

North Carolina LIBRARIES

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ISSUE

2231

"Putting Knowledge to Work"

Special Library Association Motto

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Volume 21, Number 1

Fall, 1962

GRESHAM, N. C.

THE PRESIDENT REPORTING

October 4, 1962

Dear N.C.L.A. Member:

Those very few of us who are able to plan far in advance of need and who therefore are already thinking about the special demands and the pleasant bustle of the Christmas season may disagree with the assertion that the fall months are a quiet time in which marked progress toward professional goals may be realized.

Yet there is reason for assuming that this is a constructive working season. If the fiscal year closed at the end of June, budget problems should have been solved; statistical reports of one kind or another should have been completed and submitted; plans for coping with the influx of obstreperous students in public libraries should have been made, or else; and colleges and universities should have settled into new sessions. With so much behind all of us, there should be more time, even if it seems there is not, and the affairs of N.C.L.A. should receive their rightful generous share. This admonition is particularly applicable to the many members who are committed to serve the Association during the biennium in the promotion of committee or section activity.

Such work is in hand, as occasional reports and questions indicate. A day of reckoning will be scheduled in mid-spring when, during a work session at a place later to be announced, progress reports will be expected and final plans described.

The publication of this issue of NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES, concentrating attention on special libraries, is a very fitting recognition of an aspect of library development which has exhibited notable advance during the last two decades, and especially in North Carolina. Without attempting to marshal all the evidence to defend this point as a thesis, it may be suggested that at least one fact rather definitely supports the conclusion. The North Carolina State Library Commission, in its STATISTICS OF NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC LIBRARIES, UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE LIBRARIES for 1949 listed four special libraries; the similar publication of the North Carolina State Library for 1961 lists thirty-seven such libraries. Even if there were more in 1949 than submitted reports, the fact that some may now be reporting that did not do so before tells a story.

However this may be, in terms of statistics or otherwise, it is clear that special libraries are more prominent in the library world than heretofore. General librarians are more aware of the resources of special libraries, and the bond between general and special libraries is undeniably stronger. The North Carolina Library Association has felt an impact in that special librarians, or perhaps more properly, librarians of special libraries, have joined the Association more readily and have taken an active and valuable part in its affairs. Happily, if any feeling of separateness was felt by librarians in medical, legal, industrial, or other special libraries, such has melted, it may be hoped, into the past.

North Carolina Libraries

Volume 21, Number 1

Fall, 1962

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INTRODUCING SPECIAL LIBRARIES

By MYRL EBERT, *Chief Librarian*

Division of Health Affairs Library, U.N.C., Chapel Hill

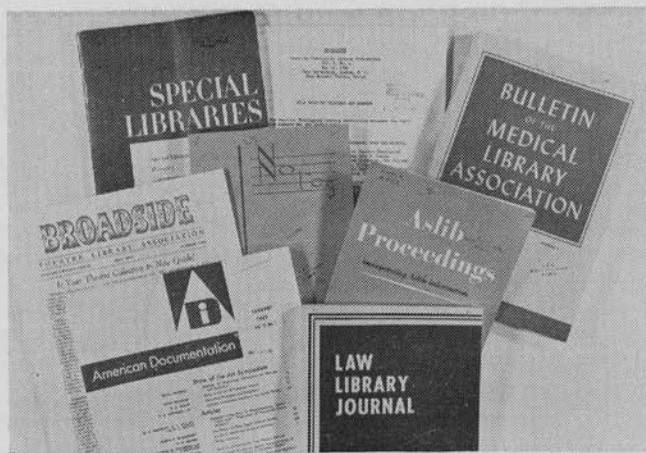
It has been said that a gathering of more than three Americans inevitably generates an organization of some kind and a glance over our fairly recent history will substantiate the rumor. We have a natural capacity for, a dedication to, structural groupings. Such a proclivity brought about the organization of the American Library Association in the 19th century, along with the emergence of the public library concept. The turn of the century saw the adaptation of old library methods to a new field, the assemblage of collections of specialized information, and in due time the banding together of the "specialists" in professional associations for much the same reasons that prompted the earlier alliance. The extraordinary development of technology and science with expansions of business and industry had brought about a new kind of librarianship—libraries geared to special situations. And it was just such situations that created the "different" libraries.

So, what is a special library? It is a collection of materials in a clearly defined area of special interest, which serves a clientele with the same special interest. That's a rough idea. A better explanation is that it is a service organized to make available all experience and knowledge that will further the activities and common objectives of an organization or other restricted groups. This could mean a *special organization* or *staff library* serving all informational needs of a corporation, institution or government body. Or it is a *special subject library* which could be a semi-public, independent, departmental or branch library serving students, professional groups, or public on a given subject. Most special libraries are of the latter type. Staffs of these libraries must be familiar with the activities of their clientele and the literature of their field of specialization as well as proficient in library policies and techniques. In England these specialists are often called "information officers", their libraries, "Information Bureaux". In Europe, in even more specialized situations, they are termed "documentalists". Special libraries emphasize the current, utilitarian, aspects of librarianship as against the historical, academic, preservative of the general library. It is in the special library field that automation and mechanization is receiving greatest consideration and experimentation because of this need for speed with a mushrooming literature.

There are many kinds of special libraries. The Special Libraries Association was formed in 1909 by librarians of business, professional, governmental, and industrial organizations "to promote the collection, organization and dissemination of information in specialized fields and to improve the usefulness of special libraries and information services". Business and finance libraries predominated in the early years, but soon there were libraries in the science and technology fields. Advertising, insurance, museum, medical-biological, newspaper libraries came into the fold, as did many more. Today, in this one association there are fifteen "divisions" representing twenty-six different types of subject libraries, with a membership of over 5,400 librarians. Besides the SLA there is the Medical Library Association, founded in 1898, with approximately 2,000 members; the American Association of Law Libraries, founded in 1906, numbering nearly 1,000 members; the Music Library Association, 1931, with 900 members; the International Association of Agricultural Librarians, 1955, with 500 members, the American Theological Library Association, the Theatre Library Association, the Society of American Archivists, and the American Documentation Institute.

The dire need for more special libraries and special librarians has fomented many an argument as to how best prepare and provide the personnel demanded. Library schools have added specialized courses in some subject fields in hopes to fill the gap. In-service training and "internships" are attempts at educating quickly those librarians with basic training. It's a wide open field, with supply falling short of demand, and non-librarians, subject specialists, usurping what was traditionally the librarians' domain. All the aforementioned professional organizations have energetic recruitment programs, have set up scholarship funds, and ardently advocate conversion from other fields with a zeal not often found in a secular environment.

The following pages, hopefully, will illustrate the special library field somewhat, and will suggest the wide base for specialization by subject or performance. There are examples of types of libraries—private and academic. Also the product, function, and preparation for these fields have been briefly viewed. North Carolina's growing industrialization and improving educational condition are reflected in the large number of special libraries appearing in the state. Back in 1942 with the publication of the first volume of *North Carolina Libraries*, Helen Monahan, Mecklenburg County Medical Society Librarian, made a survey of existing special libraries, reporting six medical libraries, one church-historical, and five other special libraries. The included "directory" notes more than five times as many. A NCLA membership count of special librarians in 1945 produced twenty-five in this category, and then it was a loosely defined definition. Today's count would triple the number of this genus. There is no getting around it, special libraries have made notable inroads in this state.



Selected Publications Of Some Special Library Associations

EARLY MEDICAL JOURNALS OF NORTH CAROLINA

By MARY R. THOMAS, *Assistant Reference Librarian*
Division of Health Affairs Library, U.N.C., Chapel Hill

The development of the medical periodical, like that of the scientific periodical, has been closely connected with the establishment of professional societies and the publication of their transactions. In this respect North Carolina was no exception, for both of its earliest medical serial publications were society sponsored.

Although there is mention of a medical society in North Carolina as early as 1799, it was not until April, 1849, that the present Medical Society of the State of North Carolina was formally organized and incorporated. The published transactions of this society constituted North Carolina's first medical serial publication. At first slim, little more than a pamphlet, the publication increased to an annual volume as the society gained in membership and importance; and while the transactions were usually little more than a commonplace recital of motions and votes, these were often interspersed with interesting sidelights on the personalities, problems, and controversies of those years.

