

TEXTILE LIBRARIES ARE SPECIAL

The North Carolina State College School of Textiles Library

By KATHARINE McDIARMID*

Tucked away in two large former classrooms of the School of Textiles is one of the most modern specialized libraries in the state. It is the Textile Library, a branch of the D. H. Hill Library of North Carolina State College. The present quarters were redesigned and decorated through a generous gift from Burlington Mills Foundation and occupied in 1950. A dedication service was held in 1954 commemorating four alumni of the School of Textiles, who left posts with Burlington Mills and were killed in World War II. They were Albert R. Lambert of Greensboro, N. C.; Peter Ihrle, Jr. of Rock Hill, S. C.; Wallace W. Riddick, Jr. of Greenville, S. C. and Thomas C. Leake, III of Rockingham, N. C.

The Textile Library was organized in 1945 when the book collection of approximately 800 volumes was moved from the stacks of the D. H. Hill Library to the School of Textiles. Since then the collection has grown to 5,000 books and bound periodicals. The objective of maintaining a very specialized collection on textiles and textile chemistry is still adhered to and there is practically no overlapping with the main library. The D. H. Hill Library admirably supplements the textile collection, especially in the fields of physics and chemistry.

The textile collection is not confined to books and periodicals by any means for there is a large vertical file containing pamphlets, newspaper clippings and trade catalogs and several shelves of the *Cotton Collection*. The latter consists of government and state publications gathered by Dean Malcolm Campbell of the School of Textiles. All of these collections, with the exception of the clippings, are indexed.

Soon after taking over this library, the present librarian realized the need for a more thorough covering of the textile periodical literature through indexing. It is not indexed fully either in Industrial Arts Index, Engineering Index, Natural and Synthetic Fibers Index or in any of the other abstracting and indexing services. So a "List of Subject Headings" was compiled and indexing by author and subject started. The Library subscribes to about 150 periodicals and more than 60 of these are indexed here. After seven years, the subject file now occupies about 21 trays and the author file 12 trays. The pamphlet material indexing is included but there are separate trays for the Trade Catalog and *Cotton Collection* cards. When the existing drawers in the public catalog are filled it is planned to retire the cards and start again. The textile industry is an ever changing one and consequently the most recent articles are of paramount interest. The older ones will always be useful for historical research.

The "List of Subject Headings" is constantly being changed. Fibers that are household bywords now, such as Orlan, Dacron, Vicara, etc. were not even known in 1947 when indexing was begun. Besides new fibers, the processes have been improved and the list grows and grows. Publication of a new list is planned for the near future.

A word or two about the special collections and their indexes might prove interesting. The *Cotton Collection*, acquired through the years, was put into Acco binders as received with an arbitrary number being assigned each item. This number now serves as the call number and author and subject are filed in trays marked *Cotton Collection*.

The Trade Catalog collection is a great help to the students in their manufacturing and testing courses. It is kept in the vertical file and indexed in the public catalog by subject and company. The company card contains the name and location of the company at the top in caps, corresponding to the folder in the file. As new publications are

*Textiles Librarian, North Carolina State College, Raleigh.



Photo by Lewis P. Watson

Textile Library, North Carolina State College

received, the titles are added to the company card, without regard to alphabetical order and no bibliographical information is included. Subject cards are made listing simply the name of the company which makes the machine or instrument, and not the specific publication describing it. This arrangement often forces the student to look carefully through many catalogs for what he wants, but we consider this good for him, and time-saving for the librarian. Each publication has "Trade Cat." written on it, and the subject it covers (if not explained by the title). The company name is underlined for quick filing.

Another tray marked "Mill Index" contains periodical references to specific mills. For this index all incoming journals are scanned, even the foreign ones. State College has many foreign students and this is a service for them too. This index consists of articles on mills which give information about machinery and layout and also about personnel services, such as cafeterias, medical services, homes, etc. If information is included on the town in which the mill is located, so much the better. Many wives wish to read these articles too and they want to know about schools, churches and shops. The Mill Index is very popular in the spring when interviews are being held and seniors are trying to make up their minds where to go.

Physically the Textile Library is beautiful. Natural light wood shelving is used, the walls are gray and the floors are of tan asphalt tile. It is air conditioned—a boon in the hot summers of Raleigh—and it is lighted by indirect incandescent lights. The tables, each seating four, are of light birch. The chairs, also of birch, were designed by one of the foremost European designers, and the foam rubber cushions are upholstered in soft tones of brown, green, gray and coral. They are holding up extremely well after four years of hard use by college boys. The draperies, of a Bur-Mill rough textured fabric, are printed in a pleasing geometric design, rust on beige. The library space is broken up into smallish sections by shelving and an institutional appearance is

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entirely avoided. In fact, on entering the room one feels that he is entering a private library of a special sort. The main desk faces the door and back of it is a private office for the library and a workroom.

While the Textile Library's holdings are primarily for the faculty, students and research personnel of North Carolina State College, the public may use its collection during library hours, and inter-library loans are made. In addition, the library serves school children of the nation in sending out pamphlet material in answer to many requests. The librarian secures this gift material from the large companies like DuPont, American Viscose Corp., Chatham Manufacturing Co. and from service organizations like the National Cotton Council. The librarian also answers many requests from industry for bibliographies. It can be said that the Textile Library is really special in its resources, its clientele and its services.

This is the third, and temporarily the last, in our series of articles about library resources in North Carolina. After the next issue, which is to be devoted exclusively to NCLA reports and Conference announcements, a new Editorial Board will be appointed. It may, or may not, wish to continue this series.
