

Government Documents

A SUBCOMMITTEE of the A.L.A. Public Documents Committee has been made responsible for a section in *College and Research Libraries* which will be devoted to various phases of work with government publications.

It is intended that the scope of the contributions which appear in the section shall include annotated lists of bibliographical aids, subject lists of public documents, and notes of general interest to persons engaged in work in this field.

The committee: Violet Abbott Cabeen, chairman, James B. Childs, Mary Brown Humphrey, Robert E. Scudder.

By ROBERT E. SCUDDER

Current Bibliographical Sources for Government Document Acquisition: An Annotated List

One of the great difficulties encountered in acquiring government documents in a library is the lack of a complete list of current publications in the various fields of federal, state, and local documents. Even federal documents are not fully listed in any one—or even half a dozen places. The listing of state and local government publications is much less complete than that of federal documents. Yet, if a library attempts to have a well-rounded and representative collection of official publications, the librarian responsible for such materials must exercise constant vigilance to keep up with this ever-increasing body of government documents.

For this reason, this list has been compiled in an attempt to bring together some of the most useful current bibliographies and lists of new government publications, particularly those which include processed documents, since the bibliography of near-print materials is much less complete than that of regularly printed publications.

Although the emphasis has perhaps been placed on federal documents by the number of entries which include only United States publications or which primarily cite

federal material, a great many sources listed also include state and local publications. A few are devoted entirely to non-federal documents.

For the most part, the entries have been confined to current bibliographies or checklists, and have not included abstracting journals or reviewing periodicals. However, annotations and reviews have been indicated when included in a particular source. Checklists and bibliographies issued in processed form have been so indicated in the entries, since as a rule, this material is sent free to libraries on request. Some of the printed lists are also available free; others must be purchased.

Although a few of the sources cited are issued irregularly, frequency of publication has been used as the criterion for the inclusion of most of the items on this list. With one exception (an annual in a field not otherwise covered) semi-annual, or preferably, more frequent publication has been considered a requirement for a "current" source. For this reason, many lists of federal department and bureau publications which are revised and reissued every year or so have been omitted. In most

cases, there is a more frequently issued source for the material of these agencies in the list which follows. Publications which are not generally available to libraries have also been omitted in this list. As a result, many of the processed acquisition lists of government libraries have not been included, although they are excellent sources for document acquisition when available.

There has been no attempt to include here the various official checklists which a number of state agencies issue for the current publications of their own state, since these have been covered in the *Manual on the Use of State Publications* edited by Jerome K. Wilcox (Chicago, 1940).¹

Obviously, many of the lists which follow are not confined exclusively to documents but also list nongovernmental material on the same subject. However, about half of the lists include only publications issued by government agencies.

The Agricultural Index; Subject Index to a Selected List of Agricultural Periodicals, Books, and Bulletins. Vol. 1, 1916 to date. New York, Wilson, 1917 to date. Monthly, with various cumulations.

Contains "List of Experiment Station Literature," "List of Agricultural Department Literature," "List of Selected Extension Publications," and "Check-list of Occasional Literature." Both near-print and printed federal and state publications on all phases of agriculture are included. Not annotated.

The American City. Vol. 1, No. 1, Sept. 1909 to date. New York, 1909 to date. Monthly.

Includes a section entitled "Municipal and Civic Publications," which lists official material issued by governmental agencies of American cities. Many items are annotated or reviewed.

¹ P. 76-91. Since the publication of the *Manual*, the publication of two new processed state lists has begun:

(1) North Carolina. University. Library. Documents Department. *Monthly Checklist of Official North Carolina Publications*. Vol. 1, Nos. 1-3, Jan./March 1940 to date. Chapel Hill, 1940 to date.

(2) Colorado. State Library. *Checklist of Colorado Official State Publications*. April/June 1940 to date. Denver, 1940 to date. (In its *Extension Bulletin*.)

The American Political Science Review. Vol. 1, No. 1, Nov. 1906 to date. Evanston, Ill., American Political Science Association, 1906 to date. Bimonthly.

Contains a bibliographic section "Recent Publications of Political Interest" including "Government Publications" compiled (since 1923) by Miles O. Price of the Law Library, Columbia University. Includes both processed and printed state, federal, and territorial publications, as well as foreign and international documents, partially annotated.

American Statistical Association. Journal of the American Statistical Association. Vol. 1, No. 1, March 1888 to date. Washington, 1888 to date. Quarterly.