Of greater professional and historical interest was North Carolina's second medical periodical. *The Medical Journal of North Carolina* was published in Edenton, and later in Raleigh, under the auspices of the State Medical Society and was noteworthy as being the State's first medical journal, as distinguished from society transactions.

Its actual publication in August, 1858, was preceded by two years of hesitation while the medical society sought with only modified success to insure financial support for the projected journal. It was an ill-omened start at a time of increasing political tension; and contrary to the editor's conviction that this journal, unlike those of other states, would weather all storms, the *Medical Journal of North Carolina* survived only three years.

In its format and contents this journal was quite representative of the period. An opening section of "Original Communications and Translations", consisting largely of case reports, was followed by book reviews and selections from other journals, foreign and domestic, designed to inform the local practitioner of advances and developments in medicine. A concluding portion contained editorials and miscellaneous items. The doctors of the state were urged to contribute the results of their experience. Considerable numbers of them responded, and in due course there appeared a sizeable number of papers on the medical geography of North Carolina.

The first editor of the journal, Dr. Edward Warren of Edenton, was one of the most colorful and vigorous members of this State's medical profession. During his two years of association with the journal the editorials were strong, eloquent, and of considerable length. They usually concerned general professional principles from which he drew concrete, local applications. He repeatedly reminded his readers of the necessity for a State Board of Medical Examiners, and partly as a result of his insistence North Carolina was one of the first states to establish such a board.

Upon Dr. Warren's departure in 1860 to the University of Maryland the editorship for the final volume was jointly assumed by Dr. C. E. Johnson and Dr. S. S. Satchwell, both native North Carolinians. The *Medical Journal of North Carolina* continued publication to November, 1861, but the dislocation of war became increasingly apparent.

There were fewer books to be reviewed, fewer journals from which to make selections, and fewer original articles. The subject matter showed a natural concern with military medicine, and editorial comment called for loyalty and service to the Confederacy. At war's end the journal's financial losses were such as to preclude any thought of reviving it.

MINUTES

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY

OF THE

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,

AT ITS

FIRST ANNUAL COMMUNICATION,

HELD

In Raleigh, April, 1850.

RALEIGH:
WILLIAM W. HOLDEN, PRINTER.
1850.

*Copy of Title Page
of North Carolina's
First Medical Serial
Publication from the
Division of Health
Affairs Library,
Chapel Hill*

The publication of the *Transactions* of the Medical Society of the State of North Carolina was also suspended during the Civil War but was resumed thereafter; and the post-war period saw the formation of additional medical and medically related societies, whose transactions were subsequently published. These publications, like the societies themselves, were evidence of a growing spirit of professionalism in the State.

The medical journalism of the thirty-five years after the Civil War in North Carolina was marked by the emergence of independently published medical journals, most of which could be characterized by the brevity of their existence. The first such to appear was the *Medical Brief*, published in Wilson in 1873 and owned and edited by J. J. Lawrence, M.D. Resembling present day digests in format and style, the *Medical Brief* consisted of short extracts and notes from medical and pharmaceutical journals and covered medications for the relief of a variety of ailments ranging in severity from baldness to Asiatic cholera. After a few issues in North Carolina the journal removed to St. Louis, Missouri.

North Carolina's second independently published medical journal was its first journal of any degree of permanence. The *North Carolina Medical Journal*, which commenced publication in January, 1878, in Wilmington, was edited by Dr. M. J. De Rosset and Dr. Thomas F. Wood. Though its editors intended it as a revival of the older, pre-war *Medical Journal of North Carolina*, at no time did it have any formal or legal connection with the state medical society.

Dr. De Rosset, whose change of residence to New York rendered his editorial duties advisory in nature, came of a Huguenot family which furnished North Carolina with a long line of physicians. Dr. Wood, who assumed major responsibility for the journal, was a leader in the public health movement. He was instrumental in the establishment of the State Board of Health in North Carolina and was one of the founders of the American Public Health Association. His interest was manifested in the numerous articles, editorials, and news items on matters relating to public health which appeared in this journal during his years of editorship, and in an early editorial he stated that the journal had, in fact, been instituted primarily to arouse the medical profession to the cause of public health.

The contributors to the *North Carolina Medical Journal*, like those of its predecessor, the *Medical Journal of North Carolina*, were largely local physicians, and like them they were chiefly concerned with the diseases then prevalent in the State—typhoid fever, diphtheria, malaria, and yellow fever. At the same time new interests and a shift in emphasis were observable. Surgery, which had assumed a greater importance during and after the Civil War, became the subject of an increasing number of articles. A growing interest in mental disease was clearly evident in the *North Carolina Medical Journal*, which adopted an enlightened and humanitarian approach toward the sufferers of such diseases and campaigned vigorously for their adequate care by the State. In accord with the editor's interest in public health, venereal diseases, which had tended to be shrouded by public, and even professional, prejudice, were treated in a more forthright and objective manner. Dr. Wood also made editorial note of changes in the social composition of the State's medical profession: the licensing of Negro doctors evoked a generous response from him, but the admission a woman. Dr. Annie L. Alexander of Charlotte, into the Medical Society of the State of North Carolina provoked only angry consternation.

In the final years of the century, after Dr. Wood's death, the *North Carolina Medical Journal* was moved to Charlotte, where another medical periodical was just beginning publication—the *Charlotte Medical Journal*. Ten years later, in 1908, the two were merged.

Not all the medical journals were exclusively directed toward the medical profession; two of those published in North Carolina at this time were intended for popular edification. The first of these, the *Southern Journal of Health*, published briefly in Asheville, was this State's only recorded homeopathic journal. The other, the *Herald of Health*, was published in Kinston, 1891-1893, by Dr. Henry Otis Hyatt. Appearing monthly on folio sized newsprint, it was designed to supply the layman with more accurate medical information than that supplied by newspapers and patent medicine almanacs. While much of it seems quaint today, it contained, nonetheless, many common sense suggestions for healthy living.

The latter half of the nineteenth century saw a growth of the sanatorium movement in the treatment of tuberculosis, and Koch's discovery of the tubercle bacillus in 1882 spurred interest and research in the field of tuberculosis. Asheville's reputation as a health resort for the treatment of tuberculars caused this subject to receive increasing attention in the State's medical journals and in the 1890's gave rise to two further medical periodicals. The earlier of these, the *Asheville Medical Review*, which lasted for only four numbers, was a general medical journal, but with specific reference to the special practice in Asheville.

The second, the *Journal of Tuberculosis*, published and edited by Dr. Karl von Ruck, was this state's first journal devoted to a medical specialty. Dr. von Ruck, a native of Germany, had established a sanatorium and a research laboratory in Asheville. While this journal served greatly to publicize Dr. von Ruck's own experimental and clinical work, nevertheless, physicians from tuberculosis centers across the nation were among the contributors. *The Journal of Tuberculosis* continued into the twentieth century but ceased publication in 1903.

Medical journalism in North Carolina during its first fifty years can scarcely be characterized as either distinguished or distinctive. Yet all of the periodicals published in this period reflected the varied and changing interests and concerns of the profession at a time when the personalities of the editors and contributors were more readily discernible in the journals than they are today. To medical librarians their study is a rewarding source of information on the local history of the profession which they serve.

THE TEXTILE LIBRARY AT NORTH CAROLINA STATE COLLEGE

By ADRIANA P. ORR, *Librarian*

School of Textiles, N. C. State College, Raleigh

Readers of *North Carolina Libraries* whose powers of recall go back seven years will remember the article "Textile Libraries are Special," describing the N. C. State College School of Textiles Library, which appeared in this journal in May 1955, pp. 108-110. The author was Miss Katherine McDiarmid, librarian from 1947-1959. She was also the compiler of the textile *List of Subject Headings* used not only by this library, but also in many other textile collections. Her contributions to the organization of our collection cannot be sufficiently lauded, and for the history of this library, the physical description of its quarters, and the special indexed collections inaugurated by Miss McDiarmid, this author refers the present reader to the 1955 article cited.

