothy J. Glasby, assistant chief of the Serial Record Division, Library of Congress. Glasby received the award in recognition of her status as the nation’s preeminent authority on serials cataloging and for her many contributions to the field of serial bibliographic control.

A native of Blue Island, Illinois, Dorothy received a B.S. degree in chemistry from Elmhurst College in 1950, an M.A. in English from Northwestern University in 1953, and an M.S.L.S. from the University of Illinois in 1959. She came to the Library of Congress in 1959 as a special recruit in LC’s intern program for outstanding library school graduates, and upon completion of the program became a serials cataloger in the Serials Section of the Descriptive Cataloging Division. During this time she met and married Jonathan P. Glasby, who also worked at the Library.
Dorothy has always been happiest when cataloging or working with serials. She left the Library during 1962–63 to work as a cataloger at the Toledo Public Library but soon returned to LC as a serials cataloger. In 1966, seeking advancement, she left serials to become a unit supervisor of monograph catalogers in the Descriptive Cataloging Division. (She calls this the worst year of her life!) Dorothy returned to serials for good in 1967, when she became the assistant head of the Serials Section and in 1968, head of the section.

The skills and knowledge Glasby developed as a practitioner carried over as she was successively promoted to supervisory, managerial, and administrative positions. The scope of her responsibilities steadily increased, but her energies and talents remained dedicated to serials and the many issues serials catalogers faced in the sixties, seventies, and eighties.

The most significant developments in the bibliographic control of serials have taken place in the last twenty years, coinciding with Glasby’s tenure as LC’s senior serials cataloger. She has played a leading role in all of them including the change from latest to successive entry cataloging; implementation of the MARC serials format and the move toward online cataloging; development of the CONSER Project, one of the largest and oldest of the cooperative cataloging programs; and adoption of AACR2. As head of serials cataloging, then the first CONSER operations coordinator, and currently in her position as assistant chief of the Serial Record Division, it is difficult to think of a development of national scope affecting serials control in which Glasby has not played a key role. In addition to national cataloging practices and the CONSER Program, this includes the National Serials Data Program and New Serial Titles.

Dorothy Glasby has been active in the American Library Association for years and held posts in RTSD since 1974, when she served on the RTSD/SS/AACR Revision Study Committee. From 1978–81 she was assistant editor (serials) of Library Resources & Technical Services and during 1981–84 served as vice-chair, chair, and past-chair of the Serials Section. She currently sits as the LC liaison to the SS Committee to Study Serials Cataloging. It may be Dorothy’s informal activities at professional meetings that represent her most important contributions in this forum: speaking at discussion groups and making herself available to share her knowledge and experience with the many catalogers who seek her out as the recognized national authority on serials cataloging and an expert on descriptive cataloging generally.

Glasby also contributed to the professional literature. Most noteworthy are her three reviews of the year’s work in serials written for Library Resources & Technical Services. However, much of her most important writing does not appear in the published literature. There are the LC Rule Interpretations pertaining to serials. Of great importance are the extensive comments she writes on everything from new cataloging codes, code revisions, draft standards, and national and international documents, such as the ISDS Manual and ISBD(S), to authors’ manuscripts. Again, a most important contribution is her correspondence, answering hundreds of inquiries concerning cataloging policy and practice.

As a teacher, Glasby has also made her mark. While her teaching goes
back many years, her most recent involvement is with the Serials Cataloging Regional Institutes. She is a member of the planning committee and LC’s senior faculty member.

Most important of all is the manner in which Glasby carries out all of her various responsibilities. Though recognized as a national authority, she is noted by her colleagues as being unassuming, filled with good will, practical, and having a great sense of humor. It is clear to anyone who knows her that she truly loves her work, and she willingly shares her enthusiasm and experience.—Kimberly W. Dobbs, Chief, Serials Records Division, for the committee.

