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From Inside the DLP

By Dr. KATHARINE M. STOKES

College and University Library Specialist, Training and Resources Branch, Division of Library Programs, Bureau of Libraries and Educational Technology, U.S. Office of Education, Washington, D.C. 20202.

The National Center for Educational Statistics has added fourteen items to its list of academic library statistics publications since 1960. *Library Statistics of Colleges and Universities: Fall, 1969, Analytic Report*, by Dr. Bronson Price and Mrs. Doris Holladay of the Library Surveys Branch is now available for \$1.00 from the Government Printing Office. The Documents Catalog no. is HE 5.215:15031-69. A copy has been sent to each higher education institution and to all its major components, including branch campuses, but it probably doesn't reach the librarian in a number of places.

I turned first to Table 1, in Appendix C, p.52, to see what advances had been made in volume count since the *Fall 1968 Analytic Report* for the different types of institutions which have been receiving library resources grants under Title II-A (HEA). Of course, there were sixty-one more academic libraries in fall 1969, than in fall 1968; thirty-nine of these being in two-year institutions. The total number of libraries with less than 50,000 volumes in four-year undergraduate colleges, or with less than 20,000 volumes in two-year institutions, showed

a modest, but real decrease, as shown below.

FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS WITHOUT GRADUATE STUDENTS WITH LIBRARIES HAVING LESS THAN 50,000 VOLUMES

	Fall 1968	Fall 1969	Percent Change
Public	32	25	-22
Private	326	304	- 7
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	358	329	- 8

TWO-YEAR INSTITUTIONS WITH LIBRARIES HAVING LESS THAN 20,000 VOLUMES

	Fall 1968	Fall 1969	Percent Change
Public	304	303	
Private	171	163	- 5
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	475	466	- 2

Among the 785 four-year colleges with graduate students, fall 1969, there were still 17 public institutions and 182 private ones with libraries of less than 50,000 volumes. The corresponding figures for 1968 were 21 and 189.

Perhaps such slight improvements in holdings is explained in Chapter II, "Detailed Findings," p.11.

Microform holdings show relatively marked increases over the 1967-68 holdings of that nature. For microfilm reels, the increase was 20 percent. . . . For other physical units of microtext, the increase was 30 percent. . . . If in

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News editor: Michael Herbison, Library, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs Center, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80907. Editor: Richard M. Dougherty, School of Library Science, Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y. 13210. President, ACRL: Joseph H. Reason. Executive Secretary, ACRL: J. Donald Thomas, ALA.

both the fall 1968 and fall 1969 surveys the "volume equivalents" of these holdings had been reported so that in each year they could have been added to the number of physical volumes, it is clear that the increase in the total number of physical volumes and volume equivalents to which students and faculty have had access would be perceptibly higher than the increase for physical volumes alone. For each of the four types of institutions, chart 2 shows the holdings of microfilm reels, with percent increases from the previous year. Similar data for physical units of microtext other than microfilm reels are given in chart 3. For both types of microform the increases were relatively large for the 4-year institutions with graduate students and the 2-year institutions. Although in fall 1969 the 2-year institutions had only slight holdings of microtext other than microfilm reels, these holdings represented a near doubling (93 percent) from the previous year.

The authors' comments on p.10-11 are in line with the current thinking of the Office of Education's Higher Education agencies, advocating consortia activities as a solution to dwindling funds.

There is comparatively little variation from one type or size of institution to another with respect to holdings or expenditures per student. Understandable though this may be, it does not mean that access to library resources is about the same in larger or smaller institutions. Indeed, the comparatively small holdings of the smaller institutions must occasion a rather severe handicap, relatively speaking, for their students and faculties in respect to library resources. For the future one can hope that more of the smaller institutions can be served by joint libraries or other arrangements to expedite access to larger holdings. ■■

News From the Field

ACQUISITIONS

• The BALL STATE UNIVERSITY library, Muncie, Indiana, has recently acquired more than 180 items of Steinbeckiana. This collection includes a number of autographed first editions, deluxe editions, Armed Service editions, such rare items as *St. Katy the Virgin*, a booklet, which Steinbeck privately printed in 1936, *Their Blood Is Strong* (1938), *Un American a New-York et a Paris*, published by René Juliard in 1956, letters, several printed nonbook materials including a map of the Steinbeck Country published by Normandie House Publishers in 1939, German, French, and Italian editions, as well as critical books about Steinbeck. These Steinbeck items will be placed in the special collections of the university library.

• The papers of the late James C. Rettie, senior economist, Department of the Interior, have been placed in the UNIVERSITY OF OREGON library by Mrs. James C. Rettie of Arlington, Virginia. Rettie was a career economist in the federal government, specializing in economic research and programming in water and power development, forest and land economics, resources utilization, and river basin development. From 1942 to 1944 he was United States director of the North Pacific Planning Project, which produced a series of economic studies of Alaska. In the 1960s, he was involved in Alaska studies, this time with the Federal Review Committee and the Federal Field Committee for Development Planning in Alaska.

As senior economist in the Interior Depart-

ment, Rettie kept a close and practical watch on a variety of programs and plans proposed or underway in that department. His critiques of official memoranda and position papers indicate that he was a stout opponent of bureaucratic obfuscation and "Federalese," as well as a keen analyst and detector of economic ills. The Rettie papers provide an inside view of federal planning and internal operations at the top level. They are of major importance to students of public administration and to historians.

• The UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON library has acquired the personal papers of Rev. Sydney Dix Strong, his son Tracy Strong, and daughter, Anna Louise Strong. They are now open for research (under some minor restrictions). Each was educated at Oberlin for which there is material. The Reverend Strong, a Congregationalist committed to social reform and pacifism, worked mainly out of Oak Park, Illinois and Seattle. Tracy Strong, a leader in the World Alliance of YMCA's and executive secretary of War Prisoners' Aid, worked mainly from Geneva from 1924. Anna Louise Strong was director of Child Welfare Exhibits of Children's Bureau (ca. 1912-1914), reporter for *Seattle Union Record*, member of the Seattle School Board (recalled, 1917), editor *Moscow News*, world traveller, and author. The collection is of value for studies in social gospel movement, American reform and labor movements, the Soviet revolution, pacifism, aspects of Chinese history in the 1930s, the Spanish Civil War, and the YMCA.