Since the publication of that article, the collection here has grown considerably. (This librarian would be delighted to hear from any librarian whose collection has shrunk, and who still has problems!) The range of materials in our library includes books, journals, patents, government research reports, government documents, trade literature, pamphlets, newspapers, films, and pictures. All relate directly or indirectly to the subject of textiles; hence, this branch of D. H. Hill Library qualifies as a special library.

Certainly no one would disagree with the statement that textile libraries are special, but their degrees of specialization depend upon many factors. The most important of these factors determining the special qualities of a textile collection is the clientele using the library. Suppose we selected a group of librarians, each serving a textile-oriented organization, gave each a set sum of money, and asked each of them to compile a list of acquisitions which they felt would be of value to their collection. No two lists would be the same. And yet all may serve a clientele whose interest is textiles, but textiles seem from a particular view. But a more compatible group of librarians would be hard to find. We borrow from each other's collections, depend upon each other's services, and seek depth in subject content from a library most likely to specialize in one given area.

Textiles is a word which incorporates many words and it means different things to different people. When I informed my mother on the telephone in the summer of 1959 that my new position would be that of librarian of a textile library, she chirped cheerily, "Oh, isn't that nice! And you have such a good background for that—you always did like to sew." To her, textiles meant fabrics and that alone. To others, textiles represents only fiber production, yarn processing, fabric design, dyeing, printing or garment manufacture. Still others see only the emphatic role of chemistry and fibers; others, the role of engineering principles in fabric production. Textiles may even be reduced to purely mathematical or statistical calculations. And seen in the broadest view, textiles is a single industry with economic problems, political implications, and a definite place in world trade. How specialized a textile library is truly does depend upon what its users mean by that word, textiles.

We are most fortunate here at the School of Textiles that the users of our collection are indeed a varied group. Their interests represent all the meanings of textiles. As a state academic institution, our primary purpose is to serve our students, our faculty, and

our research staff-employees; fortunately, the interests of these three groups have few limits. Since we have a graduate as well as undergraduate program in both the areas of textile chemistry and textile technology, the greatest demands for library service are made by the students and the faculty of our school. We attempt to keep our faculty aware of new publications through acquisitions lists, and without any formal organization, we keep watch for articles on special subjects which we think may be of interest to members of our research staff.

The collection here, however, is also used by other departments on the campus: engineering, economics, political science and others. Several of the state agencies in preparing special studies have also found the textile collection to be of value in their research. Our mail requests for information truly run the gamut. One mail delivery may well bring forth a grimy little postcard which bears a painfully scrawled message for help—"Please send me *everything* you have on the textile industry in North Carolina. Hurry. My report is due next Wednesday." A more mature plea may read, "Please send me instructions for a simple textile experiment using polymer chemistry which I can use for my Science Fair project." If two such messages arrive in the same mail, I am reduced to agreeing with W. C. Fields on the subject of our younger citizens!

Other requests are true joy to anyone who enjoys good reference questions. A medical research writer wanted information on studies pertaining to the toxicity of resin finishes used on fibrous materials to the human respiratory system. A dermatologist made use of some of our literature in his study of chemical action of certain fibers to skin.

Several years ago, one of our more interesting correspondents was an inmate of a New York State penal institution, and, in atoning for unknown and unmentioned sins, he seemed to be engaged in work on looms in that institution's weaving division. His problem appeared quite clear. He needed instructions for loom adjustments. But, sadly, the equipment with which he was working was manufactured in 1908, and detailed instruction for the particular machine seemed to be non-existent. Finally, we uncovered some material we thought might help, and with it we enclosed a note apologizing for the delay in answering his query. His acknowledging letter was received within the week, and it began, "Dear Ma'am, don't ever apologize for not writing sooner. I ain't going nowhere . . ." But he had another problem, so our correspondence grew quite voluminous, involving even the manufacturer of the original equipment. At last, all problems were solved, and with some satisfaction we considered the matter closed and filed away all letters involved. Three weeks ago, the incoming mail produced a letter with a familiar name and serial number. Our "pen" pal had been promoted (?) to a different institution, one also equipped with a weaving division. And his problems once again were loom parts. This time the equipment was more modern—1921 models, but unfortunately, it had been made by an entirely different manufacturer! If there are any readers who would like a brief bibliography for a refresher course in cotton loom adjustments, for early 20th century American models, do not hesitate to let us know.

Lists of suggested reading are compiled for what may be considered some "off-beat" requests, including one for a gentleman in Oklahoma who sought literature which would help him to establish a shoe string and other cotton braided products plant, and one for a dry-cleaning firm in Miami which requested literature on problems and their solutions in cleaning fabrics of man-made fibers. Generally, the reading suggestions are for materials which would be available locally. We also include the names of service organizations and equipment manufacturers which we feel would also be of help.

Few requests please us more than the requests for information or specific readings from textile mills throughout the state. We lend books, when not in heavy demand here, and usually send photocopies of journal articles, rather than lending bound volumes. Since a major portion of the economic wealth of North Carolina depends upon the textile firms, we welcome their requests for library assistance. Even the larger plants undertaking varying degrees of research and experimentation frequently lack libraries, and we try to make our materials available whenever possible.

When I was asked to write about our library, it was suggested that I tell what it is, whom it serves, and what are future plans for our library and its service. The first two items are supposedly explained in the preceding paragraphs, but the third is more difficult to state. Eventually, it is hoped, the library's present space will be doubled, providing more study space than now exists and surely more shelving. Idealistically and with recognition of future methods in information storage and retrieval, we hope to serve the literature needs of the textile industry in our state with greater dispatch and accuracy when the need exists.

Having followed the outlined suggestions of the editor, I feel now compelled to conclude this article with some purely personal convictions concerning a matter which never ceases to provoke severe disagreement among personnel who serve special collections. It is frequently the consensus of opinion among special librarians and documentalists that special collections can best be served only by those with the subject training and degrees in the field of the material collected. And this is perfectly valid in many cases. But what training, in addition to librarianship, would prove most helpful in serving our collection? A chemistry degree might be ideal for working with our textile chemists, but would it be extraordinarily helpful in working with our engineers, statisticians, government agencies, textile technologists, designers? Any other subject specialty might be equally questioned.

Since I am without a scientific background or technical degree, it may be thought that the following discussion is in defense of my lack. It isn't. Rather than defend or offend, I prefer to count my blessings for five splendid years of experience working with three superb librarians in a general reference and bibliography division of a university library.

Can there be any real advantages to not having a subject background in a special library? I believe there are. Advocates of the peer system overlook certain disadvantages. Can a subject specialist ever afford to reveal his ignorance on a topic to another subject specialist he serves? Perhaps, occasionally. Happily, we librarians without the subject specialty cheerfully reveal our ignorance; we ask questions; we seek additional clues. And strangely enough it frequently seems that the original question asked was not really what our scientist wanted to know, but only what he thought might help him find what he really wanted to know! Through lack of subject background, we find it easier to reach the real question for search, since we are freer to probe. Another advantage we offer the scientist is a chance to talk about his interest in a particular subject—we are a captive and seemingly ignorant audience whom he enjoys partially educating. Would this same attitude be present in conversing with a peer who might well afford to be slightly critical?

Without the restrictions of a special interest in a particular subject, we can treat all areas with equal enthusiasm and curiosity. We form a delightful counterpart to the specialist who comes to the library, searching for information he doubts has been written. We, on the other hand, see so much about so much, are firmly convinced that surely something exists of which he, the specialist, does not know.

We recognize each query for help or information and respect the need to know, whether the request be made on a grimy postcard or by long-distance, circuited through two secretaries. And we judge not the quality of the question, lest we be judged. We non-specialists owe our collections one obligation: we must learn its language (even when one word can have 3 distinct meanings or one process can be described by five distinct words). And with a knowledge of the terminology, remarkable deeds can be accomplished.

Without a subject specialty we can still be skilled and intelligent counterbalance to the scientists and technicians we serve. A visiting professor was unduly impressed by a reference to a Japanese experiment relating to a principle he was studying which I called to his attention. "However did you find that?" he asked. I promised not to bore him with all the details of my round-about-search if he promised never to explain what the particular principle was all about. We recognized each other's skills. So be it.

