

## BOOK REVIEW

*The University Library, Its Organization, Administration, and Functions.* Louis R. Wilson and Maurice F. Tauber. (Columbia University. Studies in Library Science, No. 8) New York, Columbia University Press, 1956. xiii, 641 p. (Second edition.) \$7.50

The field of higher education has changed radically since the turn of the century, and in no area has the change been more marked than in university libraries. In 1900 only Harvard held more than 500,000 volumes; today forty university libraries in this country hold half a million, and nineteen have passed the million mark. Between 1890 and 1950 the number of graduate students in American universities increased from 2,383 to 237,000, and the number of Ph.D. degrees granted from 164 to 8,604. In 1947, American universities spent \$45,000,000 for research. In 1949-50, \$225,000,000 was available for research in our institutions of higher education. The implications for university libraries of these increases are obvious.

The purpose of *The University Library* is to review the changes which have taken place in the university library in response to the heavier demands made upon it by institutional growth, and to formulate some generalizations concerning principles and methods common to the organization and administration of the larger university libraries of the country which will be useful to librarians, administrators, members of the faculty and students of library science.

An earlier edition of this work appeared in 1945, the first comparable study of university libraries to be published. But the tempo of change in higher education and in libraries has been accelerated since the war. During this period libraries, in particular, have been closely and critically scrutinized from within and from without. Their cost and growth have attracted the anxious attention of university presidents, librarians, and everyone concerned with financing universities. The literature has been voluminous. The fact that seventy-five percent of the publications the authors have included in the footnotes and bibliographies were written after the first edition was published is ample evidence that a new edition is needed.

This edition follows the plan of the first, but has been substantially revised and extended. It is organized into seventeen chapters; five are devoted to the organization and administration of the library; two to various aspects of personnel; and three to the acquisition of books and other materials. Other topics represented by chapters are the functions of the university and its library; the teaching functions of the library; cooperation and specialization; buildings and equipment; off campus relations of the librarian; public relations; evaluation through records, reports, and surveys; and problems in university library development.

The authors do not attempt to recommend the forms of organization or practices best for libraries. Instead, they review the literature, describe common practices and call attention to their strong and weak features. Every aspect of the organization and operation of university libraries is examined and generalizations are set down on such topics as: the relationship of the librarian to other officers of the university; purchasing routines commonly followed in university libraries; discounts one may expect on library purchases; arguments for and against operating one's own bindery; duties of the assistant librarian; desirable span of control and lines of authority; prevailing practices with respect to academic status of librarians; and the pros and cons of compact storage.

## NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES

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Although this volume is of interest primarily to university librarians, administrators, library school teachers and students, its broader usefulness must be obvious. Librarians of college, special and public libraries, will find that many of the principles set forth here have application for their libraries; *e.g.*, selection and training of personnel; staff relations; buildings and equipment; public relations; preparation of the budget; and certain aspects of government and administration, to mention only a few.

*The University Library* is a monumental addition to professional library literature. The authors are well qualified to make such a contribution. Both have served as library administrators and as teachers of library science, and Dr. Wilson has long been the dean of Southern librarians.

BENJAMIN E. POWELL

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