READERS, PLEASE NOTE: The Bowker/Ulrich’s Serials Librarianship Award for 1987 will appear in the next issue of LRTS—Ed.
The 1987 Blackwell North America Scholarship Award has been presented to Ann Okerson for her publication "Periodical Prices: A History and Discussion," which appeared in Advances in Serials Management, volume 1, 1986. The award citation was presented to Okerson at the Resources and Technical Services Division membership meeting held June 27, 1987. The scholarship award of $1,000 from Blackwell North America, Inc. was presented to the School of Library, Archival, and Information Services at the University of British Columbia.

In her article, Okerson gathered together valuable and thought-provoking information about periodical pricing, one of the most interest-
ing and perplexing issues facing librarians today. She provided us with a wealth of information and challenges us to look beyond her work for solutions to the problems she has described.

Ann Okerson is currently manager for library services at Jerry Alpers, Inc. She received her master’s degree in library science from the University of California–Berkeley. Her work experience includes a number of positions in the Acquisitions Division at Simon Fraser University Library after which she became head of the Serials Division. During her tenure at Simon Fraser, she spent a sabbatical leave working at the B. H. Blackwell offices in Oxford, England. Half of her time was spent working in the Periodicals Division of the company. Okerson is an active member of RTSD and the North American Serials Interest Group.—Sara C. Heitshu, Chair, Blackwell North America Scholarship Award Committee.

ASIS 50TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE, OCT. 4–8, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

“Information: The Transformation of Society” was the theme of the fiftieth anniversary conference of the American Society for Information Science and was among the topics discussed in plenary sessions (speaker: Robert McCormick Adams, Smithsonian Institution). Other topics included “Information in the Economy” (speaker: Joseph W. Duncan, Dun & Bradstreet); “Information and the Professions” (speaker: Arthur R. Miller, Harvard University); and “Technology and the Future” (speaker: Jacques Valley, EUROLINK).

Representative George E. Brown, Jr. (D-Cal.) received a special award for achievements in the area of public information policy and the recipients of fifty years of ASIS’ Awards of Merit were honored at a luncheon during which their conversations with conference participants were recorded for future publication. Among these distinguished honorees were Frederick G. Kilgour, Phyllis Richmond, Martha Williams, and Herb White. Making a permanent record of the afternoon’s proceedings seemed a fitting tribute.

A small but impressive group of exhibitors included sophisticated technical displays and giveaways, including a CD-ROM disk and demo software from OCLC. An excellent feature is the series of product review sessions, held alongside the exhibition hall and scheduled for small groups of vendors and information scientists. Not all vendors were of the sophisticated high-tech variety: EBSCO, Faxon, and Turner Subscriptions, Greenwood Press, Bowker, and other familiar faces lined the aisles, too.

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Technical standards have played an important role in libraries since the establishment of the de facto standard for the dimensions of catalog cards in the nineteenth century. In the past quarter century, standards for library applications have grown greatly in significance as publishing and library technologies have become more complex, more automated, and more sensitive to issues of interchangeability. Technical standards are now vital to most aspects of technical services work in libraries, and librarians are increasingly faced with the need to be aware not only of the relevant standards, but also of the standards-development process and the avenues for influencing it.
Crawford’s Technical Standards: An Introduction for Librarians goes a long way toward meeting that need. In spite of the title of his work, Crawford provides far more than an introduction: this is also a reference work, a treatise on the nature and purpose of standards in general, an analysis of the problems of developing and implementing standards, and a persuasive argument for librarians to take a more active interest in the development and implementation of technical standards. Among topics treated are the definitions of standards, types and levels of standards, implementation problems and issues, the standards process, standards organizations, and summary descriptions of all library and publishing related standards of NISO (Z39) and Z85, ASC X3, and ISO. Appendixes include “Layers of Standards in a Library Catalog” and lists of subcommittees, working groups, and members of standards agencies active in developing standards applicable to libraries and the publishing industry. There is a useful glossary and selected bibliography.
A work of almost 300 pages on the topic of technical standards may appear intimidating to some librarians, but such is not the case with Crawford’s work. Technical Standards: An Introduction for Librarians is well organized, written in a highly accessible style, and contains definitions and explanations where necessary, but not in over-elaborate detail. An effective index and system of captions allow for selective and discriminating use. This book is both useful and usable; it is highly recommended to all technical services librarians who need to become better informed on technical standards and it is indispensable to those who want to take an active role in influencing the standards process.—Joe A. Hewitt, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

