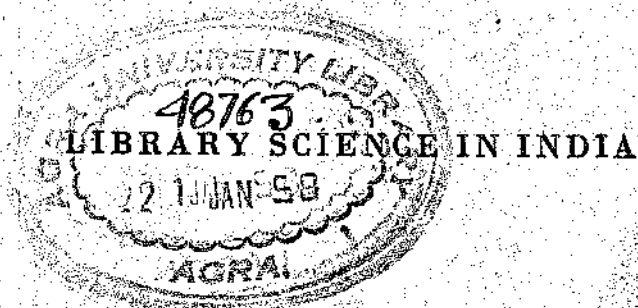


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*Edited by*  
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## CONSPECTUS

The Silver Jubilee Committee of the Madras Library Association decided to publish a commemoration volume. The present book is the result. Invitations were sent to several librarians in India and abroad to send contributions and messages. The response was good.

### Contributors

#### *Foreign*

The contributions are printed in pages 1 to 165. They are 28 in number. Fourteen of the authors belong to foreign countries. The following table shows their distribution by nationality :

Israel	1
Great Britain	5
Australia	1
Sweden	1
Holland	1
Switzerland	2
United States of America	3
	<hr/>
	14
	<hr/>

#### *Indian*

The remaining fourteen authors are Indian Librarians. The following table shows their distribution by their home States :—

Tamil Nadu	5
Kerala	1
Maharashtra	2
Gujarat	1
Madhya Bharat	1
Rajaputana	1
Delhi	1
Kashmir	1
Bengal	1
	<hr/>
	14
	<hr/>

## Contributions

The contributions cover diverse branches and aspects of Library Science and Library Service.

Essay 1 traces the roots of the Madras Library Association to the social and educational development of the Madras State since the turn of the present century. It also gives a pre-view of the library personality of the State as it should develop during the next twenty-five years.

Essay 2 gives an account of the origin of the American Library Association with a membership of 100 in 1876 and of its present size with a membership of 20,000. It also gives an account of the past achievements of the American Library profession and of its "unlimited opportunities" in the future.

Essays 3 to 8 are turned on Library Classification.

Essay 3 examines the part that classification can play in resolving cultural conflict in the world.

Essay 4 describes the present international effort to place library classification on firm foundations and the substantial part being played by India in this effort.

Essay 5 gives an estimate of the Colon Classification and the Chain Procedure.

Essay 6 examines the diverse ways to which an analytico-synthetic scheme of classification can be put.

Essay 7 evaluates the various books on Classification brought out by the Madras Library Association and the current work on Depth-Classification to which they have led.

Essay 8 traces the influence of the Colon Classification and of the associated Chain Procedure exploiting the symbiosis between classification and catalogue on the technique forged for the recently established *British national bibliography*.

Essay 9 evaluates the basic contributions of the *Classified catalogue code*, of the Madras Library Association, to the treatment of Hindu and Muslim names, periodical publications, and union catalogue of periodicals. It also deals with the Association's *Theory of library catalogue*.

Essays 10 and 11 are on Reference Service, while essays 12 and 13 deal with reference tools.

Essay 14 is on International Exchange of learned publications.

Essays 15 to 23 give an account of the special features of the Library Associations and some libraries of the United Nations, Scandinavian countries, Israel, Gujerat, Madras and Australia.

Essays 24 to 27 trace the emergence of the Laws of Library Science and the changes brought about by them on various branches of study such as classification, catalogue, administration and professional training.

Essay 28 relates Library Service and Library Science to the eternal varieties of life and suggests the influence of Vedantic thought on the publications of the Madras Library Association.

#### Messages

The messages are printed at the end of the volume. They are 51 in number. They have come from various countries. The number of messages from each country is as follows :

International Bodies	..	5
India	..	17
Israel	..	1
Great Britain	..	9
Italy	..	2
Belgium	..	1
Holland	..	1
Denmark	..	1
Norway	..	1
South Africa	..	1
United States of America	..	9
Brazil	..	2
Australia	..	1
		—
		51
		—

The Jubilee Committee acknowledges its thanks to the authors of the 28 essays and the 51 messages. It also acknowledges with gratitude the help given by K. M. Sivaraman in seeing the volume through the Press. The thanks of the Committee are also due to the M.L.J. Press for the efficient way in which the volume has been produced.

# The Five Laws of Library Science

Books are for use.  
Every reader his book.  
Every book its reader.  
Save the time of the reader.  
A library is a growing organism.

ग्रन्थालय-शास्त्र-

पञ्च-सूत्राणि

ग्रन्थालयी सदासेवी पञ्चसूत्रीपरायणः ।  
ग्रन्था अध्येतुमेते च सर्वेभ्यः स्व स्वमाप्नुयुः ॥  
अध्येतुः समयं शेषेदालयो नित्यमेव च ।  
वर्धिष्णुरेष चिन्मूर्तिः पञ्चसूत्री सदा जयेत् ॥

## THEN, NOW AND HEREAFTER

S. R. RANGANATHAN

[Shows that the foundation of the Madras Library Association was not an accident but the result of half-a-century's growth of public awareness. Analyses the causes of the present ineffectiveness of the Madras Library Act and appeals for a change of function of the Association. Gives a vision of the library personality of the Madras State as it would be at the Golden Jubilee of the Association.]

1953 is a jubilee year of the Madras Library Association (=Mala). It offers itself as a point of eminence in the library-history of the Madras State. From it, we can look backwards and forwards. The backward stretch of time has been an eventful one. Many persons, now dead or living, played some part in making Madras library-conscious. A review of the past will give us a realistic explanation of our library position to-day. The forward stretch of time should, in the natural course of events, be even more productive. Some of the persons now playing a leading part and many others, now too young to be known, will have to carry the work forward. A preview of the future will give a purposeful direction to our library activities to-day. Let us then review the past, survey the present, and take a peep into the future.

### 1 Then

The Mala sprouted in January 1928. Its hidden roots can be traced back through a quarter of a century. Two main roots are traceable. The first came from academic soil. The second grew out of political terrain. They merged into one stem in 1928. The Mala was the result.

### II ACADEMIC ROOT

At the turn of the twentieth century, the University of Madras received the Griffith gift for library purposes. In the Delhi Durbar of 1912, it got a much larger gift from the Government. These two were merged into a single fund. This was earmarked for the promotion of library service within the University.

For twelve years, the fund was multiplying itself at compound interest. In 1924 the University began to appropriate the interest for actual service. It created the post of a librarian with a salary capable of placing him above the worries of material existence. It also gave him a status in its academic world. It allowed him initiative, freedom and responsibility. In this, the University of Madras was the first of its kind in India.

## 12 POLITICAL ROOT

The political awakening of India, intensified by the partition of Bengal, disturbed the quiescence of the foreign government. Various palliatives were improvised to discharge the developing tension between the people and the government. Library service was one of them. This move of the bureaucracy manifested itself in the so-called All India Conference of Librarians held in 1918. Lahore was then being enlivened in library matters by an American librarian engaged for a few years by the Punjab University. Lahore therefore became the venue of that Conference. But most of the delegates were officials outside library service. There were some archivists among them. There was hardly any librarian other than the foreign one supplied by Lahore. The workers of the Indian National Congress felt intrigued by such a conference. They started a parallel organisation in their own camp. All India Public Library Conference was the result. It moved with the Congress. It shared the vicissitudes of the host. The Congress came to Madras City in December, 1927. In its company, the Library Conference too came to Madras.

## 13 THE SPROUT

The library wing of the University of Madras and the library appendix of the Indian National Congress met with each other. Some sensitive members of the public saw value in the library cause. Within one month, the Mala sprouted. It was not an accidental growth. Nor was it exotic. It was inevitable. It came out with vigour. There was determination in its outlook. It started with a definite plan of action. Within one year, it made appreciable progress among most of the planned lines of action. One of its branches—the School of Library Science—was later cut and planted in the University gardens. It still continues to exist.

The publication branch continues to grow with vigour on the original stem. A detailed history of the sapling, Mala, of its steady growth, and of its various branches has been given elsewhere by the archivist of the Association. It is sufficient to state here that the apical bud, calculated to carry the growth forward, has now been transplanted into Government gardens.

## 2 Now

After trial and error, the Public Library Act has been finally placed on the statute book. It is not an ideal Act. It has many removable defects. The Rules have already removed some of them. But an Act is only a token. Its result is in the hands of those working it. Men of unusual vision, untiring energy and powerful pioneership are needed to work it. Why should it be so? What should they do? How should they do it? These are the factors affecting the Now.

## 21 WHY

The demand for a highly integrated personality to work the Library Act is partly a historical necessity. It is due to the heritage of "no public library service." The people do not know to insist on library service. The library authorities do not know how to set it up. No officer capable of stimulating it has yet been found. There are, however, two encouraging features. The persistent endeavour of the Mala although its life of twenty-five years has made the public library-minded. No doubt it is not aggressively so. But it will accept it with joy, if offered. The present government believes in the potency of library service to lift up the level of society. But the government cannot help depending upon the competence, resourcefulness, and efficiency of the man put in charge of the Department of Library Service.

## 22 WHAT

The men working the Act should not be idle. They should not seek to thrive on red-tape. They should work hard. They should plan. They should be sympathetic. They should have a missionary zeal. They should make an accurate survey of the human resources of the State. They should study the scatter of the rural population; for, the population of the State is largely rural. They should design the over-all library-grid of the State.



They should work out the detailed lay-out for each of the cities. They should similarly draw the library-map of each of the twenty-five districts. They should estimate the library manpower needed ; and they should provide for their training in the best style available in India. They should calculate the finance needed. They should estimate the taxable capacity of the people. They should correlate these two. They should make these two march abreast of each other. The first State Librarian will have the additional work of stimulating social education literature to suit all grades of people, on all possible subjects, in all the languages of the State. It is a huge task, no doubt, but it is an interesting task. It gives a unique opportunity. Will the Madras State throw forth the right type of man eager to revel in grappling with this colossal but fascinating problem? I believe that it will.

### 23 How

All this technical knowledge alone is not sufficient. We are no longer in the age of benevolent autocracy. The pioneer will have to do all this task according to the rules of democracy. He should work with the people and through them, but not on them. He should have an unerring eye to spot out the leader in each locality. He should have the tact to energise the leader with a passion to serve his co-citizens. He should be capable of building up a team of District and City Librarians. He should fire their imagination with the grand social transformation to be achieved by their library-effort. He should convince the Minister and the Cabinet of the essential dependence of the enduring future of the society on the enlightenment to be given by library service. He should save the library cause from the consequences of its handicap, due to its deferred and, therefore, invisible return, instead of a splashy, immediate return. All this requires in the pioneer State Librarian, industry, intelligence and initiative. He should be a person of profound knowledge, ripe experience, daring vision, single-minded devotion to his work and above all integrity of character.

### 3 Hereafter

Mala has no doubt done much during the last twenty-five years. The credit of the first Library Act of India undoubtedly goes to it. But it has not been equally effective in making the

Act work. Can it be due to senility? No. It cannot be. For, it is but twenty-five years in age. Has the indifference of the government made it equally indifferent? No. It cannot be. For, unlike the Government, it has nothing else to care for. Is it elbowed out by careerists or predators plucking away the tender shoots rather prematurely? One predatory may be sufficient to nip all the buds!

### 31 CHANGE OF FUNCTION

If so, the Mala should change its function. It should hereafter concentrate on protecting the apical bud transplanted into the Government gardens as shown in section 13. During the last twenty-five years, the main function of the Mala was to wake up the sleeping people. It had to treat them with appetisers. It has done that work successfully. Its main function during the next twenty-five years will be to act as a remembrancer to the Ministry of Education. The Ministry too should seek and accept its advice and co-operation.

### 32 CHANGE OF METHOD

In the past it easily found access to hundreds of local authorities and millions of people. It forged the right method for it. It should now forge the method needed to have access to our popular ministers. It should not rest on its oars. Nor should it feel frustrated by the predators falling thick on the apical bud. It should also be beware of the predators settling on itself. I am confident that the Mala will rise to the occasion.

### 33 VISION

My vision of the library personality of the Madras State is full and assuring. Here is that vision :

The Golden Jubilee of the Mala is on. Among the participants are found 34 City Library Systems serving a city population of fifty lakhs through 160 Branch Libraries. The rural population of five crores are served by 440 Branch Libraries and 22,000 Delivery Stations. These are maintained by the 25 Rural Library Systems participating in the Golden Jubilee. Among the participants, I find 400 professional librarians and 5,500 semi-professionals. In the place of a single Madras State four constituent States share these library systems—Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and

Andhradesa. The Ministers of Education of all these States participate in the golden jubilee. I hear them mentioning five and a half crores of rupees as their total annual library expenditure—equivalent to one rupee per capita.

This vision makes me pray along with the Mala :

that the implementation of the Madras Library Act may be taken up quickly, may be made with enthusiasm and vision, and may be entrusted to a band of young librarians with fine calibre, intensive training, and selfless love of social service ;

that the implementation may bring about the full development of the personality of one and all of the people of the Madras State whatever be the mental level, walk of life or place of residence ; and

that a State-wide library-grid may be established before the Mala reaches its Golden Jubilee :

to blow up ignorance ;

to stimulate the blossoming of the personality of one and all of the citizens ;

to spread enlightenment across the length and breadth of the State ;

to regenerate our ancient Motherland at all levels and in all directions ; and

to enable regenerated India to play a noble and helpful part in the attainment, by humanity as a whole, of lasting happiness, energising joy, and pure bliss—*Sat-Chit-Ananda*.

# AMERICAN LIBRARIANSHIP

WILLIAM A. FITZGERALD

With over 20,000 paid members, the American Library Association is the oldest, largest and the most influential library organization in the world. Its Chicago Conference of 1951, celebrated the ALA's 75th anniversary. In 1876, at the Philadelphia Centennial, about 100 librarians, including one from England, founded the organization "for the purpose of promoting the library interests of the country and of increasing reciprocity of intelligence and good-will among librarians and all interested in library economy and bibliographical studies."

Some of the best scholars, library administrators, bibliographers and pioneers in library publicity and library education were at the first annual meeting. Justin Winsor, of the Boston Public Library, presided. Melvil Dewey, at that time librarian of Amherst College, served as secretary. Such outstanding leaders as Charles Evans, William E. Poole, Charles A. Cutter, R. R. Bowker and A. R. Spofford participated. The *Library Journal*, then brand new, served as the sounding board for the infant association.

## WHAT THE ALA HAS ACCOMPLISHED

The ALA, besides improving Libraries already in existence initiated the public library movement and raised librarianship into an important modern profession. It helped to develop book classification, such as the Dewey decimal system and the Library of Congress system, codes of cataloging, co-operative cataloging (as evidenced in the Library of Congress catalog cards), union lists of library holdings (*i.e.*, central lists including every title available in any library whatsoever), periodical and book indexes and other bibliographical tools, and publications concerning the organization and administration of books and related materials.

This movement has affected library interests throughout the world. Especially in recent years there has been an ever

increasing exchange of librarians between different countries. American principles of library administration and organization have been applied in many foreign lands. Libraries venerable for their age and their holdings, such as the Vatican Library, as well as new ones established in countries which have not been library-minded in the past have sought advice and assistance in the United States, most of them organized on a professional graduate basis, have attracted students from all over the world. Their graduates have carried into many climes the ideals and skills of the founders of the ALA and their successors.

As library science gave rise to many specialized activities, the Association has divided itself into divisions and groups related to various types and services of librarianship. It has given impetus to the information of over a dozen independent library associations (some of them international in scope) and to over a hundred State and regional library associations in this country. One of the larger independent organizations is the Special Libraries Association, founded in 1909 to develop the usefulness of libraries serving banks, newspapers, scientific organizations, business firms, museums and similar institutions. Another is the Catholic Library Association. The CLA was founded in 1921 as a section of the National Catholic Educational Association and was reorganized on an independent basis in 1931. Its purpose, of course, is to improve libraries in Catholic educational institutions. Other special associations with specialized interests are the American Association of Law Libraries, the American Theological Library Association, the Association of Research Libraries, the Medical Library Association, the Music Library Association and the Theatre Library Association. Many members of these special purpose associations also hold active membership in the ALA.

#### EDUCATION FOR LIBRARIANSHIP

One of the most significant phases of the ALA's effort to help libraries has been the emphasis it has placed on training for librarianship. This movement has been directed especially by the ALA's Board of Education for Librarianship. The chief duties of this board have been to establish standards for library schools and to accredit schools fulfilling such standards. The setting up of training standards has led, in turn to greater emphasis on

the recruiting of candidates for the profession. Schools of library science usually at the graduate level, are on the lookout for young persons of native intelligence, general competence (initiative, resourcefulness, reliability), broad cultural background, pleasing personality and, wherever possible, knowledge of some specialized subject. For such persons, librarianship offers an interesting career.

As a profession, librarianship aims at service. Only those persons should be encouraged to enter the field who are interested at least as much in opportunities to help others as in a suitable salary and satisfactory conditions of work. Librarians-to-be should, of course, like books. They should know something about books. They should also like people and be able to work well with people. Good physical health and a certain amount of vitality are also required.

Candidates who are young in spirit, resourceful, energetic, and show promise of becoming community leaders can find openings to-day. Opportunities for persons of varied interests have greatly multiplied in libraries in our own country and in foreign service. Libraries also need directors, as well as librarians of specialized collections. Public libraries need reference librarians and readers' advisers to answer the "who-where-when-why" questions people are asking more frequently every day.

Librarianship as a career has room for as wide a variety of personal qualities and individual interests as any other vocation. Most people think library service consists only of dispensing books at the circulation desk. This is an illusion. Opportunities for interesting and exciting work behind the scenes abound in all but the smallest libraries. Cataloging, for example, is a branch of service calling on all the intellectual qualities of a scholar. The cataloger is responsible for analyzing and cataloging books in such a way as to interpret the collection to anyone using the library. Facility with languages, broad cultural knowledge and principles of logic play a strong part in this type of work.

#### UNLIMITED OPPORTUNITIES

At present there are unlimited opportunities for libraries to make available for recreation, inspiration, reference and research the contents of books and allied communication media. The

demand for subject specialists who are also trained librarians is acute. Medical libraries and, in fact, all kinds of science-research libraries, such as those in physics, chemistry and biology, are crying for librarians who have a knowledge of languages, a background in the appropriate sciences and familiarity with the bibliography or literature of specialized fields. Many students would therefore do well to add professional training in librarianship to their knowledge of a specialized field. The law librarian who is a lawyer as well as a trained librarian can give greater service to his library and interpret its collections better than a non-lawyer librarian. The same is true of librarians who are themselves trained in the social sciences.

People who like to work with children and adolescents have unlimited openings as things stand, and no end of opportunities in the future. This holds true especially on the elementary level and in departments in the public libraries for children and young people. Dealing with teachers and children and young people, helping them to select the materials related to the school curriculum, guiding young minds in reading for recreation and inspiration are some of the joys of this work. Allied activities, such as story-telling, preparation of exhibits and displays and participation in and planning for radio and television programs enrich the life of such a librarian. A teacher who, as a trained librarian, can also function as a full-time or part-time librarian in a school will be able to correlate and integrate class-room instruction with library materials.

The training required for librarianships in schools—high schools, junior high schools and elementary schools—is increasing, especially in those states and cities which have library supervisors. The elementary school library is in its infancy. With the present rapid growth in elementary schools the demand for elementary teachers who also are trained librarians will also grow.

The person who has administrative abilities and some business background can aim at the position of director of a college, university or public library. A director is entrusted with the preparation of annual budgets which, in the larger institutions, can run into hundreds of thousands of dollars. The handling of large staffs and the application of the principles of organization, admini-

nistration and management play a great part in the lives of the busy present-day directors of college, university and public libraries. In universities and colleges the librarian ordinarily has faculty rank. He works with all departments and all divisions of the university and is usually responsible directly to the president of the institution. A doctorate in a subject field plus a degree in library science, or a doctorate in library science is more and more becoming a requirement for university librarians.

Those who like to roam the countryside can become book-mobile librarians. Here, too, a candidate must fulfil the general requirements for any librarian. Book-mobile librarians, ordinarily serving rural communities, provide reading guidance, answer questions of all kinds and furnish all the joys of Christopher Morley's bookman in *Parnassus On Wheels*.

The research librarian is more important than ever before. He is needed in industry, in government, in universities and in many special-purpose libraries. His task is to locate information and to assist in scholarly investigations. The research or "special" librarian acts as a clearing-house of information because around him is built up an information centre not only of books but of all other types of materials related to his field. Opportunities for such a career exist in manufacturing concerns, newspaper offices, corporations, banks, law firms, advertising and insurance agencies, hospitals, government bureaus and social-welfare agencies.

All of these fields are witnessing a progressive growth of libraries which demand information experts who combine specialized knowledge and library training. Any one who has had successful college work in any of these fields, provided he adds the requisite year of study in librarianship, can make himself very useful and can provide for himself an interesting and fairly well-paid career. The fast-moving economic, scientific and social changes which are occurring throughout the world require this type of service more than ever before. The demand for it will tend to increase rather than to diminish.

Selection of books and related materials for a library—another specialized form of librarianship—is a highly developed art. It calls for a broad erudition, critical attitudes and competent awareness of the present-day book demands of one's public. The



acquisitions of order librarian, as he is called, therefore has an interesting career, especially in university and public libraries. To decide what books, periodicals and other materials to buy requires a systematic business approach and an analytical and discriminating mind. The order librarian works constantly with publishers, booksellers, jobbers. His duties include deciding on the use to be made of gifts, the handling of exchange materials and the supervision of the budget and of book-keeping records.

The kinds of work librarians do are almost innumerable. Audio-visual librarians, for example, select films and recordings, often operate rental film services, direct servicing of equipment and conduct film forums. Many large libraries also have public-relations directors. They conduct newspaper columns or radio and television programs on books, edit library publications (such as reports, book-lists and other publicity aids and releases) and keep closely in touch with community leaders by appearing on platforms of local clubs and other civic groups.

Government service offers expanding openings for librarians. Opportunities to work in information centres throughout the world are growing for those who have a knowledge of foreign languages. These information centres work closely with the Department of State and help to interpret the American way of life to foreign peoples. Our armed forces have civilian sections devoted to librarianship, in camps both in this country and in occupied territories abroad. Many departments and agencies of the Federal, State and local Governments have their own libraries. They need librarians who are qualified both in library science and in the particular field in which the department or agency works.

#### CHALLENGES OF LIBRARIANSHIP

Librarianship is a challenge to every college graduate, whatever subject he majored in, because he can combine librarianship with any subject interest, from art to zoology. Librarianship is a profession on which all other professions depend because the librarian serves all types of persons—doctors, teachers, lawyers, journalists, theologians, engineers, merchants, soldiers, social workers, industrialists, labour groups, government officials, students and home-makers.

As our national interests continue to expand, our libraries will continue to grow. More and more people have been educated to use and depend on library services at schools, in their communities, and at universities. Libraries have become a part not only of our "cultural" lives, but of our day-by-day professional and business lives.

The growth in popular use of libraries gives evidence of this growing importance of the people who work in them. At present 7,400 public libraries, with a total of over 125 million volumes, serve more than 100 million people in their communities. Each year these libraries add 7 million new volumes among their patrons and spend over 65 million dollars to carry on their activities. They employ over 40,000 workers, of whom over 15,000 are professionally trained. Comparable figures can be tabulated for the ever-growing libraries of schools, colleges, and universities. Add to these the ever-expanding government services, at home and abroad. More states are developing regional libraries on the book-mobile basis all the time. Many city and county library systems are trying out the same experiment. Librarians are in demand—all types of librarians for all types of libraries offering all kinds of services. *The librarian is a key person and the demand for key persons steadily grows.* This is particularly true of librarians who are subject specialists, or who have special capabilities such as administrative training or knowledge of foreign languages. Although most librarians are women, the field is promising for men.

ALA has made the world conscious of the need for well-trained librarians to direct the important, even indispensable, services libraries provide. If it had done no more than this, its contribution to the greatness of America would merit an accolade.

# TECHNIQUES FOR THE RESOLUTION OF CULTURAL CONFLICTS

GEORGE YEISLEY RUSK

## I.

The history of man's deepest thought about his experience consists of an interminable series of doctrines which formally are abstract and consistent and yet which materially contain mutual and self-contradictions. The reasons for this unfortunate situation are as follows. In an endeavour to be self-consistent, thinkers have considered it necessary to think more or less abstractly, that is, to *ab-straho*, to draw out, as bases for the organizations of the various extremely complex fields of experience, one characteristic of each of the fields. But the organization of a complex field by means of only one of its characteristics can never do full justice to the field, although it must claim to do so and therefore it must be basically *self-contradictory*. Later thinkers, seeing the unsatisfactory nature of previous systems, choose different characteristics as the bases for their organizations of the fields, of various parts of them, and perhaps of adjacent ones. The later organizations must, therefore, differ from the prior ones or parts of them. But at the level of man's deepest thought perfect consistency, rationality, formality, and therefore abstractness must be sought for. Therefore at this level *differences* between doctrines, when made the bases of organizations of experience which do not acknowledge limitation of point of view, which they rarely do, must be conceived of as *mutual contradictions*.

The above are the basic facts about man's basic thought. Throughout the ages, it is true, however, that in an endeavour to overcome their basic contradictions, thinkers have, in various forms and to various degrees, reached beyond the various single characteristics of the fields of experience which they have employed as the bases of their organizations, and have, in a secondary way, recognized in their organizations other characteristics of those fields. Thus the thinkers have decreased the

basic inadequacies—self-contradictions of their organizations ; but thus they have also increased the number of the secondary, but more obvious, contradictions within them. These latter contradictions have lain immediately at hand for criticism by later thinkers, who have not been slow to take advantage of any openings thus afforded them.

How has man dealt with these contradictions when he has applied philosophy to his empirical experience and how should he do so? In the first place, individuals and groups have employed elements of the contradictions to give objective justification for their special economic interests and for the demands within them of their parts of the sub-conscious dynamism of mankind. This method should be discarded as essentially chaotic, that is, without structure. In the second place, certain intensely integrated contradictions have been listed as insoluble elements in logic, for instance, by C. W. Churchman in the chapters on "Logical Paradoxes" and on "Conflicts Between Logic and Other Sciences" in his *Elements of Logic and Formal Science* (Lippincott). This method should be discarded as rapidly as the solution of logical paradoxes and conflicts can be arrived at, and some progress is constantly being made in doing so. In the third place, some thinkers have systematized contradictory elements as thesis, antithesis, synthesis. Such systemization is correct, but in itself it is perfectly formal and sterile, because it provides no objective grounds for the choice of the elements, and because they are in no wise influenced, as the result of their choice, to yield to us any specific new truth. This method should be used only at the first stage of thought to aid the thinker to become aware of the most diverse material which he should use in the course of his use of the following two methods.

In the fourth place, thinkers in the various fields have at times posited realities which partially absorb prior contradictions. Thus J. W. R. Dedekind posited irrational numbers when he found that he involved himself in contradictions when he attempted by the prior rational numbers to deal with the points which make up continuity. And the Pharisees posited a future life in which iniquity will be punished when they realized that it is not adequately punished in the present life. This method should

be used when it supplies solutions for otherwise insoluble problems without raising more serious theoretical or practical ones. It is an intermediate method of philosophy and science but the final method of the arts *per se*.

In the fifth place, individuals have quite empirically, but therefore only partially and uncertainly, restrained the elements which compose contradictions by the empirical facts to which they have been applied, and together the contradictions and restraining facts have yielded up all of the scientific laws and formulas which have made possible man's survival and his evolution. The increasing use of this method should be the aim of all philosophical and scientific thought. The final synthesis of the fourth and fifth methods, together with the emotional and practical re-actions of the individual to the finding of those methods, is religion.

How can we aid man in the discard of the first method, in the achievement of freedom from the necessity of retaining the second method, in the restriction of the third method to a preliminary use, and in a growing use of the fourth and fifth methods? We should produce at least a logical frame which recognizes contradictions as permanent characteristics of thought, which yet provides a constructive relationship between them, thus progressively overcomes them, and fuses them with man's empirical, emotional and creative experience. Thus Henry M. Sheffer has established a universal symbolic logic upon inconsistency and pattern. (A bibliography to 1950 appears in *Structure, Method and Meaning: Essays in Honor of Henry M. Sheffer*, Henle, Paul, et al., eds., Liberal Arts Press, pp. xv-xvi). And W. D. Oliver in his recent *Theory of Order* (Antioch) has discussed ambiguity as a characteristic of thought and the merely relative separability of ideas; he has employed fields for his thought, for he has emphasized the moveable barriers which thought must posit to make itself possible: all of which involve self-contradictions; and he has applied his epistemology to basic philosophical and scientific doctrines.

The present writer has expressed the interrelation of the rational and irrational *per se* in terms of a structured gestalt; has applied the resulting philosophy to several specific scientific problems; and most recently has inaugurated a project which will implement the gestalt philosophy. The purpose of this project

is by the use of library symbols to place next to each other, in the time-space of a gestalt, conflicting items and their supporting material, and thus to facilitate the resolution of the conflicts. Such a resolution of conflicts can never be complete because, as we have seen, thought requires at least implicit contradictions; but in so far as progress is made toward the resolution of the conflicts, the elements of the contradictions will be restrained, measured, adjusted, and ultimately will constitute *formulas*—symbolic or contentful. Thus the standard for philosophical and scientific thought which we named above will be met. Such a process of the adjustment of the conflicting elements of culture must be called the *organization of culture*.\*

The reader may have been trained to believe that only physical objects or processes, or mental processes conceived as correlated with physical ones, can be measured and so expressed in the proposed formulas. We must therefore call attention to the support which Baldwin's *Dictionary of Philosophy and Psychology* and the *Oxford Dictionary* give to the conception of measurement as the mutual restraint of elements, and hence of contradictions, as we have presented them above. The support is as follows:

- (1) "that which is the subject of measurement is not a concrete object, but an attribute or condition associated with the object" (Baldwin, "Measurement");
- (2) measure is "an extent not to be exceeded; a limit" (Oxford, "Measure," noun 12, 13); and
- (3) to measure means "to limit or restrict" (Oxford, "Measure," verb 1b.).

The putting of contradictory items next to each other with their supporting material would aid in the resolution of the conflicts involved. This is true, primarily, merely because it would aid people to know, and to know very exactly, all of the conflicts in the fields of their specialization and all of the published evidence, on both sides of the conflicts from which a wise resolution of the conflicts could be effected. But this is not the only aid which such placing of material would supply. The fact that such organization

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\* Expositions, applications and proposed implementations of the gestalt philosophy of the writer have been presented in his papers cited in the Bibliography at the end of the present paper.

of culture would aid in its *measurement* would encourage the use of all of the means of unit-measurement available in any field, and it would encourage the progressive renouncing of abstract theoretically consistent systems and the adoption in their place of formulas of mutually restrained elements. And more specifically, the organization would progressively instruct man in the common aspects of the objects in the various parts of experience and hence in the remaining unlike aspects for expression in restrained formulas. The organization would progressively exclude from consideration superficial, really irrelevant, factors. But at the same time the irrationality of space in which the organization occurs would encourage the recognition of pertinent conflicting empirical factors where they exist.

As we have suggested, the putting of conflicting objects next to each other would *aid* in the resolution of cultural conflicts, but it would not do so automatically and so completely. Thus if one scholar claimed that the supporting material required a certain solution for a problem, others might not agree with him. Yet we should point out that if the proposed plan for organization were widely adopted, scientific writing would be prepared to fit into it and scholars would be trained to use it rapidly and efficiently. Presently the definition of the elements and the determination of the relationships in all science would approach the clarity of that which is now characteristic of symbolic logic, and hence the possibility of disagreement among serious thinkers would constantly decrease. A. N. Whitehead and Bertrand Russell in their *Principia Mathematica* (2nd ed., vol. I, p. xv, Cambridge University Press) write :

"It should be stated that a new and very powerful method in mathematical logic has been invented by Dr. H. M. Sheffer. This method however, would demand a complete rewriting of *Principia Mathematica*. We recommend this task to Dr. Sheffer, since what has been so far published by him is scarcely sufficient to enable others to undertake the necessary reconstruction."

When the clarity of all sciences approaches that which is now characteristic of symbolic logic, we may hope that many thinkers will be enabled sufficiently to realize where truth lies and will be sufficiently inspired with a disinterested love of truth to be willing

to honor their colleagues at their own expense as Whitehead and Russell have done in the above quotation.

Fortunately the very electric machines which, as we shall see, must be employed to carry out the use of the gestalt (spatio-temporal) philosophy in the resolution of cultural conflicts, themselves move in space and time and employ spatio-temporal concepts.\* Thus the Hillyer Instruments (*Scientific American*, 186 : 3, Mr. 1952, adv., p. 6) provide servo-mechanisms which "are bred with computers, controls, and simulators to : program and re-program events ; perform continuous and discreet sampling ; control processes to specification ; [and] collect and reduce data to action." All of these processes imply space and time.

And also fortunately the means now being worked out for the improvement of scientific thought imply the gestalt (spatio-temporal) method of thought, and that thought may be symbolized and put upon the electric machines, thus making them more efficient. A number of scholars are now constructing methods of achieving accuracy in definition, at least to the point of diminishing returns. Thus they recognize that the definitions are not absolute, in conflict, but fade into each other in the ultimate spatio-temporal *continuity* or gestalt of experience.

Other scholars are constructing inter-linguistic scientific languages. The one in which the present writer is most interested is Semantography, by C. K. Bliss. It consists of a comprehensive system of pictographs which may be read by each person in his own language and so is universal. The present writer doubts that this system will ever become the basic language of any people. To be adequate for such a use it would require the addition of too vast a number of symbols to be used. It cannot be written fluently, and the combination of its basic parts into symbols and its symbols into sentences must always take time and

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\* An introduction to the work of these machines may be secured by reading the following books and those referred to in their bibliographies. Berkeley, Edmund G., *Giant Brains or Machines That Think* (Wiley).

Aiken, Howard H., et al., *Proceedings of a Symposium on Large-Scale Digital Calculating Machinery* (Harvard).

Hartree, Douglas R., *Calculating Instruments and Machines* (Illinois).

Murray, Francis J., *The Theory of Mathematical Machines* (King's Crown).



thought. It seems as if it will never be able to express the subjective, connotative, tenuous, inspiring, or mystical aspects of thought. Yet although its symbols must become vast in number, they are composed of a few standard parts which can be recorded on electric machines and by them the parts can be combined into the special sets of the relatively few symbols needed for particular calculations, and then the symbols can be manipulated by the machines with great speed and hence efficiency. So used for the expression of standardized, precise and unemotional material, it would be valuable in effecting an increase in the precision of the material for the following reasons. It would lead the minds of men to concentrate upon the fundamental, universal, identifiable meanings in their languages. It would drop from thought the irrelevant irrationalities of the spellings and grammars of the various languages. It would enable men to think of their experience without prejudice, unemotionally. It would enable men to prepare the products of their calculating machines at one time for all mankind. It might come to be used also for other highly important, specialized, standardised material, e.g., philosophy, scientific reasoning, diplomacy and international military dispatches.

Semantography can greatly increase its powers by the adoption of the symbols in use in specialised sciences, in the above techniques of definition, in symbolic logic, in mathematics, and in comparative grammar. For the last, Otto Jespersen in his *Analytic Syntax* (Levin and Manksgaard, Copenhagen) has devised symbols to express all of the essential interrelations of words and of their parts, generally in both advanced and primitive languages. (These should be distinguished from the *specific* interrelations of elements to be listed on pages 15-16).

For the organization of culture it is not enough to have at one's disposal the above symbols; one must also use a correct logic. Traditional inductive and deductive logic can be expressed symbolically and recorded on electric machines, but they are so formal that they leave out the empirical *matter* of experience and so in themselves are of slight usefulness. However, Martin Gardner ("Logic Machines," *Scientific American*, 186: 3, Mr. 1952, pp. 68-73) has assured us that machines have been set to employ

even traditional logic to solve complex problems in insurance and to set electronic computers. President James B. Conant in his *On Understanding Science* (Yale) has listed the actual psychological processes by which science does its work of resolving conflicts in thought. Because these processes do justice to the empirical matter of the gestalt of experience their symbolization and recording upon electric machines would enable those machines to employ inductive reasoning much more efficiently than does the recording of the symbols of traditional logic, at least such recording alone. The present writer in his *Logic and Mental Conflicts*, which he has arranged for publication by the American Documentation Institute, initiates a revision of deductive logical forms which would enable them to do justice to the continuity (hence the empirical matter, the gestalt ontology) of experience. These forms also could be recorded on the electric machines to enable them to save deductive symbols, when recorded, from being too abstract for valuable use.