THE CHEMSTRAND RESEARCH LIBRARY

By J. G. BAKER, *Librarian*

Chemstrand Research Center, Inc., Durham

Chemstrand Research Center, Inc. conducts fundamental research in high polymers and fibers for Chemstrand Company, a division of Monsanto Chemical Company, and one of the world's largest producers of chemical textile fibers. The Center was chartered as a separate subsidiary in 1959 and moved into its new quarters in the Research Triangle Park in late 1960, moving from Chemstrand's facilities at Decatur, Ala.

The library at Chemstrand Research is a part of the Technical Information Section headed by Daniel A. Mills who reports to the Manager of Technical Research. Included also in this Section are translators, literature chemists, and an Information Center which is responsible for maintaining all internal reports (proprietary security information).

The work of the library receives additional support from a special staff assistant for technical information who also reports to the manager of technical research. His office issues a series of Literature Abstracts, Newsletters, and Patent Abstracts for internal distribution and many of the requests which the library receives for borrowing on interlibrary loan are for material cited in one of these services.

The library contains 4,000 square feet on one level, with an additional 1500 square feet in a balcony which is now empty but will eventually be filled with book stacks. The present collection contains approximately 12,000 volumes about equally divided between bound journals and books, and there is space for 3,000 more volumes. When stacks have been installed in the balcony, the capacity of the library will be from 30,000 to 35,000 volumes.

The library collection includes mainly mathematics, physics, chemistry, plastics and textiles literature, with emphasis on organic chemistry. The library subscribes to more than 300 periodical titles of which half are of foreign origin and about a third are in a foreign language. Although it is the library's policy to try to purchase everything which will be used by the Research personnel, we still obtain much material by interlibrary loan. During the past year 400 items were borrowed and the majority of the material came from the three neighboring libraries: Duke University Library, N. C. State College Library and the University of North Carolina Library. These libraries have graciously included the Research Center Library in their Interlibrary Center service which includes truck delivery of material three times a week. This service has been a great help in providing needed information for the library's patrons.



Chemstrand Library Interior

Until recently the library has had a policy of unlimited time on the loan of books. However, now books are loaned for a month and can be renewed for another month. If a book is needed for a longer period, the cost of the book is charged to the group and another copy of the book is bought for the library.

A 914 Xerox is available in the Services Department and personnel use it to make copies of journal articles in which they are particularly interested. They are also encouraged to make copies of articles from journals borrowed on interlibrary loan so that the borrowed journal can be returned within a few days.

Back files of several journals are in microfilm or microcards. Although the library has a microcard reader and a microfilm reader-printer, patrons, in general, are reluctant to use them and unless they are in a hurry for the information, they ask that the volume be borrowed on interlibrary loan so a copy can be made.

Although the library is not open to public use, people other than Chemstrand personnel may request permission to use the library material.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

By MARY OLIVER, *Librarian*

U.N.C. School of Law, Chapel Hill

The time was July 2, 1906, the place a parlor in the Hotel Mathewson at Narragansett Pier (where the annual meeting of the American Library Association was being held). The door opened and Mr. Arthur J. Small, Librarian of the Iowa State Law Library in Des Moines, entered accompanied by representatives of several other law libraries. The stage was set for the formation of "an association designed to bring together for acquaintance, consultation, and exchange of opinions, those interested in law libraries throughout the United States and Canada."

The new organization, the American Association of Law Libraries, started with twenty four charter members. These members elected Mr. Small as President, adopted a Constitution and by-laws, appointed their first committees, and held their first discussions of common problems.

Among these problems was the failure of the publishers to keep the Jones' Index to Legal Periodicals current and one of the first committees appointed was the Committee on Indexing Legal Periodicals. The Committee made its report at the second annual meeting of the Association held in Asheville, N. C. May 24th through the 28th, 1907 in conjunction with the meeting of the American Library Association. The Committee recommended that the Association undertake the publication of an index to legal periodicals and the establishment of a quarterly journal to contain the index, articles, news items and other information of interest to law librarians. This report was approved by the Association and a few months later volume I number 1 of the *Index to Legal Periodicals and Law Library Journal* bearing the date January 1908 reached its subscribers.

At the time of the Asheville meeting, there were over seventy-five members and through the next twenty years the Association continued to grow and to broaden its activities. The 1930's were marked by a re-examination of the Association, its organization and its functions. In September 1930, Mr. William R. Roalfe, then Law Librarian of Duke University, wrote to President Parma making suggestions regarding the organization of the Association, the content of the *Law Library Journal*, plans for financing suggested changes, and proposing the appointment of a committee to consider these matters. The Committee on the Expansion Plan (also known as the Ralfe Plan) was appointed and in 1934 the Association voted to go ahead with the Roalfe Plan. Important changes in organization resulted as well as the division of the *Index to Legal Periodicals and the Law Library Journal* into separate publications. It was also during this period, on September 23, 1935, that the Association was incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia.

North Carolina has provided three Presidents for the American Association of Law Libraries. William R. Roalfe served as President for the year 1935-36 while he was Law Librarian at Duke University, Miss Lucile Elliott, during 1953-54 while Law Librarian at the University of North Carolina, and Dillard Gardner, Librarian of the North Carolina Supreme Court was President during the year 1956-57.

But enough of history—what of the present? The Association now has almost 1,000 members representing fifty states, Canada, Brazil, England, and Japan. The objectives

of the Association are stated in Article 2 of the Constitution to be "to promote librarianship, to develop and increase the usefulness of law libraries, to cultivate the science of law librarianship and to foster a spirit of cooperation among the members of the profession". The members work to achieve these aims through their committees, their representatives on joint professional committees, and in their chapters.

The first group to be granted chapter status was the Carolinas Chapter organized in 1937 as Carolina Law Libraries when ten law librarians from Duke University, Wake Forest College, the University of North Carolina, and the North Carolina Supreme Court met in Chapel Hill. The group expanded to include South Carolina in 1938. A petition for chapter status was filed in 1939 and was granted to the group under the new name, the Carolinas Chapter. In 1953 further expansion included law librarians from the southeastern region and one year later the Carolinas Chapter became the Southeastern Chapter. This Chapter now has a membership of forty-five drawn from ten southeastern states.

As is true of most organizations, many of the most important functions are carried on through the committees. Association committees engage in a wide variety of activities and are concerned with a multiplicity of problems ranging from the ever present questions on cataloging and classification to the application of scientific devices to law libraries. The Committee on Exchange of Duplicates is responsible for the compilation and dissemination of lists of material available on duplicate exchange from the cooperating libraries. It issues five or six lists a year and has compiled and made available over forty such lists.

The Committee on Placement maintains personnel files on all those interested in positions in law libraries and acts as a clearing house for placement, giving prospective employers information on possible candidates for positions and giving those desiring it information on available positions.

On June 30, 1965, a program of voluntary certification will go into effect. The Committee on Certification is working on the development of standards to be used in measuring the qualifications of law libraries for specified grades of certificates.

One of the successful projects of the larger chapters had been the institutes or workshops which they held. In 1953, the Association sponsored the first of what have become biennial Institutes. These provide an opportunity for law librarians to obtain instruction in basic subjects, and in current developments—an opportunity to continue their professional education.

The Association publishes or sponsors the publication of a variety of materials. The report of the first meeting of the Association showed its concern for an index to legal periodicals and one of its first publications was such an index. From 1908 until September 1961, the Association continued to publish the *Index to Legal Periodicals*, a recognized reference tool. For many years the Index had been published for the Association by H. W. Wilson Co. and on September 1, 1961, it was sold to them. The Committee on the Index continues to advise the Editor with regard to subject headings and editorial policy.

The *Law Library Journal*, originally published in combination with the Index, has been published separately since volume 38. Now in its 55th volume, it contains articles, book reviews, comments, bibliographies, membership news and the proceedings of the annual meetings.

Years of work on the part of the Committee on Indexing Foreign Law bore fruit when the *Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals* began publication in February 1960. It is a quarterly index with the annual cumulation being the fourth issue of the year.