This new volume joins one other recent monograph on special collections administration: Roderick Cave’s Rare Books Librarianship (2d ed., Hamden, Conn.: Shoe String, 1982). Unhappily, while Cave is weak, Scham is worse. Scham’s writing is poor, and his book marred by pervasive typographical errors. One might overlook these flaws if
the book’s contents were worthy of their subject. They are not. Scham has not produced a complete waste of readers’ time, but his book comes close to being just that.

After some brief platitudes about the value of rare books and manuscripts, Scham discusses acquisitions policies; briefly analyzes budgets and planning; and proceeds to classification, cataloging, and automation. He surveys conservation and preservation; public relations; appraisals, insurance, and security; and gifts, exchanges, and endowments. He ends with a how-to for the would-be writer of departmental and library annual reports. These topics are treated without relation to one another. Budgets, for instance, affect exhibitions and publications. In view of Scham’s expansive recommendations for exhibitions and publications, their budgetary implications merit at least a glance. Individual chapters, as well as the last forty-eight pages of his book, are plumped up with lists of organizations, national libraries, and reference tools of limited value, completeness, and accuracy.

The virtues of Scham’s chapters are few. It is not useless to be reminded that special collections benefit from clear acquisitions goals, or that senior library administrators might do well to improve their acquaintance with preservation and conservation concerns. Scham’s discussion of insurance suggests several options for curators to consider. His provision of representative gift and deposit forms is a service, and Scham says reasonable things about gifts generally. These are not virtues enough.

Discussing budgets, Scham notes “the problems posed by special collections” and emphasizes the “uniqueness and the quality of... [the] materials” (p.23) of special collections departments. Such attitudes are traditional enough, but they do not help special collections administrators, whose pleas based on uniqueness can easily be perceived by senior administrators as pleas for special favors. Also, they aren’t true. Special collections are unique, if at all, in combining most of the functions of an entire library within one departmental unit; but this makes them representative of the whole rather than distinct from it. (Moreover, from the point of view of researchers—indifferent to distinctions of age, rarity, or price—they are simply one more library location for the materials their projects require.) Scham’s entire book is vitiated by its assumption that management of a special collection (department or library) differs somehow from management of any other department or library. Both the conventionality of the topics he discusses and his approach to them undercut the validity of this assumption, on which, however, the sole justification for his book rests.

Specific difficulties abound. If we should collect only what suits our acquisitions goals (chapter 1), are we therefore to neglect (or reject) rare, fragile, or expensive materials that are “out-of-scope” even when library resources might then be left at risk in publicly-accessible general collections? Writing about budgets (chapter 2), Scham ignores the reality of the endowed funds that often provide relatively inflexible dollar amounts for acquisitions (or other purposes) and also define the objectives of many American special collections. Scham holds out Allan Stevenson’s elaborate catalog for the Hunt Institute as a model for the treatment of printed books (p.47ff.), but most cataloging departments would resist treating it as a practicable model for their work (it is not a cataloger’s responsibility to do scholars’ work for them). In an era of online cataloging, moreover, such cataloging won’t be done because economics prohibit it.

Similarly, it is just as correct—and equally useful—to be advised that, for conservation purposes, special collections departments should closely monitor “every volume on a regular basis” (p.64); that a “printed catalog for each exhibition” is a desideratum (p.80);
that special collections departments should mount "at least four major exhibitions a year" (which "may well take a few weeks to prepare[!]") and that Yale's 1980-81 exhibition schedule provides a good model for all the rest of us (p. 81); and that Newberry's 1981-82 publications list (p. 84-85) serves as a model for other libraries' publication programs. Nowhere is Scham's special collections administrator said to seek grants or foundation support: a curious omission. Scham's planet sounds very nice. It does not resemble the one on which most special collections personnel work.