During the past century the sociologists and then the psychologists by exact discrimination, sampling, and the like, have to a high degree determined the generality of the stimuli in their investigations and experiments, but *not* the generality of the subjects stated or vaguely implied in those investigations and experiments.\* This fact has kept these sciences from coming into accord with relativity, physics and with the gestalt philosophy of the present writer, and hence from achieving such refined truth as to make possible agreement among the workers in these fields. Consequently, a major need of the present hour is the conduct of the vast research needed to determine the generality of the subjects in sociology and psychology and then in philosophy. To carry out this research with adequate speed, the use of electronic machines is obviously essential. When this has been done, cultural conflicts will (directly) be overcome, and, as a result, there will be a

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\* For a detailed exposition of the need for and the method of effecting subject generalization in psychology consult :

Hammond, Kenneth R., "Relativity and Representativeness," *Philosophy of Science* 18: 3, July 1951, p. 208 f, Williams and Wilkins.

Brunswick, E., *Systematic and Representative Design of Psychological Experiments*, California, 1947.

sufficient scientific consensus to make possible the construction of the Master System of Classification to be advocated in the present paper as a means of still further resolving cultural conflicts.

On the whole, therefore, we may anticipate that the machines to which in the remainder of this paper we shall commit the resolution of cultural conflicts, will constantly undertake more and more sections of human thought and carry on their work with ever greater efficiency.

## II.

How shall we secure an adequate set of symbols for the proposed designation and organization of culture of such a vast extent as to cover all of culture and to do so in such detail as to be helpful even to specialists in the various fields of learning? We can, first of all, upon securing permission, combine all of the systems of library, scientific, abstracting and patent classifications now in existence, for instance: the Decimal, the Congressional, the Bibliographic and the Colon Systems; the Outline of Cultural Materials; Chemical Abstracts; the Classification of Patents; the Classed Catalog of the Engineering Societies Library, the Catalog of the Peabody Museum Library at Harvard University. A scheme has recently been devised which allows for 9,600 variations in types of classification. (Evans, Luther, H., "Bibliography by Co-operation," *Bull. Med. Lib. Assoc.*, 37, July, 1940, pp. 197-212). The use of such a scheme for the unification of all current systems of classification would enable the valuable characteristics of each system to be preserved in that system even when they cannot also be spread over the other systems. The resulting comprehensive system would suggest how each of its systems should be expanded to fulfil its possibilities in the overall scheme. Where two systems basically overlap, only the preferable one need be adopted in the comprehensive system, thus greatly reducing its bulk without reducing its comprehensive value. Where any final item, that is, one without distinctive sub-heads, expresses merely a relationship between two to fifteen other items, distinctive sub-heads need not be added. The elements which make up the item can be put on punch cards, stee tape or motion pictures and their function in the precise location of supporting material without thereby cluttering up the master

system of classification. (For an exposition of the methods of using cards, tape and pictures, cf. Perry, James, W., "New Horizons in Scientific Information Techniques," *Revue de la Documentation* XVI (1949) Fasc. 3.) Indeed, the use of cards, tape or pictures could vastly expand the relationships which might be based upon the master system, but could do so without expanding the system itself at all, for even the simplest hand operated devices, such as the individual scholar could maintain in his own study, can use cards which can express conveniently up to sixteen items.

Obviously the present writer cannot in the present paper undertake the combination of all present systems of classification. He can only present the reasons for the urgent need, the great value, and the general method of doing so, and recommend that such organizations as the following undertake this work as their reasonable service to society in our age of supreme cultural conflict: The Committee on Organization of Information, the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, the American Library Association, the American Documentation Institute, the International Federation of Library Associations, the Philosophy of Science Association, and the American Philosophical Association. But in the present paper the writer can, and so should, supply one illustration of how the proposed master system for the organization of culture can do justice to relationships by means of distinctive sub-heads. This he will do in the appended list of relationships between elements of experience. He will present as appropriate for listing in a printed book a mere dual relationship; but, as we have seen, relationships on cards, tape and pictures may conveniently be composed of at least sixteen elements. As his illustration he will provide merely a suggestive list of distinctive sub-heads for the relationship of literature to sociology, psychology, ethics, philosophy and religion, and rhetoric. They may in the master system be listed first under literature and then successive parts may be listed under the appropriate other headings.

The comprehensive system of classification, so far as we have as yet described it, is to be developed from present systems, which deal at least essentially with *elements* of experience, and

from the *relationships* between those elements. These elements, however, have some *aspects* universally or largely in common. The application of a few score of these aspects to the elements of experience to which they are appropriate would enable the student himself to analyse the elements into extremely small particles. In such particles any inherent conflicts would stand out with extreme clarity, and their supporting material could be precisely looked for and could be easily discovered by the use of tables of contents and indexes to books and articles—increasingly so as books and articles were written to be useful to the comprehensive system of classification. Increasingly, almost automatically, the conflicting elements of the particles would become mutually adjusted, restrained and measured to express the solution of the conflicts in restrained formulas—for such people as wish to arrive at truth. Or at the very least the material would suggest the precise experiments and studies upon which the desired formulas could progressively be constructed and thus meet the standard which we have named for philosophy and the sciences.

Because the writer knows of no such list of the aspects of experience as he envisions, he has prepared one for the present paper. However, it will obviously not be possible for him in the present paper to list *all* of the aspects of experience nor even those which experimentation through the years will prove to be most valuable for breaking into particles of microscopic size the classes of objects given by our combined system of classification. At present we do not know even how those classes of objects will be defined. Therefore here we can present only a few aspects of experience which seem to the present writer to be important in themselves and illustrative of the different sorts which experiment through the years will include in a much larger list. We have not been able to find any perfectly satisfactory order in which to arrange the aspects. They have so many inter-relationships that if they are arranged to do justice to some of the relations, they ignore others. But rarely would one need to use all of the aspects; always they would be used singly; and therefore the order of arrangement of the aspects could have no influence upon their usefulness in granulating the classes of objects to which applied, but only upon the ease of finding a desired aspect whose exact

name is unknown, for those whose names are known could be found in an alphabetical index to the systematic list.

Finally, to bring out the conflicts which underlie human culture we have constructed a list of standards by which the truth or falsity of statements may be tested. Again, we do not claim to have presented all of those standards, and hence we must depend upon later experiment to complete our list. However, we must remember that all irrationality is ultimately one as expressed in various terms, and therefore that additional terms will probably not reveal any irrationality which, with sufficient ingenuity, could not have been disclosed by the use of some of the given terms. Perhaps we should here state that we do not mean that the master system of classification, even with these logical standards, will work automatically: that because one thinker claims that a given proposition violates a standard of thought, the author of the statement will immediately agree. But we do mean that the use of those standards will still further narrow the subject at any time under discussion and will define with great clarity the *essentials* of the differences of opinion and the material by which they could be resolved in restrained formulas. Thus by the use of standards the resolution of cultural conflicts will receive its final and supreme aid toward the automatic functioning, toward which, as we have seen, the whole master system moves.

A serious practical situation has always militated against the development of such a comprehensive and minute system of classification as the writer has proposed above: the fact that librarians do not need it and would have difficulty in using it. The library reader does not need such a system to locate the books and articles which he needs. In fact, librarians now think that it is better for the reader to run over a rather wide range of books before settling down to a serious study of a few of them; certainly to read the full text of any book and not be induced *a priori* to concentrate upon minute aspects of single sentences of it. But what is more important, every book covers a multitude of the symbols of the proposed minute system of classification. All of them could not be placed on appropriate books, and certainly no book could be shelved, in accord with all of them. These considerations, however, are obviously irrelevant to the need for and the practicality of a comprehensive-minute system of symbols for the analysis of culture and

a resolution of its conflicts. Librarians should look beyond their traditional tasks and contribute their skill in classification to the construction of the proposed system—as an essential public service in our age of cultural crisis.

Indeed, the comprehensive-detailed system which we propose, because not limited to the needs of marking and shelving books, would have this great advantage over all present library systems: it could list every item of experience under all appropriate headings, not merely under one or a few arbitrarily chosen ones, thus hiding the item from people who approach it from other standpoints and suggesting an unjustified special interpretation of it, — for instance, the placing of psychology under or next to biology rather than under or next to philosophy, or *vice versa*.

But, we must finally ask, would not the proposed master system be too voluminous for publication and too unwieldy for use? The largest individual system of classification which has been constructed to the present time is the *Dewey Decimal Classification* (14th edn., vol. 1, Forest Press). It employs 1860 pages for listing items, the average page, we estimate, carrying 60 items; thus the volume contains approximately 112,000 items. Let us suppose that the number of items in the proposed master system which are concerned essentially with the *elements* of culture, after duplications and mere relationships had been eliminated and deficiencies had been filled out, would be five times that number, that is, 560,000 items on 9,300 pages. Let us consider first the possibilities of the simplest hand-operated devices. As we have seen, these devices can express the above items taken from

two to sixteen at a time. That means:  $(560,000)^{16}$

$= c. 5 \times 10^{78}$ . Now let us suppose that two additional pages are devoted to 120 items which express *aspects* of experience, and two pages are devoted to 120 items which express the *standards of validity for human thought*, thus supplying us with 240 items on four pages. These items would be for the free use of scholars with regard to the above items expressing elements of experience and their relationships. The terms for aspects and standards should not be merely *added* to the foregoing items for elements and

relationships in order to express the analytical power of our master system; but should be multiplied by them. Thus we arrive at the following formula for the size and consequent power of our master

$$\text{system: } 240 \frac{(560,000)^{16}}{1.2 \dots 15.16} = c. 1200 \times 10^{78}.$$

What does this formula mean? In all probability there are not in the universe so many particles as this formula represents, and *a fortiori* not so many classes which man will need to study in his experience of composite objects, their relations, aspects and standards.

So much, then, for the possibilities of the simplest hand operated devices. But monographs, as yet not published: (1) "Development Program for Machine Indexing," by J.W. Perry, and (2) "Applicability of Newer Electronic Techniques to Information Searching," by P.R. Bagley and J.W. Perry, both writers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, describe electronic machines being developed there appropriate for institutions to install. These machines employ magnetized spots on steel tape, which can search 8,000 documents a minute. But much more important, the machines can search for specific points under their generic terminologies, thus making clear the meanings of the specific points (1, p. 19), for instance, realism under mediaeval rubrics as well as realism under modern ones. Items may be grouped "as to the general type, that is, whether a substance, a process, an attribute, a mathematically defined concept, etc." (1, p. 3). The machines "can show the interactions between several entities, their attributes, other attendant circumstances, and effects" (1, p. 4). Thus they can do full justice to the implications of the doctrine of relativity; of the Brunswick-Hammond conception of psychology as systematic multi-variation in a "carefully designed universe of conditions" (cf. Hammond, K.R. "Relativity and Representativeness." *Philosophy of Science*, July 1951, pp. 208-217); of the interactive gestalt philosophy of the present writer; and of the comprehensive logic which preceded our modern split between its deductive and inductive forms and a preference in practice for the latter. Grammatical relations can be indicated by verbal endings, as in Latin, as opposed to their indication by the uncertain word order of



English (1, p. 23). Mathematical correlations may be indicated by the employment of statistical analysis (2, p. 13). The material corresponding to all of the criteria on the tape may be sought for or only some of it, in whatever complicated pattern may be demanded by the problem under consideration (2, p. 5). "Frequently used machine settings could be kept in readily available form as a file of punched cards." (2, p. 10). Even present machines print lists of the document numbers which supply all of the information available for the solution of the problem under consideration; but contemplated machines would produce photographic reproductions of filmed documents (or parts of them) which are needed, so that the searcher would have before him only that material which would be most relevant to the solution of his problem (2, p. 9; 1, p. 10).

The powers of such a machine can scarcely be estimated: they are virtually unlimited. They enable the machine to employ all of the items of the proposed master system of classification and to note vastly many more constituents of human experience which, explicitly or implicitly, have been recorded in human culture. They can bring these constituents to bear upon the analysis, the definition, the restraint in formulas, and hence (as we have seen) upon the solution, of any current cultural problem, and the resulting progressive achievement of a common culture. Man may freely proceed with the progressive construction of a culture with its conflicts resolved because nature has provided that the very means of doing so are essentially mere headings, unrestricted in number, which can never take sides in any dispute, and thus they may serve to the end of time the cultural freedom of every citizen of the democracies of the world.

## PROPOSED MASTER SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION (IN PART).

INTRODUCTION: NAME OF ITEM: LIBRARY, ELEMENT, RELATION,  
ASPECT AND JUDGMENT DESIGNATIONS.

I Elements — from current systems.

II Relation — illustration of distinctive sub-heads.

Literature:

Sociology—conditions in life of writer; conditions in contemporary society; effects on other writers; effects on

social reform ; adequacy of description of social and cultural scene ; adequacy of description of conflicts—family, neighbourhood, friends, social class, classes, occupational group.

Psychology—effect of psychology of writer ; adequacy of description of motives ; adequacy of description of psychological problems : personality conflicts, effects of environments, feeling of inferiority, self-pity, introversion, loneliness, sympathy, extraversion, ambition, effects of subconscious effects on reader — emotions, personality.

Ethics — evaluation of characters by each other ; evaluation of characters by author — verbally or by fates assigned ; attitude of author to man — sentimental, detached, misanthropic, pessimistic, heroic.

Philosophy and Religion — attitude of author to man's relation to the universe, to his earthly fate, to conflict, suffering, death, sin, moral development, redemption, vindication, worth, responsibility, purpose, destiny.

Rhetoric — selection as an example of its type, similarity to works by same author ; by other authors ; diversion from monotony and problems of real life ; characters—vividness, consistency, development ; setting and preconditions ; plot — validity, structure, episodes, continuity ; means of conveying information ; use of sounds, pictures, rhythm ; choice of words, denotation and connotation ; sentiments, moods, humor.

III Aspects — to reduce size of elements, not to pass judgment.

Definitions, restrictions, exclusions, amount, time, place, language.

Methods of Production — material, psychological, rational, aesthetic, moral.

History — data, equipment, leaders, institutions, theories, popular experience.

Methods of Analysis—elements, properties, defective forms.

Internal Relationships—spatial, structural, temporal processes, causal.

- Environment—physical, psychological, theoretical, causal.
- External Relationships — implications, concurrences, structural movements, processing, effects, functions, applications, purposes, techniques, pragmatic judgments.
- Meanings, logical judgments, aesthetic judgments, moral judgments, unsolved problems, deductive research, inductive research, systemization.

IV Standards—for judgment to reveal conflicting opinions.

Sociological — pertinent conditioning, education, relations to other beliefs of writer, organizations, society how supported, government, freedom of research, methods of research, methods of communication, influence.

Psychological—intuition versus explication, concentration versus range, subjectivity versus objectivity, sensitivity—physical, social, attitude to contending views, nature of communication, required grounds of agreement ; objectives, claimed advantages, range of appeal, extraneous incentives, validation of emotions—anger, ridicule, irony, domination, humor.

Logical—knowledge of exact contention and application, errors of facts, facts ignored, justified abstraction, organization — significant bases, exclusive equals, inclusive sums, sums of equals, arrangement—accepted, defined, inferred; continuity—explicit, implicit, formal standards :—*cf.* especially Creighton, J.E., and Smart, H.R. *An Introductory Logic*, 6th Ed., Macmillan : deductive fallacies, pp. 198-223, inductive fallacies, pp. 344-362 ; and Reichenbach, Hano, *Elements of Symbolic Logic*, Macmillan.

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Expositions, applications and proposed implementations of the gestalt philosophy of the writer have been presented in the following ones of his papers :

“General Mensurational Gestaltism,” *Philosophy of Science*, July, 1949, pp. 250-259.

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"The Methodology of Social Psychology," *The Journal of Social Psychology*, 1941, pp. 3-89.

"The Spiritual Nature of Man: A Study in Catholic Psychology," *The Journal of Social Psychology*, 1948, pp. 151-158.

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"Salvaging Physiological Psychology," *The Philosophy of Science*, April, 1946, pp. 123-130.

"The Resolution of Cultural Conflicts and A Master Classification," *Abgila*, March, 1951; for a List of Corrigenda consult the writer.

"Co-operative Research in the Science of Religion," *Philosophy of Science*, July, 1951, pp. 259-261.

"Gestalt Psychiatry," *Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology*, January, 1935, pp. 376-384.

"The Comprehensive Method of Analysis," *South Atlantic Quarterly*, July, 1938, pp. 328-333.

*Logic and Mental Conflict*, American Documentation Institute, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. This paper presents a list of the basic contradictions which underlie human thought and contribute to mental conflicts, and proposals for a revision of logical forms to enable them to express the continuum (and so the gestalt) of experience and therefore to mollify the contradictions which contribute to mental conflicts.

Order Document 3852, pages 97, American Documentation Institute, Library of Congress, Washington, 25, D.C., remitting 4.25 for microfilm (images one inch high on standard 35 mm. motion picture film); or 12.50 for photostato readable without optical aid.

# ON THE FUTURE WORK FOR THE COMPARISON OF CLASSIFICATIONS

F. DONKER DUYVIS

A quarter of a century is rather a long period of creative work in a man's life, it is not an important period in the course of constructive activity of a collectivity. It is the more amazing how in this short time the science of the book and its use have grown in India to a level which made that the voice of India penetrated through the whole world of librarianship and that the old Eastern wisdom gave a rejuvenating impulse to those who are in the service of disseminating knowledge and promoting intellectual co-operation.

This silver period of the Madras Library Association reflects the purity of the Eastern standard metal and the clearness and depth of Eastern thought which has so much impressed the Western searcher trying to establish a science of systematization.

The confrontation of the results of Eastern and Western research on the philosophy of classification leads to the discovery that notwithstanding differences in expression of thought there is a strong relationship between concepts and logical constructions developed on both sides.

Just in the cases where analogy if not identity of such concepts or constructions of the two so different origins are evident, it may be assumed that they are based on objective truths, in so far as objectivity in human science is possible.

Ranganathan and his collaborators as well as the undersigned and other Europeans working together have started by making an analysis of the document and tried to synthesize the elements resulting from the analysis to a system showing hierarchical and logical order.

The activity of the first group leads to the development of the colon classification, the search of the other one to the establishment of a complex of rules serving to evolve the Universal Decimal Classification to an improved system which fulfils some practical logical requirements.

As fundamental schemes for this latter work should be chosen the scheme of hierarchical relationships in classification and the scheme of categories resulting from the analysis of a document.

As an example the schemes serving as a tool for development and evolution of the UDC are given as annexes.\*

It is obvious that such schemes are susceptible to modification as well as to the terminology used as to the arrangement of the various elements.

For example, the terms "contents" and "containant" may be replaced by "intrinsic factors" and "extrinsic factors" by "essence" and "form" by "inner characteristics" and "outward appearances." Whatever terminology is used the notions covered by this terminology remain the same.

If, however, we abstain from considering the terminology, it appears that the essential features of the elements resulting from the analysis are not so very different in schemes developed by various authors. But it is worth while to put them side by side.

In so far as the results of the analysis made by various groups of workers correspond with one another we have an objective indication that the conclusions of the investigations made independently from one another are reliable.\*

In so far as they differ and sometimes show differences in principle there should be a warning that perhaps we are on the wrong track.

If we try in a co-operative spirit to find out the analogies and the differences in existing schemes it may be a long but a sure way to come to positive results. It is in this spirit that the International Federation for Documentation wanted to establish a committee dealing with the comparison of classifications.

I am glad that our admirable friend Ranganathan has accepted to lead this perhaps most difficult activity of the International Federation for Documentation, viz., the work for general and comparative classification, and I am not less glad that this work is

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\* In a somewhat other form they are to be found in "F. Donker Duyvis, The UDC: What it is and what it is not," *Review of Documentation* XVIII (1951) fasc. 2 pages 99-105.

morally supported by the organisations of our friends and colleagues in India of which the present jubilating association is such a valuable example.

I wish full success to this attempt to improve mutual international understanding.

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## ANNEXURE I

### *Relationships in classification :*

#### SUPER-ORDINATION :

Preceding symbol  $\times$  in case symbols for common features or points of view are used.

#### ADDITION :

Symbol for direct connexion /, symbol for indirect connexion  $\div$

#### CO-ORDINATION :

Usual symbol : and any other symbol except X and [ ]

#### SUBORDINATION OF CLASSES :

Any symbol except : and X

In the case of using divisions of main tables (primary objects) [ ] are used as symbol for subordination

#### SUBORDINATION OF INDIVIDUALS :

*By name ;*

Symbols A/Z

*By individual indication ;*

Symbols : Individual numbers or other symbols.

#### INTERGALATION :

Interposition of a homological chain in a chain appertaining to another category so that it is subordinated to the first part of the other chain and super-ordinated to the second part of the other chain.



## ANNEXURE II

*Elementary features resulting from the analysis of a document*

<p>Degree of complexity</p> <p>Primary objects Symbols 0/9</p>	<p>{ Multiplicity Symbol/and Individuality Symbols A/Z and other individual indications, General individual Symbol x</p> <p>{ Origin (Causal point of view) Development Finality (teleological point of view)</p>	<p>{ Theory or speculation Symbol '001 Realization Symbol '002 Intrinsic value Economy Symbol '003</p> <p>{ Application and use Symbol '004 Equipment Symbol '005 Special layout Symbol '006</p> <p>{ Personnel Symbol '007 Organisation Symbol '008 Social relationship Symbol '009</p> <p>{ Matter Symbol bol : 002'3 Action Symbol bol : 002'2 Means Symbol bol : 002'5</p>
<p>Relationship</p>	<p>{ General relations Symbol : (colon) Features of relationship (Point of view) Symbol '00.</p>	<p>Immanent features</p> <p>Eminent material features</p> <p>Eminent immaterial features</p> <p>Material form</p>
<p>Special common features</p>	<p>{ Special common features of broad scope Symbol - Special common features of limited scope Symbol '0.</p>	<p>Symbol -f Energetical form Symbol -8 Abstract form Symbol -i</p>

Contents...

Contents  
(Contd.)

Space (topology) Symbol (1)

Cosmo-topographical Symbol (\*)  
Geo-topographical  
Abstracto-topological Colon Symbol :

Physico-geographical Symbol (2)  
Stratigraphical Symbol (111)  
Geographical and Historo-geographical Symbols (3/9)

Time (chronology) Symbol "

Paleological Colon Symbol :  
Historo-chronological Symbols "-/2"  
Phenomeno-chronological Symbols "3/7"

Race and personality.

Race Symbol (=)  
Personality Symbol -05

Contentant (material and spiritual form of documents).

Form of document Symbol (o)  
Language Symbol =  
Topological and chronological status Symbols (.) and " "

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# DR. RANGANATHAN AND THE STUDY OF CLASSIFICATION

J. MILLS

The British student of classification, if preparing for the examinations of the Library Association, is required to study five systems of classification. The Colon Classification is not among them. But to attempt to study classification today without referring to the teachings of Dr. Ranganathan would be a difficult, if not abortive, task.

The pioneer in the teaching of classification in Britain was Berwick Sayers. His text-books, still widely used, reflect the theorizing on 'natural order' which distinguished earlier writers like Richardson rather than the more empirical approach of, say, Wyndham Hulme. The two approaches are also apparent in America—the latter in the development of the Library of Congress classification and in such text-books as Margaret Mann's, the former in the formidable investigations of Bliss, who appears to have waged a solitary battle against the evident preference of American librarians for the dictionary catalogue and their scepticism regarding the possibilities of detailed, systematic order (reflected notably in Grace Kelley's earlier work).

In Britain, the teaching of classification has sometimes tended to dwell over much on the processes of logical division and on the "Conflict" between knowledge classification, book classification, based on the assumption that recorded knowledge is somehow quite a different thing from (unrecorded) knowledge. One merit of Dr. Ranganathan's work is that it diverted attention from this rather barren controversy by concentrating on such problems as hospitality and development in book classifications.

Bliss, in his theoretical work, has pointed out how complex and variable is scientific (and thus book) classification compared with the relatively simple schematic requirements of logical division. But whereas, for Bliss, this implied overlapping classes

and the extensive provision of alternative placings, Ranganathan has a rather simpler solution — that of a single 'preferred order.' Nevertheless he does face the problem, and its implications for book classification are nowhere seen more clearly than in the Colon Classification, in which the mechanical processes underlying the construction of a book classification are shown for all to see. It is this that makes it such a valuable instrument in the teaching of the subject.

The questions a student must ask himself when constructing classifications of any subject are :

(1) What are the main categories into which the material falls? — in Ranganathan's terms, what are the facets of the subject, e.g., in compiling a schedule for psychology two clear categories, 'person or group concerned' and 'psychological problem' are apparent. This gives the relevant characteristics of division to be used — Entity and Problem.

(2) In what order shall these categories go? Book classification is a *serial order* and the complexities of branching classification must be reduced to this order. So, shall books on psychological problems (e.g., Personality, Sensation) precede or follow books on the entities concerned (e.g., infants, social groups)? One answer, to this is that the *last* category such as "personality trails in infants" are best collected under the category "person or group concerned"; then this would be the last category in serial order. Although this is a fundamental question in practical classification, the enumerative classifications are surprisingly unhelpful in their answers. A glaring example (one of many) is found in the Class 328 'Legislation' of the Decimal Classification. Of the two main categories 'Legislative Systems' and 'Problems' there is no provision for collecting compound subjects (e.g., Procedure in the House of Commons) under the Legislative system concerned (here, the British system) which would be clearly, the most helpful arrangement. In the Colon Classification, this problem is answered explicitly in each class by the order of facets in the facet formula.

But this does not complete the assistance in this problem given by Ranganathan, who also provides another formula for the ordering of all facet formulae, based on the theory that any facet, in whatever subject, can be considered a manifestation

of one of five basic kinds, displaying the concept either of Time, Space, Energy, Matter or Personality. If this order (of increasing concreteness, from time to personality) is followed, and if in the case of compound subjects the more concrete category is the dominant one (*i.e.*, the one under which the compound subjects are collected) then a helpful order will be achieved.

This formula is not only a useful standard by which a student can measure the treatment of a subject in other schemes but it affords a principle by which the placing of books within these schemes can be made simple and more consistent and such codes as Merrill's made to some extent superfluous. When measured against the complexities of subject material to be found in books such a formula may seem to over-simplify the problems involved. But it has proved very fruitful in many cases and its use with the D.C. by the British National Bibliography has resulted in a consistency which might otherwise have proved very difficult.

(3) In what order are the sub-classes within a category to go, *i.e.*, what is to be the order of the foci in the facet? Logical division gives no guidance here, being concerned only with the establishment of the different kinds of a thing, not the relative order of those kinds in an array. The Helpful Orders of Ranganathan again provide a valuable standard by which a student can examine existing schemes or construct new ones.

(4) How is the problem of relativity in classification to be solved, *i.e.*, how to provide for different needs and circumstances? Bliss's solution is to provide alternative placings and treatments. Ranganathan's solution is to make the alphabetic subject-index to the classified catalogue display all those aspects not displayed by the single preferred order of the classification. His emphasis on the vital functions of this index is a valuable one for cataloguing students, especially when we remember the deplorable practice of many libraries of providing a classified catalogue and not providing an index to it, merely relying on the inadequate printed index to the general schedules.

The economy in indexing effected by chain procedure is not a new discovery — the heavy type used in the Relative Index to the D.C. for all subjects further sub-divided in the schedules implied much the same principle. But Ranganathan's

systematic method of achieving such index entries (and also subject headings for a dictionary catalogue) should now be an important element in the training of a subject-catalogue. It does not dispense with flair — the subtleties of language and the illogicalities of subordination in classification schemes makes this still a desirable attribute of cataloguers. But chain procedure minimizes the need. An appreciation of the significant part played by some of Ranganathan's teachings in the education of classifiers and cataloguers should not omit to mention the strong light that he has shed on the problems of notation. Twenty years ago the accepted view of notation was still that of a mechanical auxiliary to a book classification of about the same importance as, say, its generalia class. That we have to-day a clearer awareness which has not merely shown how a notation can act as a strait-jacke in the development of a scheme but also how this threat can be met by faceted notation, octave device and unscheduled mnemonics.

But the influence of Dr. Ranganathan on the study of classification and cataloguing is more than the result of tireless investigation of, and prolific invention of solutions to, the complex problems associated with the subject; it springs also from his clear awareness of its proper relations to the rest of the librarian's studies and to the bold and graphic language which reflects so happily his own infectious enthusiasm.

## THE WIDER USES OF LIBRARY CLASSIFICATION

BERNARD I. PALMER

It is an indisputable fact that the preponderance of numbers of people engaged in public library work over those engaged in all other kinds of libraries during the formative period of library techniques has led to the public librarians' outlook being adopted as that general to the profession. The fact that the public library was itself in swaddling clothes at the period of the evolution of techniques has left us today with a number of rather primitive tools and attitudes with which to deal with a much more complex problem.

Probably the most notable phenomenon in the library world in the second quarter of the twentieth century has been the emergence in considerable numbers first of research librarians and, latterly, of industrial librarians. These have been recruited in part from the ranks of librarians, in part from scientists, and in part (especially during World War II, a great forcing period) from educated refugees seeking asylum. The combined experience of these trained and untrained persons in dealing with the problems of a library service, whose *major* task is the provision of a specialised counterpart of what the public librarian calls "the readers advisory service," has led to a re-examination of the accepted techniques of librarianship, and their utility has been the subject of much questioning.

Simultaneously, the growth of the many libraries founded in the nineteenth century has, in accordance with Ranganathan's fifth Law,<sup>1</sup> led to enormous accumulations of books whose catalogues (produced in accordance with codes designed in the "primitive" period) have assumed nightmare proportions. The maintenance of these catalogues has become a problem of major importance.

Library Classification, which can truly be said to have begun with Dewey, was first seen as a practical method for grouping books

1. Ranganathan, S. R. Five laws of library science, Madras L. A. 1931.

on the shelves, but the shrewd man of Lake Placid soon saw other potentialities, when he suggested its use for the construction of catalogues<sup>2</sup>. From this seed sprang the plant we call the classified catalogue, a plant which is reaching maturity as is evidenced by the recent appearance of the British National Bibliography.

We begin now to see that the problems of classification of the special and industrial library are different both in degree and kind from those of the small town public library. We also begin to see that whereas the experience of the former can help the latter, the latter has little to show the emergent special library. This topic has been considered in relation to under service in a recent monograph published in Britain.<sup>3</sup> It falls to the present writer to consider it here in relation to classification.

We can, at this stage, distinguish three spheres of activity in which library classification can be utilised, in ascending importance in their value to the librarian :

1. The maintenance of order among books on shelves, (and fugitive material in vertical files).
2. The systematic organisation of recorded information through the classified catalogue (which is not merely the provision of systematic arrangement, but of alphabetical arrangement where this is most helpful— several classified catalogues in fact !)
3. Reference service, *i.e.*, in analysing the exact nature of a request for information.

In the United States discussion of classification tends to centre around the first of these activities. The predominance of the dictionary form of catalogue tends to restrict the use of classification to the arrangement of books on the shelves, which does not call for a high degree of differentiation between subjects in the smaller public library ; but which calls for unattractively long class marks in large libraries. Discussion therefore seems to

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2. Dewey, Melvil. Decimal classification 14th ed. Introduction. New York, Forest Press, 1942.

3. Foskett, D. J. Assistance to readers in leading libraries. London, Clarke, 1952.



polarise around the inadequacy of classification for the discovery of the full resources of the library in any subject, and its insufficiency, for notational reasons, for ordering large collections of books. The first gives rise to studies such as Kelley's<sup>4</sup>, and the second to repudiation of classification as a bibliographical tool.

In Great Britain, where the classified catalogue has been tried out with varying degrees of success and enthusiasm, culminating in the BNB, glimpses are caught of the greater value of classification as a bibliographical tool. There is greater recognition in this country that library classification (*i.e.*, systematic order) does not stand by itself, but is part of a greater whole which may be described as the organization of knowledge, and for which the name of "Applied Systematics" has been suggested by Vickery of the ICI Butterwick. To organise adequately a collection of recorded information, a catalogue of two parts is required.

1. A systematic part, which sets out knowledge in a series of common relations which subordinate the parts to the whole, and arranges the various facets of a part in a pre-determined order.
2. An alphabetical part, which "classifies" items in alphabetical order of their authors or originators, by their distinctive titles in the same order; and subjects by their common names, showing each in its specific relations and collecting under one heading the distributed facets which may be scattered up and down the systematic part.

*Examples of distributed facets collected in alphabetic section.*

(1)

- Cereals : Agriculture 633.1
- Cereals : Agriculture : Economics 338.1731
- Cereals : Cookery 641.631
- Cereals : Food processing 664.7

(2)

- Human figure : Drawing 743.4
- Human figure : Painting 757

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<sup>4</sup> Kelley, G. O. The classification of books. N. Y., H. W. Wilson, 1937.

Human figure : Photography 779.611

Human figure : Representational art 704.942

Human figure : Sculpture 731.732

Of the third use of classification, in reference service, little has been written and even less understood (save intuitively by the best librarians) anywhere in the world. Ranganathan has drawn attention to it,<sup>5</sup> and it is suggested by Foskett,<sup>6</sup> and hinted at by Kelley<sup>7</sup>. Yet this is probably the most valuable use of classification. If one may be pardoned a military analogy, the first and second uses of classification are like the supply lines of an army, whilst the third is the fighting arm. In the attack on ignorance (in its widest sense, including the satisfaction of active enquiry), the classificatory approach is the most potent weapon. As an example, let us postulate an enquiry phrased as "Have you any information on diseases of plants?" Our first question should be "Are you interested in diseases of plants generally, or in diseases of a specific plant?" If the answer indicates the first, we should proceed to discover whether any special disease is the focus of interest. If the answer indicates the second we should ascertain the plant which is the subject of the enquiry, and subsequently the particular disease. Perhaps the enquiry would resolve itself into a request for information on fungoid diseases of tomatoes.

By intelligent use of the classification scheme we should now be able to trace any relevant material ; (1) Under *tomatoes* and its sub-division *diseases* ; (2) If unavailing, under the general heading *diseases of plants* ; (3) If still without success, under general works on fruits ; (4) Finally under general works on horticulture. This systematic approach, made possible by the use of classification, ensures that we look at various sources according to their degree of appropriateness. It is efficient.

Obviously the efficiency of the method turns upon the standard of efficiency of the classification scheme used to organise the

5. Ranganathan, S. R. *Classification and communication*. Delhi, Univ. Press, 1951.

6. Foskett, D. J. *op. cit.*

7. Kelley, G. O. *The classification of books in retrospect and in prospect: a tool and a discipline* (in Randall, Wm. ed. *The acquisition and cataloguing of books*. Chicago Univ. Press, 1940).

resources of the library both in regard to shelf-order and the catalogue. Since a higher degree of efficiency is required from a classification scheme for the cataloguing and reference service activities than for merely arranging books on shelves, our judgment, of the efficiency of a classification should turn upon its effectiveness for these purposes rather than for its convenience for shelving books.

Unfortunately, most criticism of classification schemes (as has been pointed out) turns upon their convenience for shelving books, and not ordering knowledge. The writer would suggest that this is a pointless procedure at this juncture in library development. We should examine classification schemes from the view point of their sphere of greater value, leaving the sphere of less value to take care of itself. After all, the greater includes the lesser.

Classification schemes should be examined, therefore, to see the extent to which they meet the following requirements.

1. Exhaustiveness ; both actual and potential.
2. Co-extensiveness of notation with the specific subject of the item to be classified.
3. The display of inter-relations between subjects normally conceived as separate but uniquely revealed as connected by a thinker of originality.
4. Reflection of these points in notation.
5. Ability of resultant class-mark to be analysed on the "chain procedure" in an alphabetical sequence.