Includes a section entitled "Statistical News and Notes," a running commentary on various government agencies engaged in statistical work. Indicates plans, work in progress, contemplated studies as well as publications already issued. Contains Canadian as well as American studies. The notes vary in length from a short paragraph to a signed article of two or more pages.

The Bibliographic Index, a Cumulative Bibliography of Bibliographies. Vol. 1, 1938 to date. New York, Wilson, 1938 to date. Quarterly, annual cumulations.

Lists a great many official publications of federal, state, and municipal agencies which contain bibliographies. Covers all fields and includes both near-print and printed materials. Not annotated.

The Booklist, a Guide to Current Books. Vol. 1, No. 1, Jan. 1905 to date. Chicago, American Library Association, 1905 to date. Semimonthly.

Included irregularly is a section "U.S. Public Documents" compiled by Carl H. Melinat. Limited to federal publications, it includes mostly printed material, arranged under broad subjects with annotations.

Chicago. Municipal Reference Library. Check-list of Publications Issued by Local Governing Bodies in Chicago and Cook County. Vol. 1, No. 1, Jan./May 1936 to date. Chicago, 1936 to date. Monthly. Processed.

Lists the official and quasi-official publications of Chicago and Cook County deposited in this library. Not annotated, but includes both printed and near-print publications.

District of Columbia Library Association. D. C. Libraries. Vol. 1, No. 1, Oct. 1929 to date. Washington, 1929 to date. Quarterly.

Includes a section "Recent Bibliographies" which is chiefly devoted to listing the current bibliographies issued by governmental agencies. The list has a broad subject arrangement, is not annotated, but includes both printed and near-print material. Limited chiefly to bibliographies originating in Washington, D.C.

Joint Reference Library, Chicago, Ill. Re-

cent Publications on Governmental Problems. Sept. 7, 1932 to date. Chicago, 1932 to date. Weekly. Processed.

Lists new material on practically all phases of government activity, federal, state, and municipal. A subject arrangement, without annotations, but including processed as well as printed publications.

Law Library Journal. Vol. 1, No. 1, Jan. 1908 to date. Washington, American Association of Law Libraries, 1908 to date. Bimonthly.

Includes a section "Checklist of Current American State Reports and Session Laws Exclusive of Side Reports" in each issue. In addition, special lists and bibliographies, containing state and federal legal documents, are frequently published in this periodical.

National Economic and Social Planning Association. The NESPA Guide. No. 1, Jan. 15, 1940 to date. Washington, 1940 to date. Monthly.

Includes "Government Reports" and "Notes," listing federal and state near-print and printed publications in the field of national planning. Extensive annotations.

National Municipal Review. Vol. 1, No. 1, Jan. 1912 to date. New York, National Municipal League, 1912 to date. Monthly.

Includes "Research Bureau Reports Received," "Books in Review," and "Additional Books and Pamphlets Received," listing federal, state, and municipal publications on municipal affairs, arranged under broad subjects. Not annotated; the more important items are reviewed.

New York Public Library. Municipal Reference Library. Municipal Reference Library Notes. Vol. 1, No. 1, Oct. 28, 1914 to date. New York, 1914 to date. Monthly.

Contains "List of New York City Publications" (issued since Vol. 1, No. 16, February 10, 1915) and "Current Civic Literature," an annotated list of publications of and about municipal agencies. Each list includes both processed and printed publications.

Pan American Union. Bulletin of the Pan American Union. Vol. 1, No. 1, Oct. 1893 to date. Washington, 1893 to date. Monthly.

Contains a semiannual list "Publications of the Pan American Union," which includes near-print as well as printed material issued by the organization, with a running commentary.

Public Affairs Information Service. Bulletin of the Public Affairs Information Service. Vol. 1, 1915 to date. New York, 1915 to date. Weekly, with quarterly and annual cumulations.

Includes a great many federal, state, and municipal

documents, both processed and printed, in a subject arrangement. Of particular importance is the list of documents of some twelve large American cities included under the heading "Municipal Documents." Occasional annotations or descriptive notes.

Special Libraries, Official Organ of the Special Libraries Association. Vol. 1, No. 1, Jan. 1910 to date. New York, 1910 to date. Monthly.