Managing Special Collections does not encourage a reviewer's charity. It says little, and that badly.—Daniel Traister, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.


Sally Tseng's LC Rule Interpretations of AACR2, second cumulated edition, is a highly useful tool for any practicing cataloger. Using it can save many hours of cutting, pasting, and cross-referencing in order to keep copies of AACR2 up-to-date. The work is a compilation in looseleaf format of the most current LCRIs arranged by AACR2 rule number. The First Update to the second cumulated edition incorporates all interpretations through CB, no. 33 (Spring 1986). Pages of the First Update are interfiled into the main volume, and superseded pages are removed. This neatly maintains the organization of the original work.

Each rule interpretation is copied verbatim on a separate page with a citation back to the appropriate CSB. The index is arranged in rule number order and lists a topical keyword or phrase and the relevant CSB citations for each entry. This arrangement allows direct access for the cataloger trying to ascertain... For 20 years GRC has been bringing the latest technology to libraries. Now GRC has two innovative CD-ROM products, LaserQuest and LaserGuide.

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tain the latest interpretation of a given rule, as well as for the cataloger who is not familiar with the appropriate rule for a specific problem. Along with additions and revisions to the LCRIs, the First Update includes information from CSB, nos. 28–33 on LC projects, such as the Linked Systems Project, and on local LC procedures. These are arranged in the index alphabetically by topic.

Given the nature of Tseng's work, the most critical features for the cataloging practitioner are currency and ease of use. With the First Update, LC Rule Interpretations of AACR2 gets high marks on both. It is inevitable that a compilation of the ongoing AACR2 rule interpretations made by LC would be somewhat behind. The First Update brings the edition it revises current within a few CSB issues, which greatly simplifies the cataloger's research efforts. One minor qualification is that the introduction to the work makes a brief statement about the constantly changing nature of LCRIs, but it does not refer the cataloger to CSB issues not covered by the compilation. This would be a helpful addition, particularly since the update appeared two years and six CSBs after the main volume. An annual update would be preferable, but a two-year lag is quite acceptable as long as the connection to other resources is clearly delineated.

Aside from this omission, the Introduction succinctly describes the purpose of the volume and its use. The First Update does not add new prefatory material, but does contain cover sheets which give explicit instructions for incorporating new material. Following a brief statement about discarding superseded pages, there is a rule-by-rule listing that indicates whether the new information is an addition, change or revision. A feature Tseng has retained based on users' comments is a consecutive pagination system which further simplifies the updating process. The filing instructions include the old page number to be removed and the new page number to be inserted. This is a very useful feature for ensuring that page replacement is accurate and is not dependent on an understanding of AACR2 rule number structure. The entire rule index is replaced with the First Update to incorporate the new information and paging. Since it is arranged in rule number order, the index is easiest to use when a specific rule is known. In the introduction to the main volume, Tseng writes that a general index will be available soon. It did not appear with the First Update. Although the rule index does list a keyword or phrase for each rule, a second, alphabetical index would enhance access to the relevant interpretation or related information. Again, this is a minor qualification.

The First Update to Tseng's work will not help catalogers unravel the complex language of LCRIs or supply interpretations where they don't exist, but it most certainly can make it quicker and easier for them to find the information they need for making cataloging decisions.—Melissa A. Laning, University of Louisville, Kentucky.


The author has tackled a very ambitious project in attempting to cover the entire field of microcomputers and their applications to libraries from the late 1970s through February 1986. In order to accomplish this Herculean task, Kilpatrick reviewed sixty-one journals selected from the proliferation of computer-related journals pertaining to libraries and/or microcomputers on a regular basis. Standard indexes in the library/information science field were also routinely perused for relevant citations. Online database searches were conducted annually, and appropriate bibliographies and other references were checked periodically.