1. **EXHAUSTIVENESS.**—No classification scheme which sets out to enumerate specific subjects can possibly list all existing aspects at the time of compilation, let alone those yet to come. This was early recognised in connection with temporal and geographical sub-division, and Decimal Classification recognised this by making its geographical tables applicable throughout the scheme. Subsequent schemes have adopted this principle to a major or minor degree for space and time. Only Ranganathan in his Colon Classification, and now UDC., in its new Metallurgy schedules have attempted to give this facility in respect of other facets. Only the Colon Classification has made this principle, of rejecting enumeration of specific subjects in favour of the naming of constituent elements, the cornerstone of its construction.

2. **CO-EXTENSIVENESS.**—This depends upon the foregoing: if a classification is not completely exhaustive, its notation cannot reflect completely every subject: new ones can hardly be accommodated even. Notation requires to be related to constituent elements, and built together by means of indicator symbols to give meaning to each group of digits (*cf.* the symbol 09 as one means of use for grafting geographical numbers in D.C.)

3. **DISPLAY OF INTER-RELATIONS.**—It is increasingly found by research workers that one field of human activity illuminates another (*cf.* psychology and religion), or that a tool devised by one discipline may be used by another (*e.g.*, statistics in biology, or sociology) or that one activity affects another (*e.g.*, bibliotherapy). A classification scheme which fails to recognise this, fails altogether in the modern world. At a late stage, D.C., introduced 0001 to show such relations, and UDC. has its own relational sign (the colon). Again, Ranganathan's scheme (having the advantage of late entry) makes provision for these *phase-relations* (as he calls them) as a major feature.

4. **REFLECTION IN NOTATION.**—An enumerative scheme cannot show in its notation the results of its exhaustiveness, since it lacks that quality. By use of 0001, some sort of number can sometimes be built, and, by use of 09, time and space can be fairly exhaustively shown in D.C. But at what cost in digits, and clumsy, construction! BNB. has shown a method of further sub-dividing D.C. numbers alphabetically, by the introduction of the sign [1]. Bliss is inclined to give up the struggle early; when faced with the choice between long class marks with co-extensiveness, and short numbers with approximate identification, he opts for short numbers. It seems to reveal an approach to classification which has petrified in the primary (or "books-on-shelves") stage. The only form of notation which can hope to keep pace with modern knowledge is one which is keyed to fundamental constituents of specific subjects, which is provided with accretive symbols for number-building to meet each specific subject as it arises, which can expand illimitably both vertically and horizontally to meet growth in knowledge by sub-division of existing subjects and discovery of new co-equal ones, and which can provide for the interlinking of hitherto totally unrelated spheres of activity. Again, although vestiges of these

attributes are to be found in D.C., UDC., Bliss and even Brown as arbitrary ancillaries to the enumerated schedules, they are recognised and consistently used only in Colon.

5. ANALYSIS IN AN ALPHABETICAL SEQUENCE.—In theory, the successive digits in a class mark read from left to right lead us by gradual steps from the general to the specific, with no jumps or omissions. This, to be quite accurate, demands co-extensiveness of class-mark and specific subject. Reference has only to be made to the catalogue of practically any library to show how seldom this ideal is realised. Yet it is of vital importance if we are to organise knowledge in our cataloguers' in a systematic manner, and not haphazardly according to the cataloguers' flair, and even more, if our reference service is to be efficient, both in saving time and producing all the goods, and not only part of them.

The compilation of the alphabetical subject index of a classified catalogue should exactly reverse the process of the systematic part, beginning by indexing the end digit first, and proceeding from right to left, digit-by-digit, until the whole content of the class mark has been indexed. Only thus can we ensure that at whatever level the enquirer starts, he can be referred to the appropriate part of the systematic section of the catalogue, where the systematic order (carefully signposted by features as in BNB.) itself guides him downwards to his more specific subject or upwards to the more general one he requires. Only a properly articulated scheme of classification can do this unerringly, allowing each distributed facet to be shown in its proper context automatically, without some "prodding" from the cataloguer. It is doubtful whether any scheme yet exists which is perfected to this extent. Yet in Great Britain the enormous efficiency of the classified catalogue has been demonstrated in many fine examples, all of which are keyed to the unsatisfactory Decimal Classification. The efficiency of a classified catalogue, and of the classificatory approach in reference service, is conditioned by the efficiency of the scheme employed. Even with D.C. excellent work has been done, at some cost; but how much better would our tools be if we had a scheme which was nearer to our true needs!

To leave this subject at this point would be to diagnose a complaint and offer no cure: hardly a valuable contribution.

What is needed now is a new classification scheme, not because Bliss has made an inadequate map of knowledge, but because it is a map that is falling out of date. Not because L.C. has been unable to accommodate new subjects, but because at the present pace in the growth of knowledge it becomes increasingly irksome and delaying to be compelled to refer decisions as to placing of men subjects to a central authority. Not because UDC., cannot *somehow* show relationships between our area of knowledge and another, but because it does so clumsily, and with a prodigal expenditure of notation.

What then is needed? An analytico-synthetic scheme of classification which recognises an adequate number of main classes, not squeezing them all into 9 or 26 according to the digits available in an established series; which shows sub-divisions of these main classes divided into the major facets relating to the fundamental groupings, Personality, Matter, Energy, Space and Time which permits of phase relationships being built up in a clear and recognisable manner; which has a notation reflecting faithfully and economically all of these features; and which gives the maximum autonomy to the classifiers and cataloguers in their daily work.

Where is such a scheme to be found? The only one which makes any pretence at meeting most, if not all of these demands is the Colon classification of S.R. Ranganathan. How far it would satisfy our needs is a matter for investigation. So far as the present writer knows, the scheme is in use in a handful of libraries in India, whilst only partial use has been made of it outside that country. Mr. Foskett, of the Metal Box Company, England, has used the method to his own great satisfaction for his files, and a lead research organisation in U.S.A., employs it with. In each case the area of knowledge concerned is a quite small one — packaging and lead metallurgy — but the system has proved equal to the intensive demands made upon it. The autonomy given to the user of the scheme is such as to ensure that expansion takes place fully where it is needed and *only where it is needed*.

The prototype of any piece of apparatus is, however, at best to some degree experimental. As successive ideas occur to the designer he can graft them on, but those who come after him in the field can utilise the lessons to be drawn from his after-thoughts.

and design an apparatus that incorporates in its basic structure those features most valuable to the purpose in hand. Thus Ranganathan benefited from the work of Dewey, Cutter, Brown, Bliss, I.I. de B., and UDC. Thus we can hope to gain from his works.

In Britain today there is a small group of persons who are actively interested in the problem of providing a new classification scheme. They meet at irregular intervals and circulate papers. Up to the present they have been concerned to examine in some detail the basis of Ranganathan's work, with the object of testing its soundness. The next step will be to do the dull experimental work of classifying some thousands of entries by Colon, in order that conclusions may be drawn as to the user-usefulness of the order it produces and the other criteria set out above. After this will come the step of recommending action, and endeavouring to get the recommendations implemented. A long-term affair.

In India, Ranganathan himself, together with his faithful band of students — one is tempted to say disciples — continues to polish away at the technique he has devised, and from time to time one of his papers comes to the West to be circulated from hand to hand until it is ready to disintegrate. He publishes the results of his work in *Abgila*.

What goes on in U.S.A.? Too many of the papers one reads seem to reflect a growing despair, and a tendency to throw up all hope of controlling the records of knowledge, falling back on the inadequate alphabetic subject arrangement, with its system of cross-references based, in the final analysis, on an early edition of Decimal Classification.

Why should it be so important to produce a systematic order which is quite firm in its method? Because, in our work of organizing knowledge we need a technique for revealing and associating its various parts in various ways. Even more in our work of exploiting recorded knowledge, it is imperative that we should know how to proceed in our search for records of the parts of a requested piece of information, and we can only do that if we have a technique which ties up with the one used for recognising recorded knowledge. Systematic order, backed by an alphabetical index offers a technique for both storing information helpfully, as finding it again quickly.

# LIBRARY CLASSIFICATION

P. N. KAULA

## INTRODUCTION

Classification is all-pervasive. No phase of life escapes it. Nothing in the world escapes it. All along, man has been classifying from childhood onwards. Time, Space, Action, Attribute, Matter and Personality are all subjected to classification. This universal practice of mankind made the Library profession see advantage in organizing recorded knowledge in a classified manner. Step by step it proceeded to represent each subject by a distinct individualising ordinal number. It has not yet achieved this fully. Even as far as it has been done, it helps in the mechanisation of the maintenance of preferred arrangement among reading materials.

### I. BEGINNINGS

The first librarian to do this was that genius Dr. Melvil Dewey. He did it with remarkable success. He did it in 1876 when he was only a lad of 21. Later followed C.A. Cutter, J.D. Brown and the Library of Congress. Each added some new helpful feature. UDC (=Universal Decimal Classification) embellished the core of DC (=Decimal Classification) with several attachments. Thereby it secured greater hospitality. It also carried individualisation further. It was able to meet even the needs of the organisation of micro-thought embodied as articles in periodicals.

### 2. INDIA

#### 21. *British Period*

In the British period, India was so depraved and idle that it preferred things brought on board the ship. It depended on Austrian umbrellas, Japanese toys and Manchester cloth. Even its very salt, it imported! It seldom exerted itself to make things of its own. Its sensitiveness got blunted. It did not see any damage to self-respect in such utter dependence on others. Though many still continue this pre-independence mentality, pioneer souls that are so to speak its apical buds, have shaken off this pathetic attitude.



22. *Gandhian Period*

The dawn of this movement began at the turn of the present century. It went by the name *Swadeshi* movement. Mahatma Gandhi took off the element of hatred from this movement. He converted it into a movement for self-dependence, self-reliance and self-sufficiency. He made India seek to be a gentleman among nations — never take from others more than what it gives to them.

23. *Back-Log*

It is true that the library profession has not yet begun to live this Gandhian standard fully. It is true that a majority of its all too few members are still succumbing to inertia. They keep paying homage to "foreign made" techniques. But even here, they neither understand them correctly nor apply them properly. Their inertia makes them fondly delude themselves that all is all right in the foreign schemes, because they originated in the West. However, the renaissance of India had not left the library profession totally in the back-log of this lethargic plight.

## 3. MADRAS

The most virile of the apical buds in the sphere of library classification was raised in the soil of Madras—the very soil which in the mediaeval days had produced giants such as Sankara, Ramanuja and Madhva in the sphere of fundamental thought.

31. *Colon Classification*

1933 is an epochal year in the field of library classification. It was in that year that the Madras Library Association brought out the Colon Classification, a creation of its prolific Secretary, Dr. S. R. Ranganathan. This scheme was at once hailed by the most sensitive in the library world as an original, flexible, scientific and most hospitable scheme. W.C. Berwick Sayers, the first grammarian of classificatory language, said: "It is universally interesting as a study of an original kind in classification methods." *Library Association Record* added "The result is most perfect." *Nature* admitted that the scheme was "both elastic and comprehensive." Such an appraisal by foreigners was too disquieting to some Indian librarians.

32. *New Era*

CC (= Colon Classification) set a new era in the history of library classification. The ready-made class numbers in the rigid enumerative schemes of the past are unhelpful and inhospitable. An analytico-synthetic scheme was the need. The CC demonstrated its possibility. Its chief feature was Facet-analysis which gives hospitality at many points.

## 4. CORNER STONE

In 1937 the Madras Library Association published the *Prolegomena to Library Classification* again from the fertile pen of Dr. Ranganathan. This book is a corner-stone in the edifice of the theory of library classification. For the first time it started a comparative study of classification schemes. It also formulated an elaborate set of Canons of Classification. The *Library Journal* described it as a "philosophical dissertation of a mathematician and a scholar." The *Library Association Record* remarked that it "constitutes perhaps the most comprehensive statement of principles yet published." The *Year's Work in Librarianship* regarded it "a quite substantial treatise — a valiant attempt at a re-statement of theory and practice."

## 5. PRACTICAL GUIDE

The first edition of CC was exhausted very soon. The second edition was published in 1939. A separate part was added in this edition giving about 3,000 examples. But this did not meet the needs of librarians eager to apply the scheme. To meet this situation, the Madras Library Association brought out in 1944 the *Library Classification; Fundamentals and Procedure* with 1008 graded examples and exercises. This was again from the pen of the same Master Architect in the domain of Library Science. The book was again the first treatise of its kind on practical classification. It is a valuable practical guide not only to librarians but also to the teachers and students of Library Science.

## 6. STREAM OF NEW THOUGHT

But these two books published by the Madras Library Association are not the only outcome of the creation of this new scheme. It has been the basis for further thought and development in the field of classification. *Elements of Library Classification*, 1946, (Bom-

bay), *Philosophy of Library Classification*, 1951, (Delhi) are volumes exclusively devoted to the theory of classification in the light of the basic principles brought to light by CC. In 1951 Bernard I. Palmer, Education Officer of the British Library Association, and A. J. Wells, Editor of the *British National Bibliography*, published their *Fundamentals of Library Classification* through Allen and Unwin to interpret the CC and its methodology to the western world. The literature on CC is increasing year by year. There are over 150 articles on this scheme of classification published in various periodicals. A bibliography of these articles has appeared in *Abgila* 2, 1952, 167-172. Indeed the CC has started a stream of new thought in library classification.

#### 61. *Depth Classification and Documentation*

CC has not stopped with this. It has proved its usefulness not only to macro-thought embodied in books but also to micro-thought embodied in articles appearing in periodicals. In other words it lends itself to be adapted to the needs of documentation more than any other scheme. It is being reinforced in several ways to serve the depth classification needed to meet the demand of documentation. This has given rise to research in library classification in several countries of the world.

#### 7. PILGRIMAGE

##### 71. *To Madras*

It was this scheme of classification which brought me down from the beautiful valley of Kashmir on a pilgrimage to distant Madras in 1945. This was contrary to our ancient tradition. It is more usual for pilgrims to go from South to North than the other way about. But here was a Kashmiri, raw youth of 21, going South on a pilgrimage for the first time in his life. Not only that, I was the first and the only Kashmiri to go to Madras to get the light of Library Science. When I reached the Madras University Library after a week's bus and train journey in the blazing heat of June, I found to my dismay that the author of CC had left it. His successor in the library asked with an implied disapproval why I had come to Madras when training was available at Lahore, Banaras, etc.,—and at Lahore only six month's part-time course! "To have the light of Colon Classification" was the reply that

I gave to silence that librarian ; and I know that it has proved a real light to me.

### 72. To Banaras

This put me back on the track of tradition. I went to Banaras—the hoary pilgrim centre *par excellence*. I was able to take my seat in the Department of Library Science of the Banaras Hindu University which was presided over by the author of CC. Since then, I have been perusing it and growing with it. It made me migrate to Delhi to continue contact with its author.

### 8. MADRAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

It is a matter of joy for us and particularly for me to participate in the Silver Jubilee celebration of the Madras Library Association. The Association has produced literature to revolutionise the field of library classification. Not only that. It has brought India to the topmost position in the world-map of Library Science.

#### 81. *Promise of the Future*

The literature produced by this Association has provoked new literature on itself. In other words, the publications of the Association have become classics. This gives a measure of the promise of the future.

#### 82. *In India*

In India a Library Research Circle has been formed in Delhi. A dozen eminent librarians are regularly meeting on every Sunday between 3 and 7 p.m. to carry classification to deeper levels. Its investigations are regularly appearing in the *Abgila* since November, 1951. The University of Delhi has recognised the fundamental nature of this new discipline. This is the only University in the Commonwealth to institute a Master's Degree course and a Doctorate in Library Science. It has already enrolled two candidates to work for Ph.D. in Library Classification.

#### 83. *Outside India*

The influence of CC has crossed the boundary of this sub-continent. In Great Britain some British librarians are seriously studying this system and have even produced literature on it. In Australia a Colon Study Group has been formed for carrying the subject further of their study of this system. All these keep

in touch with the homeland of CC. A letter received on 19th March, 1953, from the Colon Study Group in Adelaide, states, "Progress was slow at first but is becoming more rapid as our experience with the classification increases. *Abgila* is of course most important to us."

84. *In International World*

The FID (=International Federation of Documentation) has now assigned "General Theory of Library Classification" to the care of India. There is need for a permanent institution to continue the work so well begun by the Madras Library Association. That Association, the Governments in India and Unesco and its non-Governmental associated bodies—the International Federation of Library Associations, the International Federation for Documentation and the International Standards Institution—should plan a scheme for establishing such an institution under international auspices.

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## OUR DEBT TO INDIA

A. J. WELLS

On the occasion of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Madras Library Association it is fitting to recall some of the ways in which Indian Librarianship has influenced British ideas and practice. This paper is a personal account of the effect of Ranganathan on the *British National Bibliography* and to some extent on British thought and practice in regard to subject cataloguing and classification in general.

It was in the last months of 1945 that B. I. Palmer and I renewed a friendship which had been interrupted by five and a half years of war. Palmer was full of his experiences at the Madras University under Ranganathan who was then little more than a name to most of us in Britain. There was one thing about Palmer which impressed me so much that I often referred to it then and am frequently conscious of it in retrospect; it was an uncanny ability to demolish the difficulties of the Dewey Decimal Classification and to build up a classification framework for any conceivable subject with unerring ease. It took me months of reading and many disputations with Palmer over the traditional pint of English beer to realise that this was no trick of eastern occultism which had given him an encyclopaedic knowledge unknown before in this century, but the application of a simple formula, or, perhaps more correctly, the recognition of a fundamental pattern in man's thinking and therefore in the way in which he studies and writes his books.

Encouraged by Palmer, I made the study of *Prolegomena to Library Classification, Library Classification: Fundamentals and Procedure* and *Classified Catalogue Code* and, though sharply aware that a theory of classification was involved as different from the traditional British theory as black from white, it seemed at once too simple and too complex. Here was an almost naive formula—Personality, Matter, Energy, Space, Time—within which the whole of recorded knowledge was alleged to be bounded and there on

the other hand was a complicated theory which gave rise to such concepts as hospitality in chain and array, octave device, and a whole host of others. Could such simplicity and complexity exist together?

It was Ranganathan himself who, on a visit to England in 1948, finally convinced me that there was nothing irrational in his approach to classification. I remember the pleasure with which some colleagues and I heard him construct detailed schedules for the classification of Dressmaking. As he sat in a room in my house and wove his classification pattern from the warp and weft of the various trains of characteristics it seemed impossible that he had not spent half his life in a dressmaker's shop or a textile factory!

Ranganathan, with a modesty quite unnecessary, suggested, on one of his visits to England, that someone should rewrite his works in a language likely to be more readily assimilated by Western readers. This implied criticism of his own works was, I think, unfair. The acceptance of so many of his terms in current British discussions of classification suggests that his style was the inevitable outcome of a theory with many new concepts. Nevertheless, Palmer felt that a book which brought within easy compass for the English student the chief points in Ranganathan's theory of classification could be written. I, it seems, had remarked to Palmer that the time for a new approach to classification was long overdue in Britain; that for too long our students had been nurtured on the classification of clean and dirty rags when their studies should have equipped them for the classification of the records of human knowledge. Together, therefore, we set about the task of writing the *Fundamentals of Library Classification*.

The writing of this short text-book was a greater education to us, its authors, than to anyone who may chance to read it. A few weeks after sending the manuscript to the publishers we felt in a position to begin writing the book which we should have written in the first place!

In 1949 I had the honour to be entrusted with the editorship of our new *British National Bibliography*. The four years spent in studying the works of Ranganathan, the extraordinary sense of power induced by discussions with him on his visits to England,

and the discipline of writing—in collaboration with Palmer—the exposition of his system of classification proved a wonderful apprenticeship for the task.

Britain has favoured the classified catalogue for many years and some examples already existed upon which the *British National Bibliography* might have been modelled. I had decided, however, to introduce three techniques into the new National Bibliography which I had learnt from Ranganathan and which, so far as I know, had not been systematically used in Britain before. These were: detailed featuring, chain indexing, and the imposition of the facet formula on the D.C. schedules.

All three of these techniques had been fully discussed by Ranganathan by 1949 in his several text-books and Palmer and I had turned the facet formula on D.C. in our *Fundamentals* and decided that though D.C.'s was not an articulated (faceted) notation, it was possible to impose the facet formula upon it. In any case, if chain indexing was to be undertaken, a consistent pattern in the classified part, such as that produced by the facet formula, was essential.

During 1950 it was not possible to implement all these techniques, but the fact that we were not able to do so gave the staff of the *British National Bibliography* greater opportunities to study the problems which the application of the techniques to the D.C. involved before committing ourselves to print. By 1951 we were ready and able to apply them.

The first problem was how to make a D.C. number co-extensive with the subject of a book. This problem arises frequently with the D.C. not only because of the lack of numbers for new subjects, but because of the structure of the classification which makes it impossible to construct numbers for multi-faceted subjects. The usual method of treating multi-faceted subjects in an enumerative classification is to allow the cataloguer, at his discretion, to make multiple entry at the different numbers for each facet. It can be readily imagined that the law of parsimony frequently gains the day when there are any doubts on grounds of economy! In fact, to make multiple entry for every multi-faceted subject would be an economic impossibility, not to say exceedingly clumsy.

Even had the D.C. Board been agreeable to allowing the *British National Bibliography* to add its own digits to basic D.C.



numbers, this would not have solved the problem because the D.C. notation in most cases makes expansion impossible at the appropriate place. We solved the problem by adding a digit in brackets [1]. In this way we successfully marked it off from the basic D.C. number. But at the same time created a brand new digit whose rank we were able to define as lying between 0 and 1! Thus the inability to add actual digits to D.C. numbers became a blessing in disguise. We created a new digit which we found we could insinuate between 0 and 1 exactly the spot at which we needed it!

The symbol [1] by itself was not significant. It had to do in every case where a number was not co-extensive, and this meant that it might be called upon to designate many new foci. Here featuring itself was brought to our rescue. We introduced the rule that arrangement after [1] should be alphabetical by feature. For example :

636.71—Special Breeds of Dog

636.71(1)—airedale terrier

636.71[1]—Borzoï

636.71[1]—Collic

If further divisions of a focus were necessary the whole chain of features had to be given, thus :

623.86[1]—Compasses

623.86[1]—Compasses. Magnetic compasses.

623.86[1]—Compasses. Magnetic compasses. Deviation and adjustment.

It will be seen that verbal extensions, as these have been called, have a limited use, and we are worried as to how much longer we can continue this method of propping up D.C. (The practical use of such a device with a fully faceted classification might be for the temporary allocation of new subjects pending final authority for the introduction of new digits.)

Alphabetical arrangement of foci after [1] is a negation of systematic order and, while in many cases it does not as yet give rise to great inconvenience, in some cases it has already done so. Here we have re-edited these sections and arranged the entries in a systematic order, although there is no notational equipment to guide either the editor or the enquirer searching the catalogue.

This, of course, is a grave difficulty for the editor but presents little or no difficulty to the enquirer. It is my opinion now that once the enquirer reaches the area of his search he throws away notation and relies on the systematic order proceeding in harmony with his conscious or sub-conscious recognition of the way in which his subject breaks down. I say it is my belief *now* advisedly, for I remember hotly contesting this with Ranganathan. Experience has changed my opinion. Nevertheless, I do not recommend the abandonment of notation! It is a necessary help to the editors. The symbol [1] is nothing more than a makeshift. It has brought a temporary lease of new life to D.C. and made it possible not only to introduce new subjects but, what is perhaps even more important, to superimpose on the enumerative structure of D.C. the pattern of the facet formula. Probably few of those who use the *British National Bibliography* realise that its order is determined by Ranganathan's facet formula, but I am convinced that the success that the *Bibliography* has enjoyed is due to the rhythm that this pattern imposes upon its arrangement and to which the enquirer's mind instinctively responds.

Chain indexing is a corollary of the facet formula and featuring. It has not been fully realised in Britain that the alphabetical section of the classified catalogue has a part to play no less vital than the systematic section itself. In fact, classified catalogues are sometimes built without any alphabetical section at all!

Ranganathan's theory of the symbiotic nature of the systematic and alphabetical parts of the classified catalogues is difficult to appreciate when the classification used is enumerative and when the only method known for dealing with multi-faceted subjects is multiple entry. As soon as a faceted classification is used, or, as in the case of the *British National Bibliography*, the facet formula is imposed on an enumerative classification, the function of the alphabetical part to form a series of supporting classifications of foci distributed by the nature of the systematic part becomes apparent. Chain indexing is the most powerful method of achieving this series of supporting classifications.

We have not followed Ranganathan absolutely in applying the principles of chain indexing. We differ in the following particulars :

We use plural substantives and not singular because, in our experience, people think more often in terms of the plural. In some instances the singular is so uncommon as to be quite unacceptable. We have, of course, met trouble where mutation gives very different places in the alphabetical sequence for singular and plural, as, for example, with *foot* and *feet*.

We make entries under all synonyms wherever we are aware of them because we think that we should not impose on enquirers the need to search dictionaries if they think of a synonym which is not that preferred by us. Terms used in the *British National Bibliography* range over the whole field of knowledge and several dictionaries might have to be consulted. Then there is always the lurking suspicion when no entry is found under any of the terms thought of that there may be yet another unknown to the searcher. We have considered preferring one term and making see references from its synonyms. There are two reasons for this course: first because of the space which might be saved in the alphabetical part and, second, because of the stricter control that the administration would have over the construction of the alphabetical part. A reference once made will stand for all occasions. So far, however, we have not thought it advisable to take this course.

We have introduced the principle of unsought links in order to economise in the alphabetical part. Thus, for example, all forms of presentation are specified as unsought links and no alphabetical entries are made for them. It is, therefore, not possible to find in the *British National Bibliography* all periodicals or all directories without going through the systematic part entry by entry. Some energy foci are specified as unsought links, for example, *research* and *administration* which are common to almost every subject. It is therefore impossible to find the whole subject of research or administration in the *British National Bibliography*.

We have adopted the practice of telescoping intermediate links in order to achieve a more elegant style in the alphabetical part. This, of course, disposes of automatic indexing and throws responsibility for the telescoping on to the flair of the cataloguer. We feel, however, that for the intermediate links complete conformity is not vital and the greater elegance obtained more desirable.

In spite of these variations, the alphabetical part of the *British National Bibliography*, like the systematic part, owes its success to the theories of Ranganathan upon which it is built and without which even the variations that we have introduced could not have been consciously done.

An important and interesting by-product arose from the decision to use features in the *British National Bibliography*. The *Bibliography's* weekly lists are not only used as a medium for book selection, but are widely used in Britain and elsewhere as a guide to cataloguing. We were pressed by some subscribers to include subject headings for each book entered but for various reasons this was not practicable. Instead, we offered the features as a basis for subject work suggesting that both chain indexing for a classified catalogue and alphabetical subject headings for a dictionary catalogues could be made from the set of features in a hierarchy. In practice many cataloguers are using the features in this way and the demand for subject headings of the conventional sort has diminished.

The *British National Bibliography* is already looked upon as a new standard in classified catalogues. Featuring and chain indexing are being copied and taught. Neither technique is yet fully understood in Britain, but the study of them is being undertaken with interest.

Indian readers will see from this brief account of the principal features of the *British National Bibliography* how much is owed to the work of Ranganathan. His theory of classification is at the very heart of Britain's newest undertaking in the field of librarianship. It has revived a failing classification and imposed upon it a rhythm which—except in those parts where such an imposition is impossible—accords with the requirements of the user; it has illuminated the classified part with features; welded the whole into an easily comprehended system with chain indexing and made possible the passing on to local cataloguers of subject information.

We of the *British National Bibliography* are pleased to acknowledge our debt to Indian and in particular to Dr. Ranganathan by whose work and inspiring friendship we have progressed to a new conception of the classified catalogue.

# LIBRARY CATALOGUE

R. S. GOYAL

## I. INTRODUCTION

What is known to-day as the art of cataloguing came along with library consciousness which began to develop among the librarians and readers of the West during the first half of the nineteenth century. It does not mean that cataloguing did not exist earlier. It did exist, but was in a primitive stage. Librarians who were then primarily concerned with preservation of books, prepared only inventories of their collections. It was their conveniences and whims which played the foremost part in the preparation. It was only in the year 1839 that the British Museum adopted a code of *Rules for the compilation of the catalogue of printed books in the British Museum*. Later on in 1876, there appeared the first edition of Charles Ammi Cutter's *Rules for a Dictionary Catalogue*. In 1908 the American and British Library Associations jointly produced the *Anglo-American Code: Cataloguing Rules, Author and Title Entries*. This joint effort was to secure greater uniformity, in cataloguing among the English-speaking countries. But all these codes prescribed rules for Dictionary Cataloguing. They prescribed for Author, Collaborator and Title entries. They prescribed nothing for such Subject-entries as may throw themselves in a classified order. As the Subject-approach among readers began to predominate, these codes began to get out of date. The problem of a catalogue which may also have as Subject-part began to engage the attention of the librarians of the West. They tried to meet the situation in one way or another. But it was only as late as 1934 that the Madras Library Association published in the first edition of Dr. Ranganathan's *Classified Catalogue Code*. It was followed by a parallel code of Dr. Ranganathan entitled as *Dictionary Catalogue Code*, 1945. The Association did not rest with these publications on cataloguing. It stepped forward. It published also Dr. Ranganathan's *Theory of Library Catalogue* in 1938. This

formed the seventh of the Association's Publications. It enunciated basic principles of cataloguing derived from or explaining diverse practices prescribed in different codes. The Association could not also ignore the needs and difficulties of practical cataloguing felt by librarians and students. It, therefore, included in its Publication series Dr. Ranganathan's *Library Catalogue : Fundamentals and procedure*, 1950.

## 2 CLASSIFIED CATALOGUING

As stated above, the librarians of the west were struggling with the preparation of a classified catalogue. Its necessities were growing more and more on account of the pouring-in of books in a tremendous number. Readers started more and more demanding their books by subject. The dictionary catalogue was proving inadequate. Each Library, therefore, tried to solve the problem in its own way. Some libraries did not think it worthwhile to maintain a Subject part. They continued denying satisfaction to the growing demand of readers by subject. Some libraries improvised some methods. Some started using shelf register cards to serve as Subject part of the catalogue. Thus, there was diversity in practice. There did not exist any code which may facilitate preparation of a classified catalogue. The problem could not be solved in the west in a courageous way. It was in India that Dr. Ranganathan, who was making experiments with classified cataloguing in the Madras University Library, codified his own experiences in the form of *Classified catalogue code*. It is the first code of its kind in the field of cataloguing which solved the problem to satisfy the Subject approach of readers. It arranges entries in two parts. They consist of classified part and alphabetical part. The former part arranges Specific subject entries in the classified order. The second part maintains a dictionary arrangement. It contains all entries such as Author, Collaborator, Title and also subject entries with headings in natural language. Thus the code tries to satisfy Subject approach of readers and also other possible approaches satisfied by a dictionary catalogue.

## 3. CHAIN PROCEDURE

Experience shows that a reader cannot enunciate his demand in exact terms. He speaks of a subject which is either broader

or narrower than his desired one. This difficulty of a reader created a necessity for what we call Class Index Entry which may at once land him into a full, connected panorama of all the materials on his specific subject. Derivation of Heading for such a Class Index Entry presented even a more complex problem. Various lists were published to meet it. There appeared Sear's *List of Subject headings*. The Congress Library of United States of America published also its own list of subject headings. Neither of them could give satisfaction to the desired extent. The librarians could not see the holistic symbiosis possible between cataloguing and classification. Its mystery could be unfolded to Dr. Ranganathan who was then busy with the formation of an analytico-synthetic scheme of classification. He discovered the way of deriving Headings for class index entries of broader and narrower subjects by a reverse interpretation of the call number. Dr. Ranganathan calls it Chain procedure. Although it does not help in derivation of collateral subject entries, yet it is a beneficial contribution of Dr. Ranganathan to the cataloguing world. This will serve as a monument for him for years to come.

#### 4. HINDU NAMES AND MUSLIM NAMES

Indian librarians will also be ever proud of his contribution towards rendering of names of Hindu and Muslim authors. The Anglo-American code failed to solve this problem. It prescribed rendering of oriental names by forenames. This problem could not baffle Dr. Ranganathan. He examined the diverse trends in formation of names in various parts of India. He also examined the constituents of Muslim names. *The Classified catalogue code* gives the results of the examination and enunciates practical rules for rendering of Hindu and Muslim names.

#### 5. TREATMENT OF PERIODICALS

As a result of industrialization and an increasing trend towards Research, periodical publications multiplied in number. Multiplicity also brought in complexities. They present all vagaries which transcend all imagination and anticipation. It looks as if nothing relating to a Periodical publication can escape the sport of caprice—publishing society, name, periodicity, format, pagination, excrescent attachments to all or stray volumes and last

but not least, span of life and resurrection. The westerners remained baffled with the vagaries of periodical publications. They could not reach a satisfactory solution. Dr. Ranganathan analysed all such vagaries in a mathematical way. On the basis of this analysis he presents a set of rules by which every type of periodical publication can be catalogued. This contribution towards cataloguing of periodical publications will ever go with the memory of Dr. Ranganathan.

#### 6. UNION CATALOGUE OF PERIODICALS

India's contribution by Dr. Ranganathan towards Union catalogue of periodicals cannot also be left unmentioned here. America published a *Union list of serials*. In 1949, Unesco asked the Indian Library Association to prepare a list of scientific periodicals found in the libraries of South-East Asia. The task required framing of fresh rules for the purpose. Edition 3 of the *Classified catalogue code* (1951) formulated the rules necessary for Union list of periodicals.

#### 7. LAWS OF CATALOGUING

With the necessities of time various codes came into being. But no librarian felt the necessity of exploring the general principles which may show the underlying unity in diverse practices and may contribute to a comparative study of codes and the framing of a comprehensive code on an objective basis. A genius like Dr. Ranganathan could not rest with mere formation of codes. Therefore he proceeded with finding out general principles to form a basis for rules in cataloguing. Enunciation of such principles we find in his *Theory of library catalogue* which the Madras Library Association published in 1938.

#### 8. WISHES

In the end, I extend my heartiest congratulations to the Madras Library Association on the auspicious occasion of its Silver Jubilee. I sublimely hope that it will continue its programme of publication with more enthusiasm than hithertofore and shall leave no efforts in exploiting all its resources towards spreading of Library consciousness not only in Madras but in India and the world at large.



# TECHNIQUE OF REFERENCE SERVICE

D. J. FOSKETT

A distinction has frequently been made in Western Countries between a library and an information service. This arises out of the pre-occupation of libraries, and particularly public libraries, with books only, and the consequent lack of attention to the subject approach with its requirements of detailed subject cataloguing and close classifying. An attitude that has been far too prevalent is that the business of a librarian is to exercise taste and flair in book selection and display, but not to do more than make specific books available on request, passing to the reader the burden of bibliographical searching. This has resulted in the criticism that "a library is largely a static service, waiting for its readers to come to it".<sup>1</sup> Where libraries have proceeded to active exploitation of their material, in science and industry, the importance of the subject approach has usually resulted in the appointment of a subject specialist as "Information Officer", and considerable efforts have been made to justify the existence of such a profession separately from librarianship.<sup>2, 3</sup> It has even been suggested that "in industrial information work, especially on the higher administrative levels, the title, librarian, or even technical librarian, is not the most fortunate choice. The power of semantics is great, and in the eyes of management the term, librarian, too frequently seems to be linked merely to custodial duties, and, as a result, apt to incur limitations in status and rewards."<sup>4</sup>

This is doubly unfortunate, because it makes the qualified scientist unwilling to call himself "librarian", and it puts on the

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1. SHIRES, G. A., *Trans. Inst. Rubber Industry*, Vol. 24, No. 3, p. 120.

2. HOLMSTROM, J. E., *Nature*, Vol. 162, 1948, p. 284.

3. HUTTON, R. S. In *Royal Society Scientific Information Conference. Report and papers submitted.* Royal Society, 1948, p. 677.

4. SPITZER, E. F., *Wilson Library Bulletin*, Vol. 26, No. 7, 1952, p. 551.

librarian the burden of having to justify his profession. It can easily be shown, however, that reference service, which Ranganathan has called "the prepotent achievement of modern humanism in Library Service,"<sup>5</sup> has to play an essential role in modern society and can only be carried out successfully with the aid of the technique of librarianship.