Does not publish lists of documents as a regular feature, but often includes special lists of government material, such as the recent "New York City Department of Health Periodicals and Serials Published 1866-1939" by Estelle Brodman (Vol. 31, Nos. 1-2, Jan.-Feb. 1940); "Recent Aids to Public Documents Use" (Vol. 29, nos. 6-7, July/Aug.-Sept. 1938), "Aids to Public Document Use Since 1937" (Vol. 31, No. 9, Nov. 1940), "Aids to Foreign Public Document Use Since 1937" (Vol. 31, No. 10, Dec. 1940), all three by Jerome K. Wilcox.

Technical Book Review Index. Vol. 1, No. 1, Sept. 1935 to date. New York, Special Libraries Association, 1935 to date. Monthly.

Contains the more important processed and printed official publications which deal with technical subjects, and includes quotations from reviews.

U.S. Agriculture Department. Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering Bureau.² Current Literature in Agricultural Engineering. Vol. 1, No. 1, Aug. 1931 to date. Washington, 1931 to date. Monthly. Processed.

Includes both federal and state documents on technology in agriculture. Lists both near-print and printed publications, often with annotations.

U.S. Agriculture Department. Agricultural Economics Bureau. Agricultural Economics Literature. Vol. 1, No. 1, Jan. 1927 to date. Washington, 1927 to date. Monthly. Processed.

Contains three lists of current documents in the general field of agriculture: "Bibliographies," "State Publications, a List of the Publications of the State Agricultural Colleges, Departments of Agriculture, Agricultural Experiment Stations, and Agricultural Extension Services" compiled by Mary F. Carpenter; "U.S. Department of Agriculture Publications, Economic in Character" compiled by Katharine Jacobs and Nadine G. Weaver. All three lists include both processed and printed publications. There are some annotations or content notes.

— Agricultural Finance Review. Vol. 1, No. 1, May 1938 to date. Washington, 1938 to date. Semiannual. Processed.

Includes a section "Literature on Agricultural

² Since a subject arrangement was not possible for this list of document acquisition sources, the official entries have been entered according to the Superintendent of Document's headings, rather than by the more usual Library of Congress headings. In this way, material on the same subject (e.g., agriculture) has been kept together for the most part.

Finance," which lists federal and state near-print and printed publications arranged under broad subjects—credit, insurance, land values and appraisal, taxation, and local government. Includes some annotations and content notes.

— Farm Population and Rural Life Activities. Vol. 1, No. 1, March 1927 to date. Washington, 1927 to date. Quarterly. Processed.

A section "List of Publications Reviewed and Received" contains material in the field of rural sociology, including both federal and state publications, processed and printed. Not annotated; many titles are reviewed in the periodical.

— Land Policy Review. Vol. 1, No. 1, May/June 1938 to date. Washington, 1938 to date. Monthly.

Includes a section "Books" and another section "For Your Attention" each of which lists new publications on land economics and land use, including both printed and processed federal and state documents with annotations or reviews.

U.S. Agriculture Department. Agricultural Marketing Service. Marketing Activities. Vol. 1, No. 1, July 1939 to date. Washington, 1939 to date. Monthly. Processed.

Contains a section "Pertaining to Marketing" which lists the Agriculture Department's current publications (mostly processed) in the fields of marketing and standards. Not annotated.

U.S. Agriculture Department. Consumers' Counsel Division. Consumers' Guide. Vol. 1, No. 1, Sept. 14, 1933 to date. Washington 1933 to date. Semimonthly.

Includes a section "Consumers' Bookshelf" appearing irregularly and listing new material in the field of consumer education. Lists federal and state documents, both near-print and printed, with annotations.

U.S. Agriculture Department. Experiment Stations Office. List of Station Publications Received during November 1903 to date. Washington, 1903 to date. Monthly. Processed.

A checklist of state agricultural experiment station publications received in the library of the U.S. Experiment Stations Office. Not annotated.

U.S. Agriculture Department. Forest Service. Forestry Current Literature. New Series, Vol. 1, No. 1, Jan./Feb. 1934 to date. Washington, 1934 to date. Bimonthly. Processed.

Lists federal and state documents, both processed and printed, on forestry, arranged under broad subjects, without annotations.

U.S. Agriculture Department. Information Office. Monthly List of Publications.

April 1896 to date. Washington, 1896 to date.

Confined to printed publications of the Agriculture Department. No annotations.

U.S. Agriculture Department. Library. Agricultural Library Notes. Vol. 1, No. 1, Jan. 1926 to date. Washington, 1926 to date. Monthly. Processed.

Contains three current document lists in the field of agriculture: "Bibliographies and Lists," "List of State Extension Publications Received," a monthly checklist, and "Selected List of Processed Publications of the U.S. Department of Agriculture." The first two lists include both printed and processed material. Occasional annotations.

