

PROBLEMS IN ORGANIZING A NEW JUNIOR COLLEGE LIBRARY*

By MRS. MILDRED S. COUNCILL

When Mount Olive Junior College began operation in the fall of 1954 a librarian was not employed and one of the faculty members arranged on the shelves of the reading room a few books that had been donated to the college. During the year a book drive was conducted to obtain books for the library. The general public interpreted this to mean a quantity of books disregarding quality. Many attics were cleaned out and the books poured in, but very few of them were on any approved list of junior college libraries.

In the fall of 1955 I accepted the place as librarian of the college and spent most of the first year checking the hundreds of books that were in boxes, on tables, and in corners to determine whether or not they would be acceptable when the library was checked for accreditation. Mrs. Helen Brown, librarian, St. Mary's Junior College, Raleigh, North Carolina helped with this several times during 1955-56.

After checking and re-checking the entire collection Dr. Susan Grey Akers, Dean Emeritus, Library School, University of North Carolina, was asked to go through the books that had been retained to determine the justification of the retention of each title.

Dr. Akers came to the campus several times during the year 1956-57 and helped set up a policy for cataloging. A decision had to be made as to whether to use Cutter

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numbers or not and this was decided against since most of the junior colleges that had been questioned used them. As the cataloging progressed many decisions had to be made, for the aim was to keep the catalog as consistent as possible. A subject file was begun, as in doing this it was figured that much time would be saved later when a new edition of *Sear's Subject Headings* was published with many of the subjects previously used deleted.

As more books were ready for circulation the problem of shelving presented itself. There were a few built in shelves in the reading room, but these were not adequate. A door was cut through to an adjoining room making it possible for this room to be used for a stack room and enough space for three reading tables. Much time was spent determining the type shelves to be purchased, and after much study Remington Rand steel shelving was decided upon and the shelves were placed in such a way that more could be added when the need was evident.

As the books that were given were gradually catalogued a drive was conducted by the college to obtain money for books that related directly to the particular curriculum of the college. It was suggested that five dollars (\$5.00) would be asked as a minimum from each donor, and the name of the person was placed on a book plate in the front of a book. This brought unusual response and from this list of donors a card record has been set up in the hopes that these names will evolve into a Friends of the Library organization.

Mr. J. C. Moyer of Snow Hill has established an endowment for the library that is sufficient to net five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per year and the library is named Moyer Memorial Library in his honor. This amount is a great help, but not sufficient to assure the money needed for a new and growing library. The fact that more library funds were needed the Rotary Club has taken the library on as their project, and last year the club sponsored a movie the proceeds of which was given to the college library and other plans are being made to raise money for this cause in 1958.

In a new college it is especially essential that the librarian work with the members of the faculty by encouraging them to keep up with the new publications in their field of work, so they can suggest new books for purchase that are pertinent to their course of study. When the professors and instructors help build the library collection in their own area of teaching they use the library much more effectively, and see that their students use it.

Other librarians have been most generous in directing us to collections that contained duplicates that the holders agreed to share with us. Especially do I want to give credit and express appreciation to Mr. Cook at the University of North Carolina Library and Dr. Powell at Duke University Library for the help they have given in this area. Because of this kind of material the library has taken on a character that is seldom found in a new library. The goal of four thousand books could not have been reached in this length of time without the generosity of these librarians.

In 1957 the college librarian was given an opportunity to go to the Gift and Exchange Department of the Library of Congress to select books from some duplicate titles. Many volumes were obtained in this way, that entailed only the cost of a trip to Washington, D. C.

In November 1957 Mount Olive Junior College was scheduled to go before the North Carolina College Conference for approval. One of the requirements was four thousand (4,000) cataloged books. In the summer of 1957 this goal had not been reached, so the president, Mr. Burkette Raper, agreed to employ another librarian to help with the cataloging. Mrs. Ethel A. Rose, Librarian, Peace College, Raleigh, North Carolina, worked in this capacity most of the summer, and our goal was reached.

When the North Carolina College Conference met in November 1957, Mount Olive

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Junior College was approved for accreditation and assured that if it continued to operate under the present standards that in November, 1958 it would be fully accredited. Before the conference met the committee made a survey of the College and a favorable report was given to the library phase of the college. If I may get personal at this point I want to say that the sound library training I received at Appalachian State Teacher's College has stood a test that all graduates do not get an opportunity to experience, that is setting up a college library from the very start. Not only was I able to apply what I had learned there, but my training has proven to be sufficient not only for public school work but the junior college field as well.

There is only one trained person on the library staff, and any other help consists of student assistants. Sometimes a student proves to be invaluable, as has been my experience in one case the student being Marie Barnett from Pantego, N. C. Much influence was exercised to direct her toward a career of librarianship, but so far "mission not accomplished". In other cases the students are just working that hour, which causes a hardship when there is only one person on the staff.

As a new library is set up the problems such as lack of funds, insufficient space, indecision as to policies to be used, indifference of some instructors, and inadequate help are at times unsurmountable, but when you ponder the full fledged support being obtained from the administration, the service being rendered to students, the zeal of some professors, and the overall challenge of starting a library "from scratch", there is untold satisfaction when someone who knows says "a job well done."