Kilpatrick includes a disclaimer that
the bibliography is not intended to be comprehensive; however, though not all inclusive, the bibliography does provide an overview of the subject that is both broad and thorough. For example, while it is noted that the “Electronic Shoebox,” an excellent column in the American Society of Indexers Newsletter which reviews indexing software, was not cited, other excellent reviews of indexing software were included. Entries incorporate excellent detailed annotations which were found to be helpful in identifying useful sources.

The bibliography proceeds from the general to the specific with citations offering broad coverage of the subject first, then proceeding to particular aspects of the subject. For example, articles presenting an overview of various computer applications currently in use in libraries are cited. Then the focus moves on to applications for specific types of libraries such as academic libraries, and finally to applications for specific library functions such as cataloging.

The work concludes with reviews of software and systems by subject category. A good index and bibliography add to the bibliography’s usefulness, making it altogether a good introduction to the subject and a good purchase for most libraries.—Nancy M. Myers, University of South Dakota, Vermillion.


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examine "facets of reference publishing and reviewing." Undaunted by the number of variables involved, the editors have included brief selections on many diverse aspects of reference-source reviewing, publishing and writing. They have even included selections on optical-disk technology, online databases and, oh yes, cost control!

The resulting potpourri covers too much, too briefly . . . but certainly not too well! If you will take my advice, you will save your money to buy half of a new reference source instead.

I liked one thing. The concluding piece by Robert Franklin is so good it almost proves the old adage about one genius being worth 100 mediocrities. I urge all of you to hurry to a library that carries the Fall 1986 issue of The Reference Librarian so that you may read Franklin's article at once!—Cynthia Alcorn, Emerson College, Boston, Massachusetts.


The Preservation Planning Program is one of a series of assisted self-studies offered by the Association of Research Libraries, Office of Management Studies. The authors are knowledgeable in library preservation and/or in the self-study methodology.

The manual is a guide to the self-study process. It contains an introduction to the issues, suggestions for studying them, and recommendations for compiling and disseminating the results. Users are referred to the notebook for more detailed information about preservation topics.

The majority of the manual is a reissue of the 1982 edition, and includes the following subjects: environmental conditions, physical condition of the collections, organization of preservation functions, disaster control, preservation resources, and planning. The treatment of these subjects is still relevant. The revisions to the manual consist of thirty-nine additional pages, covering two new areas of study: staff and user education, written by Jan Merrill-Oldham, and interinstitutional cooperation, written by Carolyn Harris. These topics are important additions that strengthen the program.

The notebook contains reference material to accompany the manual. It consists of 1) reproductions of over one hundred articles, excerpts and documents which are of particular usefulness and/or difficult to obtain through normal channels; 2) references to over two hundred additional items which are more readily available, not reproduced in the notebook due to length or lack of reproduction permission" (p.i). Over half the articles reproduced in the notebook are new since the 1982 edition. There are more than twice as many references in the revised edition as in the first edition. Approximately three quarters of the references are new to the list and slightly over half the references are to works published since 1982. Most of the references are annotated.

The notebook is unbound. The reproductions are generally good, and some are clearer than they were in the previous edition. The manual has a complete table of contents but no index. The bibliography serves as an index to the notebook.

The program is well constructed and practical. Although the program is intended primarily for large academic libraries which have the staff to undertake a formal self-study, it would be possible to use the material in an infor-
mal self-study or for reference. It will be helpful to anyone concerned with library preservation.—Martha Hanscom, University of Wyoming, Laramie.


This book is the outcome of a study of library automation at four major research universities, conducted by the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) with the support (both financial and editorial) of the Council on Library Resources. The sites selected were split evenly between public and private institutions: Princeton University, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Georgia, and New York University. The case studies were based on site visits and documents provided by the host institutions.