— Cotton Literature, Selected References. Vol. 1, No. 1, Jan. 1931 to date. Washington, 1931 to date. Monthly. Processed.

Lists and annotates both near-print and printed federal and state documents on all aspects of the subject of cotton, arranged under broad subdivisions of this subject.

U.S. Agriculture Department. Soil Conservation Service. Soil Conservation. Vol. 1, No. 1, Aug. 1935 to date. Washington, 1935 to date. Monthly.

Includes a section "For Reference" (compiled by Etta G. Rogers) consisting of federal and state processed and printed publications on soil conservation, land use, and erosion. No annotations, but some items are reviewed.

— Soil Conservation Literature, Selected Current References. Vol. 1, No. 1, Jan./Feb. 1937 to date. Washington, 1937 to date. Bimonthly. Processed.

Includes three current partially annotated lists of documents on the general subject of soil conservation: "State Experiment Station and Extension Publications," "U.S. Government Publications," and "Bibliographies and Lists." All include near-print as well as printed publications. The field and regional publications of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service included here, are seldom listed elsewhere.

U.S. Central Housing Committee. Housing Index-digest. Vol. 1, No. 1, June 15, 1936 to date. Washington, 1936 to date. Semimonthly. Processed.

Lists and annotates new government material on housing and slum clearance. Includes both near-print and printed publications of federal, state, and municipal agencies.

U.S. Commerce Department. Census Bureau. The Registrar. Vol. 1, No. 1, Jan. 1936 to date. Washington, 1936 to date. Monthly. Processed.

Includes a section "New Publications" limited for the most part to the processed publications on vital statistics of the Census Bureau. Not annotated.

U.S. Commerce Department. Civil Aeronautics Authority. Civil Aeronautics Journal. Vol. 1, No. 1, Jan. 1, 1940 to date. Washington, 1940 to date. Semi-monthly.

Includes irregularly a brief section "New Aeronautical Publications" confined to the processed and printed publications of various federal agencies. Partially annotated.

U.S. Commerce Department. Foreign and Domestic Commerce Bureau. Domestic Commerce, a Weekly Bulletin. Vol. 1, No. 1, May 4, 1927 to date. Washington, 1927 to date. Processed.

Includes a section "New Business Books and Reports" compiled by F. Stirling Wilson. Contains both near-print and printed publications with annotations. Occasionally, there is in addition, a special list: "Miscellaneous Publications of the Department of Agriculture" devoted chiefly to processed material.

— Domestic Commerce News. No. 1, Nov. 5, 1937 to date. Chicago, [etc.] 1937 to date. Processed.

Lists new publications (chiefly processed) of the Commerce Department, in particular, material issued by the Census and Foreign and Domestic Commerce Bureaus. Partially annotated. Issued independently by several of the district offices of the bureau.

— Domestic Commerce News Letter. Sept. 1935 to date. Washington, 1935 to date. Monthly. Processed.

Emphasizes near-print publications of the agencies in the Commerce Department—new census releases, additions to the various information services of the Foreign and Domestic Commerce Bureau, as well as other processed (and printed) materials. Includes publications not elsewhere listed. Partially annotated.

— Foreign Commerce Weekly. Vol. 1, No. 1, Oct. 5, 1940 to date. Washington, 1940 to date. Weekly.

Has a section "New Books and Reports" by F. Stirling Wilson, which lists new material on foreign trade. Includes both near-print and printed items, with annotations. From time to time includes "Trade Lists Available," a list (not elsewhere duplicated) of material to be obtained from the Commercial Intelligence Division.

U.S. Commerce Department. Marine Inspection and Navigation Bureau. Bulletin. Vol. 1, No. 1, July 1936 to date. Washington, 1936 to date. Monthly. Processed.

Has a section "Publications" which lists new federal material in the fields of navigation and shipping, including the processed Circular Letters of the Marine Inspection and Navigation Bureau. Not annotated.

U.S. Commerce Department. National Bu-

reau of Standards. Technical News Bulletin. No. 1, Dec. 1917 to date. Washington, 1917 to date. Monthly.

Includes two lists: "New and Revised Publications Issued" and "Mimeographed Material." Confined exclusively to the publications of the National Bureau of Standards, and not annotated.

U.S. Federal Radio Education Committee. Service Bulletin of the FREC. Vol. 1, No. 1, Nov. 1939 to date. Washington, 1939 to date. Monthly.

