

Review Articles

Resources of Research Libraries: A Review

THE PUBLICATION of *Resources of Pacific Northwest Libraries; A Survey of Facilities for Study and Research* by John Van Male is an event of special significance. The volume presents an extensive description of the library materials of a major region of the United States and Canada concerning which comparatively little has been known. It also marks a further advance made by research libraries in their effort to facilitate the work of scholars.

I

The importance of the publication as a description of the library resources of a major region stems in part from its relation to other bibliographical undertakings in which the Pacific Northwest Library Association has been engaged since its organization in 1909. It rounds out, except for the completion of a union catalog, a program of library cooperation which for more than thirty years has been devoted to library publicity; guidance in the purchase of subscription books; the preparation of such finding lists as the *Checklist of Books Relating to the Pacific Northwest*, a *List of Books for the Blind*, a *Union List of Manuscripts*, and a list of *Special Collections in Libraries of the Pacific Northwest*; the development of a union catalog; and the establishment of a bibliographical center to serve the library interest of the Pacific Northwest.

Dr. Van Male, the author of the volume, brought to his work an extended experience as a book dealer, as director of the Denver and Pacific Northwest bibliographical centers, as a student of state-

wide library service particularly in the states of California and Wisconsin, and as a member (and chairman) of the A.L.A. Board on Resources of American Libraries.

One hundred and eight libraries are represented in the survey. They include libraries of colleges, universities, and theological seminaries; cities, counties, states, and provinces; historical, legal, and medical societies; archival and governmental organizations; art museums; and industrial and other establishments. The area covered embraces British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington—an area approximately one fourth that of the United States—and contains a population of four and a half million people. Information concerning the holdings of the libraries was prepared by the cooperating librarians and was revised by Dr. Van Male after a personal visit to the principal libraries.

The foreword of the volume is written by Charles W. Smith, librarian of the University of Washington and chairman of the P.N.L.A. Committee on Bibliography. The titles of the seven chapters in which the resources of the libraries are described are: Library Backgrounds, General Works, Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Technology, and A Program for the Future.

In Library Backgrounds, Dr. Van Male presents in an interesting manner the geographical, historical, economic, educational, and social characteristics of the region, the resources of whose libraries he later describes. The chapter is highly

informative and is written in the best tradition of regional studies. It prepares the reader to understand why the collections are differentiated from those of other regions and provides an admirable basis for the author's projection of A Program for the Future.

The main body of the survey follows somewhat the method employed in *Resources of Southern Libraries* by Downs rather than that of the *University Libraries* of the University of Chicago which describes holdings at Chicago in terms of per cents of titles in standard bibliographies or of *A Faculty Survey of the University of Pennsylvania Libraries* which lists bibliographies, histories, periodicals, and other types of materials under a given subject. It describes, frequently by specific titles, the more significant holdings of important libraries but does so under the general headings Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, and Technology subdivided under specific subjects such as English Language and Literature and Economics when the collections are sufficiently extensive to justify such subdivisions.

Summarizing Statement

In his summarizing statement concerning the collections of the region the author makes it clear that they are sharply differentiated from those of the Eastern seaboard:

Pacific Northwest libraries have for the most part chosen books with a brief life expectancy. The high proportion of their holdings published in one country in recent decades proves this. Had the books been selected for their continued but limited use, they would more closely approximate the proportions of the world's printed output. Publications from other countries would be much more widely represented. . . . Since the Pacific Northwest is a young region, its

people have acquired little of the wealth required for the building of great libraries and have had little leisure for the scholarship, research, and advanced professional training which would have made great libraries necessary. Remote from the centers in which books are produced and where they accumulate, the region has inherited few books from private and association libraries. Its librarians have selected books with one eye on their budgets and the other on the most pressing demands.