The age when world shaking discoveries could be made by one man working alone has passed. With the increasing complexity and specialisation of our social organisation, the advance of knowledge now depends more and more on team work. Indeed, it is by no means uncommon for scientists in different parts of the world to work in collaboration, and even in British industry, with its long tradition of secrecy, it is now generally recognised that success comes from the efficient *exchange of information*. But it would clearly be impossible for each worker to communicate personally with all those he knew to be interested, as was the seventeenth century custom. Each field of knowledge therefore depends on its records—its books, its pamphlets, its periodicals. But so many publications appear that no one can possibly read all that is published in his field and carry out research as well. An intermediary is necessary; he bases his work on the selection, acquisition and arrangement of these publications. But there is a final duty—to distribute the information they contain to the right readers. Librarians call this reference service, and the fact that it deals with research work calling for special knowledge does not alter the nature of the service. The subject knowledge is an essential refinement, not the basis of the technique.

It is also necessary to keep in close touch with reader's needs. In the special library this needs no emphasis, but it is equally true of the public library, and the librarian must know how knowledge develops and how it can best serve the people. He must be a social scientist, "for in his work of diffusing and transmitting knowledge, the librarian is vitally concerned with changing social conditions. In brief, the library will be an efficient cultural agency in proportion to its adaptation to known social needs".<sup>6</sup> Of special

5. *Abgila*, Vol. 1, No. 1, 1949, p. 1.

6. WELLARD, J. H., *The Public Library Comes of Age.*, Grafton, 1940, p. 195.

significance in this respect is the course on "Field of knowledge" held at the Delhi School of Library Science. By his understanding of the development of knowledge, a librarian can assist the reader to formulate what he wants to know in terms of the existing literature of the subject.

In this, the librarian has two main tools, classification and cataloguing. There has been a movement, notably in the United States of America away from depth classification and classified cataloguing, but it seems evident, from the words of one of the advocates of this trend, that the effect of advanced reference service has not yet made itself felt there: "It is well-known that the bibliographic art of author-cataloging has reached a high stage of excellence. Subject-cataloging and classification, are yet in their infancy. The mastery of the subject-matter of books by the librarian, combined with a technique for making this sufficiently available to meet the needs of different types of library readers, suggests a possible avenue of usefulness which, once attained, would surpass all our dreams of service. Such a service has rarely, if ever, been offered to the serious readers . . . . .<sup>7</sup> Perhaps no better tribute can be paid to the genius of Ranganathan than that, in a country with a comparatively young library movement, he has not only recognised the importance of reference service to the people, but that he has also been the first to insist on the necessity for depth-classification and classified catalogues in the service."<sup>8</sup>

One of the most vital and least discussed tasks in reference service is the making explicit of a reader's need. This need arises in a certain set of circumstances which produce a pattern, or context of thought in the reader's mind. Thought can only exist in some sort of "terms", so that when the reader states his need, his statement will be made in terms derived from his own thought-context. As Ranganathan has recently put it "It often happens that creative readers have the bulk of their minds tied up, as it were,

7. KELLEY, GRACE O. *The Classification of Books*, Wilson, 1938, p. 38.

8. In, for example, *Reference Service and Bibliography, Classification and Communication, Library catalogue: fundamentals and procedure.*

with their own creative thinking when they come to the library".<sup>9</sup> Since the very fact that the reader requires the librarian's assistance indicates that his knowledge of the subject is incomplete, his statement is thus derived from an incomplete and perhaps inaccurate thought-context, and therefore may be itself inaccurate and misleading. The librarian has an even more difficult task, because he must try to understand the reader's real need even though not expressed in precise or accurate terms, and even though the terms themselves may have different associations in his own mind.

To overcome these difficulties, it is necessary to have a tool that can express a subject independently of its associations in a particular mind. This tool is provided by analytico-synthetic depth classification. All the well-known schemes of classification introduce synthesis to a greater or lesser extent, but rely on analysis only as their basis—the continued sub-division of classes and the enumeration of as many sub-divisions as possible. Bliss, the most scholarly of "enumerators", goes so far as to set a maximum limit to notation, which means that sub-division ceases at a certain arbitrary point, and several subjects therefore receive the same class number. This cannot provide the precise and objective expression demanded by reference service. Similarly, literature nowadays, reflecting the complexity of society, does not simply deal with descriptions of objects, but with objects in the complexity of relations in which they actually exist in the real world. For classification to be a useful tool, therefore, it must be able to show the multiplicity of real relations in notational language. One of the problems of classification research now is the investigation of these relations. J. E. L. Farradane has advanced one theory of their derivation, but his "operators" do not pretend to express *real* relations, since they are derived solely from mental processes.<sup>10</sup> Farradane defends this on the grounds that knowledge itself comes only through the mind, and even though other relations may exist in nature, we are not concerned with them because we are unable to apprehend them. It is evident, however, that this view, in addition to being based on what Farradane admits to be an infant

9. *Libri*, Vol. 2, Nos. 1-2, 1952, p. 34.

10. *J. Documentation*, Vol. 6, 1950, p. 83, and Vol. 8, 1952, p. 73.

science, experimental psychology, represents by the same operator relations, such as part and property, that would need to be distinguishable in indexing.

The arguments in favour of depth classification apply equally to the classified catalogue. When the aid of the catalogue is sought in reference service, it is because the first search, on the shelves, has failed to produce a satisfactory answer. The catalogue has to be called in by means of a word naming the subject, and, as has been shown, the accuracy of this term may vary. With the dictionary catalogue, the reader may be directed to a few related terms by "See" and "See also" references, but at each term he finds no order of terms, and if he draws a blank through starting with the wrong word, he is thrown back on the resources of his own, possibly inaccurate, mental context and must begin again with a new word. In the systematic file of the classified catalogue, however, he finds an array of related terms, and with an index constructed by chain procedure, he is led by a recognisable route to the right place. The classified catalogue helps by giving an idea its right setting in the field of knowledge.

At this time, librarianship faces a crisis. The experience of special librarians show the absolute value of high level reference service, while millions of the world's population are culturally destitute. Even in "civilised" nations there is a vast circulation of barren and evil literature glorifying violence and hatred. Our task of combating these forces and assisting all quartiles of the people forward to a bright future must not be underestimated, but with the proper techniques it can be accomplished. Our reward will be to have made a notable contribution to the progress of humanity.

## THE SERIES, "READERS' GUIDES"

A. SHAW WRIGHT

It gives me, as an English County Librarian, the greatest possible pleasure to be associated, even in a humble way, with the Silver Jubilee of the Madras Library Association. My feeling of goodwill towards my Indian colleagues is the warmer because I value the friendship of Dr. Ranganathan and can see that the results of his experiences in the working of the English County Library systems, gained during two memorable stays in this country, in the late 1920's and again in 1948, are to be found, considerably improved upon, in the plan for the state wide library service for the India of to-morrow. We in the British County Library movement have grown up in the course of a generation. It is our hope (and I know that here I speak for my colleagues) that the fulfilment of Dr. Ranganathan's plan will be as enjoyable, quick, but not as hard, as our progress had been!

And the Madras Library Association, which has, to our accidental view, been Dr. Ranganathan's "other" hand, will, we hope, continue from strength to strength to play its part in the wonderful achievement that is to be this "all India" library service. With the other bodies concerned with the fostering of a library spirit in our age I know it will continue to grow in stature.

It is fitting, I feel, upon this occasion to write something about a spirit of co-operation and of service to its fellowman that has united the County Libraries of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. I refer to that series of pleasantly produced, yet cheap, catalogues of recommended books on various subjects known familiarly as Readers' Guides. The formation of this service dates back to the early days of the County Library movement when Captain R. Wright, until lately County Librarian of Middlesex, who in his younger years, after the First World War, with county libraries in their infancy, constantly proclaimed that the ideal catalogue of books for the countryman was the catalogue

that could be used in the reader's home. For each county, he used to say, to produce its own lists of books was a waste of time, energy and money. Agreement should be sought between libraries and librarians as to the lists required, libraries should share the work of compilation, should order copies to be supplied out of one large printing and so save themselves time and money yet knowing that the lists they were using were well produced and most important of all, authentic.

The foundation of the County Libraries Section of the British Library Association, of which Section Captain Wright was the first Chairman, provided him with a vehicle for the dissemination of his idea and we see, that at the very first meeting of the Committee, on the 23rd and 24th November, 1927, he outlined his scheme to his fellow members. At that time Middlesex, which with Kent was one of the largest county library systems in Great Britain, was compiling a catalogue of books of History and an offer was made, to any other county who so desired, that it could purchase, at cost price, as many copies of this list that it might require for circulation to students. He also informed the Committee that if libraries had any difficulty in securing copies of books listed in the catalogue this library would be only too pleased to lend copies on application.

Although this offer received wide publicity among the county libraries it is disappointing to see that only six counties availed themselves of this opportunity and bought copies of the list.

With such a small response it would have been easy for Captain Wright to become disheartened, but so sure was he that this was the true approach to the problem of county library cataloguing that he returned to the attack in November, 1929, when the County Libraries Section then agreed, on his recommendation, to commend a list of books on the First World War, published in a library periodical of the time, two counties and arrangements were made with the publisher of the periodical that reprints of the list should be offered to county libraries at a low price.

For some time after this the idea remained dormant and each county library continued to use its own meagre staff to compile printed catalogues on subjects which, by the very nature of the books listed, were bound to be common to all libraries. The

month of December, 1936, however, saw the initial stages in what was to become famous all over the world as the County Libraries Section Readers' Guides. On the 2nd of that month the minutes of the County Libraries Section read:

"That a Sub-Committee, consisting of the Chairman (Miss A.S. Cooke, then County Librarian of Kent), Captain Wright (Middlesex) and the Honorary Secretary (Mr. A. H. Gillgrass, then County Librarian of Cheshire) be formed to consider, and to support upon the production of Co-operative Booklists."

The Sub-Committee duly met and its findings, reported to the next Committee were as follows:

"The Sub-Committee recommends:—

1. The publication of lists of books on specific subjects. (The sub-committee considers that the publication of such lists on a co-operative basis is practicable, if the co-operation of certain of the larger county libraries can be secured.)
2. That the "catalogue" entries consist of (a) author; (b) title; with sub-title if necessary; and (c) date of publication.
3. That the size of the Booklists be approximately 7" by 5"; that the type be of 8 point Gill sans-serif; matter to be arranged in double columns.
4. That the subjects of the first lists be selected from Psychology, Religion, Economics, International affairs, Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry, Electrical Engineering, Architecture, Modern Poetry, Agriculture and Post-war Europe.
5. That each list have a foreword stating that the books listed are available from the County Library, either direct or through the Regional Library System.
6. That the covers of the Booklists be lettered—READERS' GUIDES to books on PSYCHOLOGY. Published by the County Libraries Section of the Library Association.  
Date:



7. That 12 different Readers' Guides (including revised editions) be issued each year.
8. That each of the following Libraries be asked to undertake (a) the initial preparation of say two Guides a year and (b) to check and to make addition to the guides prepared by others :—Derbyshire, Kent, Lanarkshire, Lancashire, Middlesex, Northumberland, East Sussex.
9. That all County Library Authorities be requested to contribute towards the cost of printing the Guides and contributions to be made in ratio to the number of copies of the Guides required.
10. That an editorial Sub-Committee be formed to carry the above recommendations into effect.

The response from the counties was entirely satisfactory and Captain Wright proceeded, at the Committee's request, with the immediate preparation of a 42 page Readers' Guide to books of Religion which was later sold to County Libraries at the cost of 1d. per copy. So that each list should be carefully checked before printing a "modus operandi," which is set out below, was instituted.

"It has been necessary to modify slightly the proposals for the preparation of the Co-operative Booklists. Mounted lists are found to be unsatisfactory and the entries for each item should be on 5" x 3" cards, in order to facilitate the incorporation and withdrawal of entries.

The entries need not of necessity be arranged according to the Dewey Classification; indeed, an alphabetical arrangement by subject is generally to be preferred, and this procedure should be followed unless there is a decided gain in having the entries strictly classified.

Each initially prepared Booklist should be circulated to the co-operating Librarians in Alphabetical order, *i.e.*, to Derbyshire, from Derbyshire to Kent, Kent to Lanarkshire, Lanarkshire to Lancashire, Lancashire to Middlesex, Middlesex to Northumberland, then to East Sussex, and finally back to the Librarian who has compiled it. After the necessary adjustments have been made the compiler will forward the completed Booklist

to the General Editor, Captain Wright of Middlesex. Each Booklist will then, as a general rule, be submitted to a Librarian who has specialised in the subject. Notification of the despatch of the catalogue cards should be sent when the cards are posted from one Library to another.

A list showing the subjects of the Booklists which are to be issued from May onwards is enclosed. You will notice the Booklists which you are desired to compile, the number of pages, to which each Booklist will approximate, and the date of publication. It will be necessary for you to compile your Booklists and to begin their circulation to the other participating Librarians seven weeks before the date of publication, as the revised Booklists should be in the hands of the General Editor on the 15th of the month preceding that of publication. The Sub-Committee hope that you are in agreement with these Recommendations, and that you will do all you can to facilitate their operation in order to ensure the success of the new venture."

This method has been followed down to the present time, differing only in the names of the libraries to which the lists are sent for checking.

By the time the 1939-45 war had broken out no less than 36 Readers' Guides had been issued and this imposing list of subjects shows how much ground had been covered by that time :

Religion	Child study	Tudor and Stuart Britain
Post-War Europe	Graphic Arts	Education
Agriculture	Photography	History of Painting
Electrical Engineering	Astronomy	Rural Life
Handicrafts	Civics	Economics
Modern Poetry	Biology, Botany and Zoology	House and Home
Psychology	Business Methods	Geology and Geography
Engineering	Music	Agriculture (revised)
Architecture and Building	Gardening	Archaeology
Construction	English literature	Philosophy
Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry	Chemical Technology	Medieval Britain
Physical fitness	Face of England and Wales	Collecting
		Electrical Engineering

Editions of between 12,000 and 15,000 of each Guide were printed and sold, with the result that by the time that war came a small but useful working profit had been made. Readers' Guides had even played a small part in the drive for production during the war in that revisions of the Readers' Guides to *Engineering* and *Electrical Engineering* were issued in 1943 and sold many thousands of copies while at the end of hostilities a further list entitled *Rebuilding Britain* was published and sold well.

In common with many other ventures the publication of Readers' Guides was suspended for the duration and it was not until December, 1946, after a request for new Guides had been made by members of the Section at the Library Association Conference at Blackpool that a new-subcommittee, consisting of Miss L.V. Paulin (Hertfordshire), Mr. J. Brindle (Fifeshire), Mr. G. Glazier (Bedfordshire) and myself was set up to consider the continuance of this most successful venture.

The new sub-committee began their work although they realised that it would probably never again be possible to sell lists for as low as 1d. a copy. This rise in cost has, of course, affected sales but even now the editions printed are virtually fully "ordered" before publication and no losses are being made. One post-war Guide, that on Agriculture, which sold 25,000 copies at 6d. a copy was out of print within a few weeks of its appearance.

In spite of rising prices the work has gone on and to date Readers' Guides have appeared on:

Ballet	Transport	Stagecraft and Theatre
House and Home	Chemical Technology	Fishing and Angling
Face of Scotland	Face of Ireland	Religion
Agriculture	Face of Wales	Business World
Composers	Face of England	Choice of Careers
Education	Hanoverian Britain	
Handicrafts	Botany	

Three other publishing ventures have been undertaken by the Publications Sub-Committee of the County Libraries Section. The first and the most successful venture was the issue of a list of plays for acting the "Drama Catalogue" and a supplement "Modern Drama, 1939-1945." Raymond Irwin, firstly County Librarian of Lancashire and now Director of the London School

of Librarianship, a famous ornithologist, prepared for publication a well received "British Bird Book." Not so successful, however, was a publicity venture entitled "Nine million books" a booklet designed to stipulate country people to make wider use of their library services. Unfortunately its content was not directly applicable to all the county library systems in the country and this led to the restriction of its use. For those libraries that were able to use it, however, its publication proved well worth while and wide interest aroused.

Which brings us down to the present day. The Readers' Guides of the County Libraries Section of the British Library Association, prepared and circulated by voluntary efforts, are still, so far as is known, the only successful, yet cheap, co-operative venture of its kind in the world. The idea can be commended to colleagues everywhere.

Downloaded from www.dbra.ug.ac.ug

## THE REFERENCE LIBRARIAN AND HIS TOOLS

V. P. KOLHATKAR

We have been reading ever since our childhood. We have learned so many things in our formal schools. Very much more than that we have culled an inexhaustible fund of valuable information as we grew up through the innumerable happenings around us ever since our birth. Omnibus nature has scattered before us infinite varieties of objects of different size, colour, smell, tastes, touch, sound, etc., all uncovered and we have all observed them either minutely or curiously. Yet our observations are very scanty and we feel so some moment or the other when some information on something say—the colour of the sky or the physiology of the bug—is sought from us and we do not find an answer out of the meagre fund of knowledge we possess. We can observe many things and can commit only some of them to our memory. But our memory is found to be short and many of our observations flutter or fly away in some cases in a short time and in some in a longer range. The universe is indeed unknowable and our power to know is, in comparison with it, insignificant.

Learned men have committed all the bits of knowledge they collected during their lifetime to printed paper. Take for example the common circular wheel of a cart or the fire. One of our first ancestors laid down his observations and the account of his experimentations on the wheel or the fire and generations after him have been miraculously benefited by these discoveries and particularly because these were put down on paper for permanent use. We likewise find details given in the Dictionary of Agriculture for the guidance of the common cultivator of the soil, like the quantity of water, the quality of manure, the variety of climate, etc., necessary for the production of wheat or paddy or mango or jack-fruit. The biographical dictionaries give us information on the lives of so many people of the past. The *Who's who* gives information about our contemporaries. The common dictionary saves

the labour of the student to approach his tutor to get the meaning of an unfamiliar word or its usage.

One cannot commit to memory all the topics falling in the purview of a class of knowledge, not to speak of the range of classes of knowledge. And for our convenience learned men have prepared volumes treating different topics of information — we casually or always want and do not have — they gathered either by hard labour of sheer accident. For our cursory or casual need we need not store all the information about a subject in our small head. It will be absolutely unwise to purchase and store in our small home article after article we come across in the bazaar thinking it to be very cheap or be useful sometime in our lifetime. We will not wear a sweater in summer vainly thinking that we might get cold some moment during a hot day. No, we never harbour such a false danger. We always keep ourselves tidy and unsettled. Likewise we must keep our memory ever trim and tidy. Here the externalised memory, *i.e.*, the notes or their observations and their experiences laid down in books permanently by great thinkers come to help us the moment we want such help.

To provide the needy reader with the necessary reference and thereby to satisfy him is the duty of the reference librarian. His activity in searching for the information needed and supplying it to the needy is all called reference work or reference service. So many of us have done this type of work so many times, till now. So many like questions have occurred to many of us many times. Yet can we definitely say that we were satisfied with the answer every time? No one can say it. For so many questions, we will remember, have passed away unanswered because of the ignorance of the method to trace the answer.

Our present proposition is to acquaint ourselves with the sources of answers to thousand and odd questions that occur to all of us sometime or the other. A reference may require us to try just a line, if not a word, or a paragraph or a page or a number of them or a whole book or a number of them. We may have to spend a minute or an hour or even days to consult the material or the expert who knows. We may have to use our 'phone or write to someone. Whatever the time or whatever the labour, our task consists of our readiness to respond to such queries. Our readiness means our

will to serve our clientele as also the ready availability of the material under our command. It is not at all enough to possess something in plenty. We ought to have a will to give it to the needy. And a librarian's material is after all books and magazines and papers and all such material storing bits of vast knowledge. Knowledge never gets exhausted by use. The more we use it, the better. The librarian must always have this in his mind and keep his goods well-arranged and well-polished as if inviting all the passers-by. He has to act as the friend of the hundreds or thousands of readers who approach him in pursuit of some reading or informative material. The reader must feel at rest on getting the necessary help from the librarian. He has to keep all these notes ready for use. His success is measured by his skill in maintaining it and making it readily available to him who comes in its search. What tools does he use in doing his job?

Tools of reference : Almost all of us know something peculiar and naturally wish that this peculiar information of ours should be of use to others also. At least many of us do think that way. Just a few of us put down those peculiar experiences and conclusions thereof on paper. Yet the collection of such recorded information is so very extensive that every one and anyone of us need not and cannot employ his time to read all the pages. And hence we need some one to assist us in our search for some information or the other we want sometime. In a library where all such record is stored for the wide use of the people at large, there must be someone who knows every bit of information recorded in the pages of the books arranged on the library shelves. He must have studied all this information before he sits to work as the referencer and in order to know it as surely as he knows the palm of his hand, he must always live with it.

Just as we pay regular visits to our friends and enjoy their company if they are living in the same city we are living in ; we keep ourselves in contact with our friends living in distant and different places by writing to them at intervals. The librarian whom so many books help in his reference work has to act in the same manner. Those books which have essentially to be kept just at hand should be handled often and those that are away from his hand and are likely to be used sometime should be always

kept in touch, through the medium of cards bearing relative clues of the catalogues. Such a constant touch will enable the librarian to remember the informative matter that is likely to disappear from the stock of his informative memories.

The demands that come from the other side of the counter are threefold. There are some stock queries which are made frequently and require to be disposed of in a minute. Some of them come at intervals and a few appear very rarely and may take a considerable time in finding an answer. The intensity of the demand is classified in two varieties: (1) Ready reference and (2) Long range reference.

Let us here try to explain these two terms by examples. We will take a few illustrations to help us in determining the ready reference questions and the long range reference questions.

(1) The territories under the U. S. S. R. (2) The Shivaratra day and the Navaratra days. (3) The postal delivery office number of Khar—a suburb of Bombay. (4) What is A.D.? (5) The umbrella cut. (6) Harihar express timings. (9) The Hijari. (10) How to remove the rust stains on cloth? (11) The syllabus of the Matriculation History in the Rajputana University and the text. (12) Earned leave rules of your office.

Some of these questions can be disposed of immediately while some will require some time and even days to get the exact answer. The information that can be given immediately is always available in some very important volumes which unfailingly help us many times even in a day. Especially such volumes and other implements are generally termed the reference aids and these help us in our ready reference work. They speak of a variety of subjects. They are of various sizes. They cost hundreds of rupees or just half an anna. Some get themselves seated flat in a box while some hang against a wall. Some need a charpoy to rest on and some prefer erect position on a stand. We have to be very careful while removing them from their resting positions as also while keeping them back into their preferred positions. Any carelessness or negligence or less regard in this may harm us or the implements on account of their bulk of expense. We have to be very vigilant about their presence in the library or else their disappearance results in our inconvenience. They are like the Lord Krishna



about whom is said, ' He confers on His devotees what they pray for, taking into account the intensity of their devotion. ( ये यथा मां प्रपद्यन्ते तांस्तथैव भजाम्यहम् । ) All the reference aids are like the Kalpataru *alias* the 'Wishing tree or the tree of plenty.' If we sit under the Kalpataru and go on wishing for anything, good or bad, we get those things as we go on wishing them. In the same manner if we sit regardless of it, we do not and cannot enjoy its blessings. They are the 'Kings' Treasuries' as Ruskin says and abound in rich wealth of thought. And naturally therefore we must always be particular about their preservation and protection from thieves and worms and we must see that their proper use increases.

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# FRENCH GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT BIBLIOGRAPHY

JAMES B. CHILDS

Recent developments in French government document bibliography may well call for a comprehensive statement of what has been done to date in order to serve the needs of those interested as well as to encourage other work in a difficult but important bibliographical field greatly in need of cultivation.

In France, the printing, distribution and sale of official publications has always been decentralised. Even though the Imprimerie Nationale dates from about the middle of the seventeenth century, it was not apparently established primarily to print administrative publications, and has at no time even in recent years had more than a monopoly in name only of government printing and publishing despite the provisions of the latest regulating decree of May 14, 1945. For more or less long periods, other important government facilities have been functioning such as the Imprimerie Administrative at Melun, the Imprimerie des Journaux officiels, the printing office of each legislative body, the map plants of the Institut Geographique National (formerly the Service Geographique de l'Armee) and of the Service Hydrographique de la Marine. Various types of scientific and technical publications have been handled through publishing houses such as Charles-Lavauzelle, Berger-Levrault, Presses Universitaires de France, etc., etc. Often, in the past, official publications aside from the scientific and technical ones handled through publishing houses seem to have been intended primarily for distribution to legislators, government officials, specialists collaborating with these, and to those affected by government action. Even the "depot legal" as specified in the appropriation law of 1881 applied only to the Bibliotheque Nationale and to the two legislative libraries, and seems in the past not to have been complied with very systematically. Consequently, the *Bibliographie de la France*

the weekly national bibliography, included generally only the scientific and technical official works handled through publishing houses, entered under personal author or title, not under corporate entries such as have been accepted in the United States and various other countries.

Under the date of September 1, 1950, appeared the first number of an irregularly issued catalog of current official publications as supplement F (publications officielles) to the first part of the *Bibliographie de la France*<sup>1</sup>, based of course, on the "depot legal" at the Bibliothèque Nationale. Beginning with August 13, 1937, entries for official publications in the first part of the *Bibliographie de la France* had been marked with an asterisk (\*). Supplement F segregates the non-periodical administrative official publications, and groups the entries under ten headings as follows: (i) Lois et traites; (ii) Assemblées constitutionnelles; (iii) Cours et juridictions; (iv) Administration centrale; (v) Administration locale; (vi) Administration de l'Union française outre-mer; (vii) Représentation à l'étranger; (viii) Établissements et entreprises nationalisées; (ix) États étrangers; and (x) Organisations internationales. Works of scientific and technical character, periodicals, prints, photographs, maps, plans, etc., edited or published by official bodies are listed in the first main part or in the appropriate other supplements as follows, there being only a reference in supplement F: A, Périodiques; B, Gravures, estampes et photographies; C, Oeuvres musicales; D, Thèses françaises; and E, Atlas, cartes et plans. The items are entered under more or less conventional forms of corporate entry. Titles are given in full with place of publication and publisher and/or place of printing and printer, pagination, and price if given, and also the location in the Bibliothèque Nationale. In the three numbers of 1950 are recorded 712 items; in the seven numbers of 1951, 1212 items; and in the four numbers of 1952 through July 4, 773 items.

The action in August, 1937, in beginning to indicate with asterisk the entries for official publications in the *Bibliographie de la*

1. *Bibliographie de la France. Publications officielles.* Paris cercle de la librairie 1950-. (1<sup>re</sup> année] nos. 1-3, Sept. 1—Dec. 29, 1950, to date. 25 1/2 cm. (*Bibliographie de la France* 1<sup>re</sup> partie, supplément F.).

France was taken at the time of establishment of a Commission des Publications Administratives by the Ministère des Finances, with M. André Philip, eminent economist as chairman and M. Julien Cain, administrator general of the Bibliothèque Nationale as vice-chairman. A continuing catalog of current French official publications was the objective of the Commission, and work at the Bibliothèque Nationale was placed in the hands of M. Jacques de Dampierre, *archiviste — paleographe*, who had had a long and varied experience with governmental as well as with book publishing problems, and who had at the time the advantage of not being connected with or representing any branch of the government. M. Georges Bonnet, minister of finance, had become familiar with the problem and the urgent need for a solution during his preceding service as ambassador to the United States. Despite great and increasing difficulties, Monsieur de Dampierre was able to get into page proof the first hundred pages of the first section of the first volume of the projected *Inventaire*<sup>2</sup>. The hundred pages including only the preface and the complicated parliamentary publications was printed after the invasion in 1940. Forced to abandon the *Inventaire* under wartime conditions, Monsieur de Dampierre produced as his most original work a comprehensive treatise on French official publications and their problems, including the matter of corporate entry, published in 1942<sup>3</sup>. Unfortunately he died in March, 1947<sup>4</sup>, and did not live to see the appearance of supplement F of the *Bibliographie de la France* in September, 1950.

2. *Les publications officielles des pouvoirs publics : Etude critique et administrative* Paris, Editions A. Picard et fils, 1942, 628 p. front., p. 25 cm.

"Principales publications officielles françaises citées en exemple," p. 594-612.

"Documents diplomatiques français de la période, 1920-1940," p. 613-614.

"Journaux officielles de la France et de son empire," p. 615-618.

Reviewed in *Library quarterly*, July 1949, 19 : 225-226.

3. France. Ministère de l'instruction publique. *Inventaire général des publications officielles. Première série : Institutions centrales de l'Etat. Tome 1 : Publications administratives et techniques, 1937-1938.* Paris Librairie Berger-Levrault, 1940, G. p. 21 cm.

4. Laroche, C. *Jacques de Dampierre.* In *La documentation en France* (U.F.O. D.), Vol. 16, 1947, Feb.-Mar., p. 4-5.

In May, 1951, appeared the first part of a mimeographed semi-monthly select list of French official publications entitled *France: Documents administratifs*<sup>5</sup>, issued by the Comité de Co-ordination de la Documentation dans les Sciences Sociales, emphasising listing from the point of view of international relations and including particularly texts of important documents not issued in separate form. A group of five librarians and documentalists from the Bibliothèque Nationale, Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques, Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, Bibliothèque Administrative de la Préfecture de la Seine and the Direction de la Documentation de la Présidence du Conseil agreed to undertake the preparation of this material. They had been spurred on to the task by discussions at a conference on official publications as a source of documentation for the specialist in international relations held at Paris on January 29, 1951, under the joint auspices of the Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques and of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The proceedings of the Conférence<sup>6</sup> contains discussions, working papers, and summary information relating to official publications of France, Belgium, Netherlands, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, United States, and of international organizations. Of special interest is the statement on French official publications by M. Roussier on pages 31-52. Among other things, the issuance of *France: Documents administratifs* was intended to help with the movement towards establishment

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5. *France: Documents administratifs*. Paris, Comité de co-ordination pour la documentation des sciences sociales, 1951, no. O, Jan.-May, No. 1-14, May 15 - Dec. 31. 28 cm.

503 items. Lists of periodical publications as supplements as follows: 8, Ministère des finances et des affaires économiques; 9, Présidence du Conseil, Ministère de l'intérieur, Ministère de la reconstruction et de l'urbanisme; 10, Ministère du travail et de la sécurité sociale; 11, Ministère de l'éducation nationale, Ministère de la santé publique et de la population; 12, Ministère des travaux publics, des transports et du tourisme; 14, Ministère des anciens combattants, Ministère des P.T.T.

No. O and 1 have the added title: *Listes nationales de publications officielles*.

6. *Les publications officielles et la documentation internationale. Travaux de la Conférence de documentation réunie à Paris le 29 janvier, 1951, publiés sous la direction de Michel Roussier*. Paris, Centre Européen. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 1952.81 p. 21 cm.

of similar lists in other countries not having a current listing of official documents.

On January 15, 1952, the printed semi-monthly, *Bibliographie selective des publications officielles francaises*<sup>7</sup>, sponsored jointly by the Comite de Co-ordination pour la Documentation des Sciences Sociales and the Commission Interministerielle de Documentation et Diffusion<sup>8</sup> and published by La Documentation Francaise, replaced *France : Documents administratifs*, at the same time continuing the monthly mimeographed *Liste des publications administratives recues a la Bibliotheque de la Direction de la documentation*, which had recorded the principal articles in various official periodicals since 1949. The *Bibliographie selective* continues to stress the point of view of international relations, and is arranged in two sections. The first, "Documents administratifs" is arranged according to the same classification as supplement F of the *Bibliographie de la France*. The second, "Bulletin des sommaires" is arranged in the order of the ministries, and itemizes the contents under each periodical title. Occasional supplements continue the statements of the official publications of various ministries.

Let us turn now to the past. In August, 1848, was published by Joubert at Paris the first systematic annotated bibliography of French official documents under the title *Bibliographie administrative, ou Nomenclature methodique et raisonnee des recueils de lois et d'arrets, des instructions et reglements ministeriels, des traites de jurisprudence et de doctrines administratives, suivie d'une liste des documents officiels et des principaux ouvrages publies en France sur les diverses matieres de l'administration, par un employe du Ministere de l'interieur*. Jean

7. *Bibliographie selective des publications officielles francaises*. Paris, La Documentation Francaise, 1952-. No. 1, January 15, 1952, to date. 25 cm.

Each part paged separately. Part 1 records 349 items through July 15, 1952. Lists of periodical publications of ministries as supplements as follows: 2, Ministere de l'industrie et de l'energie; 3, Ministere de la defense nationale. Secretariat d'etat aux forces armees "guerre"; 4, Secretariat d'etat a l'air, Secretariat d'etat a la marine; 5, Ministere de l'information, Ministere de la justice, Ministere de la marine marchande; 6, Ministere des affaires etrangeres, Ministere de la France d'outre-mer.

8. Created by decree of January 24, 1948, in the light of the work of the Comite central d'enquete sur le cout et le rendement des services publics.

Pierre de La Peyrie, the author, *licencie en droit* and *avocat*, born at Lyons in 1813, entered the *Ministere de l'interieur* in 1837 and continued in the same Ministry until his retirement in 1877<sup>9</sup>. In the *Catalogue de la Bibliotheque administrative du Ministere de l'interieur (Secretariat general)*, Paris, 1844, 96 p. is a section of 36 pages devoted to "publications officielles," arranged by ministries, possibly representing an earlier interest of M. de La Peyrie. In the preface to the *Bibliographie administrative* on page ix are the following observations, which might have been written not so long ago: "Pour quiconque veut se faire une opinion raisonnee sur les questions d'economie sociale, un interest tout particulier a'attache donc aux publications des administrations centrales ou locales, aux rapports, enquetes, statistiques et generalement a tous les documents officielles. Il est a regretter que ces documents ne soient pas repandus et consultes. On ne les considere pour la plupart que comme objets d'interet momentaire, transitoire, comme des compilations indigestes dont la lecture est sans profit. A peine ont-ils ete soumis a un examen superficial, qu'ils sont mis de cote et oublies. Au bout d'un certain temps, on en trouve difficilement des exemplaires meme dans les administrations qui les ont fait imprimer, nous ne parlous pas des bibliotheques ou ils ne sont deposes."

In 1859 and 1861 appeared vols. 6 and 7 of the *Catalogue de l'histoire de France* of the Department des Imprimeres of the Bibliotheque Imperiale (now Nationale), containing chapter 6, "histoire constitutionnelle de France," and chapter 7, "histoire administrative de France." Official publications represent a considerable part of the thirty-six thousand odd entries in these two groups. The section "legislation" was not included in the *Catalogue de l'histoire de France*.

In 1899 appeared the 402 page part of the British Museum *Catalogue of printed books* devoted to France<sup>10</sup>, including mainly official publications arranged in the following order with a brief index to the entries and headings: Constitutions, Collections of laws, treaties and other public documents, Acts of sovereigns and

9. According to information from M. Michel Roussier.

10. Reproduced in vol. 19 of the facsimile edition of the British Museum *Catalogue of printed books, 1881-1900* (Ann. Arbor, Mich. 1946).

other supreme authorities, Legislative bodies, Conseil d'Etat, Departments of state and other official bodies, Religious bodies, Miscellaneous sub-headings, Appendix. The new edition of the *General catalogue of printed books*, of which vol. 1 appeared in 1931, had reached vol. 47, D-Dant, in 1951, and the new section on France may come in the not too far distant future.

In 1902, the New York State Library issued, as its Bibliography No. 33, a *Partial list of French government serials in American libraries*, of nearly fifty pages on behalf of the American Library Association's Committee on Foreign Documents. The *Partial list* put in shape by Adelaide R. Hassé owed its appearance to the suggestion of Clement W. Andrews. The John Crerar Library, Chicago, of which C.W. Andrews was the head for so many years, issued in 1918 a small *Catalogue of French economic documents from the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries*, recording 1471 pieces.

In 1910, Monsieur Guillois<sup>11</sup>, identified as docteur en droit, Fontenay-aux-Roses (Seine), France, presented a *Bibliographie sommaire du droit administratif et des publications officielles, France*, to the 1st Congrès international des sciences administratives, Brussels, which was printed as 40 pages at the end of *La documentation administrative : rapports présentés à la quatrième section du congrès international des sciences administratives à Bruxelles*.