Contains a section "Books and Articles" which lists, with annotations, new material in the field of radio in education. The periodical also announces the new publications of the Federal Radio Education Committee.

U.S. Federal Reserve System Board of Governors. Federal Reserve Bulletin. Vol. 1, No. 1, May 1, 1915 to date. Washington, 1915 to date. Monthly.

Has a section "Federal Reserve Publications" which lists, with annotations, the current processed and printed publications and releases of this agency. Confined chiefly to material originating in Washington, D.C.

U.S. Federal Security Agency. Education Office. Library Notes. [No. 1] Sept. 1937 to date. Washington, 1937 to date. Irregular. Processed.

A list of "Books and Pamphlets Relating to Vocational Education" (prepared by Helen Ellis Wheeler) which includes municipal, state, and federal near-print and printed material, with annotations.

— School Life. Vol. 1, No. 1, Aug. 1, 1918 to date. Washington, 1918 to date. Monthly.

Has a section "New Government Aids for Teachers" which includes both processed and printed material with annotations. Special lists of governmental material on various educational subjects are also occasionally printed in this periodical.

U.S. Federal Security Agency. Public Health Service. Public Health Reports. [Vol. 1, No. 1] July 13, 1878 to date. Washington, 1878 to date. Weekly.

Has included (since 1922) a list (now issued semiannually) of the printed publications of the U.S. Public Health Service. Also available in the reprints from Public Health Reports. Not annotated.

U.S. Federal Security Agency. Social Security Board. Social Security Bulletin. Vol. 1, No. 1, Jan./March 1938 to date. Washington, 1938 to date. Monthly.

Includes a section "Recent Publications in the Field of Social Security" which lists federal, state, and municipal documents, both processed and printed, under broad subdivisions of the subject, with annotations. Occasionally, checklists of state periodical publications on social welfare and security are also featured. The annual supplement *Social*

Security Yearbook has a section "Publications" which lists processed and printed federal material on social security.

U.S. Federal Works Agency. Public Roads Administration. Highways, Current Literature. [Vol. 1, No. 1] Nov. 1, 1921 to date. Washington, 1921 to date. Weekly. Processed.

Compiled by the library staff of the Public Roads Administration and includes federal, state, and municipal near-print and printed publications on highways, motor vehicles, and related subjects. Partially annotated.

U.S. Federal Works Agency. Work Projects Administration. Bibliography of Research Projects Reports; W.P.A. Technical Series, Research and Records Projects Bibliography. No. 1, Feb. 2, 1940 to date. Washington, 1940 to date. Irregular. Processed.

A list of W.P.A. research projects, arranged under broad subject classifications. Includes both processed and printed municipal, state, and federal publications. Much of this material is not elsewhere recorded. Not annotated.

U.S. Government Printing Office. Superintendent of Documents. Depository Invoice. No. 1283, Sept. 26, 1906 to date. Washington, 1906 to date. Monthly.

A checklist of printed government publications issued to depository libraries. Contains a section "New Classification Numbers" which lists new serial publications of government agencies, both processed and printed, cataloged in the U.S. Public Documents Library in Washington, D.C. Not annotated.

— United States Government Publications Monthly Catalog. No. 1, Jan. 1895 to date. Washington, 1895 to date.

The official and most nearly complete current list of federal publications. Has included processed publications since January 1936. For the most part, omits press releases, administrative, regional, and confidential publications. A few descriptive annotations.

— Weekly List of Selected United States Government Publications. July 11, 1928 to date. Washington, 1928 to date.

Includes only the most important printed material of the federal government arranged by subject or type of publication. Partially annotated.

U.S. Interior Department. Fish and Wildlife Service. Wildlife Review. No. 1, Sept. 1935 to date. Washington, 1935 to date. Irregular. Processed.

Lists and abstracts federal and state publications in the field of wildlife conservation and management under subdivisions of the subject. Includes both near-print and printed material.

U.S. Interior Department. Geological Survey. Publications Issued. List 1, Sept. 1907 to date. Washington, 1907 to date. Monthly.

Lists the current publications of the U.S. Geological Survey. Confined mostly to printed publications, but includes maps and charts. Includes annotations.

U.S. Interior Department. Mines Bureau. New Publications. Monthly List 1, Oct. 1910 to date. Washington, 1910 to date.

Confined to the current processed and printed publications of the U.S. Mines Bureau, with annotations. Includes a list of periodical publications.

