

adapted to the requirements of highly training scientific and research personnel. So, the central problem thus moves from that of technology to that of adequate individual communication.

A second major change is in the rapid growth of knowledge in all fields. The technical disciplines, chiefly the sciences, have turned loose such a flood of information that even the wealthiest of corporate and collegiate libraries do not know what to do with it. About 90% of all scientists who ever lived are now at work, and it seems that most of them are publishing their findings. Today there are about 7,000 journals related to the biomedical sciences alone. In 1965, in the field of chemistry alone, these learned pioneers published 6,700 articles every fortnight. The net result of all these changes, and those in technology, is to cause the special librarian to place less emphasis on the organizational functions of collecting and disseminating information and more on those of evaluation, selection, and presentation so that the continuing education of the research specialist can be as painless and efficient as possible.

A third major development that changes the position of the special librarian or information specialist is the increased recognition of the importance of information and the consequent increased availability of funds for work with information handling. In individual organizations, new emphasis has been placed on information management. Shortages in special libraries and limited budgets in the past have not always made it possible for them to function as information centers; in fact, new systems were sometimes set up apart from an existing library in the same organization. It is important that we as special librarians continue to develop professionally and to manifest our abilities and experience. We believe the special librarian in all fields has an exciting and challenging future.

BOOK SELECTION IN THE UNIVERSITY SPECIAL LIBRARY

By

EDWINA D. JOHNSON¹

The collections in the special libraries at Duke University have been built to their present state by the combined efforts of the faculty and library staff.

Each department has a library representative who, upon receiving recommendations from his fellow faculty members, orders for his department. This system has proved to be the best plan, since no librarian could possibly be familiar enough with the different disciplines to order for his collection. Each field is so specialized that the task is difficult even for the specialists. Then too, as each special field changes or enlarges, the faculty knows of library needs long before the librarian is aware of them.

The library staff as well as the faculty is on the alert for titles in the special library and participates in book selection. For instance, when a special field has been developed by a faculty member who later leaves the University, the staff helps to keep titles in this field from being overlooked.

After scholarly series are selected, the library staff must see that they are put on a continuing basis. Items not readily available are filed in the desiderata file, and second-hand catalogs are checked in an effort to locate them. Here the University depends on the faculty for retrospective material. This file is made up chiefly of requests for such material, and there is a constant search to fill gaps in periodicals and serials.

Standing orders are placed with selected university presses and certain other presses. Their publications are channeled by the staff to the appropriate library. For some foreign publications needed in the special library, exchanges are established, as this is the only possible method of obtaining material from some countries.

The documents department, ever vigilant, scans various listings of Federal, state, and international publications. Even though the University is a depository — which means there is a standing order for all Government Printing Office publications — it does not get all of these publications automatically. The documents staff makes certain that the University is put on departmental mailing lists; it also channels public documents to the special library where the material will be most useful. As a result of government sponsored research the staff is busy trying to keep up with the publication explosion.

No matter how fine a collection may be, it is of little value if bibliographical access is poor. It is the responsibility of the librarian to see that indexes and abstracts are available and to recommend reference aids, dictionaries, encyclopedias, handbooks, etc. It is also his duty to note book reviews, check publishers' catalogs, and suggest items to the faculty library representatives for consideration.

With several science departmental libraries on the University campus, duplication in orders is inevitable. Decisions have to be made as to whether duplication is necessary.

From the foregoing description it is obvious that the librarian and other staff members are involved in book selection for the University special library. The University is, indeed, fortunate to have specialists in every field, and it has benefitted greatly from their interest and cooperation.

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THE TRANSLATING SERVICE FUNCTION OF THE INDUSTRIAL LIBRARY

By

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Since the launching of Sputnik I on October 4, 1957 — less than a decade ago — there has been an explosion of ideas and tests in industrial and research laboratories all over the world resulting in a heavy fallout of technical reports, patents, books, periodicals, and other printed media in both the pure and applied sciences. A little over a year ago Professor Wesley C. Simton, director of the Center for Documentation and Information Retrieval, University of Minnesota Library School, estimated that there are 2,000,000 articles a year published in 30,000 scientific and technical journals, and the number of publications of course increases each year. In addition, there are approximately 100,000 technical reports issued annually, and this number is likewise growing.

To add to this enormous scientific and technological activity, these papers, reports, and books are written in many languages, creating a Tower of Babel confusion of tongues. It has been said that over one-third of all scientific publications are in Chinese, Japanese, and Russian, over another third in English, with the remainder in Arabic, French, German, Italian, Spanish, and other languages. It is thus readily apparent that languages in themselves create barriers in the world community of scientists. The amount of dupli-

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