There are exceptions to this broad generalization. While American books published since 1900 are found to be far in the ascendancy, 10 per cent of the holdings are from foreign countries or were published in earlier centuries. Specialized libraries in medicine, law, and a few other fields have acquired many old and foreign publications, and in several instances fairly extensive collections of foreign periodicals are found. In Canadian libraries provincial publications are found in considerable number, as well as British documents and periodicals. The bibliographical holdings of the University of Washington are notable and its collection of Chinese literature would be unusual anywhere.

The usefulness of the survey is obvious. It not only describes the resources of the region, but it reveals specific needs for the future and suggests plans for meeting them satisfactorily. It urges library cooperation and specialization as the most effective means of securing adequate library development for the region and, to secure them, proposes a two-point program of (1) forming library councils consisting of representative libraries and (2) enlisting the interest and support of other groups and organizations through the appointment of consultants to work with the councils.

The volume is published by the Pacific Northwest Library Association and is provided with an extensive, analytical index. Altogether it represents a distinctive achievement for any group of librarians and will inevitably prove of great value to libraries and library users in all parts of the nation.

II

The survey is important not only for the specific purposes for which it was made but also for the attention it calls to the advance which research libraries have made in recent years in the description of their resources and, more important, in the building up of such resources and the facilitation of their use. In fact, the past decade has witnessed a notable development in this general field in which organization, planning, and publication have played notable roles.¹ Problems of library cooperation, consolidation, and specialization have been constantly considered by different groups of librarians and scholars and measures have been adopted which have greatly increased the effectiveness of research libraries in the promotion of instruction and investigation.

The date of the beginnings of this movement naturally cannot be set down with exactness. Possibly one of the first evidences that it had gotten under way was the organization of the Association of Research Libraries at New Orleans in 1932. Papers on special collections in the libraries of the Southeast and Southwest read by Wilson and Downs and E. W. Winkler at the meeting of the Bibliographical Society of America in 1932 and the publication of the fourth edition of A. C. Potter's *Harvard University*;

¹ Much of the material in section II of this paper is taken from "Library Planning, A Working Memorandum," prepared for the A.L.A. by Louis R. Wilson, September 1943.

Descriptive and Historical Notes, may have contributed somewhat to the movement. The joint meeting of the Southeastern and the Southwestern library associations at Memphis in 1943 gave it further impetus through the subcommittee of the A.L.A. Committee on Resources of American Libraries which, at that meeting, projected the compilation of *Resources of Southern Libraries*. The A.L.A. Committee on Public Documents had been active for several years in establishing document centers and the late Robert Binkley was then preparing for the Joint Committee on Materials of the Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies his *Manual on Methods of Reproducing Research Materials*. In 1935 David J. Haykin, chairman of the A.L.A. Committee on Resources of American Libraries, prepared a comprehensive report reviewing the activities of libraries in the fields of library cooperation and specialization. At its meeting in the autumn of 1935 the A.L.A. Executive Board emphasized the importance of the work of research libraries and at the Richmond conference in 1936 recommended to the Council the change of the Committee on Resources of American Libraries to a board and the appointment of a new Committee on Photographic Reproduction of Library Materials. Under the auspices of the Committee on Public Documents, of which A. F. Kuhlman was chairman, M. L. Raney organized extensive exhibits on microphotography at the midwinter and annual meetings of the Association in 1935 and 1936 and was made chairman of the new committee at the latter meeting. The Union Catalog project of the Library of Congress, begun in the late 1920's, had been completed, and Biblio-

film Service had been inaugurated in Washington.

Against this sketchy historical background the activities of individual librarians, libraries, groups of libraries, and library and related organizations in the extension of research facilities may be seen somewhat in perspective.

