NATIONAL STUDIES OF RESEARCH LIBRARIES

SCHOLARS AND LIBRARIANS ASSESS THE FUTURE

In anticipating the recommendations to come from PACE and discussing the recommendations of the library's Collection Analysis Project, speculation on the ways in which the University Libraries will change in the next several years is inevitable. Our visions will be limited indeed if we restrict them to local responsibilities. A consciousness of what are perceived nationally as major issues for university libraries can enable Notre Dame's librarians, faculty members and administrators to take account of national trends while charting the future course of the University Libraries' collections and services.

Nationally, the problems of university libraries have become a joint enterprise of scholars, librarians and university administrators. Recommendations on libraries are part of Research Universities and the National Interest, a recently published report from the presidents of fifteen major universities. They are a central concern of Scholarly Communication, the report of the National Enquiry, and of the Research Universities Project, sponsored by the Association of American Universities. These reports stress the principle that projected changes in library operations should be guided by an understanding of their effect on the work of scholars, by a realistic appraisal of the institutional budgetary and policy commitments they imply, and by the professional knowledge of librarians. The various advisory and planning bodies proposed by these studies include representatives of all three groups. As we at Notre Dame begin to take advantage of new technology, as we plan collection building, consider cooperation with other libraries and devote resources to preservation, a broad awareness and involvement in the changes taking place will be necessary to promote the kind of response that characterizes a major research library.

The underlying assumption in all these reports of national studies is that university libraries no longer consist of isolated collections but are part of a large body of library resources distributed locally, regionally and nationally. At present, that is little more than a concept. To make it a reality involves more than speeding inter-library loan transactions or increasing the use of the Center for Research Libraries. Linking of libraries through a computerized bibliographic network is central to most of the proposals being made. Research Universities and the National Interest suggests that the Library of Congress expand its role in this enterprise; Scholarly Communication, that research libraries, scholarly associations and organizations currently engaged in producing bibliographic services join with Library of Congress in creating linked bibliographic systems. When Notre Dame's University Libraries expand their automated systems, decisions on design, standardization, adaptability must be made with an eye to what is happening nationally in response to these broad-scale recommendations.

However, the proposals that recur in the statements promoting libraries as a national resource go further than suggesting more
widely disseminated information on library holdings. They strongly recommend that the collecting commitment of each library, in consortia or in regional groups, influence that of the other libraries joined with them. The Research Universities Project advocates "centers of special responsibility," which would be charged with the acquisition, maintenance and preservation of collections on particular topics or areas. That idea is echoed in the recommendations of other bodies, and is supported by the emphasis put on Title IIC of the Higher Education Act which is dedicated to "the support of collections which make an indispensable contribution to higher education and research... are recognized as having national or international significance for scholarly research, are unique in nature... and are of such importance that fairly substantial demands are made upon the institution by... scholars." None of these proposals prevent a university library from collecting in a particular area, but they do allow a more judicious use of limited acquisition funds.

Certain special proposals recur in these national studies concerning the evaluation of the future of research libraries. Should any of them come into being, the users of the Notre Dame Library will feel the effect. A National Lending Library, or a National Periodicals Center, similar to what currently exists in Great Britain is frequently proposed as a partial answer to the dilemma of acquiring and keeping material important for scholarship but rarely used. The Center for Research Libraries, of which Notre Dame is a member, may well be the core of such an entity.

Inevitably those who are considering research libraries mention preservation as a crucial issue. Research Universities and the National Interest calls upon the federal government to give "urgent attention to preservation problems faced by research libraries;" the Research Universities Project report on research libraries believes it of such significance as to require national policies to preserve the resources necessary for research. The National Enquiry includes private foundations as a necessary element in the funding of preservation efforts. Notre Dame's increasingly urgent concern with this matter is, then, understandable in the light of this national concern.

In all of the analyses of the course to be taken in order that university libraries may continue to fulfill their responsibilities to our society, sources of funding are a critical element. There is widespread agreement that these must be both public and private, both local and national, but that obtaining them and applying them effectively will only be the product of a cooperative and informed effort on the part of those committed to the goal of scholarship and higher education.