The goals of this study were to analyze the management of the library within the context of overall campuswide objectives and to examine the impact of technological change on library operations. Thus the three to five people interviewed as part of each case study are all upper echelon administrators. The university librarian was usually the only person interviewed who actually worked in the library. The others ranged from the president of the institution, through a variety of academic vice-presidents/provosts, to computing center and fiscal administrators. In this respect, the study is a little different from other surveys done in response to automation, such as the ARL SPEC Kit Automation and Reorganization of Technical and Public Services or the Automation Inventory of Research Libraries, also produced by ARL. For some librarians, it may seem as though much in-house detail is lost because of this emphasis. However, it must be remembered that the library is only one part of a large service industry providing education to the nation’s students—a goal we can occasionally lose sight of as we pursue the daily grind.

The case studies themselves are extremely interesting, specifically the history of automation at each site, and the particular role of the university librarian in shaping the library’s response to automation. Each institution was particularly fortunate in having a director whose eloquence, forcefulness, and vision pushed it to the forefront in this now not-so-new age of automation.

There is a seventeen-page overview that succinctly lists the aims of the study and draws some excellent general conclusions. It also reminds us that each institution, including our own, is unique. Our automated systems will be shaped by unique sets of environmental factors and we must beware of comparisons, noting instead how the library itself responds to technological change within the context of its own institutional goals, objectives, and priorities.—Gillian M. McCombs, State University of New York at Albany.


The sixth volume in the *Advances in Library Administration and Organization* series contains nine essays, two of which deal with technical services concerns. The remaining seven articles cover library resource sharing in Massachusetts, new approaches to bibliographic instruction for freshmen at colleges in South Carolina and Pennsylvania, proactive public library management, the theory of information systems, a bibliographic essay on library service to disabled patrons, the results of a new survey of sixty-year library school programs, and automating library office functions.

Of the two technical services related articles, Carol E. Chamberlain’s is the
more interesting. Chamberlain provides a good overview of the types of management reports available from automated acquisitions systems and examines the role of these systems and reports in management planning in "Fiscal Planning in Academic Libraries: The Role of the Automated Acquisitions System." The author advocates using acquisition systems for more than ordering and receiving materials by using them to perform statistical analysis of expenditures data, to provide support for collection assessment and fund allocation, and to project future costs based on economic trends. Although the author's perspective is academic library based, the concepts are easily transferable to other library settings.

The centralized processing center at the University of South Carolina (USC) is described in "The Evolution of an Endangered Species: Centralized Processing Centers and the Case of the University of South Carolina" by Charmaine B. Tomczyk and Linda K. Allman. The essay is a rambling history of the University of South Carolina's Library Processing Center interspersed with a much better written, broader look at processing centers in general.

For a general overview of the status of processing centers, read the sections of this essay dealing with that subject. The sections outlining the USC experience are much too detailed and specific to be of much use to other sites interested in establishing, or monitoring the progress of, processing centers. Dugan and Tricarico's essay on resource sharing in Massachusetts is a much more readable historical account of resource sharing in a specific state.

Criticism of this series in the past has centered on the lack of focus for individual volumes, the inclusion of articles unrelated to management, and the academic library bias of the authors. It is worth noting that this volume's contents are almost entirely devoted to practical management concerns or discussions of management theories. There is a mix of library types represented in the articles themselves and the authors' affiliations. However, whether by chance or plan, three essays do represent the viewpoints of librarians, faculty, and staff of the University of South Carolina.

The majority of essays in this year's Advances in Library Administration and Organization are worth reading and several, such as Osburn's on information system theory and Garten's on automating library office functions, provide a basis for future research.

The individual essays are indexed in Library Literature, and a subscription to this serial would seem worthwhile for libraries with a research emphasis in library and information services. — Margie Eppele, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.


First published in 1983, this work is primarily a guide to the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2d ed. (AACR2) for music, and the Library of Congress's published policy statements regarding them. Secondarily, it serves as an excellent handbook for the beginning music cataloger.