On December 2, 1913, M. Andre Honnorat introduced in the Chambre des Deputés a bill (Annexe 3267) to provide for the regulation of the printing, distribution and sale of<sup>12</sup> official publications and for the establishment of an international library of legislation and administration. Earlier in 1913, he had tried with not too much success to obtain by direct question lists of the recent official publications from the various ministries. Replies were received from the Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, the Ministère de la Justice, the Ministère des Travaux Publics, the Ministère des Colonies, the Ministère du Travail, and the Ministère des Finances<sup>13</sup>.

11. Cited as Fr. Guillois on the Bibliographie, but as A. Guillois in the list of participants.

12. Printed originally as a separate document of 13 pages.

13. *Journal officiel de la République française : Débats Parlementaires, Chambre des députés*, 1913, p. 3179-80, 3793-94, 7065-66, 7212, 7862.



In 1926, the Reference Service on International Affairs of the American Library in Paris issued a small edition of the mimeographed *Official publications of European governments*, prepared by Miss Jose Meyer. The section on France occupies leaves 76-115. Of the revised edition of this "outline bibliography of serials and important monographs, including documents," only part I was printed (1929), concluding in the middle of the French section, which treats the central administration, Parliament, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Finance (p. 205 - 255) and reprints and supplements Dore's yellow book bibliography. Two further smaller contributions by Miss Meyer may well be mentioned at this point. In 1938, "Public documents of the French colonies" appeared on p. 97-128 of *Public documents . . . papers presented at the 1938 Conference of the American Library Association*. In the number for December, 1941 (p. 82-88), *College and research libraries* printed the article "French Official publications in the Second World War."

In 1932 appeared the *List of the serial publications of foreign governments, 1815-1931*, edited by Winifred Gregory (New York, H. W. Wilson Co.) containing the entries under France on p. 200-224, three columns to the page, with holdings in various larger American libraries. While for the whole work, 1815 might have special advantages as an initial date, 1789 might have been considered a better initial date for France. Work on the French list was said to have been done largely at the Bibliotheque Nationale, and particular indebtedness was expressed to M. Camille Bloch of the Musee de la Guerre and to M. Boutillier du Retail of the *Ministere du Commerce*.

With annual cumulations from 1934 *Biblio, catalogue des ouvrages parus en langue francaise dans le monde entier*<sup>14</sup>, published by the Massagerie Hachette, Paris, in the form of *Catalogue dictionnaire*, has included under France with appropriate sub-headings a certain selection of French official publications, particularly those handled through publishing houses. For instance, the volume for 1950 includes nearly 350 main entries under France.

In 1943 was published vol. 50 of *A catalog of books represented by Library of Congress printed cards, issued to July 31, 1942* (Ann. Arbor, Edwards Brothers) containing the entries under France

14. Began publication with October, 1933.

on p. 343-590, three columns to the page. The *Supplement cards issued August 1, 1942 — December 31, 1947*, (Ann Arbor, J.W. Edwards) has the entries under France on p. 85-175 of vol. 13 (1948). Subsequent printed cards under France are represented in the *Library of Congress Author catalog, a cumulative list of works represented by Library of Congress printed cards, 1948*, through 1951 as follows: 1948, vol. 1, p. 834-840; 1949, vol. 1, p. 798-809; 1950, vol. 1, p. 811-820, 142 entries; 1951, vol. 1, p. 834-841, 134 entries.

Certain large classes of official publications not too widely known such as royal decrees previous to 1789, legislative documents, patents, and maps may have been mentioned, group by group.

Of the royal decrees, patents, and similar acts previous to the French Revolution, many thousands were issued in separate pamphlet form<sup>15</sup>. In 1910 the *Bibliothèque Nationale* presented the first volume of a chronological catalog of these by date of promulgation under the title *Catalogue général des livres imprimés de la Bibliothèque Nationale: Actes royaux*, listing 5,655 items from the beginning through Henry IV and including in the introduction a record of collections covering two or more reigns. Louis XIII and Louis XIV (1610-1695) are covered in the second (1938) and third (1946) volumes. The work was started by Albert Isnard, and continued by Suzanne Honore Duverger. It may be noted that the section "legislation" was not included in the great *Catalogue de l'histoire de France*.

Under the third Republic the printed documents in separate form (*Impressions*) issued through the printing houses of the legislative bodies mainly for the use of members flourished. The "Impressions" include legislative bills with supporting statements, budgets in detail, committee reports, messages from the President of the Republic, reports of investigations and other documents of general legislative or governmental interest. The first and only part printed of Dampierre's *Inventaire général* (referred to earlier) gives a most detailed description of the "Impressions" issued in the years 1937 and 1938. For the legislative period

15. This was a common practice in many other jurisdictions in the earlier period before the beginning of formal law collections.

1936-42, nearly 10,000 "Impressions" were issued by the two chambers. To accompany the sets assembled for the libraries of the legislative bodies, and for the few sets deposited elsewhere, indexes by name and topic have been printed as follows: 1871/75: *Tables generales des Impressions de l'Assemblée nationale*. 1876/77-1936/42: *Table alphabétique (nominative et methodique) des Impressions du Senat et de la Chambre des deputes* (with variations in title).

Individual patents of invention (brevets d'invention) have been issued by the Service Institut Nationale (previous to 1951) de la propriete industrielle in separate form just as the United States Patent Office has available the individual drawings and specifications. An annual index volume (*Table des brevets d'invention et certificats d'addition imprimes*) has been issued at least since 1902, with various earlier indexes covering the multitude of French patents from 1791 through 1901.

Maps and other related publications of the Institut Geographique Nationale (before 1st July, 1940, Service géographique de L'Armee) and of the Service hydrographique de la Marine are printed and published by these services. The series of catalogs of the two services<sup>16</sup> extending over many years list the maps and other publications available at the different periods.

For the Imprimerie Nationale, an exhibit catalogue of the Bibliotheque Nationale entitled *L'Art du livre a L'Imprimerie Nationale des origines a nos jours* (Paris, 1951, 157 p.) describes representative specimens of books printed there from its founding in 1640, particularly other than administrative works. The annual report (*Compte rendu*) gives little information as to the individual documents printed. At least since 1923, a sales catalogue of the documents available through the National Printing Office entitled *Catalogue des publications en vente* has been issued, usually with annual revisions. The edition for 1950 has 78 pages.

Relatively few catalogs or lists of the publications of individual agencies or groups of agencies, such as the following, and a syste-

16. Institut géographique nationale: *Catalogue des cartes publiees par l'Institut géographique nationale.*

Service hydrographique de la marine: *Catalogue des cartes, plans et des ouvrages qui composent l'hydrographie.*

matic, persistent and determined effort might extend the number somewhat, seem ever to have been issued :

Academie des inscriptions et belles lettres. *Les travaux de l'Academie des inscriptions et belles-lettres, histoire et inventaire des publications : Notices redigees par Adrien Blanchet, Jean-Baptiste Chabot [etc., etc.]*. Paris, G. Klincksieck, 1947. 190 p. 26 cm.

Dore, Robert. *Bibliographie des Livres jaunes a la date du 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 1922*. Paris, Honore, Champion, 1922. 28 p. 26 cm.

Records the "documents diplomatiques" of the Ministère des affaires étrangères, commonly referred to as yellow books from the yellow paper covers. Reprinted from *Revue des bibliothèques* vol. 32, 1922, p. 109-136. Reprinted and supplemented on p. 24-246 of Miss Jose Meyer's *Official publications of European governments, part 1* (Paris, 1929). Diplomatic documents, 1920-1940, are given by Dampierre on p. 613-614 of *Les publications officielles des pouvoirs publics* (Paris, 1942).

France. Direction de la documentation. *Catalogue methodique des publications de la "Documentation française."* Paris, 1948, 1945-47, and 1948 to date, 30 cm. annual.

France. Ministère de l'instruction publique et des beaux-arts, Comité des travaux historiques et scientifiques, missions, bibliothèques, archives. *Bibliographie de leurs publications de 31 de decembre 1897*. Paris. Imprimerie Nationale, 1898. 129 p. 24 cm.

France. Office nationale d'études et de recherches aeronautiques, *Catalogue des publications*. Edition du 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 1951, Paris. Impr. C. Malochet, 1951. 32 p.

France. Office scientifique et technique des peches maritimes. *Bibliographie analytique des publications de l'Office scientifique et technique des peches maritimes*. Paris. 1948. 75 p. 24 cm. (Its Notes et rapports, nouvelle serie, No. 3).

France. Secretariat general a l'aviation civile et commerciale. *Catalogue des publications*. Paris. 1949. 59 p. 28 cm. Mimeographed.

Paris. Bibliotheque Nationale. *Les catalogues imprimes de la Bibliotheque nationale : liste-description-contenu*. Paris. Bibliotheque Nationale, 1943. 204 p. 22 cm.

As for publishing houses handling publication and printing for various ministries and other agencies of the government, one can examine the greatest array of the general catalogs as of about 1900 to be found in the volumes of H. Le Soudier's *Bibliographie française: recueil de catalogues des éditeurs français*. The systematic collecting of publishers' catalogs is usually much too little esteemed even in the largest libraries for one to recommend consulting the various editions of the general catalogs of the publishers referred to earlier. While Charles-Lavauzelle may be recognized as the official military publisher, it may not always be possible readily to determine the past as well as the present publishing arrangements of different services such as that the Librairie Polytechnique Beranger is the publisher for the Service de la Carte Géologique de la France.

At this point, the following statement made in my 1933 paper<sup>17</sup> may well deserve some attention:

"Concise but fairly complete information about the organization and development of the government departments of foreign countries is indispensable to an intelligent arrangement and correct statement of the successive files of official publications and to their effective use."

At the present time the fullest available directory of the French government is the annual *Bottin administratif et documentaire, annuaire général de l'administration française* published by the *Annuaire du commerce Didot-Bottin*, Paris, representing an elaboration of the material formerly published as a part of the Paris volume, or volumes of the *Annuaire du Commerce Didot-Bottin*. A much more compact official directory is being issued by Documentation Française under the title *Repertoire permanent de L'administration française*. Also there is a briefer unofficial *Annuaire des ministères*, with monthly supplements. The *Almanach National*, the former official directory, which had its beginning in 1679 as the *Almanach royal* ceased publication with 1919.

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17. A foundation for foreign government document bibliography with illustrative remarks concerning France, on p. 195-216 in *Public documents . . . papers presented at the 1933 conference of the American Library Association*, and also issued separately. Washington, 1934.

Under law 49-958 of 18th July 1949, is now being published as a volume of the budget a *Nomenclature des établissements publics et semi-publics de l'Etat, des sociétés d'économie mixte et des fondations et associations subventionnées d'intérêt national*, illustrating the present ramifications of the French administrative system.

The spirit that has been shown in endeavouring to get the current record of French official publications under way should be an incentive towards covering the whole rich, relatively unknown field, valuable not only in itself but as a reflection of the French administration which for so long has served as an example and model to other nations of Europe.

# SOME FACTS ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE RELATIONS OF THE UPPSALA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

TONNES KLEBERG

As president of the Swedish Association of University and Research Libraries (Svenska Bibliotekariesamfundet) it is my pleasure to congratulate the Madras Library Association on the 25th anniversary of its founding and wish it many more years of successful development of its educational and research activities. I do this with the firm conviction that libraries and library organizations all over the world, in their unpretentious ways, represent a factor of real importance in bringing people of different lands closer together. Libraries exist to encourage the pursuit of knowledge and knowledge is the prerequisite for understanding and closer relations between countries.

This wish could be enough in itself, but I have been kindly asked to contribute a short paper within the field of library matters. I am glad to use this opportunity to discuss briefly the international exchange relations which have been in the past, and are now all the more, an important factor in the development of the library of which I am in charge. I do this with pleasure because international exchanges in particular, constitute an area where libraries without a doubt can make a significant contribution towards increased international cooperation and understanding.

But first, a few words about this particular library. Uppsala University Library is Sweden's oldest and largest library and one of the most important research libraries in Northern Europe. Its history actually goes back to the Middle Ages, but 1620 is the year it was officially considered to be established. After 330 years' existence it contains collections which include over one million volumes, two million pamphlets, 20,000 manuscripts, and occupies about 121,700 feet of shelf space. The number of current foreign serial publications now being received is about 6,800

(complete runs of serials published in Sweden are maintained) and these are distributed among the principal fields of research except technology, agriculture and forestry. The collections are particularly rich in theology, medicine, history and linguistics. The staff consists of over 90 persons, of whom 23 are librarians with higher academic degrees, and 25 are trained library assistants.

The international exchange relations of Uppsala University Library actually began in the middle of the 18th century, but it was during the latter part of the 19th century that they assumed proportions of some significance. In 1884 the number of exchange agreements established was 63; these figures rose rapidly to 761 in 1897, about 1,500 by 1906, and around 2,000 by 1913. World War I naturally brought about a considerable breakdown in exchange activity. But, when after a few years the international situation had stabilized somewhat, a new period of rich development began. During the latter part of the nineteen-twenties and the nineteen-thirties the exchange activity continued to increase so that by 1939 the University library had established exchange agreement with an estimated, 4,000 institutions.

World War II brought with it in many of the countries terrible losses even within the library field; in some countries by the end of the war the library organization was, practically speaking, demolished. The international exchanges of the post-war years, as far as Uppsala has been concerned, have been characterized by reorganizing activities and assistance wherever possible. In many cases, the exchanges have been one-sided transactions, we have not waited to receive anything in return but have tried to do our best to replace the war losses among our exchange partners. Now, for the most part, exchanges are functioning again. Most of the old connections have been resumed; several new ones have been established. But, on the other hand, because of incidents of the war or subsequent happenings, several exchange partners have disappeared. Now we estimate that the number of institutions (universities, libraries, academies, societies, editorial offices) with which fairly regular exchanges are made, is again about 4,000.

In spite of the fact that we, of course, try to standardize the exchange work and use office machines wherever possible, a staff



of four persons with special language qualifications is required : two librarians (one of whom is in charge of the section) and two women assistants. The exchange bureau is a section in the Department of Foreign Imprints.

Various kinds of exchange material, particularly Swedish scientific and learned journals and books, are sent to the foreign institutions. In the first place the library disposes of its own and Uppsala University publications : doctoral dissertations, journals such as *Acta R. Universitatis Upsaliensis*, *Bibliotheca Ekmaniana*, and such other publications of the learned societies in Uppsala as, *Acta R. Societatis Humanarum Litterarum Upsaliensis*, *Acta Societatis Medicorum Upsaliensis*, and the institutes of the university, for example, Bulletin of the Geological Institution, and finally, a considerable number of scientific periodicals subsidized by the State. Altogether, the library distributes for exchange purposes more than 250 serial publications. The majority are written in English, French or German or have at least summaries in one of these languages. The library disposes of as many as 800 copies of some of the publications, and as few as 10 copies of others.

In return, the library receives from all over the world, scholarly publications from universities, academies and societies, periodicals, serials and books. The acquisitions received in this way, quantitatively speaking, are considerable ; during 1951, 6,276 volumes and pamphlets of foreign literature were received by exchange, and 5,692 by purchase. Of the current foreign serials which as mentioned above are about 6,800, 60 per cent. are acquired by exchange, 40 per cent. by purchase. The quality of the exchange material received is quite good too, some of the items being quite valuable and expensive.

These figures themselves say a great deal about what exchange relations mean for Uppsala University Library and consequently for research in Sweden. The annual grant given by the State to the library for the purchase and binding of books is 365,000 Swedish crowns (Rs. 328,800). The exchange publications which are placed at our disposal constitute a considerable increase to this amount. In contrast to a cash grant, the exchange imprints are largely independent of the fluctuating currency situation.

The institutions with which we maintain exchange relations are distributed all over the world—Europe, Asia, Africa, America and Australia.

The number of exchange agreements established with institutions in India at the present time is 55. By the eighteen-sixties and seventies the library was already receiving a great number of valuable India imprints from the British Government and the India Office. But not until the end of the eighteen-eighties and during the eighteen-nineties were direct exchange contacts established with institutions in India. The earliest appears to have been with the Royal Botanical Garden in Calcutta in 1887. As our collections of Indian literature, thanks both to exchange agreements and considerable amount of purchases are relatively good, there is for us a great deal of interest in establishing exchange contacts with additional institutions in India. Perhaps these few lines may prove to be an impulse for further development of the cultural connections between our two countries.

And with this, I touch again upon the primary importance of international exchanges. They bring to libraries scientific and literary publications of importance under advantageous conditions and this is important. They contribute towards the dissemination of the scholarly work of one country in other lands, which is equally important. They aid in both these ways and also through the personal contacts which they sometimes create—to an increased knowledge of other countries and to an increased interest in their respective scholarship, culture and problems, and it is the last which is perhaps the most important of all.

# INTERNATIONAL LIBRARIES AND THEIR PROBLEMS

A. C. BREYCHA-VAUTHIER

Our profession, that of the Librarian, is one of the older intellectual professions. Historical developments and technical progress put before us new problems which every generation must cope with and must make the necessary adjustments in its libraries to meet the needs of its time. Some of these changes originate in an unprecedented increase of publications. Others have been caused by recent events. Amongst the latter, the increase of international organisations in number and in importance has also influenced the library world, an increase which creates problems for the libraries of every country which come into contact with them.

## I

The libraries of international organisations originally had the same functions as many official libraries. These collections had to facilitate the work of their secretariats in assisting them in the issuing of their reports and statistics and they also included the publications of their respective organisations. Outside visitors were limited to delegates or other persons with special relations with the organization, and some specialists. The staff, especially in small organizations, were officials who had other functions besides being the librarians. It was here that the first change took place and we find more and more full-time librarians in charge of these collections; where this is the case the publications were systematically collected, catalogued and made available.

It was natural that librarians of these libraries, especially if they could compare their work with the work of the big public libraries in their city, also wished to expand and to process more material and thus to attract more users. It must, however, also be understood that the powers responsible for the working of the respective international organizations were not always in favour

of such developments for even though they might have valued it as a means of publicity for their organizations, yet, on the other hand, they had to contemplate the growing costs which an increase of readers would sooner or later bring about. The latter point of view was strengthened by widely spread views amongst the officials of the organization, views which are also endorsed by many official libraries, that an increase of outside readers necessarily brings about some disadvantages for the original users. Then there was also the problem of confidential archives material which sometimes was not being clearly separated from books, which also prevented public access to such libraries. Such was more or less the general position, and it is understandable that the impulse to make the library of the largest international organizations of pre-war times, the League of Nations Library, into a public library had to come from outside. In 1923, an experts committee had expressed the desire that this library, which had been founded in London in 1919 and had been transferred to Geneva in 1920, should be developed into a central study place for international relations. The decisive step in this direction was, however, made in 1927 when Mr. John Rockefeller (Junior) gave 2 million dollars to the League of Nations a proportion of which was to construct the library building, which would make it possible for all those interested in international relations to study in Geneva, and the remaining revenue to cover the costs of opening the library to the public and, more especially, for the purchase of additional material.

With this view in mind, the library was organized in the new Palais des Nations, and it soon became evident that doubts which had spread amongst the secretariat and even delegates concerning this new formula of a public official library were contradicted by the development of the library itself. It was found that its collections could be very much increased, thanks to additional means and to the fact that gifts and exchanges favoured a library which had become public much more than could ever have been the case for a restricted official library. A notable increase in topical material was another fact. Experience shows that political and economic questions are dealt with by international organizations often only when they have already passed their initial stage and however much librarians in official libraries can do to keep their

collections up to date, the decisive impulse comes from the reader, either in the form of suggestions for purchases, or, if means are not sufficient, borrowing ; it is therefore thanks to the specialist that the librarian is aware of new problems and that the official can benefit from such specific knowledge in having such specialized and up-to-date material on hand.

In 1946, the League of Nations Library was taken over by the United Nations and in 1948 the International Advisory Committee of Library Experts, in which Mr. S. R. Ranganathan played a leading role, fixed the general lines for the organization of the Geneva Library, and the Secretary-General thereupon drew up regulations governing the use of the Central Library, Geneva, by the United Nations and Specialized Agencies which were approved by the General Assembly. The United Nations Library, in addition to being recognized as a public library, was now also for the first time entitled to loan to outside libraries ; although such a lending policy should not interfere with the work of the organization, it was hoped that the wide system of reciprocity could be maintained. This status of a public official library in Geneva not only belongs to the United Nations Library but also to the Libraries of the International Labour Organization and of the World Health Organization. In order to intensify collaboration between the United Nations Library and the Libraries of the Specialized Agencies, a Library Co-ordinating Committee of the United Nations Organization was constituted in 1948. Statistics of loans show the effects of this co-ordination ; the Library of the United Nations in Geneva thus loaned in 1951 out of its 404,000 volumes over 55,000 volumes of which 3,000 were sent to the World Health Organization and 1,500 to the International Labour Office. The increase of outside readers coincided also with the increase of the loans. In 1951, the United Nations Library had 30,000 admittances.

If we consider this very satisfactory result in Geneva, we must, however, not forget that it might be difficult to draw parallels with the possibilities of development in greater cities ; for great world centres have their own problems which cannot be solved simply by multiplying experiences in smaller places, and if international libraries in such centres accepted freely all readers

interested, they would need an increase in means, staff and space, and eventually quite a special organization if the mass of requests were not to result finally in handicapping the services to their own organizations; and to avoid that, the stream of outside readers, though stimulating, should not become an element of disorganization. Growth of international libraries thus has limits as long as they are parts of an international organization and their first scope is to serve these organizations. It might, however, be that the creation, scope and financing of an international library whose main problem would be to serve the public, could also open up new possibilities.

## II

The opening of the libraries of international organizations to the public also intensified the relations of these libraries with the libraries of the host country. Viewed from the personal angle, we see here the collaboration of the "international" librarian with his colleagues of the host countries; relations, for example, with the library schools of the host country giving them the possibility of sending library students to international libraries while the international libraries are then able to examine the qualifications of their potential future collaborators. In various other fields also, signs of growing integration of international libraries can be seen. Thus, an increasing number of international libraries are not only members of their national library associations but also work in the library associations of their host countries. These personal contacts which bring about reciprocal relations and mutual comprehension of the respective tasks also bring about collaboration with the libraries and bibliographic institutions of the host country. An example is the collaboration of the libraries of the United Nations of the International Labour Organization and of the World Health Organization in the new edition of the list of foreign periodicals received in Swiss libraries which the Swiss Library Association is editing and which will also comprise the periodicals received by the international libraries. If we see here that amongst the periodicals which the United Nations Library receives, about 1,500 are received by no other library in Switzerland, it is clear that such collaboration is most useful for all concerned. Another way of collaborating is that the Union catalogue of the host country

also notes new acquisitions of international libraries. As another service of an international librarian to fellow librarians all over the world, it might be mentioned that the Geneva United Nations Library has been the headquarters of the International Federation of Library Associations since 1929 and the place where their annual reports "Actes" are published.

Examination might also be made of the usefulness of mentioning in the annual statistical surveys of the libraries of a country the international libraries established there. Such a step might, however, serve no useful purpose, for, in spite of the desirability of close collaboration, we must never forget that international libraries obey other rules than their neighbour libraries belonging to the country, a fact which makes comparisons in a number of fields useless. They depend on different authorities. The seat of an international library can be changed together with the seat of an organization and might easily be amalgamated or even liquidated. Thus a short time ago, on the basis of an agreement with the United Nations, the library of the International Penal and Penitentiary Commission was handed over to the United Nations Library in Geneva, which is continuing these collections. This is only one example, where, however, the collections, though having been transferred from one place to another, at least remained in the country and are even rendered more accessible than they were previously. The Geneva Library example shows the good results which can be reached if responsible authorities permit developments on a straight line. We have, however, also had other examples which show that international libraries are necessarily endangered by additional elements of instability.

### III

We might now arrive at the following conclusions : that international libraries—especially on account of the immensely increasing number and rising importance of the official publications in all countries—are highly valued by all those who know how difficult such material is to locate and still more difficult to catalogue for the large central libraries ; librarians therefore gladly let their international colleagues take up this delicate task.

International libraries are aware and they are continuously kept informed of important new official publications in the respective

fields; they receive this from their correspondents either as a general exchange service or in a useful selection. They are therefore given centres for official publications. It is desirable however that this material should not only be available on the spot, but that it should be listed in current bibliographical publications<sup>1</sup> and to have this material also accessible either on loan or in photo duplication.

Another public service of international libraries consists in their collecting the publications of their own and related international institutions. The United Nations has selected a great number of libraries which are depositories of publications in the United Nations<sup>2</sup> and which make it possible to study all these questions in any country, and this system of depository libraries is satisfactory as far as important publications are concerned. The question arises, however, as to what should be done about the innumerable reports and processed proceedings which cause so many headaches to all libraries. It is therefore most important to know to which international library one can address oneself in case of need.

We have thus seen that international libraries complete the libraries of any country. British librarians, viewing things practically, were first to recognise this and have published in their library lists, after the libraries of Great Britain and the Commonwealth, the Geneva Library of the League of Nations, predecessor to the Library of the United Nations, showing thus that this Library also belongs somewhat to their country, which has helped in building up these collections: a realistic conception of the participation not only in the duties, but also in the rights and services of an international organization.

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(1) Thus the Library of the United Nations, Geneva, has issued for a quarter of a century, its "Monthly List of Books Catalogued" as well as a "Monthly List of Selected Articles" which notes down articles from about 2,000 periodicals. United Nations Headquarters Library, New York, also publishes currently its "New Publications" (Volume 3, 1952).

(2) In order to give a survey of the publications of all United Nations organisations, the United Nations Library in New York issues every month, "United Nations Document Index," which includes each year a list of all depository libraries of these organisations throughout the world.



# LIBRARIES OF SCANDINAVIA

S. MOOKERJEE

Everywhere in the civilised world Public Libraries have been recognised to be of great importance as a stepping stone to higher culture and a more solid foundation of knowledge in the community in general. It should be borne in mind that the typical Public Library is not a seat of great scholarly output. It is an unpretentious popular grass roots community agency. It is the library's responsibility to inspire the people, to reach for new ideas, better understanding and a richer life. This aspect of public library service or activity is being pre-eminently achieved by the libraries of the West, where I have been studying their library systems for the last several months as an *Unesco* Fellow. Of course the degree to which this is being achieved is not uniform in all libraries in the different countries that I visited. But to speak broadly the Scandinavian libraries have been very systematically planned to do their job in the above field.

To speak of Norway first.

As far back as 1876 the Norwegian Government has made regular subventions for Public library purposes. They have also since 1891 made grants to school libraries for the pupils in the elementary schools. According to the report of the Public Library Agency, Norway, there are about 11,000 public libraries and 5,200 school libraries which enjoy Government grants. These public library stock taken together will amount to 2,530,000 volumes with an annual circulation of 4,100,000 volumes. Not very long ago in 1902 a special directorate for public libraries was created under the ministry of education. This new department was to advise and supervise the libraries and also had to publish a special catalogue which would help all libraries in selecting their stock. In 1903 this comprehensive list of select books on fiction and non-fictions was first published which acted as recommending list for all public libraries. An arrangement was made

with the publishers to charge on an average 15 per cent less on all books so listed when purchased by libraries. This arrangement is in a way still in vogue for all books listed by the department in their organ "Book and Library" in which they publish every alternate issue a select list of books for public libraries.

In the year 1902 the State Government entered into an agreement with a private book-binding firm on a co-operative venture. The agreement with the book binding firm in Oslo (the State capital), was for binding books for public libraries and also for the distribution of books and all library supplies. This firm now known as Folkeboksamlingenes Ekspedisjon—has now been bought over by the Government. It functions as a non-profit making agency which supplies all public and school libraries with a strong but inexpensive binding for all books with the Dewey decimal classification numbers stamped on each book. Books are also provided with necessary book pockets, book cards, etc., before they are sent to the different libraries which have ordered them. Printed catalogue cards are also being printed and are supplied at a very low cost, thus solving a lot of cataloguing difficulties for the different libraries. The central classification work is generally done by the library directorate when they draw up the select list and is then passed on to the Ekspedisjon for printing according to the accepted code of cataloguing. In our country the different provincial library associations may well try this method so long as the State is not able to do anything in this direction. Co-operation with the different publishers and the libraries is also very essential to have a smooth working. With a proper co-operation considerable amount of bibliographical work (service) so far as different provincial languages are concerned may also be done. But the question of National bibliography requires a better organisation and control preferably through state-aid. Even the small nations of Europe with a population smaller than that of Madras have been doing very methodical and systematic work in the compilation of national bibliographies. England started as far back as 1950 and without state-aid and they are wonderfully progressing. It is high time that our learned associations like the Sahity Parishad and the University should give some serious thought to this aspect. In Scandinavia the three different countries that constitute it, viz.,

Norway, Denmark and Sweden it is rather interesting to find that in each of these countries they have more than one copyright libraries for the country. In Norway, the University library at Oslo is the National Library and it receives one copy of all publications from the different presses direct. All printing presses, big and small, have to send under the copyright law one copy of each of their publications to this library. Besides Oslo there is the University library at Bergen which may have on demand one copy of all publications from the publishers free of cost. The Technical University library at Trondheim as also the Science Institute library at Trondheim may receive a free copy of all publications in which they are interested, on demand from the publishers under the copyright law.

In Denmark also besides the Royal Library at Copenhagen which receives under the copyright law every thing that is printed in the State direct from the different presses throughout the country, there is the University library at Arhus which also receives one copy of all printed matter. This is a second copyright library in the country. Besides the above two there are the University libraries at Copenhagen divided into numbers one and two corresponding to Humanities and the Sciences. These also receive one copy of the publications from the publishers according to their own selections, on demand.

In Sweden the application of the copyright law is more widespread. Under printing law in Sweden all printers have to send one copy of all their publications to the following four libraries : (1) The Kungl Bibliotek or the Royal Library at Stockholm. (2) The University Library of Uppsala. (3) The University Library of Lund. (4) The University Library of Gottenborg. It will thus be seen that the funds of the University libraries in these countries are thus not allowed to be eaten up in purchasing books published in the country. Only in case of duplicate and multiple copies of such books the funds are spent. This affords additional facilities for increased purchase of foreign books for which one has got to spend. Under the copyright law only one copy of the book is available for one library. There are instances of exemplary co-operation between publishers of some smaller cities and their Stadsbibliotek, in which, *e.g.*, in Malmo (in Sweden) the Stads-

bibliotek or the Public library gets two copies of everything that is published in the city, to be preserved for the local collection in the library. This is done under no compulsion but only out of common courtesy and this helps building up the local collection very systematically.

Now coming to Norway again, instead of going into the historical development of the Public Library Agency in Norway from 1902, we shall very briefly indicate the progress it has made since the last war. The public libraries of Norway have suffered heavy losses during the last war in which 51 of them were completely destroyed. Besides the above there were other cases of partial damage due to bombing and scorched earth policy pursued by the occupational forces. Taking all these into consideration, Dr. Kildal, the Director of the library department gave the figure of the total books lost to be 72,000 volumes and the total monetary value to be 870,000 Norwegian Kroners. (Nr. Kroner is little less than a shilling.) During the war and the occupation the libraries of the country were the only little breathing spots for the intellect. They were the only places haunted by old and young in the hour of their national tragedy. According to the statistics of the period the book loans grew extraordinarily, most of the libraries circulating twice as much as usual. As such, much of the book stock required replacement. It was really very fortunate not to have much disorder in the main library organisational control by the Nazis. The State has according to the demand increased the subvention grant from 300,000 kroners to 1,000,000 kroners during the present times. Not only the public libraries and the School libraries get help from this but adult education activities also get some help. This embraces—popular lectures, study clubs or study circles, and discussion groups and travelling art exhibitions. The amount of municipal aid has also been increased. The other main problems of Nordic libraries to-day are provision of new books for the worn out library collections—and this will gradually be solved by the far-sighted policy pursued by the Directorate. The other important matter is the provision of satisfactory housing for libraries. This is a problem common to all parts of the globe; shortage of building materials still stand in the way of new erections. The Government is preparing plans for a number of Community

houses in which public libraries will have their reserved accommodation.

Population in Norway is spread out over a vast area through the fjords. Communications are neither many nor very swift. The problem of taking books to the people is acute. In order to increase the circulation of good non-fiction reading material, the few central libraries that were established before the war have now been greatly increased. These central libraries are generally the city libraries which could utilise their larger book stock for the benefit of the rural population. Many of these central libraries have also been furnished with travelling libraries which help associations and individuals in isolated districts. Some of the central libraries have taken bookbiles (book mobiles) with about 800 volumes on their shelves going round regular routes in adjacent districts. These have grown in popularity immensely and new routes are constantly on demand. The country being divided by numerous fjords there is a combination of book wagon and book boat for service in the separated areas of such districts. From 11 such central libraries their number has been increased to 18, one for each of the major provinces or administrative units. In the case of our states too each of the different districts may have a Central or Headquarters library with sub-divisional and other town and rural libraries under them. All the entire network being controlled by the library directorate at the Headquarters working with a minimum staff. In Norway the library directorate has a staff of 7 only besides the Director at Oslo, and they have been doing magnificent work.

The new library law that has recently been passed by the Storting (Parliament) makes it obligatory on each of the 700 municipalities to maintain or support a public library within its borders by appropriating a certain minimum amount fixed in the body of the act. In a similar manner all public schools in the rural districts are obliged to establish and support by annual grants—a children's library for the use of the pupils. Another interesting feature of the new library law is the provision for compensation to authors for the distribution of their books to libraries. The Central Government grant in 1950-51 was 15,213,000 kroner for public and school libraries only (this does not include University

and Technical libraries). Some of the provisions of the new public library law of Norway is quoted below: Every municipality shall have a public library having a regular minimum subsidy from the municipality for books and the librarians' salary. The municipal subsidy is to be comprised of at least 25 oere (100 oeres = 1 kroner) per inhabitant of the municipality. Public libraries aiming to increase public enlightenment by lending out books are granted Government subsidies under the rules which this law stipulates. To be entitled to Government subsidy, a public library must fulfil the following conditions: (a) a city or county municipality must be the owner. (b) All inhabitants of the municipality shall be entitled to borrow books without costs. (c) The library must have a librarian with a regular salary who has attended a regularised library course or who has worked in a regularly recognised library. (d) The rules and regulations proposed by any library must be approved by the Department. (e) The municipality must provide for suitable premises at a convenient place in the municipality. (f) The libraries must follow the rules and regulations set up by the Department regarding housing facilities, supervision, maintenance, librarians' salary and book-collection. The Department may stipulate more conditions.

As a rule subsidies are only given to one public library in each municipality. If the municipality has more than one public library that might be entitled to State-aid according to law. The libraries must work together according to plans approved by the Department in order to be granted subsidies. Public libraries will receive subsidies according to the following rules and regulations: (a) If the library receives a local subsidy for books and salary of upto kr. 400.00 annually, the Government grants the corresponding amount to the library. (b) If the local subsidy is higher than kr. 400.00, the Government grant is stipulated according to the following rules:

If the local subsidy is between:

kr. 401 - 600	the Govt. grant amounts to 90 per cent.
kr. 601 - 800	" " " 80 "
kr. 801 - 1500	" " " 70 "
kr. 1501 - 3000	" " " 60 "
over kr. 3000	" " " 50 "

(c) So it is seen that the highest government grant is 3000 kroners.

(d) The Department can give larger grants than those specified above if the subsidy granted by the Storting (Parliament) is large enough to allow it.

If the Storting grants subsidies for additional grants or for other library purposes than those already specified, the Department distributes the grants according to the following rule. A public library in a municipality which serves as a central library (a library with more than one municipality working area) is entitled to receive an additional subsidy of kr. 8000 plus 20% of the local subsidy for books and salary, though not over kr. 10,000 without the consent of the Storting. The Department of libraries decides if a particular library is to be recognised as a central library and also decides the limit of the area it serves. Public libraries that have a collection of reference books in a municipality within a population limit of 10,000 are entitled to an additional subsidy upto  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the local grant, though not more than kr. 500 for a single book collection. Public libraries that are so well run and administered as to serve as model libraries and libraries serving connected study groups or other educational purposes, are also entitled to additional grants.