Automation, resource sharing, preservation, and funding are some of the major issues facing the nation's research libraries. Scholars, librarians and university administrators, working together, will have to address these issues and develop appropriate solutions. Interest at the national level in this process is evidenced in the reports mentioned here. At Notre Dame, our concern should be for awareness of national programs for research libraries and the role our University Libraries should play in them.

Maureen L. Gleason

NEW REFERENCE CENTER INAUGURATED

MEMORIAL LIBRARY REORGANIZES ITS READER'S SERVICE

The month of October saw the transformation of an important first floor Memorial Library public service area: the Reference Department.

As a culmination of much discussion within the Reference Department and the library administration, and with some funding from the University's annual improvement budget for limited remodeling and refurnishing, there is now, squarely in the middle of the Reference Department area, a semi-enclosed service facility referred to as the Reference Center. This facility was designed to make reference services more efficient and more easily recognizable for library patrons, both faculty and students.

Several of the new features are particularly relevant to this purpose. First of
all, reference services are now dispensed from a broad, waist-high, fifteen-foot-long counter, instead of two office desks placed in the middle of the reference section. It is now much more readily apparent where one should come for information about the library or for help with a library project. Furthermore, recent studies suggest that in the American context people tend to be much less reticent to ask for assistance from someone standing behind a counter than from someone seated at a desk. This latter element seems especially significant for service to undergraduates.

Secondly, the Reference Center, enclosed by newly added partitions on three sides at all times, can be completely shut off by eight-foot-tall, lockable, folding screens during times when the department is not staffed. The secure nature of the area has enabled two changes designed to improve the efficiency of the department. First, a

terminal for the OCLC on-line library holdings and cataloging database has been placed in the Reference Center. Presence of such a terminal within the Center has greatly increased its use by the department's Interlibrary Loan Office, for which the OCLC computer's interlibrary loan sub-system serves as an invaluable time-saver. Secondly, books and other materials on "locked reference" need no longer be accessed by the tedious unlocking and locking of glass cases; they are now available from the reference staff on open book shelves within the Center, which can be closed and locked when unattended.

It is hoped that the effect of all these changes will be the improvement of Reference Department services, since the goal of the department is to become ever more accessible to its constituency.

James T. Deffenbaugh

COLLECTION ANALYSIS PROJECT

TASK FORCE ON RESOURCE SHARING: SUMMARY OF FINAL REPORT

As library costs increase and library budgets decline, there is heightened interest among university and research libraries in resource sharing and cooperative programs. Although library users would prefer to find materials in their own library, access to materials owned by other libraries is becoming increasingly important to scholars' research. In its final report, the Task Force on Resource Sharing outlined the University Libraries' cooperative activities and made recommendations about future efforts to share resources at Notre Dame.

The primary form of resource sharing engaged in by the University Libraries is Interlibrary Loan (ILL). The ILL Office is currently experiencing a marked increase in both borrowing and lending requests. From 1973 to mid-1980, the number of requests sent to other libraries rose by 72% while the number of requests received from other libraries went up by 94%. The increase continued during the first ten months of the 1980-81 fiscal year, with a rise of 20% in the number of borrowing requests and 101% in the number of lending requests. Some of the current expansion of interlibrary loan activity can be attributed to the Libraries' use of the ILL subsystem of the OCLC system. Since 1975 the University Libraries have subscribed to the OCLC system through the Indiana library network called INCOLSA and have used the OCLC on-line union catalog and shared cataloging system in daily operations. The OCLC data base currently contains almost eight million records representing the holdings of about 2,200 libraries around the country. With the initiation of the interlibrary loan subsystem, the holdings of the OCLC member libraries became readily available to all libraries using the system.