Board on Resources of American Libraries

Since its creation in 1936, the A.L.A. Board on Resources of American Libraries has sponsored the following publications which have dealt with subjects of major interest to research libraries, have developed techniques for listing and describing research materials and compiling union catalogs, and have contributed to the understanding of problems involved in future development: *Report of the Informal Conference on Union Catalogs* (1937), *Resources of Southern Libraries* (1938); *Library Specialization* (1941); *Union Catalogs in the United States* (1942); and *Resources of New York City Libraries* (1942). The last four publications were edited by R. B. Downs, chairman of the board for several years. Among other related publications that supplement this list and present additional illustrations of techniques and procedures are the following: "Leading American Library Collections" (1942) and "Notable Materials Added to American Libraries" for 1939-40, 1940-41, 1941-42, by R. B. Downs; *The Development of University Centers in the South* (1942), edited by A. F. Kuhlman; *College and University Library Consolidations* (1942), by Mildred H. Lowell; "A Report on Certain Collections in the Library of Congress" (1942), by David C. Mearns; and the notable series of studies prepared by the Committees on Public

Documents and on Archives and Libraries. Publications relating specifically to the war effort include *Guide to Library Facilities for National Defense* (1941), edited by Carl L. Cannon, and *Special Library Resources* (1941), edited by Rose Vormelker.

Regional Library Organizations

Five other studies or cooperative enterprises in addition to those of the P.N.L.A. are now under way which relate to the resources of special regions. The first is of the Los Angeles area and includes plans for a union catalog, a description of the library resources of the region, and union lists of periodicals (third edition), bibliographies, manuscripts, and Orientalia (Pacific area). The second, outlined in *North Texas Regional Libraries as a Cooperative Enterprise, a Preliminary Report* (1943), by A. F. Kuhlman, describes the general library facilities of the Dallas-Fort Worth-Denton region and outlines a plan for cooperative development. The third contemplates the publication of a supplement to *Resources of Southern Libraries*. Southern graduate schools and libraries held conferences in 1941 and 1942 in which they discussed problems involving a division of labor in building up materials for advanced study and research and are to hold another conference in 1944. The fourth was made possible through a grant made by the Rockefeller Foundation to the libraries of the University of North Carolina and Duke and Tulane universities for the acquisition of specific types of Hispanic American materials. Each library is to acquire materials in nonoverlapping subjects. The fifth embraces research libraries in New England which have cooperated in providing a joint deposit library for little-used

books and have under consideration other proposals for the development of resources through cooperative agreement.

Association of Research Libraries

The Association of Research Libraries has assumed responsibility for two notable publications. It took over from the American Council of Learned Societies the compilation of the annual list of doctoral dissertations and, after a decade of planning, it has begun the publication of *A Catalog of Books Represented by Library of Congress Cards* which will greatly increase the bibliographical resources of American libraries and stimulate interlibrary lending. This undertaking has involved the cooperation of the Library of Congress, the Rockefeller Foundation, and several hundred libraries. Fifty copies of the *Catalog* have been reserved by the Rockefeller Foundation for foreign libraries. Approximately one hundred research libraries are also cooperating in the extension of the Library of Congress Union Catalog by sending to it cards for all entries in their catalogs not recorded in the printed *Catalog*.

Bibliographical Centers

The work of the Bibliographical Center of the P.N.L.A. has been described above. The Bibliographical Planning Committee of Philadelphia has been responsible for the development of the Philadelphia Union Catalog and the publication of *A Faculty Survey of the University of Pennsylvania Libraries* (1940) and *Philadelphia Libraries, Survey of Facilities, Needs, and Opportunities* (1942). The work of the committee from its beginning has been centered on the facilitation of use of research materials through bibliographical apparatus. The last-mentioned

publication contains chapters on library cooperation, union catalogs, interlibrary loan, and cooperative cataloging. It also describes the work of the bibliographical center, shows how a new library building for the University of Pennsylvania would promote its various bibliographical projects, and discusses plans for improving methods of acquiring and processing research materials.

The Bibliographical Center at Denver has furnished data for recent publications and studies on the services of union catalogs, the interests which patrons represent, the kinds of materials they seek, the importance of bibliographical service in addition to the service of union catalogs, and other related matters. This information is contained in Part II of *Union Catalogs in the United States*, prepared by John P. Stone.