Law Libraries in the United States and Canada is a biennial directory listing all law libraries with a collection of 5,000 volumes or more, giving the names of the staff members, the location of the library and the size of the collection. It is the work of the Committee on Statistics and Directory.

Current Publications in Legal and Related Fields, a monthly bibliography (except for June, July and August) was first published in May 1953 as a supplementary service to the Current Publications section of the *Law Library Journal*. Compiled by Dorothy Scarborough of Northwestern University and Katherine Day of Duke University, it is endorsed by the Association.

The A.A.L.L. Publications Series is a monographic series sponsored by the Committee on Publications. It includes proceedings of A.A.L.L. Institutes, checklists, manuals, and other titles of interest to the profession.

Of course the Association has not answered all the problems confronting law librarians nor can it ever do so. It can and does fill some of the needs of those in the profession. As long as it does so it will have a very important place in the professional life of the law librarian.

EDUCATION FOR SPECIAL LIBRARIANSHIP

By CARLYLE J. FRAREY, *Acting Dean and Associate Professor*

and DORALYN J. HICKEY, *Assistant Professor*

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What is the proper professional education for librarians? What is the proper professional education for librarians who will serve in specialized librarians? These are two of the thorniest questions with which the library profession wrestles unceasingly, and there are almost as many answers to each of these questions as there are individual librarians. Almost every professional librarian has views about education for librarianship even though he does not voice them. To raise either of these questions in any group of professionals is a good way to start a first-class argument; to raise the second in any group where special librarians are present is likely to lead to a real donnybrook. This is good. Only through free, frank, and even heated discussion of the issues can we hope for progress. But it is important that there be more light than heat in such exchanges, that the results of systematic and objective study of the problem be brought to bear upon the issues. Reason, not emotion, must be the guiding force. Unfortunately, the profes-

sion has not yet done as much systematic study of this problem as is needed; thus our answers to these questions are still tentative, and the action which results from these answers is, at best, preliminary, incomplete, and sometimes even incoherent.

The prime issue in this debate can be stated simply enough: Of the 30-39 semester hours which constitute the professional component of the education of a librarian, of the 10 to 15 "courses" involved, how much and how many should be, or can be reserved for specialized education? Further, how specific should or can this specialization be? Extremists at one end of the spectrum insist upon a maximum of highly specialized content; extremists at the other upon a maximum of common content. The practice, in most curricula, lies somewhere between these extremes. Even so, no one, least of all those who have the responsibility for the design and the direction of professional education, is very happy about the compromises which have been and continue to be made. The dilemma is unresolved, and when arguments and pressures are brought to bear upon the library schools and their faculties to establish special programs or special courses for this or for that, no one has the evidence—the understanding of how the variables in the picture interact with each other—which enables him even to point toward the direction in which the truth probably lies.

Under these circumstances, it would be presumptuous to propose any answer to the question of what should comprise the professional education for the special librarian. We can, however, identify and discuss briefly some of the variables in this picture about which we need more knowledge to help us in our search for an answer to the prime question. The variables here selected are by no means the only ones, nor is the list comprehensive. They appear, nonetheless, to be the important ones, even though the order in which they are listed is not intended to suggest their relative importance. In this connection, we must remember a basic assumption which underlies this selection of variables, namely, that we are concerned in this discussion only with the basic professional education program, the curriculum for the first professional degree and the undergraduate preparation upon which it rests. Advanced study either in subject fields or in professional topics is excluded from consideration in the observations which follow.

First we may consider the high degree of mobility which is characteristic of the library profession. It is well-known to library school faculties that of the students who enter library schools, a significant number are not committed to any particular type of library work at the time they must select their courses and plan their programs. Some do come with specific job objectives and adhere to these throughout their program, in selecting their first position, and in pursuing their professional careers. They begin with a desire to be school librarians; they retire as school librarians. Others come with a well-defined job objective but find as their work in course progresses and their understanding of the librarian's responsibility and his opportunity grows, their job objectives change. And still others, while they may maintain a consistent pattern of job objective while a student and in selecting their early professional positions, find ultimate satisfaction in types of library positions in which, as students, they expressed no interest or even rejected outright. Thus it follows, that so long as the profession is a mobile one, and so long as a significant number of those who enter it cannot determine with precision the kinds of library service or types of library work which they will ultimately choose as affording them the greatest professional satisfaction, it will be difficult for each school to design effective specialized curricula for the basic professional program, or for all schools col-

lectively to agree upon a pattern of specialization for each one so that those who wish to become special librarians can be encouraged to complete their professional education at a school which offers a program conceived especially to meet their needs.

A second question, and perhaps one of primary importance to this discussion may be stated simply: What are the real and significant differences in the task of the special librarian from that of the "general" librarian? It is true that the special librarian is likely to be concerned with literature which is more circumscribed in subject content or in form than that which is the concern of the general librarian. It is also true that the special librarian may be expected characteristically to work with a more homogenous public. Even so, the general public served by the public library, the academic public served by the college or university library, the juvenile and adolescent public served by the school library and by appropriate services within the construct of the public library are making increased demands for library services of a specialized nature as our educational level rises, as our formal programs in education reflect the needs of an increasingly sophisticated public, and as our society and culture become more complex.

Granted that the organization of the special library within the institution it serves and the arrangement and departmentation of its services may differ from patterns of organization in public or academic libraries, that the specialized materials needed for its collections may have to be obtained from unusual sources, that the organization of its collections may require special classification or subject approaches and its catalogs and indexes may not conform to the traditional patterns observed in "general" libraries, and further, that arrangements for the use or dissemination of the material to the public served may vary from commonly accepted patterns in other kinds of libraries, it is by no means clear how these differ in fundamental principle or theory from the more traditional procedures. This is not to say that the basic professional curriculum should not take account of these variations, but the consideration raises fundamental questions concerning the necessity for special courses in these variations as opposed to their discussion along with traditional methods within the framework of an understanding of the basic principles which underly both the traditional and the variant solutions to these library problems.

It is true, of course, that the skill of any librarian in any kind of library serving any public is likely to be good or bad in direct ratio to his understanding and knowledge of the literature in which his public is interested and with which his clientele is concerned. The good librarian has to have an understanding of the materials for which he is responsible and with which he works. As the volume of literature in all fields has grown, and as the records of man's progress have been preserved and disseminated in more physical forms than were typical a century or even a generation ago, library schools have found it less and less possible to teach individual titles and their use. Instead, their courses concern themselves increasingly with the characteristics of the literature of the several subject fields, the types of material which are of particular importance to these fields, the means of access which are available and the tools for selection and evaluation which can be had. Concern for specific titles and instruction in them tends more and more to emphasize their representativeness rather than their individuality. This is true even in courses which are highly specific—legal literature, the literature of the fine arts, for example. In this way the beginning professional can learn to use a pattern, a matrix if you will, which enables him throughout his career to relate the new and

emerging literature of the fields with which he is concerned to the older materials which have enduring significance. In the last analysis, the librarian serving any public in any kind of library must devote much time throughout his career to becoming familiar with and knowledgeable about the literature which is of concern to his public

A third variable is time. Whether the present time pattern is realistic or right, it is certainly true that the profession as a whole is not hospitable at this moment to any proposal that the length of time require for the completion of basic professional preparation be extended. Where criticism of the time element is heard, the opinions most commonly voiced reflect concern that students who enter graduate programs in education for librarianship are not available sooner to help alleviate the overwhelming shortages of personnel to fill professional vacancies. The normal time for completion of a graduate degree today, assuming that the student has no special conditions to meet before he is admissible to the graduate program is no less than one calendar year. At least half of this time is required for library school faculties to transmit some common body of knowledge which is basic to all library service, and another quarter to a third is needed to develop some depth of knowledge in selected fields, for example, bibliography, cataloging, and administration. Within the accepted 30-39 semester hour program, there remain at best only approximately 9 hours of course work during which the student may "specialize." In light of the aforementioned high degree of mobility in the library profession, we must then face squarely the question: Will the student not gain a better over-all preparation by learning as much as possible about the literature of varied subject fields than by confining himself to a single subject area? Even if a negative answer is maintained, a further question presents itself: Just how much can be accomplished in 6-9 semester hours to afford any real depth of subject specialization?