The large increase in interlibrary loan activity since 1979 has led to some operational problems for the ILL Office in the Memorial Library. Therefore, the Task Force on Resource Sharing recommended that an ad hoc committee be appointed to study the ILL operations. The Committee on Interlibrary Loan, which was appointed in September 1981, has been charged with evaluating ILL operations and policies and making recommendations for their improvement to the Director of Libraries by March of 1982.
The Task Force on Resource Sharing has also recommended that the records of Notre Dame's requests to other libraries be used in local collection development programs. Interlibrary loan requests may show new trends in current research that could necessitate adjustments to the Libraries' collection development practices. Repeated requests for articles from a single journal may indicate a need for Notre Dame to subscribe to that journal. Accordingly, interlibrary loan requests are now being monitored by the Collection Development Office to determine whether patron borrowing patterns reflect gaps in our collections.

A second major form of resource sharing for Notre Dame is its membership in the Center for Research Libraries (CRL). This membership gives Notre Dame access to more than three million volumes held by CRL. Although the CRL collection initially had a scientific orientation, it has been broadened to include all subject areas, and CRL is now purchasing extensively in the social sciences. A large part of the CRL holdings consists of journals, including more than 14,000 current subscriptions. The Center's Journal Access Service provides free photocopies of articles published since 1970 in all subject areas except the humanities and clinical medicine. If CRL does not own a journal which is requested by a member library, it sends the request to the British Library Lending Division, thus opening up another major resource for CRL members.

In addition to its resource sharing activities at the national level, Notre Dame is involved in state and local cooperative activities. INCOLSA, the state library network of which Notre Dame is a member, is working to develop a computerized bibliographic data base which will facilitate the sharing of resources among Indiana libraries of all types. In November, 1979, Notre Dame became a member of the Area Library Service Authority (ALSA) for the counties of Saint Joseph, Marshall, Elkhart and Kosciusko. One of the services provided by the ALSA is a twice-weekly courier. With this service a request from Notre Dame to another ALSA library can usually be filled in less than a week.

At the local level, Notre Dame has reciprocal borrowing arrangements for the students and faculty with Saint Mary's College and Holy Cross Junior College. In addition to these formal resource-sharing activities, Notre Dame has informal arrangements with local institutions in the subject areas of life sciences and theology and in the areas of government documents and reference services.

In order to make Notre Dame a more efficient participant in its various cooperative activities, the Task Force on Resource Sharing has recommended that the holdings of the University Libraries be publicized more systematically than they have been in the past. It is especially recommended that the strengths of the Notre Dame collections be made known nationally through inclusion in published sources, such as Ash's Subject Collections, and through wide circulation of locally produced bibliographies. The Dante collection, the Notre Dame collection of American Catholic newspapers, and the Ambrosiana manuscript collection are examples of Notre Dame's unique strengths which have not been widely publicized.

In order to provide direction to present and future Notre Dame cooperative efforts, the Associate Director of the University Libraries, Dr. George E. Sereiko, has been charged with coordinating all resource sharing activities of the Libraries and reporting on them annually to the Director of Libraries. It is hoped that this increased and coordinated effort on the part of the Libraries will result in more effective sharing of resources at the national, state and local levels.

The complete text of the Final Report of the Collection Analysis Project Task Force on Resource Sharing is available in the Reserve Book Room of Memorial Library. Faculty members are invited to read the report and comment on it to Maureen Gleason, Assistant Director for Collection Development, in Room 221, Memorial Library.

Judith K. Sterling
Celebrations are rare in the world of bibliography. Consequently, when publication of the National Union Catalog, Pre-1956 Imprints was completed this year, a two-day symposium was held in Washington, D.C. under the aegis of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. The proceedings of that historic meeting are scheduled to appear shortly.

The National Union Catalog, Pre-1956 Imprints, sometimes informally called the Pre-1956 Mansell, after the name of the publisher, is a repertory of the cataloged holdings of selected portions of the collections of the major research libraries in the United States and Canada, plus the more rarely held items in the collections of many smaller and specialized libraries.

In 1963 the Library of Congress and the National Union Catalog Subcommittee of the American Library Association decided to undertake the publication, in book form, of the bibliographical record of publications prior to 1956. This massive project has culminated in 685 oversize folio volumes and has become the largest single bibliographic project in the 167-year history of the Library of Congress.