The Deichmanske Bibliotek is the city library for Oslo with branches within the city limits. It is one of the very large city libraries and may well compare with the Manchester city library in England. As a municipal library for the city it obtained its original stock of books as donation from Carl Deichman (1705-80) and was opened to the public on January 12, 1785. In 1898 and the following years Haakon Nyhuus (1866-1913) reorganised the library according to modern methods based on American and British library principles. In fact his work became the determining factor of the development of the public library movement in Norway. The number of volumes in the library according to the latest report available is about 500,000, the annual circulation of books about 1,000,000, the annual expenditure (1950—over kr. 1,400,000.) Since 1920 the library has been printing its own catalogue cards, which are distributed to subscribers in and outside the country. The main library has its own building

designed by the Norwegian architect Nils Reiersen and was inaugurated on 22nd August, 1933. The central library building, the circulation, reference, and children's departments, the lecture hall, etc., are finished in stucco and fresco work. Besides the central as already stated there are three branches; Gruncrookka, Gronland and Torshov and 24 lending depots or stations (small libraries). In the Gronland branch I found a library for the blind being worked by a librarian who herself was blind, and her staff was also blind. The library supplies the public schools of Oslo with books for supplementary reading, conduct courses in the use of books and has supervision and control of classroom libraries. Since 1932, the library has been publishing a monthly staff bulletin "Deichmanbladet". The present City Librarian is Dr. Henrik Hjartoy.

Downloaded from www.dbrailibrary.org



# THE JEWISH NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY IN JERUSALEM SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

DR. G. WORMANN

Before the War of Independence, from 1947-1948, the Hebrew University was housed on Mount Scopus on the outskirts of Jerusalem. Within this compound the Jewish National and University Library had a building of its own. When the fortunes of war compelled the Hebrew University to withdraw from Mount Scopus to the city of Jerusalem, the Jewish National and University Library had to leave behind its 500,000 volumes which to this day are intact though inaccessible.

The population of Israel as a whole, and consequently the number of students and teachers at the University, have more than doubled since 1947, and therefore the temporary buildings in which the University and the Library are now carrying on are wholly inadequate.

The Jewish National and University Library as its name implies does not serve the University's needs alone. It is also the central library of the State and the requirements of the public and of professional people and other intellectuals have to be taken into account in all its plans. On these principles the Library has, since its temporary transfer, collected over 200,000 volumes thus again becoming the largest library of the country. The Library also possesses one of the most important collections of Orientalia in the Middle East.

In its role as the central library the Jewish National and University Library continues to assist local libraries in various ways and to encourage the establishment of public libraries. It turns over to them duplicate copies from its collections and gives guidance in library administration and technique. As there is at present no library school in the country, the Library also takes an

important part in training personnel. A project for the establishment of a School of Librarianship within the framework of the Hebrew University is foremost on the agenda.

The Library is much supported in its efforts by groups of friends abroad and by numerous connections with university and state libraries and other places of learning in the great centres of Asia, the United States and Europe. In exchange for "Kirjath Sepher", its own Hebrew bibliographical quarterly, which has been published for 27 years, and for the new "Israel Exploration Journal" and the "Bulletin of the Research Council of Israel", the Library receives many valuable items from abroad. Amongst an exceptionally large intake of periodicals, the Jewish National and University Library is in regular receipt of most of the important Indian journals. The Library also serves as a repository in Israel for all United Nations material.

The Jewish National and University Library is also greatly interested in keeping up and developing relations with libraries, library associations and librarians all over the world. The writer of the present article had the good fortune when attending the Session of the Committee on International Bibliography of Unesco in Paris to have several meetings with Dr. Ranganathan which resulted in the establishment of excellent co-operation for the development of library services in Asia. At the request of Dr. Ranganathan, the Library staff is preparing for the Libraries Division of Unesco the Israel section of the directory of Asian periodicals and it is to be anticipated that this is only the first of many combined projects. Another important Asian librarian the writer recently had the pleasure of meeting (this time in Washington) was Mr. B. S. Kesavan, Chief Librarian of the National Library of India in Calcutta with whom he had a very illuminating exchange of views.

This article concludes with the hope that the ties between library spheres in Asia and ourselves may continue to be strengthened and that some of our Asian colleagues will do us the honour of paying a visit to Israel.

# THE LIBRARY MOVEMENT

R. JANARDHANAM NAIDU

A library is an institution for self-education. In the schools and colleges the students learn the methods to acquire knowledge. When they leave them they have to make use of these methods for the gathering of more and more knowledge throughout their lives. They should, therefore, be provided with institutions to which they can resort, where they can obtain books and periodicals either to read within them or to borrow books for home study; otherwise, the vast sums of money spent by the Governments of the States and the energy and the time put forth by the students will prove an utter waste, as most of them for want of provisions to keep alive their knowledge will soon lapse into partial or total illiteracy. Such institutions go by the name of libraries, that is, places where are kept stored books and periodicals arranged according to a system. The library movement aims at impressing upon the people of any country the need to establish libraries throughout its area in proper form for them to acquire more and more knowledge and thereby to progress steadily all round from day to day.

As regards the genesis of the library, it is seen from the history of the world that quite a long time ago man began to record in an indelible form his observations and experiences for the benefit of his contemporaries and posterity. At least between 20 and 30 thousand years ago or even much earlier than that, Old Stone Age men depicted on the cave walls of the hills several aspects of the life which they saw around them. About 5,000 years ago man began to make use of written language and with the discovery of more and more materials for writing down their history, they began to collect their written records. It is very probable that these collections were at the outset gathered and preserved by priests in their temples as well as by kings in their palaces. There is evidence to show that such collections date back to 2,500 years ago. These collections may be taken as ancestors to what came to be known later as libraries.

### RAPID MULTIPLICATION OF BOOKS

With the birth and growth of different kinds of culture and the rise and fall of one civilisation after another, the volume of the record of man's history went on increasing and that led to the vast increase of the collections gathered and preserved in temples and in palaces. These collections included clay tablets, papyrus sheets and parchment rolls. In the 11th century man invented the art of the manufacture of paper which was followed by the invention of printing press from moveable types in the 15th century. These two inventions, the first affording a cheaper and easily available material for preserving knowledge and the other opening the unlimited possibility of multiplying books rapidly at a cheaper cost, enormously increased the number of printed material which had to be looked after. Naturally, therefore, places for the functions such as the proper purchase, classification, cataloguing and making available to the public for use and return, of the printed materials became indispensable. These functions have been steadily developed and greatly improved during the past few hundred years.

Notwithstanding the long history of the written record, as shown above, libraries and librarianship as we know them to-day date only from the last century. In the United Kingdom the library movement began to function actively with the passing of the First Public Libraries Act by the Parliament in 1850, the centenary of which was celebrated in 1950. In the United States of America also, the movement started at about the same time as in the United Kingdom. It was towards the close of the 19th century that both these countries started a university course for the training of librarians.

In this country since about a couple of decades ago some of the Universities started conducting post-graduate course for the Diploma in Librarianship and among them the Delhi University, with the able guidance of its Professor of Library Science, Dr. S.R. Ranganathan of international fame and a reputed author of several valuable books on the subject, conducts the course, also, for Doctorate in Library Science.

### TRAINED LIBRARIANS NEEDED

The library movement can be successful only in the countries wherein the librarians are adequately equipped with the technique

needed for the profession. Due to the large increase of printing presses books have enormously multiplied and are multiplying. Departments of knowledge have greatly increased during the last and the present century. The view as to how a library is expected to function has also changed. A library is no longer a place for the protection and preservation of books for the few : it is an educational storehouse of knowledge, guiding and inspiring many. Like the followers of other professions, librarian has to acquire knowledge for his profession only by formal schooling and not by mere apprenticeship. It has been found by over half a century of library service in advanced countries that if a modern library is to prove that it is not a mere collection of books but that it should give guidance and inspiration to readers, it must employ a formally trained librarian well equipped for his profession, as also the other members of the library's technical section.

In a country where the library movement is a success any library in it can come forward boldly with the following utterance:

"There is no segment of the population, whether considered by age, religion, occupation, personal interests, sex, political belief, or social or economic level, which the library cannot and should not reach ; in this respect at least the potentialities of the library are second to those of no other social institution in the structure of the society. The child, the youth and the adult, the labourer, the businessman and the servant ; the rich and the poor ; the devout and the disbeliever ; the liberal and the conservative—all these may be expected to seek in the free library information, education, guidance and recreation."

#### WAY TO INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING

If the library movement is successfully established in every country it can easily yield the means to create and to ensure a stable, peaceful world by bringing about good international understanding in the way quoted below :—

"This means that people everywhere must be given an opportunity to become intelligently informed about other countries and about the great social, economic and political questions and problems of our times. The modern library adequately staffed and stocked, is in a unique position to make a vital contribution

to this great cause, for nowhere else can the citizen expect to find full and impartial information. The role and value of the library assumes, thus, a peculiar significance in the world to-day."

In a country where the library movement has realised its mission the librarians working in it perform the following duties :

(1) They make printed matter of all types (books, periodicals, pamphlets, maps, legislative reports and historical documents) readily available for the use of students, research workers, legislators, Government officials and the public generally. (2) They investigate the reading interests and demands of the people served by the library, and adjust the services of the library to suit the needs of the community. (3) They publicise the library services by means of bulletins, bibliographies and newspaper announcements. (4) They select and purchase books and other materials; use established methods for classifying, cataloguing and circulating books; and assist readers to find books and information best suited to their individual interests. (5) They help children and young people in or out of school to broaden their acquaintance with books and to acquire a taste for reading. (6) They give special service to adults as to which books may entertain them or give them desired information.)

#### MOVEMENT TAKES FIRM ROOT

The library movement in the State of Madras, thanks to the indefatigable efforts of the different library associations in the State, has taken a firm root. Due to the unique exertions of the Madras Library Association founded quarter of a century ago by its most inspiring President Sri K. V. Krishnaswamy Ayyar, the State passed the Madras Public Libraries Act in 1948 and the provisions of the Act came into force in April 1950. According to the provisions of the Act the City of Madras and all the districts are empowered to levy a library cess of six pies in the rupee on the property tax raised by the Corporation of Madras, the Municipalities and the Panchayats. The State Government contributes to each district except to the City of Madras a grant equal to the money raised by way of cess referred to above.

The districts have begun to make use of the provisions of the Act. In every district there is a committee known as the Local

Library Authority to give effect to the provisions of the Act, to establish libraries throughout its area. The Director of Public Instruction, who is the ex-officio Director of Public Libraries, assisted by the Special Officer for Libraries, is the executive authority to see if the libraries functioning in the State comply or not with the provisions of the Act. There is also the State Library Committee of which the Minister for Education is the President, to give such guidance as may be necessary for the efficient working of the Act. If the provisions of the Act are properly availed of then the library movement in the State is bound to do a lasting service to its people.

#### MORE BOOKS AND MORE BENEFACTORS

The library movement in the State of Madras or for that matter in the whole of India can yield the best results, as indicated above, provided the following services are also rendered to the movement: (1) The present supply of books and periodicals in the indigenous languages is quite inadequate to meet the demand. Learned authors have, therefore, to come forward in large numbers to write books and periodicals in regional languages on literary and on scientific subjects to suit the needs of young and old, the scholars and the lay public, for light reading and for intensive study. (2) Another service required is help from the generous public to contribute the much needed finance for bringing out publications by authors who come forward with valuable manuscript treatises, as well as gifts of books and buildings to the libraries.

The funds at the disposal of the States can never be adequate to meet such growing demands. In advanced countries like the United Kingdom and the United States of America the library movement has done much yeoman service to the people of the land on account of the munificent benefactions generously bestowed upon the movement by philanthropists like Andrew Carnegie and others. India eagerly expects her generous benefactors to come forward to confer upon the people of the land several gifts to give the much needed momentum to the library movement so that the library service in this land may be as efficient as in any other advanced country in the world.

# THE MADRAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

K. S. PARTHASARATHY

## A LOOK-BACK

The Madras Library Association was founded in 1928. At that time the attitude of the public was far from encouraging. A typical Gladstonian outlook prevailed towards libraries, an outlook typified in the words of that famous Prime Minister of England. "The duties of the assistants in the British Museum Library are so easy and agreeable that their salaries might well be proportionately light." (See *Reference service and bibliography* by Ranganathan and Sundaram, V 1, p 23). The public, including the intellegentia, was apathetic.

People really wondered whether there can be any such thing as Library Service to the Public, much less any such discipline as 'Library Science.' Reading habit was conspicuous by its absence. The lay public could discover no use for libraries to justify public expenditure on their up-keep and improvement. Under the prevailing conditions the clientele of the few libraries that existed at the time, was limited mostly to the student population preparing for examinations. As for research workers and specialists in particular subjects, the idea that the librarian or his reference assistants could be of real help to them in locating materials for their study or research was foreign to them. In their estimation, the librarian was merely a custodian of books, a storekeeper to dole out the specified books they themselves select and require.

It was in such an atmosphere that the Madras Library Association was born. Its primary objective was to fight the battle against ignorance about the value of libraries as powerful instruments of adult education and secondly to create public opinion in favour of their establishment all over the State. This was an uphill task.

It set out to achieve its objects (1) by propaganda, (2) by arranging popular lectures, (3) by the production of books in non-technical language calculated to arouse interest and make



people library-minded, (4) by training workers, and lastly (5) by bringing influence to bear on Government and other public authorities and non-official bodies to encourage and promote the establishment of libraries.

Due to the infectious enthusiasm of its President, Rao Bahadur K.V. Krishnaswami Iyer, and the indefatigable labours of its Secretary, Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, the "Live Wire" of the Association, it began to make headway in achieving results. Many eminent men of the time, such as Sir P.S. Sivaswami Iyer, Rt. Hon. Sastri and High Court Judges gave their support to the Association.

The first publication of the Association *Library movement* (1929) by Diverse Hands, written in a popular style, met with enthusiastic reception at the hands of the public. The fact that its contributions were from men from different walks of life like Poet Rabindranath Tagore and Dr. S. Radhakrishnan was a measure of the success, which the infant Association had achieved during so short a period of its existence.

The next publication of the Association *Five laws of library science*, written by the Secretary himself created a stir in library world in as much as it gave a new orientation to the ideals of a 'Library Service' ideal replaced the 'storekeeper' tradition. This view and the closely allied one, that 'books are for use' and not for 'preservation' propagated by the author were something revolutionary at the time.

Shortly thereafter due to the great influence exerted by the Association, the University of Madras instituted for the first time, a short course in Librarianship, the first of its kind in India at that time and thus gave the rightful place to librarianship in Education. I had the privilege to belong to the first batch of about 19 students admitted to the new course. The Madras University Library, then developed to its highest pitch of efficiency on modern lines under the able guidance of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, the librarian who had returned from England with modern ideas about library, served as a laboratory for the practical training in librarianship.

The most valuable part of the Association's work consisted in breaking down the rock of prejudice among the public, against the

*raison d'être* of libraries. For this, the Association relied mostly on intensive publicity not only in urban areas but also in rural parts. The intensive publicity took the form of delivering popular lectures, not only about the usefulness of libraries but also on subjects of interest to rural folk, the idea being when one gets interested in a subject it may serve as a bridge to reading habit which in turn would disabuse the minds of the people of apathy towards libraries. In this publicity side of the activities of the Association, the name of Mr. S. M. Fossil stands prominent. Publicity tours to all important mofussil centres were established. Special mention should be made of the centre known as Kaumara-gurukulam established by S. V. Kanagasabhai Pillai, an engineer by profession, at Mannargudy in Tanjore District. The main feature of this centre was travelling library service by which books were carried to the villages in a bullock cart and circulated to groups of individuals without any charge.

A great stride forward in the removal of adult illiteracy was undertaken :

- (1) By a novel scheme in which one literate member was to read to the illiterates near about him in leisure hours from a special text prepared for the purpose ;
- (2) By bringing about the introduction of mobile libraries in a few rural parts as an experimental measure ; and
- (3) Thirdly, by the publication of small bulletins in local languages on subjects of practical interest to farmers. Reading lists were prepared periodically for the use of school children and the service of elementary teachers was used with great profit.

Slowly but surely, the influence of the Association began to be felt in other parts of India also, resulting in the coming into existence of similar associations for the propagation of library movement in their respective areas.

The crowning achievement of the Association, the latest fruit of its labours, came when it successfully persuaded the Government of Madras, not, of course, without encountering great difficulties at the initial stages, to undertake library legislation applicable to the whole State and the Madras Library Act, the first of its kind in India, was passed in 1948.

The activities of the Association began to be known throughout the library world and like the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, the Association was the first in India to gain international recognition. For this consummation it is nothing but the bare truth to state that Dr. Ranganathan, its active Secretary, from its very inception in 1928, has been mainly responsible.

It augurs well for a bright future of the Association that its activities continue to be guided by its enthusiastic President, Rao Bahadur K.V. Krishnaswamy Iyer, and inspired by Dr. Ranganathan now Professor in Library Science, in the University of Delhi, who has not only grown with the Association but has become bigger with achievement of international eminence and who is still happily, energy personified, despite advancing age.

Before closing, I should not fail to place on record the unflagging industry, hard work, devotion to duty, and loyalty of Shri K. M. Sivaraman who has been carrying on the secretariat work of the Association all along. Silent and shy by nature with a long and rich experience of library work to his credit, the services of Shri K. M. Sivaraman in promoting the activities of the Association are not inconsiderable.

# AUSTRALIA AND MADRAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

T. N. KORANNE

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In 1952 I attended the Australian Library Seminar as a participant from India. I went with a mixed feeling. For I felt that India was still undeveloped in library matters. However, the achievements of the Madras Library Association filled me with courage and hope.

## 2. CANBERRA SESSION

In the session at Canberra, Library Organisation was taken as the subject for the seminar. Each country had to give an account of its public library system. Naturally the Madras Public Libraries Act was the chief trump card played by me and my colleague Shri D. B. Krishna Rao. Madras has won a place in the history of India by putting the Public Library Act on the statute book. In a short memoir written by me for the Australian librarians, I had naturally described the untiring efforts of the Madras Library Association over twenty-five years to bring the Madras Library Act into existence. In this memoir, I also described the early experiments in travelling libraries sponsored by the Madras Library Association. Another activity was the institution of hospital library service. This was first of its kind in India.

## 3. MADRAS PUBLICATIONS

The Madras Library Association is well known in Australia. This is but natural. For publications are the most essential means of cultural contact and mutual knowledge between people living in different lands. Copies of the publications of the Association are found in all important libraries. In some they are well thumbed.

### 31. *Rarity Value*

A lady librarian in Adelaide was in urgent need of a copy of the *Prolegomena to library classification* (Madras Library Association, publication series, 6) 1937. She could not get it in Australia. She tried London without success. No wonder, for the book had gone out of print some years ago. At last, she got a micro-film copy of the book. At what cost! It is time that a new revised edition of this seminal book is brought out.

### 32. *A Specialised Book*

Another publication *School and college libraries* (Madras Library Association, publication series, 11) 1942, is a specialised book on library service in a restricted field. This was praised as "an excellent book," by Miss Hill of the School Library Service, Department of Education, New South Wales. She wanted me to convey this to Dr. Ranganathan.

## 4. INDIAN LIBRARY TECHNIQUE

Some librarians showed keen interest in some of the library techniques developed in Madras. The three card system for the administration of periodical publications and the Colon Classification engaged great attention. Both these techniques have been evolved by Dr. Ranganathan. Madras Library Association gave them to the world in print. The former is published in the *Library administration* (Madras Library Association, publication series, 5), 1934. The latter was first published as the third volume in Madras Library Association's publication series in 1933. It had reached edition 4, in 1952.

### 41. *Dovetailing*

Some Adelaide librarians are taking active interest in the new developments being made in CC. They have formed a Colon Study Circle to mobilise their thought. Thus work in this continent gets dovetailed with work in another continent.

## 5. LINKAGE THROUGH PERSONALITY

In one of the Canberra sessions of the seminar, Miss Elizabeth Hall, Director of the Seminar, introduced Mr. John Metcalfe, one of the leaders, with the words: 'What Ranganathan is to India, Metcalfe is to Australia.' This shows how widely the Secretary of the Madras Library Association is known in the world.

### 51. CURIOSITY TO KNOW THE MAN

The South Australian Branch of the Library Association of Australia invited me to give a talk on Dr. Ranganathan and his Scheme of Classification. The Colon Classification is known to them as Ranganathan's Classification.

### 6. CONTACT WITH OTHER NATIONALS

Indonesians and Filipinos seem to know little of the progress of library technique in India. The public relations side of the Madras Library Association should be strengthened so as to reach these people. They are not, however, without curiosity about the library development of India. They were baffled by the high percentage of our illiteracy. Our plan to make the books reach the illiterate by providing for reading to them under public library auspices as a transitory measure for the next thirty years, interested them considerably.

### 7. CONCLUSION

Though born in distant Gwalior and now living in more distant Delhi, my intellectual contact with the Madras Library Association is intimate. I therefore value this opportunity to pay my tribute to that Association at the time of its Silver Jubilee. I trust that it will achieve even more by the time it reaches its Golden Jubilee.

## PROBLEMS OF REORGANISATION IN INDIA

C. P. BAROT

Now that India is free, we see signs of new life in every department of public life, and the necessity of extension and re-organisation of library service has almost become acute. The state of our library service at present is a very sorry one. Every village should have its library; but we cannot say, without exaggeration, that even every town has one. And in the few villages and towns where we have our libraries we cannot say, without exaggeration, that there is library service. Many libraries are mere store-houses of books, and sometimes of dust as well. The secretaries and office-holders and committee men and a few donors are their only readers and naturally not only important books but important magazines also are not made available to the public as soon as they arrive. There are even reading rooms where the newspapers are not put regularly and promptly only because the chairman, the secretary and the librarian—and in big towns and cities the clerk as well—think that it is they that have the right of being the first readers.

So the first thing to be done by the reorganisers is to stop this evil practice reminiscent only of the "Samrpani Vidhi" of Vaishnava libel cases.

The second idea about which there is need for a clear understanding at the very outset concerns the administrative side. Very often in India especially in the country-side we meet with two chief functionaries in the library—the secretary and the librarian. It is best to combine the offices in one person. Generally, the librarian is the best man fitted to be the secretary also. But wherever it is not possible and the secretaryship should be reserved for some local leader he should either care to learn up the elements of library science or confine himself to making the rules and fixing the budgets, together with policy if any, and leave the execution with all its technical details to the librarian. Of

course, the secretary or the committee responsible for the library should bring an efficient librarian but having made the choice the secretary should not play the ignorant boss. If he chooses to do it he will either have to choose a weak soulless man, a mere drudge or clerk, or invite clashes.

#### TECHNICAL PROGRAMME

With the slate thus cleansed, reorganisers should begin to write on it. Before entering on the technical programme of classification and cataloguing all books which have no titles printed on their backs should immediately have them written. Title slips of the uniform height of two inches and the required breadth and bearing the surname and the initials of the authors are found convenient. They should be pasted on the top-part of the back without leaving any space. Similar slips a little shorter but uniform in size should also be pasted for showing the call-number at a uniform-height of about 1.6" from the base of the back.

The next thing to handle is the catalogue. A card catalogue is the best catalogue and in the long run the cheapest also. But if the budgetary position is forbidding a sheaf catalogue should be the next alternative. Never try to have a bound register except for accession. Whatever the state of mess some kind of accession register will always be found kept. It may not have been kept scientifically. The reorganiser in that case may begin to keep it in a better way from the time he begins. But after attaching the above-mentioned slips on the back of all books, the next thing he should take up is the author-catalogue. Preparing a subject catalogue, i.e., a classified catalogue, should follow it and not precede. However, if the library is already classified broadly, it is well and good. Otherwise it is best to arrange the books first according to authors so that even if a reader comes with the name of the author it will be convenient to find the books.

Some persons will suggest a title catalogue in preference to an author one and I know libraries which have title catalogues, but no author catalogues. But it is a mistake. Readers do come with the title alone, and if there is no dearth of finance title index should also be prepared. But in the latter case it is not necessary to prepare an exhaustive index of all titles. It is enough if books with fancy titles—titles that do not reveal the subjects—are



so catalogued. But if finances, and generally they are short in India, do not permit three indexes and you have to choose between an author and a title index, the palm must go in any case to the author one; and never to the title one.)

#### THE PROBLEM OF A SYSTEM

Next comes the question of the choice of a system. Many reorganisers, especially if they are learned and a little intelligent but completely unlearned in library science, almost always try to evolve their own system and immortalize their names like the traveller who is fond of etching or penciling his name on all the walls of all the places he visits. We in Gujarat are conducting a small class of six weeks' duration annually to give raw librarians or library clerks a smattering of library science. One such librarian some time after he had passed and obtained his certificate came to me and complained that he had a foreign trained boss, and he had the audacity to reject U.D.C. according to which the technical library was till then being classified. Instead, the boss had brought a system of ten colours and he proposed to prepare coloured slips to be attached in a particular manner as class number slips on the backs. I do not know how long it will take the boss to realise that ten colour divisions like the primary classes of Dewey will exhaust their usefulness very soon. And then even with mixings that he might propose the system will break-down as books increase and knowledge deepens.

It is always good to select a recognised system preferably Decimal or Colon. For myself I suggest the Colon. It is cheaper, more handy and adopted to local needs. Of course, the chronological part of it is difficult to be followed so long as our vernaculars do not have the necessary reference books and librarians the necessary learning. But if that is dropped, and books within their specific subjects are arranged according to their authors, it at once becomes simple and practicable. Just as many libraries do not follow Decimal beyond the second or third series except for a few absolutely necessary combinations we can begin to apply the Colon System without its chronological part.

#### (CLOSE CLASSIFICATION)

All masters of library science are for close classification. Broad classification saves the time of the library and saves expenses

but only initially and apparently, not really. When a reader comes and asks for books on Indian History, say Aurangzeb, if all books on Indian History are arranged according to their authors the History of Aurangzeb will be found scattered. If the reader does not know the names of all their authors the librarian will have to go to his help or the former will have to go all over the Indian History Books. Thus, the time saved initially will have to be spent again and again by the librarian or the reader whenever such a reader comes. And so the total time wasted would be a heavy loss. As the library is a growing organisation and books will go on increasing, it is always best to classify as closely as possible. Wise men should provide for the facilities of meeting the demands of all readers and all contingencies.

Ideals and practice, they say, differ since time immemorial. But there is always a limit beyond which practice should not compromise with the ideals lest it kills the ideals themselves. Besides, library science is not metaphysics. It is a science of practice and is meant to be thoroughly practical and therefore, there is hardly much room for compromise without injuring the practice and the practical benefits it provides for. Therefore, do not try to be over-simple. Life is complex and subjects are also as varied and as complex. So if one should go in for a classified library—and now-a-days there is no escape from it—he need not be afraid of close classification.

#### REGIONAL LIBRARIES

The necessity of close classification brings into prominence the necessity of our regional copyright libraries taking upon themselves this responsibility. For this purpose the Governments in collaboration with the said libraries should select their system as in America. The regional libraries should then supply ready-made cards to all those who care to be their customers. Many of the libraries in India are inadequately staffed. And so, many of them have untrained librarians. Their financial condition is also such that they cannot afford to have, for much time to come, librarians of the calibre required for close classification. The Government or Governments do publish quarterly lists of all the books they receive according to the copyright act. They can as well publish the lists as classified also; or it will be still better, if they call

upon the regional and central copyright libraries to publish their monthly receipts in a classified form.

But for this the Government must select its own scheme of classification and cataloguing. They do not seem to have thought over this problem; or some seem to be divided in their minds. The library associations in the Bombay State, who conduct Government-aided regional short term courses in Library Science, try to give a smattering of both Decimal and Colon Systems. But the time at their disposal is so short that they cannot give a good grounding in both. It will be better, therefore, if they take the lead; and teach only one, preferably Colon. The erstwhile Baroda State had set a noble example in this matter. They had evolved a system of their own—the Borden System; and throughout the State all the libraries had accepted it. I wonder why our Swaraj Government should not take a lesson from the experiment, which was thoroughly successful.

#### FREE MEMBERSHIP

The State had also evolved a scheme of guarantees, no deposits, and free memberships which it is a pity we do not yet think of adopting. In it the member, who failed to return the books taken by him and failed to make good any loss, lost his right of membership; and if the guarantor also failed there was a machinery of prompt recovery through departmental cuts at the very source of his income or a prompt "Hukamnāmā".

# THE LIBRARIAN AND THE COMMUNITY

GIRIJA KUMAR

Recently, an eminent foreign professor ruefully remarked, on the basis of his intimate experience, that the educational standards in his subject in this country were shockingly low. More especially, he had in mind study and research at university level. The reasons are not far to seek. To a very large extent, it may be attributed to lack of library facilities. No proper research at university level is conceivable without a well-maintained library which keeps pace with the growing mass of literature in the various fields of knowledge. This naturally presupposes that the librarian of such a library is a man of liberal education, well-paid and well-versed in his profession. But what is one to think of the benign executives of our universities who even in the year 1953, condescend to appoint their chief librarians for the paltry salary of Rs. 150 per month. It shows scant respect to cultural values.

What needs to be recognised is that there is intimate relation between the status of the librarian and the state of progress in a community. In developed communities, the librarian is the indispensable member of the community who helps to a considerable degree in raising the community's cultural level. In our country where much talk is now-a-days heard of the idea of mass-literacy, there is every danger of would-be literates lapsing back into illiteracy for want of service of reading material. This danger can be guarded against only by a country-wide library system going down to our rural areas. In these circumstances, the librarians would be called upon to act not merely as custodians of books but also as "friends, philosophers and guides" to the large masses of our people. To a great extent, they would be instrumental in determining the reading habits in the country.

Unfortunately, not much thought has been given at the governmental level to the importance of this profession's contribution to social reconstruction. The Planning Commission has generally ignored to consult the representatives of the library

profession in the formulation of the chapters relating to cultural development. The Community Development Programme does not so much as mention libraries. In case of each Rural Community Project, about 11 per cent of the total budget is proposed to be spent on education. Seven Adult Education Officers are proposed to be appointed in each project area. Not even a single library adviser has been appointed even for Community Development Programme as a whole. Mass-education without a library system is unintelligible. Even our Public Service Commissions do not seem to realise the adverse implications of selecting non-technical people for library posts. In the same manner, public institutions (not without honourable exceptions) do not rate the librarians very high.

Of late, some concessions have been made to the profession. But this is more due to 25 years of arduous struggle than anything else. The result, till a decade ago, was that only the most mediocre persons were attracted to the profession. Obviously not many intelligent persons could be attracted to a profession—with no better prospects than those of a clerical status—where one's primary function would be to act as a policeman to books.

It would be a pleasant surprise to many to be told that contributions made by India in Library Science are not only substantial but also fundamental covering various departments of the subject such as classification, cataloguing, library organisation and library administration. The credit for all these contributions is due to Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, one of the Secretaries of the Madras Library Association and President, Indian Library Association, who is recognised as the greatest living authority on the subject.

Laying much more stress on the practical side of service and organisation, the librarians in countries with developed library systems have not much opportunity for making 'revolutionary' changes in their systems of classification and cataloguing because of the cost in money and time involved in making such changes. The Indian library profession, which has begun from a scratch, is in an advantageous position. It can, not only avoid the mistakes of its counter-parts in other countries, but it can also incorporate the latest developments. But one danger against which the advance-guard of our profession in this country is to guard itself

against is the divorce of theory from practice. A special responsibility devolves upon progressive-minded librarians in this connection.

A progressive-minded librarian is a peculiar creature in this country. Young in experience, he is full of youthful ideas. He fully recognizes that there is not much gain for him in monetary terms. At the start of his career, he is given any amount of gratuitous advice to dissuade him from the profession. Later on, his slow progress is unfavourably compared with the meteoric rise of friends, colleagues and former class-mates who opted for other professions. What is over-looked by the critics is that the work is its own reward. But admittedly, the public should remember that man cannot do without bread. Monetary considerations should also be taken into account. As a matter of fact, the plea for better salaries for the profession has been one of the main planks of Indian Library Association's programme.

While tolerably good salaries may have been conceded, even the enlightened executives are so often prone to be less than humane in their general behaviour towards their librarians. This writer knows from the experience of many brother librarians in very responsible positions, that on many occasions, they are liable to be hauled up for a book mis-placed, a book lost, a job left incomplete or a thing overlooked. But the most oppressive moments are when the boss who does not know the A B C of Library Science forces his arbitrary decision on matters of a purely technical nature. The decision after sometime rebounds to the boss's discredit; but he gets away by handing over the 'baby' to his librarian. These are precisely the moments in the life of a librarian when he feels like literally throwing the job away and going back to his home. But, happily, these are passing phases peculiar to the transitional period we are now living in, in this country.

What is heartening is that healthy traditions are being built by the advance-guard of the profession. This is the bright side of the picture, but it is not the whole of it. There is a darker side to it also.

Not many right-type of persons are attracted to the profession because of the fewer opportunities, which it offers. The result is that a greater number of incompetent persons have adopted the

profession and thus have a vested interest in keeping it down and out. Many of them have been librarians for decades together but their main function was limited to being policemen to the books. They are dead set against any innovations because of the very nature of things, they are incapable of adjusting themselves to changes. They regret every advance because it is potentially capable of being a danger to their vested interests.

Yet there is another class of librarians who may be termed as 'spires'. They are very enthusiastic and always in the right-earnest, but, alas! only upto a certain stage. As soon as they get into positions, they forget everything about their responsibilities towards their profession. They become mere cogs in the wheel of official red-tapism and the only ambition left in them is to manipulate for ever better positions for themselves. It is in the very nature of a social system where capabilities are not necessarily always recognised as criteria for 'loaves' of office. Generally speaking, such people feel a special pleasure in insinuating their progressive-minded colleagues and "fouling the nest". They are the greatest danger to the profession and are mostly beyond redemption.

While not denying the substantial amount of progress made by the profession during last 25 years, on its own, it has to be admitted that it can not gain ends such as envisaged by Dr. Ranganathan in his *Library development plan* just of its own volition. The progress of the profession is directly connected with the rate of general progress in the country. So long as the economy stagnates, there cannot be much hope for expansion of library system on an all India scale. It is a pity, indeed, that the librarians cannot do much to influence the politics of their country.

Does it mean that one should sit quietly till there is a change for better in the social atmosphere? No. A special responsibility, devolves upon the librarians and central and state library organisations to do efficient public relations work. So far, positive contributions made by the profession have not been brought to public notice. And not much effort has been made to bring to attention the significant role of the librarian in a community.

# MY IDEAL COLLEGE LIBRARY

K. A. ISAAC

The Madras Library Association is well known for its varied activities in the cause of library science and library service. It has interested itself very actively in the promotion of academic library service. The publicity of the Association had been mainly instrumental in instituting compulsory library hours in the schools in Madras State as early as 1933, and in providing library training to teachers for implementing the scheme. The present paper is not therefore out of place in a Souvenir commemorating the twenty-fifth year of existence of the Association.

It is not possible in a short paper to touch on all the aspects of college library service. I can only confine myself very briefly to some of the main functions of the college library. The method of translating these functions into service-form will also get briefly indicated.

- Of late a change has come over the purpose and outlook of the college library. This change has been fully recognised in most of the countries. India also has not remained passive to it. But it is yet to fall in line with the most progressive countries in this respect. There are many impediments standing in its way. Finance is the main one.

The college library has been rightly called the "heart" of the college. It is an organic unit operating within the greater whole of the college itself. Its functions should hence be determined by the objectives of the college. This, in its turn, will be determined by the larger purpose of education. According to John Dewey, education signifies the sum total of the processes by which a community or social group, whether small or large, transmits its acquired powers and aims with a view to securing its own continued existence and growth. Till of late, the formal instruction in the college, determined by the curriculum, was sufficient to "transmit" these "acquired powers and aims". But



the amount of "acquired powers and aims" began to grow at an ever increasing rate. It became impossible for the college curriculum to keep pace with the tremendous acceleration of the Universe of Knowledge. Also the curriculum had to accommodate more than what could be done by formal instruction. Thus a division of responsibility for the implementation of the purpose of education became necessary. The college library has been brought into existence to share this responsibility with the teacher. Thus developed initially to supplement formal instruction, its functions gradually increased. It came to its share to care for the regions in the universe of knowledge not covered by the curriculum. Again, in the very process of its functioning to realise these objectives in higher education, the library revealed new objectives and added to its own functions. Thus the college library and its service have become closely identified with the teaching process. It is in fact the centre round which all the academic activities of the college revolve.