L.C. Experimental Division of Library Cooperation

The Experimental Division of Library Cooperation of the Library of Congress, established in 1940-41 and carried on for a year under a grant from the Carnegie Corporation, was directed by Herbert A. Kellar, one of whose activities was the discussion with librarians and scholars of problems in the field of library cooperation and specialization. In the publication *Memoranda on Library Cooperation* (1941 but not actually published until 1942), Mr. Kellar analyses various problems involved in cooperation and specialization under the following heads: (1) Acquisition, Control, and Mobility of Materials for Research in American Libraries; (2) Processing; (3) Documentary Reproduction; (4) Bibliography; and (5) Union Catalogs. Mr. Kellar stated the objectives of cooperation as follows:

(1) The acquisition of at least one copy somewhere in the country of all books infrequently consulted, at least two copies in strategic centers of all books frequently referred to, and an adequate distribution in every research library of all books constantly used. This general aim should be supplemented by an intense specialization in designated fields of all major research libraries. (2) The location of materials by means of a complete union catalog in the Library of Congress and adequate local, state, and regional union catalogs. (3) The improvement and expansion of library machinery for lending, copying, exchanging, giving, and purchasing desired titles.

The L.C. Librarian's Council

In the spring of 1942 the Librarian of Congress appointed twenty-four librarians, antiquarians, bibliographers, book collectors, biographers, and historians to serve as the Librarian's Council in building up the collections of the Library of Congress. In December 1942 three members of the council of the Library of Congress submitted the following specific proposal to research librarians for criticism and suggestion looking to more effective cooperation by research libraries in securing publications in specific fields essential to the advancement of American scholarship:

(1) At least one copy of every *current* book published anywhere in the world following the effective date of agreement, which might conceivably be of interest to a research worker in America, will be promptly acquired and made available by some subscribing library.

(2) Each book so acquired will be promptly cataloged (if possible by centralized or cooperative cataloging), listed

in the union catalog, and also listed in a new classed union catalog from which subject catalogs of limited fields may be published as demand suggests.

To carry out the scheme a plan for subdividing the general field of knowledge into carefully defined units was to be submitted to the libraries and they were to be requested to indicate the specific fields of interest for which they would assume responsibility for complete coverage. The classification of the Library of Congress would be used as a basis. Subject areas not covered by libraries would be studied and further requests would be made to libraries to assume responsibility for them. A library could withdraw from the agreement upon proper notification, and any institution could acquire a given title if it so desired. The proposal was sent out by K. D. Metcalf, Archibald MacLeish, and Julian P. Boyd, who undertook to secure funds to support it for a period of four years.²

Committee on Archives and Libraries

The A.L.A. Committee on Archives and Libraries has emphasized the purposes, scope of work, and problems of archivists and librarians. It has pointed out the necessity of safeguarding buildings, books, manuscripts, and records from the hazards of war and has suggested measures for minimizing interruption to services. It has reported the exchange of microfilm by some libraries, the moving of materials by others for the purpose of safekeeping, the termination of the Historical Records Survey, and the responsibility which this places upon archivists and librarians for the proper care and listing of archival material. It is interested in new state library and archive programs involving

² For full statement of this project see *College and Research Libraries* 5:105-09, March 1944.

particularly building plans intended to form part of postwar construction budgets.

Committee on Bibliography

The A.L.A. Committee on Bibliography has considered the publication of a manual on the subject of bibliography and has submitted a questionnaire to library school instructors to ascertain their attitude concerning its preparation and use. The committee calls the attention of librarians to the numerous projects which had been carried out through the assistance of W.P.A. and N.Y.A. but which, with the elimination of this aid, libraries would be unable to carry on as formerly. The committee suggests that collections of such materials prepared by the W.P.A. should be located, listed, and their locations reported to the Bibliographical Society of America for the use of scholars and scientific workers. The committee directs attention to the proposal for the publication of a checklist of *Short Title Catalogue of Books in American Libraries* which had to be brought out in tentative form because of interruption by the war.