All works in this catalog were printed, or in the case of manuscripts written, before 1956. Entries cover books, pamphlets, maps, atlases, music, periodicals and other serials. For example, periodicals that were excluded from the Union List of Serials may be found in the National Union Catalog, Pre-1956 Imprints. Works printed or written in languages in the Latin alphabet, and in Greek and Gaelic, are included. Works in Cyrillic, Arabic, Hebrew, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, the various Indic alphabets, and all other non-Latin characters are included only if they are represented by Library of Congress cards.

The comprehensiveness of this catalog is reflected by the inclusion of all holdings of the Library of Congress represented by Library of Congress cards and all holdings that have been reported by the several hundred participating libraries in the United States and Canada.

The following materials are excluded: phonorecords, motion pictures and filmstrips, books for the blind and master's theses of American universities. Harvard honors theses, on the other hand, have been included because of their general value.

The NUC Pre-1956 is primarily a compilation of main entries together with necessary cross-references and selected added entries, all of which have been edited for consistency and uniformity of form. The authority for form is almost invariably the American Library Association's Cataloging Rules for Author and Title Entries, 1949 edition. Since the NUC-Pre 1956 mirrors more than a century of American cataloging production, it is inevitable that the deposited cards should show a wide variety of main entries for the same work, as well as for various editions and translations. In practice the entry provided by the Library of Congress is accepted for use here. No effort was made to insure that all monographic sets and series were treated uniformly. Accordingly, some titles are accessible only by the collective entry, while others are represented by analytical entries.

Different editions of the same title are entered separately, as are different issues, i.e., the same title with a different publisher, place of publication, or imprint date. Facsimiles (microfilm, microcard, microprint, microfiche, photostat, electrostatic print, etc.) are reported separately from the original and are filed by the imprint date of the original.

Each catalog card image in the NUC Pre-1956 compilation yields the information supplied by the cataloging library. The bibliographic data will vary a great deal, from full records with detailed descriptive notes to extremely sketchy entries. The editors, if they had a choice, always selected the card with the fullest information. The LC classification and Dewey Decimal classification on LC cards are indicated. Similarly, local classification and call numbers have been left on cards from other libraries.

One of the most helpful features in the catalog is the alphabetic symbol showing the reported locations, in the United States
and Canada, of copies of the work described. A list of symbols most frequently encountered, followed by the full name of the library, is to be found on the end-papers of each volume. The listed locations do not mean that the title is necessarily available from the holding library on interlibrary loan, since statutory limitations on lending materials, as well as other restraints imposed by the nature of the material (rare items, brittle books, reference works, etc.) may be in force.

That a cooperative venture so ably edited and vast in coverage was brought to fruition is an accomplishment without parallel. A period of 14 years was required to publish in alphabetical sequence the 685 volumes. The edition was subscribed to by some 1,350 libraries in 51 nations at a cost of up to $35,000 each. Over 11 million author entries are readily accessible for retrieving data in this single source covering 500 years of the world's output of printed works.

One academician was quoted as saying that "henceforth, all academics posing as scholars, yet now admitting ignorance of the National Union Catalog, Pre-1956 Imprints, should be dismissed as imposters."

Without diminishing the credit due to innumerable individuals and organizations responsible for preparing the reported material, special acknowledgment must be made not only to John William Cronin of the Library of Congress, to whom this mammoth-scale resource tool is dedicated "in recognition of his enduring bibliographical achievements on behalf of libraries and scholars," but also to the firm of Mansell/Information Publishing Ltd., which under its exceptionally experienced managing editor, John Commander, fulfilled its commitment to deliver on schedule the successive shipments of the largest book catalog in the history of printing.

The NUC Pre-1956 is available in Memorial Library, Reference Department, Bibliographic Center, Z 881 A1 U52.

John J. Philippsen

University Libraries
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, IN 46556

David E. Sparks, Editor