A library, which, by its functions, achieves this position in the college, is my ideal for a college library.

These functions may be considered in relation to three distinct factors—bibliographical, human and material.

There should be three general divisions of books by function in the college library. They may be designated as :

- 1 Books to satisfy the reference function of the library ;
- 2 Books to satisfy the curricular function of the library ; and
- 3 Books to satisfy the general function of the library.

A book stock calculated to satisfy these three functions should cover more or less a full spectrum of the universe of knowledge. Of course, the bands will necessarily have to be of varying degrees of light and shade.

The greatest importance should be given to the reference collection of a college library. It should contain the standard books of general reference and the standard books of reference in the different fields of the universe of knowledge. Emphasis should no doubt be laid on the subjects included in the curriculum.

The curriculum in Indian colleges prescribes text books and books for collateral reading in each subject. All these books should

be represented by an adequate number of copies in the library. The exact number is to be decided by the conditions prevailing in individual libraries. The number of students in each subject should be the main factor in deciding on this point. The prescribed books in a curriculum may have to be supplemented by other books in the field as and when they come up. These books will have to be secured on the joint flair and discretion of the librarian and the faculty.

The general function of the library is fulfilled by books intended for recreational, cultural or inspirational reading. They are books to which a student goes on his own inner stimulation. The college should consider it its bounden duty to provide for the satisfaction of this intellectual curiosity. Books in this class will include fiction, biography, travels, classics, etc.

To these three functions, may be added a fourth—research function. This is not common to all the colleges. A college offering facilities for research should provide for this function also. Periodicals should form the main collection of the materials in this group.

To build up a book collection satisfying all these functional demands on it, is not easy. It requires time, patience, alertness and judgment. There should be a carefully formulated plan. A minimum target should be fixed to be achieved in a stipulated period. The book stock should be made to grow according to this plan. The wave front of knowledge, in its advancement, should be seen reflected in a college library as it grows.

The human factor is as necessary as the bibliographical factor in the making of a college library. The staff and the clientele of the library constitute the human factor. The latter includes students, faculty members and administrative staff.

A good book collection without a competent staff would be a waste. This fact has not been fully appreciated as yet, in libraries of Indian colleges. At the head of the library staff is the librarian. The success of the library is discharging its function as a vital educational instrument in the college, mainly depends on him. He should hence combine in himself scholarship, administrative ability and high academic qualification. His personality

should pervade the library and indeed the entire college. He should provide the stimulus for his staff in their work. The librarian's status in the college should be exactly on a par with that of the members of the faculty. Only then can he work effectively in close co-operation with them. There should be professionally qualified library assistants also in a college library of fairly large size.

One word here on the practice of having teacher librarians in college libraries. In my opinion this is an undesirable remnant of tradition, still lingering on. In a college providing a suitable professional librarian, a teacher librarian is certainly an anachronism today. It is seldom that the co-operative functioning of these two opposite poles can be witnessed. They often pull in opposite directions.

We now pass on to the second constituent of the human factor—students. They are the most important. The library exists for them. This fact should never be lost sight of.

Students should be trained in the use of the library. A few lectures by the librarian on the use of the library to fresh students will make them use the library with ease and comfort. They will also provide an initial incentive to the students to make use of the library. Reference service should be instituted as an important function in a college library.

I should emphasise one particular responsibility of the library staff to students. Students get guidance from faculty members in the matter of curriculum reading. The library staff will have to provide the necessary incentive to students for reading books in the 'general' collection of the library. The reference librarian has to remember the third law of library science specially in relation to these books. Methods like conducting occasional tests, based on matter contained in such books, will certainly help to provide this incentive.

Co-operation between the library staff and faculty members is an absolute pre-requisite to the success of a college library. The faculty members have a double role in the library. They are at once users of the library and persons interested in service to students. Each member of the staff should function as a *de facto* member

of the library staff. His use of the library is mainly in preparing for his class work. The library staff should be able to anticipate his wants and procure the best books on the subjects before the demand for these arises.

It is in the field of book selection that the whole-hearted and intelligent co-operation between the librarian and the faculty is most essential. Book selection should be their joint responsibility with the emphasis shifting towards the faculty in the case of curricular and related books, and towards the librarian in the case of reference and general books. The librarian is the only member of the college who will see the library in its entire perspective. In the absence of his integrating personality, the book collection may tend to become far from being a unified one designed for a single end. He has to maintain the balance between collections in the several subjects.

In the way of fulfilling the curricular function of the library, the librarian and the faculty have yet another field for co-operation. It should be their joint effort to prepare suitable reading lists for students. These lists are necessary for preparatory, parallel and follow-up reading. They should jointly work towards the ambition of getting any student read all the books included in such lists.

Building and furniture form the main constituents in the material factor. All the facilities offered by the library by way of a good book collection and staff would lose much of their usefulness unless the right library atmosphere is inspired by a functionally designed building and furniture.

Convenience should never be sacrificed to architectural beauty. The aim should be a reconciliation of both as far as possible. There should be enough space to be distributed into functional units.

The stack room should be large enough to take in books for a number of years. It is not always feasible to prescribe a standard for the reading room space. The modern tendency is to provide space for the entire student community at one time. This certainly is too ambitious a target for ordinary colleges. But the reading room should have enough space to accommodate a good percentage of the student community at one time. Faculty members and research students should have special separate study rooms.

The construction of the building should be such that additions to the building as a whole or to its parts as and when the need arises should not be difficult.

In short the whole physical atmosphere of the library made up by the building and furniture should be inviting, restful and inspiring.

A college which offers such library facilities is sure to present to the community really able young men and women with fully developed personality. Society is bound to progress in their hands.

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# EMERGENCE OF THE LAWS OF LIBRARY SCIENCE

K. D. PURANIK

## 1 PURPOSE

About a century ago library changed its social purpose. It first added mental relaxation to the original purpose of preservation of books. In recent years it has taken up still another function—that of acting as an agency for the education of masses. Still more recently, library has come to play a vital part as an agency for communication of new thought among intellectual workers. Thus the social function of the library is gaining greatly in importance.

## 2 DEVELOPMENT

### 21 West

It was in the West that this recent development of libraries originated. There again public libraries flourished first. Naturally, development of library methods took place largely in relation to public libraries. These libraries attracted very few university-trained people towards the profession. A subject has to be developed mainly by those who practise it as a profession. The dominance of non-university men had its effect on the development of librarianship. In the discharge of the public library functions some new methods did evolve. But they were evolved differently in different libraries, without any co-ordination. They were evolved by the rule of thumb. There was no guiding or unifying philosophy behind it.

### 21 India

India entered the field very late. The development of libraries in this country with the new functions started only about 40 years ago. This was due to the cultural exhaustion into which the nation had fallen and the resulting political dominance of a foreign power.

Unlike in the West, university libraries were the first to develop in India. Public libraries hardly came into the picture till very recently. The university libraries attracted towards the library profession men with university training. This proved to be a boon. It compensated in a way for the late start in the development of libraries. The university-trained librarians in India developed the subject of librarianship and raised it to the level of a science.

### 3 SYSTEMATIC STUDY

The university-trained man studies a subject thoroughly and systematically. His mind is trained for such a study. He is never satisfied with the innumerable facts seen in isolation. His training makes him ponder over these facts. He makes a search to find out what lies behind the facts. He starts with generalising the different facts. In many cases he succeeds. He gets some conclusions. These are really generalisations. They explain the relationship between different facts. But trained in the methods of research, he is not satisfied even with these generalisations. He again dives deep into these. He tries to formulate some principle as the source of the different generalisations. This is a brief statement or a formula. This is hypothesis. It is sometimes called a law. This kind of formulation of hypothesis is largely the work of imagination. But in more profound cases intuition also comes in. Then the principles formulated are basic and simple. They help in the proper development of the subject. They serve as guide-posts. Such laws have been formulated by one university-trained librarian in India.

### 4 S. R. RANGANATHAN

In 1924, the University of Madras selected one of its teachers—S. R. Ranganathan—as the first librarian of its Library. It sent him abroad for training. He joined the University College of London. There he got opportunity of studying the vast literature on librarianship. He also got opportunity of visiting a number of libraries in the United Kingdom. He watched their working and observed their methods of work. He found that the information given in the books was disjointed. He felt its load and strain on the mind. He was amazed at the variety of practices

current in the different libraries. Then came an idea—could there be a library science with a few fundamental laws to which all the varying practices could be traced? His mind started searching for the principles. There was no immediate result. In fact it took some years to seize them. All these years, the idea was there in his mind and the search continued. The story of his groping in dark and ultimately getting hold of the laws is narrated in detail by Ranganathan himself in his *Preface to library science* (Delhi University publications, library science series, 1), 1948.

### 5 THE LAWS

In 1928 Ranganathan stated the five laws of library science. They are:

1. Books are for use ;
2. Every reader his book ;
3. Every book its reader ;
4. Save the time of the reader ; and
5. Library is a growing organism.

He published these laws in the *Five laws of library science* (Madras Library Association publication series, 2), 1931.

### 51 APPLICATION

Ranganathan also demonstrated how methods and techniques in different kinds of library work could be deduced from the Five Laws. With changes in social context the laws naturally gave rise to variant forms of work. It was also found that methods and techniques, evolved during the period of about 80 years prior to the enunciation of these laws, could be traced to, and had their root in, the five laws though they were then unexpressed. The inter-relationship between the varying methods could now be easily seen. This was a great relief.

### 52 ADVANTAGES

A law in a social science is really a normative principle. This means that it serves as a norm or standard by which practices can be judged and the best methods selected. Library science is a social science. Its laws are therefore normative. A mistake is often made by giving to the laws and a social science the same status as for those in natural sciences. This leaves to scepticism



in the possibility of a science in social sector of the universe of knowledge.

Again, in a subject like Library Service sometimes new situations arise. These present new problems. They have to be faced. Usually more than one solution suggest itself. It becomes difficult to choose one. One has to be very careful about following the one or the other. The laws are of great help in such circumstances. This kind of help is being received from the Five Laws all these twenty-five years.

The Delhi Research Circle has also found these laws helping immensely in critical situations. In advanced study—as one goes deep into the subject—points arise on which it becomes difficult to decide one way or the other. A wrong decision on an apparently trivial point in great depths usually puts us on the wrong track. The effect of the wrong track may not become visible till we march a long distance along it. But then to come back to the original situation and start again involves waste of time and energy. If this happens often frustration sets in. All this can be avoided if one goes to the laws and sees that his decision conforms with those basic principles. If this is done whenever there is even a small doubt one is more likely to keep on the right track and arrive at results speedily and satisfactorily. The laws serve to guide and channelise properly the thought on the problem. This has been the experience of the Delhi Research Circle.

#### 6 LEAD

Ranganathan's enunciation of the Five Laws is truly epoch-making. It is he who established the claim of the subject to be a science. We find that subsequently the term "Library Science" has been accepted by many in and out of the field. Many of the training institutions in the United States have included the term "Library Science" in their names. Thus the University of Chicago has its Graduate School of Library Science. Now, of course, everybody agrees that there is a Library Science. India is proud of its lead in this subject.

The Madras Library Association must be thanked for bringing out this monumental work as an early volume in its publication series. This alone would have earned a name for the Association

It is gratifying to note that the Madras Library Association has brought out as many as 20 publications in the series and we look forward to many more. All these volumes are in a sense embodiments of deductions from the Five Laws, conditioned to varying social developments. The publications of the Madras Library Association have inspired similar efforts elsewhere also. The Indian Library Association and the University of Delhi are bringing out a number of books on Library Science. These again are deductions from the Five Laws. More recent books on Library Science produced in foreign countries also show their roots drawing sustenance from the Five Laws. Of late many of the thesis for the (British) Library Association fellowship are said to be based on these Five Laws.

Ranganathan enunciated the laws in 1928. During the last 25 years they have been established and have helped the development of the subject on sound lines. In the war and post-war years research work on team-basis has brought documentation work to the forefront. This is still in a developmental stage and new techniques and methods are being put forward. The Five Laws act as the loadstone in charting the deeper regions of documentation work.

But the Five Laws stated by Ranganathan may not be the only laws of Library Science. There might be still other laws. Or they may be reduced to a fewer and more seminal set of laws. We must be constantly searching for them. We must not remain content with these five. It is upto us of the new generation to carry the torch forward.

# RESEARCH IN LIBRARY SCIENCE

D. B. KRISHNA RAO

## 0 INTRODUCTION

Research in the natural and the social sciences and the humanities has become common. It leads to continuous development in the universe of knowledge. New facts and information get continuously recorded. Organising these for exact and expeditious communication to concerned researchers is no easy matter.

### 01 Library Science Emerges

Elaborate, ever-changing technique has to be developed to meet the growing surprise-developments in the universe of knowledge. Such a technique cannot be developed by 'rule of thumb'. It has to be based on a discipline of its own. This discipline has to be developed continuously *pari passu* with the continuous growth of the universe of knowledge. This ever-growing discipline is Library Science.

### 012 Growth

Research in Library Science is therefore as compelling as research in any other field of knowledge. Library Science has already developed many branches. Each calls for its own methodology. Organisation, Classification, Cataloguing, Documentation, Reference Service, Public Relation and Administration are examples.

## I HISTORY

### 11 Early Period

Till our own times, libraries were functioning by the rule of thumb. This was sufficient to meet the purpose for which libraries were maintained then. For, the librarians had not begun to play a positive role in research organisation.

### 12 Hulme and Brown

The dawn of research in Library Science began in the early part of the first decade of this century. Wyndham Hulme and James Duff Brown were the two early lights.

## 121 Hulme

Of these two pioneers, Hulme, who is past ninety is fortunately still with us. In 1948, Dr. Ranganathan visited him.

## 1211 Revelation

Hulme gave Ranganathan information about the early attempts at research. Hulme was then Librarian of the Patent Office Library in London. Brown was Librarian of the Islington Public Library. These two were men with an inner urge for research. They had strayed into the library profession. Their personality attracted a few more librarians towards research in library technique. Public opinion was then too cynical to tolerate talk about research in library technique.

## 13 Function

As if symbolic of this, Hulme-Brown associates formed into an "Anonymous Society" and issued their publications 'secretly'. All the branches of Library Science known now, from Classification down to loose leaf binder, wicket gate and counter equipment, engaged their attention. But Hulme and Brown were both most attracted by Classification. Each worked on a scheme of his own. Subject Classification was the contribution of Brown. The classification of Hulme is still in use in the Patent Office, at London.

## 14 Fades

The introduction to Subject Classification poses fundamental issues calling for further research. Hulme started a series of memoirs on the science of classification. These were published in the *Library Association record* of the early part of this century. They have been virtually forgotten now.

## 15 Return to Light

In February 1948, Burgess wrote an article in the *Library Association record* (50, 16-19). In it, he evaluated the contributions of Bliss and Ranganathan to the science of library classification. He remarked that some of the theorems in Ranganathan's *Prolegomena* 1937, had been anticipated half a century earlier, by the "late Wyndham Hulme". The next issue of the *Record* (50, 79) brought a letter from Hulme saying that the "late Wyndham Hulme" was still "living" at old House, East Street, Littlehampton, in his 89th year. This led to Ranganathan spending a day

with Hulme at Littlehampton, in 1948. Their conversation is the only source for the above history of the beginnings in research in Library Science.

## 2 MODERN PERIOD

### 21 West

In the West, 'rule of thumb' is still dominant. Various are the causes for this. Public libraries first grew in large numbers. Their main role was entertainment and general information. The public librarian was not therefore interested in research. A university library was presided over by a Professor. He believed in each researcher helping himself. Possibility of research in Library Science never entered into his mind. Few men with university discipline and urge for research chose the library profession.

### 22 Advent of Industrial Libraries

But the advent of industrial library is having a healthy influence. And yet its new urge for research gets drowned in the apathy of the public and university and other academic libraries. These snow down the stray sprouting industrial library.

### 23 India

On the other hand the experience in India is otherwise. Till a quarter of a century ago, Indian society was lying in a state of exhaustion. Even after that, few public libraries came into existence. University libraries were the first to develop. They appointed university men as librarians. The University of Madras had been lucky in the first Librarian it appointed. The highly penetrating mind of Ranganathan did not accept anything for granted. He delved deep into the fundamentals of all branches of Library Science.

### 24 Madras

For two decades, under the auspices of the Madras Library Association, a team of workers attached to the University Library, Madras, had been, busying themselves with the early stages of research in Library Science quite unnoticed. The result of their research is the series of books published by the Madras Library Association, as well as hundreds of articles on this new science.

## 25 West Again

It has taken twenty years for these developments in India to fly across to the centres in the Western world where library thought was and is respected.

## 26 Influence

Ranganathan's *Library tour* narrates the story of the extensive penetration of the results of research in the Madras Library Association, into the several countries of Europe and America. His frequent visits since 1948 to these countries in the West and the visit of his other associates to the countries in South East Asia and Australia have enlisted many foreign young librarians to collaborate with the Research in Library Science in progress in India.

## 27 East Again

In India itself, a Library Research Circle, has been established, at Delhi. It meets every Sunday from 3 to 7 P.M. at the residence of Professor Ranganathan. During the last two years, considerable progress has been made in exploring the fundamentals of Library Science. The results are communicated through, *Abgila*, the organ of the Indian Library Association. The *Abgila* is now easily regarded as a top-ranking periodical devoted to intensive research in Library Science.

This periodical runs serial articles embodying latest results on foundations of classification, CC, UDC, comparative classification, comparative cataloguing, bibliography-building, library legislation, administration, terminology, and education for librarians.

Another line of activity is the weekly seminar, conducted every Saturday, 5-6 P.M., at the University Library, Delhi. This is a forum for discussion of minor problems confronted by librarians in their day-to-day work.

## 3 REFLECTION

## 31 India

One result of all such intensive work is that the University of Delhi has recognised the need for research and registers candidates for Doctorate in Library Science.

## 32 West

The Graduate School of Library Science of the University of Chicago is in close touch with Library Research in India. Similar *ad hoc* Research Circles have been formed in Australia, United States of America, Denmark, Norway and a few other places.

## 33 Unesco

In 1950, the Unesco sought the help of Professor Ranganathan for two weeks at the Science Division of Unesco, Paris. The result has been the memoir, *Classification, coding and machinery for research*, containing the very quintessence of his thought.

## 34 Rockefeller Foundation

Then the Rockefeller Foundation invited Ranganathan to visit the Industrial Libraries in the United States of America. He was informally asked to organise research on the foundations of Library Classification viewed as a means of communication and for that purpose, develop a symbolic meta-language. This is being done. His *classification and communication* (Delhi University publications, library science series, 3) 1951, is a preliminary report on the subject.

## 35 Fid

The International Federation for Documentation has delegated 'Research in the Theory of Library Classification' to the care of India.

## 36 Tree Flowers

The seeds sown in Madras in 1928 and christened "Madras Library Association", has been thus growing during the past 25 years into a mighty tree with wide and extensive branches. It has begun to flower. The fragrance of its blossom is spreading into foreign lands. It now exercises a profound influence on library thought.

## 37 Fruits and Seeds

The wide dispersal of its fruits and seeds all the world over, is taking place. The seeds have even begun to germinate in some spots.

## 38 Seed Respects and Rejoices

I am one who was fed on the fruits of this tree. Therefore I now vibrate with feelings of respect, pride and joy, and rejoice with others in the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of this mighty tree, the Madras Library Association—the very soul of which is Professor Ranganathan.

## DEVELOPMENT OF LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION

S. RAMABHADRAN

Can there be any science behind an administration? There cannot be—is the popular belief. For administration has been run from time immemorial guided by the urge to exist—a kind of horse-sense. However, about a quarter of a century ago, some industrial magnates of Great Britain felt the need for a Science of Administration. They endowed a chair on Public Administration in the London School of Economics. An Institute of Public Administration was also founded. In 1934 a Scottish member of the Indian Civil Service of Madras won a prize of the Institute for his thesis on Theory of Administration. In the same year the Madras Library Association brought out Ranganathan's *Library administration*. This civil service man reviewed it for the *Madras mail*.

One morning a letter was received in the Madras University Library from that very civilian. He wrote in substance, "The first 100 pages of the *Library administration* contains a helpful theory. Its general conclusions concur with the conclusions of my enclosed paper. You have arrived at certain theorems from the library angle. I have arrived at them from the angle of district administration. Their concurrence may be taken as a proof that they are valid principles".

This contribution through the forum of the Madras Library Association to the general theory of administration is by no means the least important of the new thought promoted under its auspices. I have spent several years in administering libraries along the lines laid down in this book of the Madras Library Association. I therefore welcome this opportunity to record how much work in libraries has been lightened by the Planning, the Work Analysis, the Job Analysis, the Routine, the Correlation Technique and the concept of Pick-up-work, Junction Moments and various other



devices to secure maximal efficiency in library administration. The following anecdote heard from Dr. Ranganathan is significant; It was 10 a.m., 3 July 1948. He was at the Royal Library at Oslo. Mr. Kragmus in charge of the Periodicals Section told him that it was only a few days earlier that they were discussing the three-card-system. With great pride he showed the working of the three-card-system in his department. He pointed to a copy of *Library administration* lying on the table, as their 'Bible'.

A similar thing happened also at the University Library at Uppsala. Messrs. D. B. Krishna Rao and T. N. Koranne who have recently returned from a Library Tour of Australia report to us of the extent to which this book has premeated in that continent.

Another index of the importance of this book of the Association is that the edition was sold out in two years. But the demand for it is still growing unabated. Stray second hand copies are selling at fabulous prices. The Madras Library Association will be doing a service if it can bring out a new edition of this book.

I have often discussed this question with Ranganathan himself. His remarks have always been "It is a book of 700 pages in close print. It is a book of details. The application of its rules during the last 20 years has suggested many improvements. The Job Analysis contained in the first edition should be carried to a deeper level. It must be followed up by a man-hour analysis for each of the 1,500 jobs isolated in the book. All these indicate the need for a drastic revision". As a preliminary step toward such a revision, I have started a series of articles on man-hour analysis. This series is being regularly published in the *Abgila* (=Annals, Bulletin and Granthalaya of the Indian Library Association).

In my opinion the core of Ranganathan's theory of library administration is in the discussion of the human element in administration. "Wastage may occur" he says in Section 04 Elimination of Waste, "in human personality, in mental energy and in physical energy. Wastage may also occur in materials, in space and in time. Of these, the wastage in human personality is the most subtle and elusive and is usually least provided against, although it is the most devastating. When the lower qualities and emotions—a false sense of prestige or the fascination of tyrannical methods—

blind the man at the head of affairs, they cause much damage to the personality of the staff."

With the damage of the personality of the staff comes also the damage if not the very ruin of the personality of the institution itself. What an irony! The very library whose administration in its formative period inspired the formulation of these profound and powerful principles was also fated to demonstrate, ten years later, the contra-effects of the trampling of personality.

My mind looks forward to the next 25 years. It imagines a huge public library system in every city and in every district of the Madras State functioning as civic centre, a live library in every college and in every school functioning as the heart of the institution, and dozens of industrial libraries lifting up the level of efficiency of their parent bodies. Everywhere sound library administration based on fundamental normative principles is making every library hum with life. Library administration is so developed that it has become itself invisible. It is only its effect on the efficiency of the service of the library that is visible. Art consists in concealing Art. So also Administration consists in concealing Administration.

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# TRAINING OF LIBRARY PERSONNEL IN INDIA

S. PARTHASARATHY

[Stresses the need for specialisation of training for various levels of workers-Leader, Semi-leader, Professional, Semi-professional; indicates the appropriate location of training centres; points out the urgency for a training college for teachers in Library Science and the paucity of books on teaching.]

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Training of library personnel is an essential pre-requisite for a proper development of libraries. But the need for training centres has been felt only recently. For a long time, apprenticeship in a library was considered as sufficient for training librarians. It was left to the dynamic personality of Melvil Dewey to break this tradition. He started the first library school in 1887 in the Columbia College, New York. Even in England, the London School of Librarianship was started only in 1921.

## 2 INDIA

The Madras Library Association, which has been a pioneer in India in spreading library movement, set up the first Summer School of Library Science in 1929. This was mainly due to the inspiring leadership of Dr S. R. Ranganathan. Gradually, library schools were started in other centres. Particulars about some of them are given below :

Name	Year	Level	Duration	Remarks
1 Madras Library Association	1929	Certificate	3 months	After 1930 continued by Madras University
2 University of Madras	1931	Certificate	3 months	Continuation of (1), continued as (3)
3 University of Madras	1938	Diploma	1 academic year	Continuation of (2) Full-timed course

Name	Year	Level	Duration	Remarks
4 Banares University	1941	Diploma	1 academic year	Full timed course
5 University of Bombay	1944	Diploma	1 academic year	Evening course
6 University of Delhi	1947	Diploma	1 academic year	
		M.Lib.Sc.	2 years	
		Ph.D.		Research work after M.Lib.Sc. and by thesis
7 Aligarh University	1951	Certificate	6 months	

The State library associations like the Andhra, Bengal, Maharashtra, and Gujarat Library Associations have been conducting short courses for training library personnel. Hyderabad Library Association also is starting a short course.

### 3 EXPERIMENTAL MEASURE

In the beginning, the library schools in India were started more as an experimental measure. There was no specific demand for them. So their development has not followed any over-all pattern. They have grown without any co-ordination. The standard, minimum qualification for admission, duration of training, subjects covered, nature of practical training, quality of teaching, etc., vary from school to school. So there is unevenness in the quality of training.

### 4 NEED FOR TRAINED PERSONNEL

But the development of a well-knit library-grid for India depends upon a well-trained personnel. India is now on the eve of launching a nationwide network of library service. Madras has already an Act for this purpose. Legislation may be necessary but not sufficient to achieve this. Legislation can give only a blue-print. To work this out and to make it bear fruit, it is necessary to create a trained personnel. For this we ought to have efficient training centres. The rate of progress will depend upon the quality and rate at which librarians are trained. So training is a bottle-neck. This has to be ironed out. Equilibrium between supply and demand has to be maintained. Now it is time to

take stock of the development of library schools in India and the type of training they have to provide for the various levels of professional personnel.

### 5 DEMAND

There is still no steady demand for trained librarians. The profession itself is in a formative stage. But the demand is on the increase. In his *Library development plan: Thirty-year programme for India* (Delhi University publications, library science series, 2) 1950, Dr. S. R. Ranganathan has shown that India will require about 1,20,000 trained personnel for manning the libraries when the thirty year programme is completed. The types of personnel required can be grouped as follows: (1) Leader, (2) Semi-leader, (3) Non-leader (Professional), and (4) Semi-professional. Dr. S. R. Ranganathan has worked out the proportion of these various levels to the total professional staff (see section 83 of his forthcoming book *Library legislation. A handbook to the Madras Library Act*):

Level	Proportion to Total Professional Staff	Total for 30 year Programme	Requirement per Year
Leader	1/200	600	20
Semi-leader	1/100	1,200	40
Non-leader	3/50	7,200	240
Semi-professional	111/120	1,11,000	3,700

### 6 LEVELS OF TRAINING

For meeting this demand, we have to consider the levels of training required, the location of library schools and the training of teachers for running these schools.

#### 61 Semi-Professional

The number of personnel belonging to the semi-professional level required every year comes to about 3,700 for India as a whole. The workers for this level are the most numerous. Their work will be of a routine character. They will operate the service points in the various localities. Short courses of training for about three months covering a general account of the scope and purpose of library service and a working knowledge of library routine should be sufficient for this purpose. The *Library manual* of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan and Shri K.M. Sivaraman covers these topics adequately. The short courses may be conducted by the regional library associations. The medium of instruction can be in the local languages. For this purpose an Hindi edition of the *Library*

*manual* (Granthalaya prakriya) has been brought out by the Indian Library Association. Editions in other languages are also under preparation. The training centres for the short courses will be about 40. They will naturally be distributed among the linguistic regions. Each region will have to train about 100 persons per year or about 25 persons per course.

#### 62 PROFESSIONAL

The number of personnel belonging to the professional level comes to about 240 for India as a whole. The workers for this level should be trained in the technical work such as Book-Selection, Classification, Cataloguing, etc. The minimum qualification for admission to this course should be a university degree. The duration of the course should be one academic year. This training may be left in charge of some of the universities. The training centres for professional level will be about 20. They will be located wherever the selected universities are. Each such centre will have to train about 12 persons per year.

#### 63 SEMI-LEADER

The number of personnel belonging to the semi-leader level comes to about 40 for India as a whole. Proper care should be taken in the selection and training of workers for this level. They should be men of ability and initiative. They should be given an intensive training in library organisation, in running regional library systems and in routine and technical work. The duration of the course should be two years. The number of such persons required for each region may not exceed 2 per year. So it is not economical to have training centres for them in each region. It is best to send the selected candidates from the various regions to an all-India centre where such training is given. Already we have such a centre at the University of Delhi due to the initiative of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan and the far-sight of the late Sir Maurice Gwyer. The University conducts a two-year course leading to the degree of Master of Library Science. It has also provision for Doctorate in Library Science.

#### 64 LEADER

Obviously the best men in the semi-leader level should be picked out for training as leaders. They should do research and earn a Doctorate. Facilities for this are already available at the Department of Library Science of the University of Delhi.

## 7 TRAINING OF TEACHERS

The training of teachers in Library Science has to take precedence even before the opening of library schools. The lack of trained teachers hampers the raising of standards in library schools. So the creation of a Training College for Teachers of Library Science calls for immediate attention. As the number of trained teachers required per year will be small, it is economical to have one all-India Training College for this purpose. At present we do not have such an institution. However, throughout the Master of Library Science Course at the University of Delhi, teaching technique is also stressed.

## 71 PAUCITY OF LITERATURE

There is considerable paucity of literature on the teaching of Library Science. So far, very little attention has been paid to this problem even at international level. There is now a move for starting a periodical on this subject by Unesco. However, we have already some literature in India. Dr. S. R. Ranganathan has brought out till now four books covering this aspect. They are :

(1) *Library classification : Fundamentals and procedure* (Madras Library Association, publication series, 12), 1944 ;

(2) *Elements of library classification* (Kaikhushru Taraporevala memorial series in library science, 4), 1945 ;

(3) *Preface to library science* (Delhi University publications, library science series, 1), 1948 ; and

(4) *Library catalogue ; Fundamentals and procedure* (Madras Library Association, publication series, 15), 1950.

He is also writing a book on Teaching of Library Science.

## 8 REVIEW

India needs a well-knit library-grid. To achieve this, it requires a band of well-trained personnel. There has to be specialisation of training for the various levels of workers. There should be co-ordination among the various centres. The courses for each level should be so designed as to suit their special needs. Trained teachers are necessary for running these schools. So the creation of a Training College for Teachers of Library Science calls for immediate attention. I am sure, we can soon achieve these objectives under the inspiring leadership of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan.

## SUBAETERNITATIS SPECIE

PAUL SCHERRER

In recent years the question, whether objectivity in the profession of the librarian is of value or not, has often been asked. And this question arises inevitably in a time when radical revolutions take place and new powers endeavour to force man entirely under their constraint. The more and more impetuous the claims of the present are growing, the less room seems to remain for considerations beyond it. For, the direction of the library of a great polytechnique institute is in itself a self-evident every-day fact that new events approach, an urging and sometimes overwhelming flood of irresistible developments. If anywhere, it is here, that you do not run the risk of stagnating in barren contemplation. In few institutions the ardent life "am sausen den Webstuhl der Zeit" (at the soughing air-loom of time)—to speak with Goethe's Spirit of the Earth—is to be felt as violently as in an important technological library.

And yet, in this daily run, after the very last achievements, we realise the better how distinctly our profession is distinguished from other occupations by its characteristic relation to the hastening present. And it is this present time, conveying to us the high feeling of activity of intensified life and of creative power, that we love.

But beside this pleasure of being on outpost duty, there is something else we have to consider. We are not satisfied with the present moment and the nearest future alone. Our experience of time is more comprehensive than that of our surroundings. It is true, we affirmatively accept the present, even the hard and woeful present. But at the same time, we know of its roots and try to anticipate its future fruit. We know that the bustle of life is short-waved and how one wave—though mighty and raging now—will soon be relieved by another. We realize daily how little the lifetime of one generation means and how quickly even centuries



pass. Who experiences, in all fields of knowledge and in its thousand forms, the "sic transit gloria mundi" (so passes away the glory of the world) as intensely as we do? How slowly all decisive developments are ripening, who sees this more clearly than we, the procurators of written tradition? What is important in human knowledge to us, it did not begin yesterday, nay, it reaches back to that dim and early time when the Indo-Germanic tribes invaded India, when in Mesopotamia the great civilisations of Babylon and Assyria arose and the Hittites dominated the Near East, to those epochs when in Egypt empires arose which are still mysterious even to-day. Indeed, it starts even earlier, with the first traces of pre-historic life and, in the field of natural sciences, with the aeons of geological and astronomical spaces of time. From this depth of an almost inconceivable past it comes down to us as a continuous flow of growth and transitoriness, to the present time—and beyond it. For our work, the library, does not come to an end with us. It will outlive us and must tell the generations to come what we knew, possessed, experienced, explored, achieved and where we failed and erred. So we become the treasurers of the most remote and the most recent, modest caretakers of the inexhaustible tradition of mankind. We carry along the treasures we were entrusted with for a short time, we augment them and add the dying things, so that they may rest safely until a new wave of life soars up again what was immortal in them. We are acquainted with the vanishing and the declining, and with the perpetual recurrence of everything that is truly alive.

This comprehensiveness of understanding is one of the reasons why so few who live outside our profession can imagine its proper essence. The "Fuelle der Gesichte" (abundance of visions) — another word by Goethe — exceeds the mental capacity of all professions limited by strictly defined fields and appointed time and finding their satisfaction in the mastery of the obvious. In our profession both the nearest and the remotest things become suddenly of the same import. Like the interests of the readers applying to us, we have to open our minds in a thousand ways to realities and speculations, to useful things and things free of any purpose. We are really supposed to lead both the *vita activa* and the *vita contemplativa* at the same time.

Under the pressure of these contradictory claims we have more and more to extend our personal and limited knowledge to a consciousness of world wide circumference. This growth is not without dangers and crises. It often seems to blast human capacity and to crush our legitimate particularities. But is not this scattering of a defined form of existence, this most intense spiritual effort at the same time a blessing of our profession, if lived through with all one's soul? Do we not then belong to that circle which can and must detach itself from the mudding present and which should stand above things and is somehow indebted to the lasting values?

Thus, in spite of all our attachment to life, we are at the same time conscious bearers and servants of the world beyond. And today it is more necessary than ever that such people are at work. That they do not stand aside contemplating alone but are amidst the grinding-mill of every day, in the centre of the growing and the being.

It seemed to me that the commemorative publication of an Indian Library Association is the very place to express these ideas. For in modern India two things meet : the tradition of thousands of years and the restlessness of advancing modern evolution.

Since that remote time when I was learning Sanskrit and reading the Rigveda at the university, something has impressed itself upon my memory for ever : how Indian philosophy found already in its early days the solution of the dilemma between the attachment to time and the anchoring in timelessness. Already the Vedanta knows that splendid metaphor of the veil of Maya, the deceptive illusion, dissolving the eternally one and the eternally present into a variety of phenomena following one another in time.

And now the amazing wonder happens that modern physics with the discovery of the relativity of space and time proves this juxtaposition of past, present and future scientifically, thus opening to us the access to the co-existence of the growing and the being. Thus our comprehensive collecting activity wins deeper significance. We preserve the multitude of phenomena of all time and zones, bearing in mind that they are all manifestations of lasting values of man and world. The experience of this duration in mutability is the true essence of the librarian's vocation.

# MESSAGES

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GOVERNOR

I SRI PRAKASA

(*Governor of Madras.*)

It is a matter of the deepest satisfaction and gratification to me that the Madras Library Association is celebrating its Silver Jubilee, and I hasten to send it my very best wishes for all success and happiness. I congratulate all persons concerned in the great endeavour, on their achievement.

Like everything else in our land, I fear we have neglected and even ill treated books, the repositories of the thoughts of the great and the culture of ages, and embodying in them the achievements of man from century to century in diverse fields of activity. It is time that we regarded books as living beings and approached them in a spirit of service and humility.