Much recent bibliographical work has, unfortunately but understandably, been unavailable for publication or even for sharing among libraries. However, the *News Sheet* of the Bibliographical Society of America has listed a number of bibliographies in preparation; *College and Research Libraries* has published occasional notes of the same sort; and the Appendix to A. F. Kuhlman's paper in *The Reference Function of the Library* (1943) gives an extensive list of desiderata in the field of bibliographies, indices, and reference work in general.

American Imprints

A number of checklists of American im-

prints have been issued by the central office and by the states, but there is much yet to be done with the materials. Because of the discontinuance of W.P.A., the editing of the checklists is uncertain. Persons interested in editing the materials, located at the Wisconsin Historical Society Library for the duration of the war, will be given consideration by the Library of Congress to which the material has been consigned for permanent keeping.

Joint Committee on Indexing and Abstracting

The Joint Committee on Indexing and Abstracting in the Major Fields of Research was authorized by the A.L.A. Council in 1941 to formulate a plan for the study and solution of the most pressing problems connected with the publication of index and abstracting services covering the literature of the several scientific, humanistic, social science, learned, professional, and business fields and, if financial support could be obtained, to carry out its plan. The American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Social Science Research Council have been approached concerning representations on the committee, and a committee has been appointed by the Association of Research Libraries to cooperate with it. A bibliography of reports of similar committees engaged in studying the same problem has been mailed to all members of the committee together with a list of proposed members, suggested definitions of the terms *index*, *abstract*, and *digest service*, and a brief plan for a survey of the whole problem with suggestions concerning ways in which the survey might be carried out. The preliminary work has been carried on at the Uni-

versity of California and could be completed, preferably at a Midwestern or Eastern location, at an estimated cost of fifteen thousand dollars.

Other Organizations and Publications

The decade has witnessed the establishment of other organizations devoted primarily to the development of resources for research and the facilitation of their use. These include the National Archives, the American Association of Archivists, the Association of College and Reference Libraries, the Council of National Library Associations, the Canadian Library Council, the Historical Records Survey, the Survey of Federal Archives, and the Committee on the Conservation of Cultural Resources of the National Resources Planning Board. These organizations have been accompanied by the publication of the *American Archivist*, the *Journal of Documentary Reproduction*, *College and Research Libraries*, and the long list of publications issued in the American Imprint Series, the Historical Records Survey, and the Survey of Federal Archives.

The Library of Congress has likewise emphasized the importance of building up research materials through the appointment of fellows in 1940 and of councilmen in 1942. It has also begun the publication of the *Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions*, the function of which is the description of important additions to its collections.

The equipment of extensive laboratories for the photographic reproduction of materials, particularly at Ann Arbor, Cambridge, Chicago, New Haven, New York, and Washington, has played a similar role and has paralleled the publication of union lists of newspapers, manuscripts, foreign documents, and serials which in the course of the years have contributed so greatly to the advancement of the work of scholars.

It is in this growing list of indispensable bibliographical aids and facilities for research that *Resources of Pacific Northwest Libraries* will take an honored place.—Louis R. Wilson, *School of Library Science, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.*

Higher Education for Negroes, with Special Reference to Library Service

*The National Survey of the Higher Education of Negroes*¹ fulfills a need in the literature concerned with education and library service. It consists of four volumes which report successively (1) an analysis of the social and economic factors as they relate to the educational needs and problems incident to the Negro's minority status, (2) the extent of educa-

tional facilities available as the result of general studies of colleges for Negroes, (3) an evaluation of the quality of Negro higher education on the basis of an intensive study of twenty-five selected colleges, and (4) a summary which includes implications for war and postwar adjustments and recommendations. If read along with the final report of the most comprehensive study of the Negro in America published under the title *An*

¹ *A National Survey of the Higher Education of Negroes*. Washington, U. S. Government Printing Office, 1942-43. 4 vols.