

be used in conjunction with the exhibition, this catalog stands by itself as a fine description, in word and picture, of what is surely one of the best privately-owned collections of manuscripts, and as such, it will retain its meaningfulness and usefulness long after the manuscripts have been removed from the exhibition cases.—*Joan H. Baum, Department of Special Collections, Columbia University Libraries.*

Library Resources

Studies in Library Resources. By William Vernon Jackson. Distributed by The Illini Union Bookstore, Champaign, Illinois, 1958. 62p. (Photolithoprinted). \$1.75.

Six papers are published in this booklet, four of them for the first time. They present the results of research in a variety of techniques, applied to individual institutions, and then to a specific subject area. The author is assistant professor of library science at the University of Illinois Library School.

A review article, "Four Aspects of Library Cooperation," is a summary of available studies on interlibrary services. It discusses in turn union lists, union catalogs, guides to collections, and interlibrary loans; and concludes with a statement of the principles which have made for success in recent cooperative ventures.

Two papers report on an examination of library resources at Northwestern University. The first, "The Development of Library Resources at Northwestern University," is reprinted from University of Illinois Library School *Occasional Papers*, No. 26 (February 1952). It surveys the historical development of the collections, emphasizing their rapid growth since 1920 and describing briefly certain outstanding collections.

A statistical analysis of the collections of the University Library at Northwestern University is summarized in "A Case Study of Growth in Library Resources by Subject." The Library has maintained since 1918-19 statistics showing the number of cataloged volumes by classes. Using these and other

data, mainly unpublished, Dr. Jackson has examined all subject classes to determine patterns of growth. He finds that most subjects did appear to follow definite patterns, that certain subjects have regularly shown growth superior to the general rate of increment, and that others have regularly lagged behind. The factors which have influenced this growth are reviewed in concluding paragraphs.

An experiment using the shelf list of the library is described in the paper, "Subject Distribution of the University of Illinois Library." The result of this investigation is a tabular presentation for twenty-nine subjects, showing the number of volumes and the percentages of the total. Comparison of this table with tables for the Harvard University Library and the libraries of Northwestern University, reproduced here, show certain "striking similarities." However, "the small sample makes further investigation necessary to determine whether they represent a pattern characteristic of university libraries."

"Resources of Midwestern Research Libraries in the Hispanic Literatures" is reprinted from *Hispania*, XXXVIII (1955), 476-80. Data furnished by nine university libraries and the Newberry Library, and by the appropriate faculty members, were used for a statement of specific strengths and weaknesses in peninsular Spanish literature and in Spanish-American literature. For the latter subject, a test was also made of the extent to which acquisitions programs were bringing current books to the area. Titles of 169 monographic items from the 1949 *Handbook of Latin American Studies* were checked against holdings. This check showed that the libraries as a group held ninety-five titles.

The same list of current books was also the basis of an experiment reported in "Spanish American Literature in Five European National Libraries." A check of the catalogs of Libraries in Madrid, Paris, Brussels, London, and The Hague showed that these libraries as a group held only a third of the titles, fewer than the research libraries of the Midwest.

The *Studies* make several contributions to the understanding of library resources. They are informative in new ways about the col-

lections of the institutions studied. As examples of quantitative measurement, concisely reported, they provide models and lines of inquiry for further investigation. Finally, the conclusions set down, scrupulously drawn from the evidence presented, are matter for reflection by all librarians concerned with acquisitions policy and its implications.—*Harry W. Hart, Columbia University Libraries.*

International Law Classification

Classification for International Law and Relations. 2d ed., rev. and enl. By Kurt Schwerin. New York: Oceana Publications [1958].

This work is based on the classification scheme developed for the University of Virginia Law Library, originally published in 1947; it is currently used at the Northwestern University Law School Library.

The schedule is divided into three parts: treatises on international law, treatises on international relations, and official publications, reports, and documents. Private international law, included in the first edition, has now been dropped; it is suggested that it be classed with domestic law. This arrangement follows the practice of the majority of law libraries which generally separate documentary materials from commentaries and treatises. In international law, its wisdom is open to serious question since it separates items published by the League of Nations, United Nations, and other agencies from works *about* these organizations. The Library of Congress JX scheme keeps such materials together and appears superior in that respect. Furthermore, the distinction between international law and relations is often arbitrary. Books on international disputes, for example, are classed with international law; boundary disputes, however, with international relations; treaties and alliances appear in both sections.

The scheme uses a two-digit decimal nota-

tion with expansions up to five digits, without a decimal point. Letter codes for international agencies and their organs are provided whenever applicable; a general list of country symbols is appended to the schedule. Mnemonic features are few; in fact, the decimal principle appears to have been used primarily because of the flexibility it offers in interpolating new numbers and expanding the schedule as new topics arise; its other outstanding features have not been fully utilized.

A comparison with the first edition shows that the expansion has been considerable: the index about doubled in size, the number of assigned symbols (without country or agency subdivisions) has grown from over one hundred and fifty in the first edition to over two hundred and fifty in the second; more than one hundred and ten numbers have been added, ten dropped, about five changed (relocated). The revision was necessitated not only by the rapid growth of international agencies after World War II, but also by the oversimplified approach of the original edition to the arrangement of the League of Nations documents which have now been completely reorganized.

The schedule has many outstanding features: a comprehensive index, a complete list of country symbols, helpful examples of call numbers, and an extremely useful scheme for publications of the various international organizations. Its author recommends it for small libraries which might find the Library of Congress JX classification too detailed and too cumbersome to handle. One cannot help wondering about the wisdom of labeling an international law collection as "small" for, if it has research uses, it is bound to grow indefinitely and to reach the complexity of a "large" library. The 100-per cent expansion of the scheme under review, apparently indicated after ten years, strongly suggests that it would be safer, for any research library, to adopt the detailed classification of the Library of Congress which has the additional advantage of a continuous revision. To an undergraduate library, however, the Schwerin classification should provide a comfortable framework, in many ways superior to the current edition of the Dewey Decimal scheme.—*Vaclav Mostecky, Harvard Law School.*