Constituting a fourth variable is the content of and approach to the courses appropriate to professional education in librarianship. The growing complexity and variety of library operations has placed upon the library school professor an obligation to orient his lectures and class discussions toward basic principles to be understood rather than delineations of specific procedures to be followed. Thus, for example, it is no longer possible adequately to teach a course in cataloging by the inculcation of a predesigned code; the student must be made aware that within the multiplicity of cataloging codes there are widely differing and sometimes even contradictory principles at work, and that his responsibility as a librarian may involve the selection of that code which best represents the purposes and needs of his institution. Within the framework of such a course, conceived in such a manner, the educator may—and indeed ought to—indicate the effect of the task of the special library, or the public library, or the academic library upon the cataloging and classification systems which it adopts, amends, or discards. Presumably, a student who absorbs the materials presented in this manner will be intellectually equipped thereby to operate effectively within the special library as well as the public, school, or university library.

Recognizing that there are procedures and techniques which must be mastered before a student educated under this more comprehensive and theoretical program can make significant contributions to his choice of special libraries, we must still cast a critical eye upon the inclusion of this technical training within the library school curriculum. Put bluntly, is the library school the place in which to offer "how-to-do-it" courses? Some educators have said "yes" and provide training in indexing and abstracting, for example,

among their formal offerings. Many faculties which have to date resisted the introduction of methods-courses are now facing increased pressure to give explicit help in the complex and often ill-defined field of "information storage and retrieval"; they are being asked to train "information specialists" "search strategy" and the "communication sciences". The already overburdened curriculum is thus encouraged to accommodate an additional load which perhaps more logically should be assigned to on-the-job training or to specific short-term institutes.

While on the one hand granting that methods-courses should not form a part of the library school curriculum, some special librarians would still insist that their potential colleagues must be afforded the opportunity for advanced study—or even basic study—in a particular subject discipline as part of their education for special librarianship. This means, in effect, that the library school could be expected to provide courses in chemistry, biology, and industrial technology, for example, to meet the needs of those students anticipating a library assignment in such areas. Even if the school were willing to accept credits in a subject field in lieu of a given number of hours in library education, the impression would nonetheless be created that instruction in the basic disciplines of the library art must actually give way to increased subject specialization in the preparation of a special librarian. It is, of course, desirable that the special librarian possess as much knowledge as possible in his own discipline, but it is highly questionable to demand that this knowledge be secured through a curtailment of his fundamental education in librarianship.

The discussion of these variables, if left at this point, could be challenged as offering no creative solution to the problems suggested. Although many of the problems have certainly not been solved, there is at least one positive step which has been and is being explored as a means of retaining the integrity of library education while at the same time providing insight into the technical aspects of special librarianship. Borrowing a term from the medical profession, we call it "internship": a program whereby the graduate of a library school is introduced systematically to the technical operations of a special library before he is assigned to a permanent position. Through this orientation, the intern is able to relate his knowledge of librarianship as a whole to the particular aims and operations of the type of special library in which he plans to work. There are strong indications that more special libraries are considering the possibilities of the internship program as a method of equipping qualified librarians with the specialized knowledge and training necessary to make them effective in their endeavors.

North Carolina has not until recent years provided the plethora of significant opportunities in special librarianship characteristic of the more highly industrialized regions. As attention becomes directed more and more toward the active seeking of new businesses and research facilities for the State, it is to be expected that the demand for special librarians will grow, placing pressure on all schools of library science, especially the one at the University of North Carolina, to meet these augmented needs. In point of fact, of the UNC alumni who are currently employed in library service 23% are located in special libraries in this state or elsewhere—a group outnumbered only by the alumni in public library work (27%). Incumbent, therefore, upon all educators for librarianship, in view of the important place which special libraries now occupy and will increasingly occupy in North Carolina and across the nation, is a sane and realistic appraisal of library education pointing toward a fruitful interchange of ideas and a cooperative attempt to formulate satisfactory solutions for the problems involved in producing effective special librarians.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES IN NORTH CAROLINA

Compiled by MYRL EBERT, *Chief Librarian*
 Division of Health Affairs Library, U.N.C., Chapel Hill

The following roll is an attempt to delineate those collections which can be reasonably termed "special libraries" in the true sense of the word. It is not a conclusive list since there is difficulty sometimes in determining what constitutes a "library," and some small collections, unorganized and unheralded, will miss notice. Even at that, it is a surprisingly long list considering the relative age of the field and the predominantly rural nature of the state. A perusal of a number of directories, augmented with data from personal communication and the ubiquitous Mr. Ruzicka, produced fifty-four bona fide libraries and eleven suspected possibilities. Though it is well known that the Universities and Colleges of North Carolina have splendid special collections, they are not noted here. Archives, manuscripts, historical, and newspaper collections are omitted also since they have been recognized in earlier issues.

These, then, are self-contained, dependent and independent libraries that meet the Special Libraries Association's requirements for inclusion. The numbered libraries are known both inside and outside their parent organizations. Those bearing the asterisk are the unverified, "suspected" libraries. Any further information about the latter, or other libraries overlooked, will be gratefully received by the author. It is hoped that a rebirth of the Special Libraries Section of the NCLA is forthcoming in the near future now that our species has propagated.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. American Enka Corporation
 Enka
 Alice F. Laubach</p> <p>2. Bowman Gray School of Medicine Library
 Winston-Salem
 Nell Benton</p> <p>3. Buncombe County Law Library
 Asheville
 Mrs. Anita Redding</p> <p>4. Buncombe County Medical Society Library
 Asheville
 Mrs. Jean F. Hill</p> <p>* Burlington Industries
 Greensboro
 Mrs. Jean Waggoner</p> <p>* Cabarrus County Memorial Hospital
 Concord</p> <p>5. Celanese Corporation of America
 Charlotte
 Helen G. Sommar</p> <p>6. Charlotte Law Building Library
 Charlotte
 Mrs. Faye Guthrie</p> <p>7. Chemstrand Research Center, Inc. Library
 Durham
 James G. Baker</p> <p>8. Cone Mills Company Library
 Greensboro
 Miss Phoebe Richards</p> <p>9. Cone Mills Research & Development Technical Library
 Greensboro
 Mrs. Edwina Charles</p> | <p>10. Division of Health Affairs Library
 University of North Carolina,
 Chapel Hill
 Myrl Ebert</p> <p>11. Pharmacy Library (D.H.A.L.)
 University of North Carolina,
 Chapel Hill
 Kathryn E. Freeman</p> <p>12. Nursing Library (D.H.A.L.)
 University of North Carolina,
 Chapel Hill
 C. Margaret Johnson</p> <p>* Douglas Aircraft Company, Inc.
 Charlotte</p> <p>13. Duke Medical School Library
 Durham
 G. S. T. Cavanaugh
 Duke University (departmental libraries)
 Durham</p> <p>14. Biology-Forestry
 Mrs. Edwina Johnson</p> <p>15. Chemistry
 Mrs. Mary Gaylor</p> <p>16. Divinity
 Donn Michael Farris</p> <p>17. Engineering
 Mrs. Ethel Kale</p> <p>18. Law
 Marianna Long</p> <p>19. Marine Biology</p> <p>20. Nursing
 Mrs. Hilda Wylie</p> <p>21. Physics-Mathematics
 Mrs. Mary Cox</p> |
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22. **E. I. DuPont de Nemours
Dacron Research Laboratory Library**
Kinston
Louis Boccetti
- * **Gaston Technical Institute Library**
Gastonia
- * **International Nickel Company, Inc.**
Wrightsville Beach
Marjorie D. Cottle
23. **Jefferson Standard Broadcasting
Company**
Charlotte
G. Jackson Burney, Jr.
24. **Liggett and Myers Tobacco Company**
Durham
Richard David
- * **Lithium Corporation of America, Inc.**
Bessemer City
Mary Agnes Altman
- * **P. Lorillard Company**
Greensboro
Maxine Ward
25. **Mecklenburg County Medical Society
Library**
Charlotte
Mrs. Helen S. Monahan
26. **Moses Cone Memorial Library**
Greensboro
27. **North Carolina State College Textile
Library**
Raleigh
Mrs. Adriana P. Orr
28. **Olin Mathieson Chemical Company**
Pisgah Forest
John Goldberger
- * **Pfizer Chemical Company**
Greensboro
- * **Reigle Paper Company**
Acme
29. **Rex Hospital Library**
Raleigh
Mrs. Patricia Rosenthal
30. **R. J. Reynolds**
Winston-Salem
William W. Menz
31. **Rowan Memorial Hospital Library**
Salisbury
Cora E. Gray
32. **Southeastern Baptist Theological
Seminary Library**
Wake Forest
Edwin C. Osburn
33. **Southeastern Forest Experiment
Station Library**
Asheville
Margaret Jean Taylor
- * **Southern Dyestuff**
Charlotte
Thomas E. Lesslie
- * **Special Warfare School Technical
Library**
Fort Bragg
Mrs. Jacqueline Baldwin
34. **Supreme Court Library**
Raleigh
Dunard Gardner
35. **U. S. Naval Hospital Medical Library**
Camp Lejeune
Marguerite Thomas
36. **U. S. Naval Medical Field Research
Laboratory, Scientific Library**
Camp Lejeune
Maxine L. Perrine
37. **U. S. Veterans Administration
Hospital Library**
Durham
Wilma A. Morrow
38. **U. S. Veterans Administration
Hospital Library**
Fayetteville
Rebecca Wall
39. **U. S. Veterans Administration
Hospital Library**
Oteen
Della Shapleigh
40. **U. S. Veterans Administration**
Salisbury
Elizabeth Berry
41. **University of North Carolina Law
School Library**
Chapel Hill
Mary Oliver
University of North Carolina
(departmental libraries)
Chapel Hill
42. **Art**
Mrs. May Davis Hill
43. **Botany**
Mrs. Betty Zouck
44. **Chemistry**
Mrs. Priscilla Chang Yu
45. **Geology & Geography**
Edith Averitt
46. **Institute of Fisheries Research**
Dr. William E. Fahy
47. **Institute of Government**
Mrs. Olga Palotai
48. **Mathematics and Physics**
Mrs. Mary Hopkins
49. **Music**
James W. Pruett
50. **Zoology**
Mrs. Betty Zouck
51. **Wake Forest College Law Library**
Winston-Salem
Mrs. Vivian L. Wilson
52. **Watts Hospital School of Nursing
Library**
Durham
Emma L. Chaffin
53. **Western Electric Company**
Winston-Salem
Robert E. Betts
54. **Womack Army Hospital Medical
Library**
Fort Bragg
Mrs. Emily Miller