I know that the climate of our country has not been very conducive to the preservation of things ; and like other articles, books have also suffered. Then, both from lack of opportunity and means, books have not had that influence in our lives that they deserve to have ; and thus our minds have moved in narrow grooves, and that intellectual curiosity has been wanting in us, that alone can take us to new adventures and enable us to play our rightful parts in the world.

The Library Movement in our State, therefore, must be welcomed, helped and encouraged ; and I have every confidence that through its labours, true popular education will be possible, and we would be taught our elementary duties towards ourselves and society, which alone, to my mind, can give us the impetus to strive for higher aims and embark on greater activities.

I offer my sincere felicitations to the Association on its record of useful work during the quarter of a century of its existence, and express the earnest hope and wish that it may fulfil the high purpose for which it took its birth.

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## INTERNATIONAL BODIES

2 EDWARD CARTER

*(Head, Libraries Division, Unesco, Paris.)*

I have been most interested to hear of the forthcoming celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the Madras Library Association, and I shall be glad if you will convey to the members of the Association Unesco's warmest congratulations on all that you have achieved in the past, and good wishes for the future prosperity of your Association, and for the development of good librarianship in India.

In recent years, largely through the close association of your distinguished Secretary Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, with Unesco's work, we have been able greatly to extend Unesco's interest in the development of library services in India and South Asia, and we have always received the most lively encouragement from India and the full and enthusiastic cooperation of Indian librarians in these developments of our programmes.

As I am sure it is now widely understood, Unesco's work is not principally either conceived or carried out in Paris, it is based on the inspiration of men and women of good will who are in sympathy with the great aims of Unesco throughout the world, and is largely carried out only through their efforts. This good will and practical energy often finds its finest expression in the work of professional associations such as the Madras Library Association, in our Member States. Because we feel confident that your support and encouragement will never fail, I have great pleasure now in greeting the Silver Jubilee of the Madras Library Association.

3 PIERRE BOURGEOIS

*(President, International Federation of Library Associations, President, Association of Swiss Librarians, and Director, Swiss National Library.)*

The Association of Swiss Librarians and the Swiss National Library send their heartiest greetings to the Madras Library

Association at the occasion of its Silver Jubilee. We are deeply impressed by the splendid work your Association has achieved in developing the libraries of your country, giving access to knowledge and happiness to all those who need and want it. Indian Librarianship counts now among the most progressive in the world, not the least owing to the remarkable contributions of your distinguished Secretary, Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, to international Library Science. He is an inspired and unwearable messenger between East and West which, thanks to him, will meet in a near future to common work.

May I add also in the name of the International Federation of Library Associations how happy librarians in all countries feel to know that their efforts to prepare a better world by a durable peace, based on mutual understanding, are so strongly and efficiently supported by their Indian colleagues.

Our sincerest wishes for an everlasting and prosperous activity are with you.

4 A. G. BREYCHA-VAUTHIER

*(Assistant Secretary, International Federation of Library Associations and United Nations Librarian, Geneva.)*

The Silver Jubilee of our friends, the Madras Library Association, gives us in IFLA the welcome opportunity of telling our Indian colleagues of our admiration for their splendid work.

1953, your Jubilee year, marks also the twentieth anniversary since our Federation established relations with our friend Professor Ranganathan, then your Secretary and University Librarian of Madras. In spite of distance and the problem which it creates our contacts have developed and the Indian Library Association has for many years been amongst our most active members, showing to the world at large that the librarian's profession is one in the whole world. As R. L. Hansen, Director of Danish Public Libraries, put it, speaking recently to us at our Copenhagen meeting, through the fact "that librarian meetings transform simple relations

into friendships and make of librarians one people of the same kind".

Ifla has its seat at the United Nations Library in Geneva, and as its Librarian I would also like to send our Indian colleagues my special greetings. Our relations with India are manifold; through delegates, officials, professors and students, who come to work in our Library, as well as through our collections which contain surely the largest series of official publications of your country in Europe. An international library always belongs somewhat to all those nations which have helped to build it up and your countrymen should know that if they claim any service from the United Nations Library, the service is gladly given from a library in which they participate.

Our Library will never forget that after the renowned League of Nations Library was taken over in 1946 by the United Nations, which gave it a new impetus, it was the International Advisory Committee of Library Experts, in which our friend Professor Ranganathan played a leading role, which set the basis for our work and which helped the Secretary-General to establish the rules under which we have ever since been able to develop.

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5 EDWARD REITMAN

*(Acting Director, United Nations Library, New York.)*

On the occasion of the forthcoming Silver Jubilee of the Madras Library Association, the staff of the United Nations Library joins me in offering you congratulations on the meritorious achievements of your Association in progressive librarianship, and in conveying our best wishes for the success of your future endeavours.

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6 N. SRI RAM

*(President, Theosophical Society, Adyar.)*

I regret that I am unable to attend the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Madras Library Association on Saturday, the 4th April as I have another engagement.

But I send my very good wishes for a most successful occasion.

## INDIA

7 K. VENKATASWAMY NAIDU  
(*Minister, Madras State.*)

I am in receipt of your kind invitation for the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Madras Library Association.

I congratulate the Association on the splendid work and wish the function all success.

## UNIVERSITIES

8 C. P. RAMASWAMY AYYAR  
(*Vice-Chancellor, Annamalai University.*)

I know the significantly important and formative contribution that the Madras Library Association has made to a great cause and I can only say that the pioneering work of that Association has had its repercussion throughout India.

I wish the Madras Library Association all success and prosperity.

9 A. L. MUDALIAR  
(*Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras.*)

The Madras Library Association, which is celebrating its Silver Jubilee, was one of the first organizations to take up actively the question of a Library Movement in this country. Since then it has done remarkably good work in spreading a correct knowledge of the library movement and of the importance of libraries in any scheme of national education. The credit for this work goes to the President of the Association, my esteemed friend, Sri K. V. Krishnaswami Ayyar, who spared no pains to make this movement a success.

It must be said to the credit of the Madras Library Association that it was largely due to its effort that a Library Bill has been passed and a library cess is being collected, although unfortunately

nothing tangible has been done in spite of the large amounts that have been collected so far by way of this cess.

Much of the credit for the popularising of this movement and for the production of many useful books goes to Dr. S. R. Ranganathan.

I am sure that the Silver Jubilee will mark the end of a very successful period of usefulness and the beginning of a period of greater activity. I wish the function every success.

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10 B. L. MANJUNATH  
(*Vice-Chancellor, University of Mysore.*)

I am glad to hear that the Madras Library Association is celebrating its Silver Jubilee this year. Never before in the history of India has there been such intelligent interest in the library movement as there is now and I am sure we owe it in a great measure, particularly in South India, to the efforts of the Madras Library Association.

Libraries have to play a very important part in the work of national reconstitution that has now been begun in our country and I am confident that your Association will continue to render useful service in this behalf. I wish you all success.

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#### LIBRARIANS

11 B. S. KESAVAN  
(*Librarian, National Library, Calcutta.*)

I would like, as a citizen of India, nurtured in the mental climate of Mylapore in the twenties, to pay my tribute to the work of the Association and its President, Sri K. V. Krishnaswami Ayyar. It is now a common place of Library History in this country that your Association pioneered in creating library awareness, first, in the province, and then all through the country, by its publications. The Library Act of Madras has to be viewed in the perspective of the Association's spade work. Your early publications, which appealed direct to the comprehension of the



ordinary man, are still readable. With the Library Act on the Statute Book your function becomes more onerous and your energies are sure to be absorbed in the human task of building up of numerous libraries in urban or rural centres. In this great task that you have before you, all the world will be with you in wishing Godspeed to the great effort.

I have not had the privilege of knowing Mr. Krishnaswami Aiyar personally. But, as his neighbour in North Mada Street, during my school days and later, I have watched with admiration and respect his selfless work for more than one good cause.

I have been told by those who have the privilege of knowing him that he is free from all intellectual arrogance. When, last year, I called on him to pay my respects, I found him busy organising a music festival and dictating invitations to artists in such gracious terms as would have made any refusal impossible. His unceasing work in the face of physical infirmity is a glorious example of the triumph of mind over matter. I should like to join the ranks of numberless people who salute Mr. Krishnaswami Ayyar on this occasion. May he be spared to us for years to come as a living inspiration for greater work.

That Dr. Ranganathan's name should be coupled with Mr. Krishnaswami Aiyar's for recognition of signal work nobly done, is in the natural fitness of things. He has contributed greatly to the literature on Library Science and has stimulated thought in many directions. He has made his name known far beyond the frontiers of our country and is building up a very devoted band of young Librarians to propagate his ideas. As President of the Indian Library Association he has mobilized its resources for a furtherance of the cause. Many might differ from him, but all will pay their meed of praise for a life completely dedicated to librarianship.

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12 P. C. BOSE

(*Librarian, Calcutta University.*)

I am very glad to know that the Silver Jubilee of the Madras Library Association is going to be celebrated in a fitting manner

very soon. Since its inception 25 years ago the Association has been carrying on very useful and valuable work in the field of library movement and library service in the South most effectively and successfully and also has, thereby, been a source of inspiration and encouragement to all library associations and organisations in other parts of India. Persons whose sustained efforts have made the Association what it is to-day deserve hearty congratulation. On behalf of the staff of the Calcutta University Library I beg to send my best wishes to the Madras Library Association on the completion of its 25th year of useful and active existence. May the Association live long and march forward with renewed vigour and energy to render more useful and constructive service to the country in the realm of education and culture!

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13 G. HANUMANTHA RAO  
(*Librarian, University of Mysore.*)

It gives me much pleasure to send a message on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the Madras Library Association. Looking over the very good work that the Association has done during these two decades one cannot but feel proud about the achievements of this leading Library Association in India.

No other provincial Association has such a good record of publications to its credit. The author of these publications is Dr. S. R. Ranganathan whose love of service in the cause of Library Science is unbounded. The credit of evolving a new scheme of classification namely the Colon Classification and of developing it ceaselessly to its full stature so as to arrest the attention of the Western World must go to Dr. S. R. Ranganathan. He is lucky in finding an enthusiastic band of young workers who have collaborated with him in this work. I have not found another who is so single-minded in his devotion to Library Science as Dr. S. R. Ranganathan. I wish him a long life and I wish the Madras Library Association a great future even as it has had a great past and I hope it will produce in the coming years more men like Dr. S. R. Ranganathan and Sri K.V. Krishnaswamy Aiyar.

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14 A. MARSHALL  
*(Librarian, University of Bombay.)*

I wish the Madras Library Association all good fortune and prosperity.

### ASSOCIATIONS

15 G. HARISARVOTHAMA RAU  
*(President, Andhradesa Library Association.)*

It is with very great pleasure that I understand that the Madras Library Association celebrates its Silver Jubilee in the month of April. As the president of the Andhradesa Library Association, I am extremely glad that a sister association should have sprung up in South India as another model for the other parts of the country and carried on very useful work for twenty-five years.

According to me the worthiest part of the work done by the Madras Library Association is the publication of literature on Library Science that my friend Dr. S. R. Ranganathan has had the distinction of developing as no other has done in the world.

I am a layman and I cannot claim to give an opinion on special technical questions. His Colon Classification however has been really one of the wonders of Library Science. Whether it is universally accepted or not it has revolutionised thought on classification and has very greatly expanded assistance to reference. As a layman again I value his work in the reference field as the most valuable. That the Madras Library Association should have had associated with it such an eminent original thinker as its Secretary is its greatest achievement. Through his work the Association will live for ever in the memory of the world. The other activities of the association are also big. It has had growing membership of a very influential kind and it has been greatly instrumental in getting the first Library Act in India—the Madras Public Libraries Act—passed.

I congratulate the Association, its original organisers, its office-bearers, past and present, on the splendid work they have

done and wish continued career of service to the Association. I hope that the association will celebrate its centenary in 2028 A.D. when some of us have passed away.

---

16 T. C. DUTTA

(*Vice-President, Bengal Library Association.*)

Please accept my good wishes on the occasion of your Jubilee celebrations. I had the chance of meeting your veteran colleagues in the early days of your Association and was struck by the wonderful organisational methods displayed at the Congress House Exhibition and Head Quarters Office. I wish all success to your noble endeavour. I shall be glad to get a report of your celebrations.

---

17 P. C. BOSE

(*Secretary, Bengal Library Association.*)

On behalf of the libraries of the State of West Bengal, the Bengal Library Association has the greatest pleasure in sending its greetings and felicitations to its sister organisation in Madras on the occasion of the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the Madras Library Association. The Bengal Library Association, though older than the Madras Library Association by a couple of years, recalls with delight the friendly advice and suggestions it has always received from the Library Association of Madras from the very early days of its existence through its indefatigable Secretary, Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, whose contribution to the cause of library movement is widely acknowledged throughout the world.

The Madras Library Association has built up a record of achievements in many spheres of library service. It is this Association in India, that first introduced travelling libraries in the country to carry books to interior villages, not in up to-date automobiles but in bullock carts, which is in keeping with the traditions and conditions of the country. Of all the States in India Madras now enjoys the proud privilege of having a Library Act. The

efforts of the Madras Library Association for the enactment of a library bill are too well known and the Association deserves congratulation upon their success.

In this land of infant mortality voluntary organisations also very often die in infancy. It is, therefore, gratifying to find that the Madras Library Association has not only not fallen a victim to that unhappy eventuality but has lived and thrived as a powerful organisation doing much good work in Madras for the last 25 years. The Library Association of Bengal confidently hopes that the Madras Library Association will, for many more years to come, continue to make further progress and contribute its quota to the magnificent nation-building work.

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18 L. MISRA

(Secretary, Utkal Library Association.)

Libraries play an important roll in educating the mass in a country and the Madras Library Association has done its parts best during its life of one fourth of a century.

It is really very delighting that the Madras Library Association has completed its 25 years of public service in uplifting the educational and cultural life of citizens.

The promoters are celebrating the Silver Jubilee of the Association.

While congratulating the organisers and wishing long life and prosperity to the Madras Library Association I wish the celebration success.

---

OTHERS

19 S. R. VENKATARAMAN

(Secretary, Servants of India, Society, Madras.)

Many thanks for your kind invitation for the Silver Jubilee of the Madras Library Association. I very much regret that I will not be able to attend the meeting, as I will be absent from Madras on the 4th instant. However I wish all success for the meeting.

---

20 B. NATARAJAN

*(Economic Adviser to the Government of Madras.)*

I thank you and the Members of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations Committee, Madras Library Association, for the kind invitation to the Symposium on "The Library" and to the Public Meeting on the 4th instant. Please accept my felicitations. I wish the function every success.

21 R. THIYAGARAJAN

*(Nagapattinam.)*

I send my heartiest good wishes for the success of the celebration and I wish and hope that we shall in due course have the Golden and Diamond Jubilees with the spread of greater "Vidya", learning, by our country-men and women and 100 per cent literacy achieved by them through the activities of the Library Movement to which our Association with our beloved Founder president is the crown.

22 R. S. PARKHI

*(Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, Bombay.)*

The contribution of the Madras Library Association to the progress of the Library Movement in India during the last 25 years is unique. It has been in fact leading other parts of the country in every respect. What is it due to? The fraternity of the library profession in India knows it well that it is the dynamic personality of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan that has made the Madras Library Association what it is today. Now it is not only the Madras Library Association but it is also the Indian Library Association, nay, the whole library world in India which looks at Dr. Ranganathan as their Melvil Dewey. Dr. Ranganathan, due to his original and outstanding contributions to the various branches of library science, has secured the position of one of the leading authorities on library science. It is up to us, the pro-

fessional brothers, to co-operate with him and help him in fulfilling his life's ambition of making India one of the leading nations in respect of library movement. He lays special stress on the development of personality and he is perfectly right in this. It is due to the want of personality in most of us that we are lagging behind. We must show genuine interest in our profession and put aside all our differences and selfish motives. We must exert hard to improve the working of our libraries so much so that the reading public should develop a habit of haunting the libraries in their vicinity. These efforts will make the general public library-conscious and the problem of enacting library legislation and making the Government and the municipalities take up the movement in their hands, as of duty bound, will be automatically solved. Sacrifice first, and then reward, should be the motto of all the members of the library profession in our country. I sincerely wish that the Madras Library Association should have the fortune to celebrate many more jubilees and that Dr. Ranganathan should enjoy a pretty long life to see a net-work of well-organised libraries in our great nation.

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### ISRAEL

23 C. WORMANN

(*Director, Jewish National and University Library.*)

It is indeed a privilege and a pleasure to accept your invitation to send a message of goodwill on an occasion as auspicious as the Silver Jubilee of your Association. It is a tribute to your insight and striving that the Madras Library Association should already have attained this venerable age. You have realized to the full the place taken by the book as an instrument for the diffusion of knowledge and enlightenment and its share in the awakening of the Asian peoples. May your efforts continue to contribute to peace and understanding throughout your great territories and the world as a whole.

GREAT BRITAIN  
NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

24 A. J. WELLS  
(*Editor, British National Bibliography.*)

Greetings from the staff of the British National Bibliography to colleagues of the Madras Library Association and congratulations on the occasion of your twenty-fifth anniversary. I take great pleasure in acknowledging on this occasion my personal indebtedness to your Secretary, Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, to whom I send affectionate greetings. May the great work which has already been done for libraries in India prosper and increase.

---

25 BERNARD I. PALMER  
(*Education Officer, The Library Association.*)

Congratulations to the Madras Library Association upon the attainment of its Silver Jubilee! For three years during the war I had the good fortune to be associated with some of the leaders of your Association, and I am well aware of their solid achievements not only in the field of library movement, but also in the associated field of the literacy campaign. I retain a friendly interest in the work of the Association. May its next twenty-five years of work be even more fruitful.

---

26 C. A. STOTT  
(*Secretary, School Library Association.*)

It is with the greatest interest that we have received your letter recording the coming Silver Jubilee of the Madras Library Association, and we have great pleasure in sending on this occasion the good wishes of the School Library Association for a long continuance of your valuable service in the cause of librarianship.

We have followed with special interest the magisterial series of publications by Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, whose name is honoured throughout the world; and we should like to express once more



our own recognition of the unique position which he holds. His book on School and College Librarianship is based on a deep and sound knowledge of education, and is perhaps the most stimulating book on its subject in existence.

It is therefore with special warmth that we send our good wishes for this Jubilee, and we should like to couple them with his name.

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### LIBRARIES

27 CHARLESS NOWELL

(*City Librarian, Manchester.*)

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Madras Library Association, which occurs, I believe, in December next, I send you the very cordial greetings of the Libraries Committee of the City of Manchester, which has just celebrated the Centenary of its Public Library, the first lending and reference library freely available to all citizens, and the first to be established under the Public Libraries Act of 1850.

The recent healthy development of public libraries in India has been watched and admired by your colleagues and friends in this country, realising as we do from our own experience the great value to the community at large of a large well-selected stock of books freely available to all who can profit by their use. It is the natural and indeed indispensable corollary of any general scheme of education, without which much of the formal education would be wasted.

May I also send at the same time my personal greetings and those of my colleagues here in Manchester. We remember with great pleasure the part played by Dr. Ranganathan when he was one of my colleagues in the first Unesco International School for Librarians held in this City in 1948.

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28 G. WOLEDGE

(*Librarian, British Library of Political and Economic Science.*)

I am glad to have the opportunity to send a message of congratulation and good wishes to the Madras Library Association

on the celebration of its Silver Jubilee. As one who has always been a friend of Indian independence, I have found it very gratifying that the achievement of political independence has coincided in the field of librarianship with the appreciation in this, as well as in other countries, of the Indian contribution to librarianship. We have learnt much, in particular, from the writings of Dr. Ranganathan, and from his welcome presence amongst us at library gatherings in this country; and I feel sure that in years to come our two countries will continue to teach one another and learn from one another. The record of the Madras Library Association in the past is an assurance that it will in the future play an important part in such cultural interchanges.

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29 W. B. PATON  
(County Librarian, Hamilton, Lanark.)

I send cordial greetings from Scotland to the Madras Library Association on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the foundation of the Association.

Much valuable work has been done in these years, not least in the publication of the Madras Library Association Series of professional text-books, from which librarians in all countries have received stimulus and valuable information on many aspects of library work.

I have had the privilege on several occasions to come under the spell of your Founder and Joint-Secretary, Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, and gladly acknowledge the help and inspiration which I received from his alert and brilliant personality, which has impinged itself on the international professional scene as no other contemporary figure has done.

I wish the Madras Library Association an increasing measure of success in the next quarter-century, and hope that its influence will increase both in quality and range.

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30. D. J. FOSKETT

*(Librarian, Research Division, The Metal Box Co., Ltd., London.)*

It gives me great pleasure to send greetings and congratulations to the Madras Library Association on its Silver Jubilee. The work of the Association in the special circumstances existing in India is well known through the library world. You have materially assisted in raising the standard of literacy and have brought books and information to the lower quartiles of the people. Now that India has woken from its long cultural sleep, I am certain that the value of your work will be increasingly appreciated, and it is my hope that the wise plans proposed by your indefatigable Secretary, Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, will soon be put into effect.

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 OTHERS

31. J. MILLS

*(Lecturer in Classification and Cataloguing, North-Western Polytechnic, London, N.W.)*

I would like to offer my congratulations to the Association on the occasion of its Silver Jubilee and hope it continues its excellent work as successfully in the future as it has in the past.

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 32. F. H. GRAVELY
*(95, North Court Avenue, Reading.)*

It is a great pleasure to be able to congratulate the Association on the completion of its first 25 years of useful work and to send my best wishes for many more to follow. I look back to happy memories of my connection with Madras libraries through my position as Superintendent of the Government Museum, and to participating in the appointment of Dr. Ranganathan to his first library post as well as to working in association with him for some time thereafter.

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## ITALY

33 F. BARBERI

*(Secretary, Italian Library Association, Rome.)*

We have heard with great pleasure the news about the celebrations of the Silver Jubilee of the Madras Library Association.

We are very glad to be able to offer our congratulations for the wonderful work which your Association has done in the Library world until now, and we want to send you our heartiest good wishes for your future activity.

34 MARIA MARCHELDI

*(National Central Library, Rome.)*

Thank you very much for letting me know about the Silver Jubilee, which has enabled me to participate at least in spirit with your celebrations, and also to send my very best wishes for the future well being and activity of your Association.

Please remember me, very kindly to Mr. Ranganathan whose work has been so valuable not only for your Association but for the whole of Library Science.

## BELGIUM

35 CHARLES DEPASSE

*(Chief Inspector of Public Libraries, Brussels.)*

Permettez-moi de feliciter votre Association a l'occasion de son Jubile d'argent, pour ses vingt cinq annees d'activite feconde en faveur d'une organisation toujours meilleure des Bibliotheques publiques de votre Pays, et par consequent, en faveur de l'emancipation du peuple.

Je forme des voeux fervents pour sa prosperite, pour le bonheur de ses dirigeants et aussi pour les peuples de l'Inde.

Madras est loin de Bruxelles et il ne nous est pas possible de connaitre tout ce que realise votre Association. Cependant, ce que nous en connaissons suffit deja pour que nous en appreciions la valeur.

Heureusement votre active Association a ses emissaires, et, parmi eux, je citerai M. le Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, qui la représente avec tant d'autorité, avec tant d'aimable sagesse. J'ai eu personnellement l'honneur de travailler A ses cotes a l'Ecole internationale de Bibliothecaires (Unesco) a Manchester et a Londres, et je reporte volontiers sur votre Association, l'admiration profonde et justifiée que j'ai pour lui, pour l'homme, pour le professeur, pour le bibliothéconome, pour le collègue.

Bon jubile, Messieurs, et agreez l'expression cordiale pour vous tous de mes sentiments confraternels.

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#### HOLLAND

36 L. BRUMMEL

(*Librarian, Royal Library, The Hague.*)

I must... confine myself in sending to you my cordial congratulations upon the twenty fifth anniversary of the Madras Library Association. As it is in the first place thanks to the person and the publications of Dr. Ranganathan that your Association is known internationally I may add to this congratulatory message the expression of my admiration for Dr. Ranganathan, who has been one of the Secretaries of your Association since its inception. Please accept my best wishes for the future !

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#### DENMARK

37 JEAN ANKER

(*Director, University Library, Copenhagen.*)

The Silver Jubilee of the Madras Library Association gives me a welcome opportunity to send the Association my heartiest greetings and congratulations.

Few other associations are, doubtless, so consciously internationally-minded as library associations. Naturally, a librarian's task is principally the same all over the world, and it is a matter of fact that in his efforts to bring as many people as possible in touch with the products of human culture and civilization, he

must feel closely attached to his colleagues, wherever they live and work. Librarians form a kind of international brotherhood, who sees it as its task to work for progress and enlightenment.

In this spirit I send the Association my greetings from far-away Denmark, at the same time expressing the wish that the Madras Library Association in the years to come will flourish fully and prosper, fulfilling its mission among the people from whom it has sprung, and whose cultural development and progress are followed with such great sympathy by me and wide circles of my countrymen, not least because the strivings and aspirations of our people and our Indian brothers, however different they may be, seem largely to be inspired by the same ideals.

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#### NORWAY

38 ARNE KILDAL

(Inspector of Libraries, Oslo.)

On the occasion of the Madras Library Association Silver Jubilee early in 1953 the Public Library Supervision Office of the Department of Education of Norway takes pleasure in sending its most sincere felicitations and its best wishes for the coming years.

We are fully aware of the fact that the Madras Library Association has been an influential and stimulating factor in the library activities of India for the last twenty-five years and we like to state that even in far-away Norway we have heard about the useful work performed by your association. We have had the good fortune of being in contact with library activities in India through conferences and correspondence during recent years with your eminent scholar, Dr. Ranganathan, and of using this opportunity to express our gratitude for valuable impulses received from him and other Indian librarians. We like to add our most sincere hopes that the co-operation between the librarians of India and Norway may be even further extended in the years to come. With the best wishes for the Silver Jubilee and for your worthy organization.

## SOUTH AFRICA

39 D. H. VARLEY

*(Chief Librarian, South African Library, Cape Town.)*

I gladly accede to the suggestion that the congratulations and good wishes of this Library and its staff be conveyed to your Association on this noteworthy occasion. The work of Dr. Ranganathan and his colleagues in building up a professional tradition of librarianship firstly in Madras, and latterly in India as a whole, is well known and admired here in Cape Town, and we should like to be associated with the messages of goodwill from many other parts of the world on this Silver Jubilee occasion.

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 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
 NATIONAL BODIES

40 VERNER W. CLAPP

*(Acting Librarian of Congress, Washington, D. C.)*

The Library of Congress congratulates the Madras Library Association on the occasion of its Silver Jubilee.

We wish to extend to your organization our co-operation in furthering the exchange of knowledge between our two countries.

Library science and library development in India have been watched with great interest by the Library of Congress. Your Association has been a great force in the progress made.

We know that you will grow in usefulness nationally and internationally and that your service to the Indian people will be reflected in their increased understanding through the world of books.

We here are struggling with the development and organization of our Indian collections. We shall welcome an ever closer tie with you in the furtherance of our work.

---

41 EILEEN R. CUNNINGHAM AND COLLEAGUES  
 (Chairman, *Medical Library Association and four others*  
*Neshville 4, Tennessee.*)

It gives us great pleasure to extend the greetings of the members of this Committee, and to also transmit the greetings of the members of the Medical Library Association to the Madras Library Association on the occasion of its Silver Jubilee.

We wish to congratulate your Association on the fine work it has done during the past twenty-five years by promoting the establishment of libraries, and by furthering the cause of Library Science in India.

On this memorable occasion we would also like to pay tribute to India's internationally known scholar and Librarian, Dr. Shiyali Ramamrita Ranganathan, Professor of Library Science of the University of Delhi, and one of the Secretaries of your Association, a man recognized throughout the world for his outstanding professional achievements. Many of us had the opportunity of hearing Dr. Ranganathan when he spoke at the Annual Banquet during the meeting of the Medical Library Association held in Boston, June 1950, and those of us lucky enough to be present, will never forget his fine address.

We are delighted that the ties of our Association with librarianship in your country have been recently deepened and strengthened by the fact that during the period from January to September, 1951, Mr. Manmohan Vinayak Kamat, Librarian of Haffkine Institute, Parel, Bombay, was awarded a fellowship by the Medical Library Association for a year of travel and study in the United States, and at present, Miss Indu V. Nawathe, Librarian of the B. J. Medical College, Poona, is the recipient of a similar award and is studying in our country. We have found these contacts both a stimulating and a broadening experience, and we hold the members of the Indian library profession in great esteem.

We hope that you will continue your splendid record of work and achievement during the coming years, and our sincere good wishes are extended to you as you fulfil the tasks which lie ahead.



## LIBRARIES

42 CARL M. WHITE

*(Director of Libraries and Dean of the School of Library Science,  
Columbia University, City of New York.)*

My congratulations to the Madras Library Association on the completion of twenty-five years of service to the people of India. It is through our library associations that we are able to unite our efforts most effectively in promoting library development over a wide area. My fellow citizens admire your country. It is because we have interests such as these in common. My hope is that the Madras Library Association will continue to grow in usefulness, and I am sure this hope will be fulfilled.

43 DONALD CONEY

*(Librarian, University of California, Berkeley 4.)*

Allow me to thank you and Dr. Ranganathan for this opportunity to send greetings to the Madras Library Association on the occasion of the completion of its twenty-fifth year. Libraries, librarians, and library associations are evidence of man's widening use of the written record, a record which is, so far, the best means of sharing human experience, of transmitting knowledge through time and space. It is with pleasure that I congratulate the Madras Library Association on the completion of its first quarter century and offer good wishes for the next century to come.

44 MILTON E. LORD

*(Director, Boston Public Library.)*

I wish to express on behalf of the Boston Public Library the warm congratulations of it and its people to the Madras Library Association on the occasion of its completion of twenty-five years of highly useful activity.

I understand that there is being planned for early in 1953 a Silver Jubilee of the Madras Library Association. For this occasion we send this expression of warm good will and of hearty

good wishes for ever-increasing accomplishment during the second twenty-five years of activity of the Madras Library Association, to the end that when it reaches its Golden Jubilee it will truly have reached the splendid harvest which is so well portended by its accomplishments of its first twenty-five years.

To you and to all of your associates, and particularly to my distinguished colleague and friend Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, we offer warm greetings and distinguished salutations.

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### LIBRARY SCHOOLS

45 WILLIAM A. FITZ GERALD

(Director, Library School, George Peabody College for Teachers,  
Nashville 5, Tennessee.)

Thank you for your recent letter inviting me to send a message, of goodwill and an article on Library Science. I am happy to comply with both requests.

In my own name and in the name of the faculty and students of the Peabody Library School, I extend greetings and congratulations to the Madras Library Association, to its officers and members, on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee. The objectives and the activities of your association are well known to us. It was our pleasure and delight in the summer of 1950 to receive as a guest, and to listen to the inspired words of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, on the campus of Peabody. His contributions to librarianship are internationally revered. Congratulations and continued success in your work for spreading the ideals of librarianship.

With every good wish to you and to Dr. Ranganathan.

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46 ROBERT S. BURGESS

(Head, Department of Librarianship, State University of New York,  
Albany.)

It is a pleasure to be able to send you greetings on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Madras Library Association. This library school was opened in 1927 and we too have been celebrating.

Many of us in America feel that from India is coming the philosophy of librarianship, just as from the United States came the techniques of modern library service. We follow your publications with increasing interest.

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OTHERS

47 JAMES B. CHILDS.

*(Chief Documents Officer, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.)*

Your kind letter of 25th October, 1952, concerning the Madras Library Association Silver Jubilee, 1953, has just been received. My good wishes go to you on this fortunate occasion, and I would hope that this may be a favourable omen for library development in Madras as well as a stimulus for a wider outlook on library problems in India and elsewhere.

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48 MARY H. LEPAGE

*(Abhedananda Acres, Pearblossom, California.)*

Dr. Ranganathan in 1949 was house guest at my daughter's home in Glendale for one week, later a week-end guest at Pearblossom in our desert home, Abhedananda Acres. We found him an illustrious gentleman and world-traveller in the interest of Library Science. He visited libraries here in California, Huntington Library, University Library and Los Angeles County, and City libraries enlarging his library science and experience wherever he travelled. We were delighted to meet Dr. Ranganathan and enjoyed his erudition, most of all, perhaps his Indian simplicities and fine spiritual understanding of world affairs. While he was in New York City he was entertained by my brother Charles Hebard at the time with the State Insurance Fund. Mr. Hebard and his family held the Doctor in high regard both as a scholar and representative of India, genuine and inspired.

## BRAZIL

49 RUTH L. VILLELA

*(Institute of Education, Rio de Janeiro.)*

I certainly want to send my warmful greetings to the Madras Library Association on its Silver Jubilee.

Dr. S. R. Ranganathan is an world authority on Library Science which I was proud to know in England in 1948 and of which I brought the best impression as a reflect of the Indian movement for Science and Education. His books are known in Brazil in their English version.

Would you please accept, with my compliments, the best wishes for a happy accomplishment of the Madras Association purposes in the future.

50 LYDIA DE QUEIROZ SAMBAQUY

*(Fundacao Getulio Vargas, Rio de Janeiro.)*

I want hereby, on behalf of myself as well as of all Brazilian librarians, express our best wishes and our congratulations to the librarians of India, a country which we, Brazilians, have always learned to esteem and admire, for her past and her present, for the magnificent contribution she has offered to civilization, for her natural beauty, her character, her riches, her mysteries, her poetry, and philosophy.

India and her people visit our imagination as a land and as a people of charm, whose wisdom and spirit should always be an example for the modern world.

Brazil feels like a child rehearsing its first steps when she considers the history of the ancient countries of Europe and Asia. That's why we have always tried to benefit from the experience of older peoples. We have a very large territory, one of the largest in the world with a very scattered population. Brazil's population is nowadays somewhere around 55 million people only. Nevertheless that is half the population of Latin America.

Brazil is a country of contrasts. The fact that we speak Portuguese, while all the other countries in America speak either

English or Spanish, has been an advantage, inasmuch as it has fostered national unity; but it has also been an obstacle to our contracts with the rest of the world.

In spite of that, Brazilians are well known for the keen interest they have always demonstrated to foster and maintain in cultural intercourse with the civilized centers abroad.

We have been working hard and bravely to suppress some of our shortcomings, and I might say that we have succeeded to a great extent.

We have always had poor ground transportation facilities and our communication system has always been unable to really unite the several parts of our huge territory. So, we have developed in a very short period, one of the most important airway systems of the world. We have large extension of jungle, as well as modern cities rapidly growing to the sky.

One of our biggest problems—the high percentage of illiteracy—is being fought with great intensity. In addition to that during the last 15 years, we have set up a modern and efficient service of supplementary education, through motion pictures, stage theatre and libraries.

The latter has been inspired by American Library standards operating as active organizations, with open access to the books and applying always the well-known principle of “finding a book for each reader and a reader for each book”.

The Brazilian National Library, which was founded in 1818 and to our standards, is already very old and owns the valuable collection, brought to Brazil by D. Joao, VI, King of Portugal and father of our first Emperor.

There are presently in Brazil 10 schools of library science and five library associations. A movement has been initiated toward reorganization of a large number of old libraries and establishment of a number of new and modern libraries throughout the country.

A special Co-operative Cataloguing Service has been set up with the aid of around 80 libraries and a special program is being laid out to extend its services.

This year, under *Unesco* sponsorship, a Brazilian Center of Bibliography and Documentation will be set up to carry out

very important program in the fields of library science, bibliography and documentation.

As this Center develops, Brazilian libraries will certainly be given more and more opportunities to co-operate actively in all important cultural achievements of the modern world, as we believe that in cultural development and moral improvement of the human kind rests the happiness and the welfare of the nations.

To Madras Library Association I send, on behalf of all librarians of Brazil, our best wishes for a happy and prosperous future.

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### AUSTRALIA

51 JOHN METCALFE

(*General Secretary, Library Association of Australia, Sydney.*)

On the occasion of the Madras Library Association Silver Jubilee, 1953, the Library Association of Australia sends its warm regards and best wishes for the future.

Members of the Library Association of Australia have pleasant recollections of the visit to Australia during this year of several librarians from India. They look forward to the opportunity of entertaining members of your Association in the future in Australia and hope that they will have opportunities of visiting India.

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