

JUNIOR COLLEGE LIBRARY TRENDS

By ELIZABETH SHEPARD*

Somewhat in the nature of "carrying coals to Newcastle" is any discussion of outstanding events and trends in the junior college library world with a group of junior college librarians. But because it is so easy to fail to see the forest for the trees, and because all too often our daily routines leave us feeling like a squirrel on a revolving cage, running like mad and making no progress, it is well to consider, now and then, what is quite obvious but what nevertheless has become buried under the accumulation of the petty but pressing duties of the day.

Importance of the Junior College

The trends of the junior college library world parallel and are caused by the trends of the world of the junior colleges. Not only is the junior college here to stay, but it has taken hold and is growing into an important and popular part of the pattern of public education. An editorial from the *Atlanta Constitution*, reprinted in the *Asheville Citizen*, quotes Dr. John Ivey, Jr., of the Southern Regional Education Board of Atlanta, as proposing, "along with many other educators, an expanded system of junior colleges on the community level. These junior colleges would provide vocational education for those who want or need no more. They would provide a good basic and preparatory education for those who would go on to senior college and post-graduate work." The editorial commends the plan as a means of reducing quantity and increasing quality in the institutions of higher education in Georgia.

Dr. James L. Wattenburg in his book, *A State Plan for Public Junior Colleges; with Special Reference to Florida*, also specifically proposes the inclusion of the junior college in the state plan for public school education.

Growth of Junior Colleges

Along with other types of schools, the junior college is beginning to experience the increased enrollment which eventually will swell the ranks as the rising tide of "war babies" reaches the institutions of higher education. Increasing enrollment has caused larger appropriations for library materials and the subsequent greater volume of acquisitions, increased physical facilities and space, and the need for extended services in areas other than that of books. The audio-visual field is well established and growing in the majority of junior college libraries.

Another area of service is in conjunction with reading courses offered in college curricula and in adult education courses. Courses range from remedial reading to the more technical, accelerated reading. It is often the library's role to house mechanical equipment, such as an accelerator, to provide materials and services for the operation of such equipment, to examine existing library resources in the light of materials needed, and to alter book selection policies to include remedial reading material. Today, the book collection must cover wider and more complex subject areas which are rapidly changing. At the same time there is an ever-increasing volume of published material in all fields.

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Unfortunately, additions to the library staff are rapidly offset by the larger number of students and faculty members, the increase in the quantity of material ordered, processed and circulated, and the general expansion of library services. Hence, the junior college librarian must continue to be resourceful, overworked, and untiring in efforts to give the best library service possible.

We are in a period of change and consolidation, both within the administrative area of the individual college and in the very entity of some of the colleges in North Carolina. One of the junior colleges, Pfeiffer, has become a senior college since our last meeting. Being considered by the Concord Presbytery is the merger of Mitchell College, in Statesville, with Lees-McRae College, at Banner Elk. Already approved by the synod is the consolidation, to be effected three years hence, of two junior colleges, Presbyterian Junior College and Peace College, with senior college, Flora Macdonald.

Junior College "Standards"

An event of importance to the junior college library world is the presentation of the "Tentative National Standards for the Junior College Library," compiled by the Association of College and Reference Libraries of the American Library Association, in April, 1955. These standards define concisely and pertinently the purposes of the library, holdings, the budget, personnel, housing, and administrative practice. They are helpful in measuring the extent and effectiveness of library service; they serve as goals to be attained; and they are useful in giving a clear outline of what the library strives to mean to college administrators, trustees and students.

New Books

Recently published are several books of special value and use to the junior college librarian. Among these are found:

Books for Junior Colleges; a list of 4,000 books, periodicals, films and filmstrips, compiled by Frank J. Bertalan. Chicago, American Library Association, 1954. \$7.50

A cooperative project by the American Association of Junior Colleges, the American Library Association, and more than 100 participating junior colleges in all sections of the country, under the editorship of the Chief of the Library Services Section, Legislative Reference Division, Library of Congress, resulted in this bibliography. It serves as a supplement to Mohrhardt's "List of Books for Junior College Libraries," compiled in 1937, and does not list titles given by Mohrhardt unless there have been revised or enlarged editions. The Bertalan list contains more entries in the physical sciences, business, nursing art and public health, speech and dramatic arts, and vocational and technical arts than the Mohrhardt list. Since the entries include not only complete bibliographic data, but also the price and Library of Congress card number, the book is one of the junior college library's most useful buying guides and standards for judging book collection.

The Classified List of Reference Books and Periodicals for College Libraries. Edited by W. A. Hoole. 3d ed. Atlanta, Southern Association of Colleges and Universities, 1955. \$3.00

The third edition contains 1,447 reference book titles and 546 periodicals in a combined listing. The books listed are strictly of a reference nature "except when essential material does not appear in this form," with out-of-print books listed only where absolutely necessary. Periodicals listed do not include those available without charge nor those in a foreign language, except in the foreign language sections. Although designed

for the four-year college and no longer designating either first purchase or junior college items, this standard book selection tool will be very useful to the junior college library.

The Library in College Instruction; a Syllabus on the Improvement of College Instruction through Library Use, by Louis Round Wilson, Mildred Hawksworth Lowell, and Sarah Rebecca Reed. New York, H. W. Wilson, 1951. \$3.75

This syllabus is helpful to faculty and administrators as well as librarians. The authors' purpose is "to give instructors some appreciation of problems of library administration and to make them better collaborators with college librarians and library committees" and especially "to unite instructor and librarian in an understanding of library problems and methods." It lists sources and materials in broad subject areas at the level of general and undergraduate education and suggests various means of directing students in the use of those materials.

Simple Library Cataloging, by Susan Grey Akers. 4th ed. Chicago, American Library Association, 1954. \$5.00

Written particularly with the small library in mind, this manual includes in its latest edition the cataloging of audio-visual materials, a brief discussion of the difference between the 14th and 15th editions of the Dewey Classification, and directions and examples for classifying and cataloging the book collection.

A State Plan for Public Junior Colleges; with Special Reference to Florida, by James L. Wattenburg. Gainesville, Fla., University of Florida Press, 1953. \$1.50

Written by an authority on junior colleges who has studied such institutions in the South and West, this volume gives a proposed plan for a state system of junior colleges. Hence the book is of interest to educators and those affiliated with junior colleges. The contents include sections on the public junior college; a plan for public junior colleges in Florida; and recommendations for public junior colleges in Florida. Although specific in its geographic location, the principles underlying the contents are applicable to any state.

Technical Services in Libraries, by Maurice F. Tauber and Associates. New York, Columbia University Press, 1954. \$6.50

A valuable short-cut to the technical knowledge and developments in the area of technical processes, this book discusses "acquisitions, cataloging, classification, binding, photographic reproduction, and circulation operations." The reviewer in the *Junior College Journal* states that "most junior college librarians . . . will find it necessary to simplify many of the operations described." Nevertheless there is profitable discussion of principles, problems, and operation common to all libraries, large and small, from which application can be made to junior college libraries.

We may sum up trends of the junior college library world with characterizing words, *growth—expanding service—change—goals—tools—and work.*

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