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE EFFICACY OF BIBLIOTHERAPY
IN THE HOSPITAL SETTING

By WILMA MORROW, *Librarian,*
Veterans Administration Hospital, Durham

The term "bibliotherapy" has been used to cover almost any aspect of activity contained within the walls of a hospital library, or having to do with reading. As an outgrowth of this broad concept of what constitutes therapy many people have felt free to speak authoritatively on the use of books and libraries as a form of treatment for the ill. Since obviously we cannot review the whole field in so short a paper we must limit our definition and scope to that which seems more applicable to scientific appraisal, thus eliminating three-fourths of the material.

Dr. Lore Hirsch, in a talk before the Hospital Libraries Division meeting at the ALA conference in 1952 defined bibliotherapy as the use of books for the treatment of patients. Three years later she further qualified and clarified this premise, explaining that an activity should not be called therapy because it happened in a library. Many devices are used to keep patients occupied constructively but they do not constitute treatment. "We must have some form of definition of what therapy is, because anything that may help a patient is not therapy. Otherwise, friendship, or love, or a good meal, or some extra money, or what-not, might be called therapy. They may be therapeutic, but if they come about spontaneously without prescription or without deliberate intention to improve the patient's health they would not be called therapy." Dr. Jerome Schneck defines the term as the prescription or reading materials which may help to develop emotional maturity and sustain mental health. Caroline Shrodes calls it a process of dynamic interaction between the personality of the reader and literature, as a psychological field which may be utilized for personality growth, assessment and adjustment.

The values of reading for the psychiatric patient, for example, may be summed up as follows: emotional release by vicarious living, diversion of thoughts from immediate difficulties, a shortcut to psychotherapy, a means to breakdown resistance to the therapists, a normalizing agent and link with the outside world, identification with characters whose mode adaption is acceptable, release of unconscious tensions, substitute gratification, accurate perception of motivations of authority figures, and insight into their behavior. Yet for all these recognizable values, each has its doubtful role as therapy. For instance, identification does not always lead to insight; it may lead to projection of one's own motives into the behaviour of the character, distorting relations, thus evolving a negative identification. A patient may read to avoid responsibility. Lewis R. Wolberg points out that "no intellectual approach is of great service in modifying deeply repressed conflicts or in ameliorating symptoms that have strong defensive virtues for the individual. Indeed, the educational materials may be utilized by the patient as resistance, items being extracted out of context to justify neurotic patterns. The relatively ineffectuality of reading materials in severe neurotic difficulties is attested to by the fact that scores of patients come to psychotherapy having read more extensively from the psychiatric literature than the therapist himself."

A person's habits of reading may be in themselves symptomatic. Some patients may read compulsively everything they can lay their hands on, for any of the aforementioned

reasons. By understanding the how, what, and the why of his reading we may find a clue to his conflicts. Since the severely disturbed patient is unable to read in most cases, whatever insights may be gained by either patient or therapist must of necessity be confined to the relatively intelligent and only moderately disturbed patient.

Dr. Schneck discusses two cases in which reading was incorporated with psychotherapy. In case No. 1, Menninger's *Love Against Hate* was used to increase accessibility. It was felt by the physician that reading and other similar psychological material led to the recognition of and willingness to discuss conflicts which could not be encountered otherwise. In case no. 2, reading material was used in connection with hypnotherapy to induce relaxation and take the patient's mind off her own symptoms. Only recreational reading was employed. In both cases reading horizons were extended considerably, according to the record. It seems probable that the horizons already existed, and that the therapist was able to employ them for his own purpose.

The most interesting work encountered, and that more nearly approaching scientific criteria, was the work of Caroline Shrodes at the University of California, in which she suggests a list of books to a patient, has the patient write a report on immediate reactions, and then write detailed answers to a number of leading questions. Diagnoses made from the reactions to the reading were checked by various diagnostic tests such as the Rorschach and the Maslow's Security-Insecurity Tests, and scores from the tests verified as far as they went the findings made from the reading discussions. Miss Shrodes used imaginative literature throughout her research project. Her conclusions may be summed up roughly as the use of reading "imaginative literature as a projective technique, which if adequately developed, might possess the major diagnostic values of the Rorschach and the Thematic Apperception Test".

Comparison with independent criteria reveals that literature used as a projective technique not only provides the same diagnostic results, but also shows greater predictive powers. Tests failed to suggest potentiality of ego strength of the individual which reading achieved. Tests also did not reflect the underlying dynamics of maladjustment. In response to reading, basic causes are illuminated by virtue of the fact that comparable response is attached to a specific emotional situation. Tests do not distinguish at all that which is latent and that which may become overt. Reading provides significant diagnostic clues concerning major conflicts, modes of defense, and personality dynamics. In clinical practice the main value of bibliotherapy as an adjunct to therapy is economy and facility. Not only may the patient gain insights during the lapses of time between interviews, but he may more readily recall early significant experiences, re-examine his personal relationships, secure an outlet for his feelings, and identify with both self and non-self figures. However, with all its values that Miss Shrodes ascribes to reading as therapy, she does not claim that the same things could not be accomplished through other forms of psychotherapy.

The role of the librarian in Miss Shrodes' type of therapy and in Dr. Menninger's would be simply that of the supplier. Dr. Hirsch would consider the librarian a therapist. However, when her premises are examined closely, the librarian is placed in the position of interpreter, which she is not qualified to do, or that of a recorder, which she could not do effectively without the ability to interpret, or that of a therapeutic device, which she states is not therapy. Dr. Menninger, Dr. Hirsch, and Miss Shrodes are agreed that the therapists must be thoroughly familiar with the material being used in order to interpret effectively.