U.S. Interior Department. National Park Service. Yearbook: Park and Recreation Progress. 1937 to date. Washington, 1938 to date. Annual.

Includes a section "Current Bibliography" (compiled by Irmine B. Kennedy) of material on recreation, national parks, and conservation. Includes federal, state, and local government publications, both processed and printed. Not annotated.

U.S. Interior Department. Travel Bureau. Official Bulletin. No. 1, Oct. 1938 to date. Washington, 1938 to date. Monthly. Processed.

Includes a section "Travel Literature" listing state and local publications and maps, both near-print and printed, on travel, recreation, parks, etc. Partially annotated.

U.S. Labor Department. Children's Bureau. The Child. Vol. 1, No. 1, July 1936 to date. Washington, 1936 to date. Monthly.

Includes "Book Notes" listing processed and printed federal and state material on various phases of child welfare, with annotations.

U.S. Labor Department. Labor Standards Division. Labor Standards. Vol. 1, No. 1, April 1938 to date. Washington, 1938 to date. Monthly.

Has a section "New Publications" which lists near-print and printed publications of federal and state governments, in the field of labor standards, with annotations.

U.S. Labor Department. Labor Statistics Bureau. Monthly Labor Review. Vol. 1, No. 1, July 1915 to date. Washington, 1915 to date.

Includes a section "Recent Publications of Labor Interest" which lists new processed and printed foreign and United States federal, state, and municipal documents in various labor fields—consumers, cooperative movement, cost of living, employment, industrial hygiene, labor legislation, wages, etc., with annotations.

U.S. Labor Department. Women's Bureau. The Woman Worker. [Vol. 1, No. 1] Feb. 10, 1921 to date. Washington, 1921 to date. Bimonthly.

Has a section "Recent Publications" which lists the new printed and processed material issued by the U.S. Women's Bureau, as well as other federal and state publications on the subject of women in industry. Occasional annotations.

U.S. Library of Congress. Documents Division. Monthly Check-list of State Publications. Vol. 1, No. 1, Jan. 1910 to date. Washington, 1910 to date.

The official and most complete checklist of state publications, both near-print and printed. Limited to material deposited in the Library of Congress. Includes publications of the District of Columbia, the territories and possessions as well as those of associations of state officials and regional organizations.

U.S. President. National Resources Planning Board. Bibliography of Reports by State and Regional Planning Organiza-

tions. No. 1, Jan./April 1937 to date. Washington, 1937 to date. Irregular. Processed.

Includes both processed and printed publications of official planning bodies. Occasionally a cumulated number is issued. Not annotated.

U.S. State Department. The Department of State Bulletin. Vol. 1, No. 1, July 1, 1939 to date. Washington, 1939 to date. Weekly.

Includes three lists of new federal publications: "Regulations," "Legislation," and "Publications." Limited chiefly to printed material but not confined to the publications of the U.S. State Department. Not annotated.

U.S. State Department. Publications of the Department of State. April 1, 1930 to date. Washington, 1930 to date. Quarterly.

Confined to the printed material issued by the U.S. State Department, but cumulative with each issue from October 1, 1929. Includes maps. Not annotated.

Accrediting Associations and the College Library

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dividual library reports that more periodicals are now received on the average by college libraries than was the case five years ago. To maintain the same relative standing on holdings of periodicals that it had five years ago, it was necessary therefore for any given institution to increase the number of periodicals received. One college, for instance, has substantially the same percentile rank now that it had in 1934, but at present it receives 145 periodicals that appear on our checklist, as compared with 93 on the 1934 list. In 1934 this library subscribed for a total of 199 periodicals; now it receives 260. We have found a sufficiently close agreement between the number of holdings on our periodical checklist and the total number of periodical subscriptions to be satisfied that in this field our checklist is a valid measure. It is of course much easier to validate a measure of periodical holdings than of book holdings because the

total number of periodicals available is comparatively small.

I have made this somewhat lengthy and detailed statement for several reasons: First, to inform college librarians of the techniques we have employed in developing checklists of books and periodicals as a measuring device; second, to let the librarians know that we recognize the soundness of some criticisms of the checklists that they have made; third, to provide information upon the basis of which the criticisms of some faculty members and administrative officers may be answered; fourth, to assure librarians and administrative officers that we make no arbitrary or unwarranted use of the data which we secure through our checklists; fifth, to enlist the continuation of the cooperation which librarians have so generously given us in attacking the difficult problem of developing adequate measures of the relative excellence of college libraries.