Chapter 1 concerns descriptive cataloging and provides a gloss on the general rules in AACR2 as well as those special rules for music and sound recordings. Chapters 2–4 outline the choice and construction of access points other than subjects. Smiraglia's writing is lucid and the organization clear, particularly in chapter 3 concerning uniform titles. Chapter 5 contains well-chosen examples with solutions, and 6, a partially annotated bibliography of essential reference works, including thematic catalogs.
fairly sophisticated combination of microcomputer hardware, software, and printers, the volume has been well-served by its designers (all of whom are gratefully credited). The price is justified.

The revisions are of four types: (1) addition of areas neglected or underemphasized in the first edition, e.g., "music in the popular idiom," a phrase now considered more descriptive of characteristics of the transmission of this genre than "popular music," which denotes simply "well loved"; (2) update of the concordance/index of the Library of Congress's Rule Interpretations and its Music Cataloging Decisions, reported in its Cataloging Service Bulletin and the Music Library Association's Music Cataloging Bulletin respectively; (3) addition of a glossary of terms peculiar to music cataloging but not defined in AACR2; and (4) a new index of topics arranged alphabetically (rather than as part of the concordance/index above as in the first edition), including eighty-seven subheadings under the term uniform title.

A new distinction is made within this obviously complex concept, namely the initial title element, defined in the glossary as, "the basis for a uniform title derived from the title proper of a musical work by deleting statements of medium of performance, identifying elements, and numerals, adjectives and/or epithets not an integral part of the title"—an unwieldy, subtractive definition for a nevertheless useful idea. Smiraglia states it more simply in his introduction (p.xiii): "An initial title element is the base title on which the cataloger builds to create a unique access point for a work," and notes that this additive concept became the key to reordering the rules for construction of uniform titles in the consolidated reprinting of AACR2 now in press. The author, who is chair of the Committee
on Cataloging: Description and Access (CC:DA), Resources and Technical Services Division, cogently outlines the most significant changes and remaining issues, but the manual itself reflects current Library of Congress practice as of the summer of 1986.

The volume will be essential for teaching, both in an academic classroom and on the job. It will also be a useful reference for those who catalog music only occasionally. Revisions to the table of contents, the format, and the new index enhance its value as a quick guide to the ubiquitous sources of required documentation for which every music cataloger is responsible. It is hoped that Smiraglia and the publisher plan regular revisions to help us all keep track, even if there are no substantive changes to the rules themselves.—Mary Wallace Davidson, Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester, New York.


This shelflisting manual is but one part of the Library of Congress’ Subject Cataloging Manual; the other parts being General Provisions, General Cataloging Procedures, Classification, and Subject Headings. To date the only other published section has been Subject Headings (prelim. ed., 1984; rev. ed., 1985). LC has not announced plans to publish the other three sections, but they may be expected should these two sections market well.

As with the previous section, the shelflist manual is issued in loose-leaf format only. Although supplementary pages may be issued they are not included in the purchase price. Instead, as with the subject heading manual, a future revised edition is intended.

The manual consists of thirty-three memoranda (one to twenty-seven pages each, averaging about five pages) issued by the Subject Cataloging Division since 1970 and standardized and revised through October 1986. Memos of general interest have previously been published in the Cataloging Service Bulletin. This manual thus supersedes all shelflisting memos in CSB up to October 1986. And conversely, any memo on shelflisting published in CSB since October 1986 takes precedence over the manual.

The layout of the shelflisting manual is identical to that of the subject heading manual. Each instruction sheet begins with a topical heading and an introduction on general principles and any historical background to the shelflisting procedure. The remainder of the memo is a series of statements on procedures, often with examples of Subject Cataloging Division worksheets. In some cases the examples are outdated as name and subject headings have not been updated. A strong point of the division’s manuals is their legibility. They are in outline form with numeric and alphabetic headings. The use of boldface type and underlining also helps in locating information.