At present the most clearly defined value of bibliotherapy seems to be in the area of psychodiagnosis. This would seem to preclude the librarian except as adviser and supplier of material. As yet too few psychologists and psychiatrists have entered the field for us to expect startling scientific criteria to appear in the near future. Research appears to have come to a standstill, and although the idea of bibliotherapy seems to have been embraced enthusiastically since the war, it does not yet seem to have moved in any definite direction, nor to have produced any realistic precepts for further study.

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REMEMBER NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK



APRIL 21-27, 1963

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THESES COMPLETED, 1961-1962
IN THE
SCHOOL OF LIBRARY SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Compiled by JEAN FREEMAN, *Assistant to the Dean*
School of Library Science, U.N.C., Chapel Hill

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- Branson, Barbara.** An Analysis of Library Publicity Reaching the Public of North Carolina Through Selected Newspapers.
- Chilmeran, Abdul.** The Development and Evolution of Libraries in the Republic of Iraq.
- Hendricks, Mary Ada.** History of the Press of the Southern Baptist Convention.
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- Linn, Hazel Black.** An Evaluation of the Landis High School Library Book Collection in Relation to the Student's Interests.
- Little, Agnes Eastman.** Charles Ammi Cutter, Librarian at Forbes Library, North Hampton, Massachusetts, 1894-1903.
- McDavid, Elizabeth.** Teaching Programs in High School Libraries of Greenville County, South Carolina.
- Palotai, Olga M.** Early Printing and Bookmaking in Hungary; Its Origins and Development, 1472-1600.
- Parsons, Annette Barnes.** Italian National Bibliography: 1861-1960.
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- Rees, Joe.** The Use of United States Government Publications in North Carolina's Sixteen Largest Public Library Systems.
- Roper, Fred.** An Analysis of Abstracting Services in the Medical and Biological Sciences.
- Senn, Barbara.** State Aid in South Carolina Public Library Development: A Study of the Activities of the South Carolina State Library Board.
- Thomas, Mary Russell.** Medical Serial Publications in the Carolinas.
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- Wooddell, Edna Marguerite.** A History of the Florida Library Association.
- Zablocki, Audrey Bauguess.** The Role of the UNESCO Clearing House in the International Exchange of Publications, 1946-1956.

October 2, 1962

OMISSIONS from the "Membership of North Carolina Library Association" compiled by Mrs. Pattie B. McIntyre, Treasurer, NCLA, in *North Carolina Libraries*, Volume 20, Number 4 (Summer, 1962) Membership Issue.

Allen, W. A., Jr., Trustee, Kinston Public Library. m: 2106 Greenbriar Rd., Kinston.

Edens, Edgar V., Trustee, Cumberland County Public Library. m; Box 116, Route 4, Fayetteville.

Griffith, Mrs. Jean, Union County Public Library. m: 200 E. Windsor St., Monroe.

Kirkman, Mrs. Z. T., Trustee, Cumberland County Public Library. m: 1325 General Lee Avenue, Fayetteville.

Matthews, Mrs. Mamie, Union County Public Library. m: 1411 N. Stafford St., Monroe.

Morrison, Harvey, Jr., Trustee, Union County Public Library. m: 312 Wilson St., Monroe.

Nisbet, Mrs. Taylor, Union County Public Library, Monroe. m: Waxhaw.

Purser, J. C., Trustee, Union County Public Library. m: Route 2, Monroe.

Ross, Mrs. Eugenia L., Union County Public Library, Monroe. m: Marshville.

Rowland, Mrs. John, Trustee, Kinston Public Library. m: 1001 Greenbriar Road, Kinston.

Sell, Mrs. Dora L., Union County Public Library. m: 200 E. Windsor St., Monroe.

Stein, Mrs. Harry B., Trustee, Cumberland County Public Library. m: 202 Stedman St., Fayetteville.

von Rosenberg, Trustee, Cumberland County Public Library. m: P. O. Box 3341, Fayetteville.

Whitaker, Dr. Paul F., Trustee, Kinston Public Library. m: 1205 North Queen St., Kinston.

Williams, Mrs. B. T., Trustee, Cumberland County Public Library, Fayetteville. m: Stedman.

Corrections:

Ingram, Cora Ellen, Librarian, Albemarle Elementary Schools. m: Central School, Albemarle.

Mail returned from the following addresses as "Unknown" or "Insufficient Address":

Miss Eliza M. Williams, J. H. Haywood High School Library, Lumberton.

Mrs. Nina Y. Garvey, 171 Crepe Myrtle Circle, Winston-Salem.

NEW NORTH CAROLINA BOOKS

By WILLIAM S. POWELL, *Librarian*

North Carolina Collection, U.N.C., Chapel Hill

CLARENCE POE AND BETSY SEYMOUR. *True Tales of the South at War*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1961. 208pp. \$2.95.

For the better part of a long and active lifetime, Dr. Poe has been collecting stories of Southern bravery and hardship suffered during the Civil War. More recently he called upon the readers of his *Progressive Farmer* magazine to furnish him original documents as well as traditional tales of the War. From this wealth of material he has selected the best accounts of the effects of war on the people at home, on the soldiers, and on the face of the land. They present a very moving picture of the South.

CARLOS C. CAMPBELL, and others. *Great Smoky Mountain Wildflowers*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1962. 40pp. \$1.00.

Handsomely illustrated with 55 color photographs, this little manual of mountain wildflowers will tempt the nature lover to linger in the Smokies until he has seen them all. Some beautiful but uncommon plants, as the Longspur Violet, would be well worth a careful search of the higher elevations where it grows. The preface contains information on when and where to find wildflowers.

ROBERT F. DURDEN. *Reconstruction Bonds & Twentieth-Century Politics*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1962. 274pp. \$6.00.

Subtitled "South Dakota v. North Carolina (1904)," Dr. Durden's book tells in full for the first time a fantastic story of some strange dealings in North Carolina politics of the early twentieth century. The desire for self-enrichment and political revenge caused a North Carolina governor to place some railroad bonds in the hands of South Dakota officials who sued North Carolina in the United States Supreme Court in an attempt to collect. This unprecedented lawsuit and the court's decision are significant in constitutional history.

MANLY WADE WELLMAN. *Not At These Hands*. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1962. 320pp. \$4.50.

In this adult novel Manly Wellman tells an entrancing story of the involvement of small-town North Carolinians in the affairs of its leading citizens. A newspaperman who, for all practical purposes, owns the town, tries to manage the life of a young man whom he has brought in from the country to work on the paper. Set in the early twentieth century, the story contains some excellent characterizations of Southerners of this period. The author's courtroom scene is especially good and the element of surprise, coming just at the end, very neatly answers several questions which will have come to the reader's mind by that point in the book.

JAMES H. BOYKIN. *North Carolina in 1861*. New York: Bookman Associates, 1961. 237pp. \$5.00.

Divided into two sections, "Social History" and "North Carolina Drifts Toward Secession," this book is a compilation of interesting *examples* of information on a variety of subjects. Seldom are the author's findings condensed or interpreted for us. Since sources are cited, however, this might serve as a useful tool to the researcher seeking information on government and population; advertisement, business, and trade; state and local regulations; education and propaganda; and the church, which are the topics considered in the first section of the book. But care must be used in accepting his statements in spite of the frequent "(sic)" which follows almost every word with the slightest peculiarity. *North Carolina in 1861* cannot be recommended for any except the most discriminate readers.

HENRY LEE. *The Campaign of 1781 in the Carolinas*. Chicago: Quadrangle Books, Inc., 1962. 511, xlvii pp. \$10.00.

This is a volume in the new Americana Classics series which first appeared in 1824. Except for the title page and contents it is a facsimile reproduction of the original edition, yet the type is very clear and readable. Lee wrote his book to clear some questions of honor concerning his father, "Lighthorse Harry" Lee, a Revolutionary officer who saw service in the Carolinas during the last two years of the war. There is, of course, much about military affairs in North Carolina during this period. The Battle of Guilford Courthouse and the disputed role of Lee are prominent subjects of this book. Librarians should take advantage of this opportunity to add this classic to their holdings.

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