One must keep in mind that this manual is not a guide to shelflisting theory. More so than the subject heading manual, this is an internal LC manual, much of which is given to detailing job duties of LC shelflisters. This manual will also be of more limited use than the subject heading manual as it can be applied only to libraries using LC classification and cutting schedules.

Most academic and large research libraries catalog using a combination of LC cataloging copy plus shared and original cataloging. In such cases this manual can aid collection development and organization as similar works can be kept more closely together if cuttered consistently with LC practice. Knowing LC shelflisting practice can also help cut down on local assignment of call numbers duplicating LC established call numbers for similar works.

Some libraries may also find this manual useful as a model for the formation of a local shelflisting guide. Or, since the manual is loose-leaf and facing pages are blank, local shelflisting
policies can be inserted into the manual. This manual would also be valuable for a library science course in LC classification and cutting. Libraries that subscribe to the LC shelflist in microform will find this manual helpful as a guide to LC filing rules in the shelflist. However, since this is a government publication and a depository item, I would suggest that a copy be examined for its usefulness before purchasing.—Richard E. Asher, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis.


As the title indicates, this work is a retrospective collection of book reviews, most of which originally appeared in American Reference Books Annual. Citing the need for a comprehensive library science bibliography, the editors have compiled ARBA reviews in library science from the 1970-1984 volumes. The intent is to provide "a foundation for the coverage which Library Science Annual, devoted to book reviews along with other bibliographical surveys, has continued from 1985 onward." A planned companion volume will review library science literature from the nineteenth century to 1970.

This volume comprises a comprehensive, evaluative listing of over 1,700 books in library science. It does not include journal articles. In compiling the ARBA reviews, the editors also excluded about 275 entries that fell into ten categories: (1) general reference guides to and bibliographies of general reading, periodicals, and book reviews; (2) reference books on a type of literature; (3) general library selection aids, unless continuing standard works; (4) works in related fields, such as communication, computer science, and education; (5) works described better as general than as library science;
(6) annual reports of library associations and agencies; (7) proceedings and minutes of annual meetings or conferences; (8) new periodical titles; (9) individual periodical issues unless special editions; and (10) miscellaneous and ephemeral works. In addition, reprints were included only selectively. Reviews of serial or annual reference publications have been consolidated into summaries focusing on the most recent edition with references to earlier editions.

The arrangement of this work generally follows ARBA's, with four broad categories forming the basic outline: general works, reference works, works dealing with types of libraries, and works dealing with library services and special topics. Author/title and subject indexes assist the reader in locating specific reviews. Most of the signed reviews of the original volumes appear under the names of the original reviewers and are printed in the list of contributors. The editorial staff prepared the unsigned reviews.

Generally well done, this bibliography is a significant aid to library science research. Both faculty and students in library science areas will appreciate this orientation to the general literature and coverage of specific areas. Technical services librarians will also find assistance in researching their fields of interest. Cataloging and classification reviews, for instance, extend more than sixty-two pages. It is interesting historically to see how AACR2 and classification have dominated the monograph literature of this era. The twenty-three pages of collection development reviews include general and reference works, texts and manuals, acquisitions, the selection process, and selection aids. The sections on serials, copyright and reprography, conservation and preservation, and microforms are briefer and indicate that fewer books were written in these areas. The section on management is substantial, almost as long as that on cataloging.

Other sections of particular interest to collection development and technical services librarians include: automation and new technologies, audiovisual and other media, bibliographic control, information management, retrieval systems, and networking and resource sharing. If one needs relief from pressing job responsibilities, the section on humor lists three titles that ease the automation blues.

In addition to aiding research, this compilation of reviews will assist the library science bibliographer in collection development. To facilitate this endeavor, the editors have included print status and known prices as of February 1986.

This source is a worthy addition to any reference collection. For small libraries it could serve as a sole guide to library science books of the 1970-83 period. Large libraries should consider two copies so that technical services could have one among its “working” tools.—Laverna M. Saunders, University of Nevada, Las Vegas.
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