



Access

News from the University Libraries

Number 11

February 1982

LANDMARKS OF SCIENCE

Memorial Library Houses Valuable Collection in Science History

The Microtext Reading Room in the Memorial Library holds a unique collection of materials in the history of science. Known as the Landmarks of Science project, it is a microtext reproduction of all the major works of science in the Western tradition, including many editio princeps and first editions.

The Landmarks of Science project was begun in early 1966 under the editorship of the late Sir Harold Hartley, Fellow of the Royal Society and past Chairman of the British National Committee for the History of Science, and Doctor Duane H. D. Roller, McCasland Professor of the History of Science at the University of Oklahoma. The intent of the editors was to produce a major reference collection in the history of science.

Nothing of this size and scope had ever been attempted before and no major general bibliography of the history of science existed at the time the project was conceived. Only rough guesses could be made concerning the amount of material to be included. On the basis of such guesses a program was established to identify, locate, film, and issue in microprint approximately 10,000 volumes, over a period of ten years.

On completion of the project in 1976, subscribers, Notre Dame among them, had received an extraordinary reference library. The editors and the publisher, Readex Microprint Corporation, drew principally on the resources of the History of Science Collection of the University of Oklahoma Libraries, supplemented by works from the British Li-

brary, the Library of Congress, and the New York Public Library. The collection assembled in microprint is greater than that available in any single library in the world. The collection comprises the full text of monographic publications of all kinds in the mathematical, physical, biological, and earth sciences, and includes the works of 304 scientists.

Landmarks of Science includes first editions of scientific works from the beginning of printing to the early 20th Century. Later editions have also been filmed where notable or extreme changes were made. For example, the first edition of Sir Isaac Newton's Opticks, published in 1704, has been filmed, and so have the editions of 1718, 1721, and 1730 as well as the Latin translations of 1706 and 1719. To the first edition of Charles Darwin's Origin of Species, published in 1859, has been added the 1860 edition.

The first printing of Euclid's Elements, in Latin dated 1482, is included in the collection. So are the first Greek edition of Euclid, edited by Grynaeus, of 1533; the first Italian edition, by Tartaglia, of 1543; the first English edition, by Dee, of 1570; the Latin edition, by Commandino, of 1572; and the Latin edition, by Barrow, of 1655.

While many scientists may be best known for a single work, if an author has other publications, the editors of Landmarks of Science have made every effort to include these. Collected works of scientists thus

fall within the scope of the project.

Translations into English of works not published in that language have also been added. Thus the original edition of Johann Kepler's *Tabulae Rudolphinae* is found in the collection along with an English translation published in London in 1675. In many cases, translations from a lesser known language into French or German have been included.

Pursuing the idea of providing a comprehensive research collection for histories of science and their students, the editors have also included early scientific textbooks and out-of-print, rare biographies of scientists, bibliographical collections relative to the history of science, histories of science, and histories of the individual sciences.

Continuation of the Landmarks of Science project grew out of the success of the original work. Landmarks II is a continuing publication effort which attempts to add additional important works in science and to

extend the collection to early periodical literature. It consists of two parts, monographs and scientific journals; both series are open-ended and publishing will continue as long as suitable materials are available for filming. Although some of the famous, early scientific journals have been reprinted previously in various forms, the Landmarks II project is the first reprint project intended to provide a large-scale, comprehensive coverage of the many serial publications that comprise the early periodical literature of science.

Works in all of the Landmarks of Science series have been cataloged and the catalog cards are acquired by the University Libraries and are filed in the Public Catalog in the Memorial Library. Thus, works found in this unique microtext collection can be easily identified in a normal search of our library's catalog. Access to the collection itself is through the Microtext Reading Room, where machines are available for the reading of the microprint works.

David E. Sparks

ORDERING BOOKS

What Happens to Your Requests for New Books

Have you ever wondered what happens when you order a book for the library? Have you ever been just the least bit curious about where your request goes after it leaves your desk? Perhaps your book came in more quickly than you expected and you wondered how we did it. Or it came in much more slowly than you wished and you wondered what we were doing over here. The following is a description of what happens to the average order in the Library's acquisition process.

The first stop for an order after leaving your desk will probably be with a colleague in your department, your Faculty Library Coordinator. Here orders are screened against your department's particular standards and budget. Next the order goes to the Library Faculty Liaison for your department who sees that the order has at least the minimum essential information (author, title, fund, requestor's name, etc.), screens out items which should be coming on our Approval Plan, and identifies duplicate orders submitted by others in your department. The order next

goes to the Collection Development Secretary who keeps our statistics and files the order alphabetically by fund and then chronologically by date of receipt in a bin outside the Acquisitions Department's Search and Verification Section, room 120.

Here the order may sit from a few days to a few months depending on a wide variety of circumstances, including the current state of your departmental book budget, the number of orders preceeding yours into the bin, and the work load and current staffing in the Search Section. This year we anticipate processing approximately 16,000 individual orders, in addition to the 8,000 or so books coming in on approval and a large number of standing orders for continuations.

In due time a Searcher working systematically through the bin removes your order along with others and begins the acquisition process. The first step is checking various bibliographic tools, such as the author/title section of the Public Catalog, the Library of

Congress National Union Catalogues, OCLC (a national computerized data base containing over six million records for books and other media), and Books in Print. These are checked to avoid unwanted duplicates, to verify adequate, accurate information, identifying the specific item wanted (author, title, publisher, date and place of publication, and series information), and to determine from whom the item may be available and at what price. The last step in this searching process is checking ACQUIS, Notre Dame's computerized ordering system to see if your item is already on order.

If your order is a duplicate, it will be so marked and returned to you. If not, and if it is verified and available, it will be entered in the ACQUIS system and a purchase order sent to the appropriate vendor. This vendor may be a wholesaler/distributor, a retail book seller, or the publisher.

Of particular help to us (and to you) in keeping track of your order after placement are the various ACQUIS print-outs including lists of all orders currently outstanding arranged by title, author, and fund. These reports are updated regularly. In fact, a daily update is available on the ACQUIS terminal in the Acquisitions Department.

We can usually expect to receive a response from a domestic vendor within six to twelve weeks. If nothing has been heard from the vendor after four months, a claim will be sent. This claiming process may continue for over a year, or the order may be canceled and reordered with another vendor. If a publisher reports the book unavailable, we will replace the order with another vendor. If unavailable on this second attempt, we will return

the order to you to see if you want it placed with an out-of-print dealer (usually at a considerable increase in cost and time).

When your book arrives, it is received in the Mail Room, opened in Acquisitions, matched with the original order form, the date of receipt (and payment, if made at this time), entered in the ACQUIS system, and sent for cataloging.

Up to this point we have been looking at the average uncomplicated order. Any number of problems can slow down the process, including the difficulty of verifying the order or finding a source from which to buy it. Other considerations can speed up the process, however: you may urgently need the book for Reserve or for current research; the item itself may be on sale or offered by an antiquarian book seller, etc. In any of these latter cases we give the item special treatment including expedited searching, special claiming and phone calls to vendors, if appropriate.

Once cataloged the book will be sent along to the shelf while the order form is held until catalog cards arrive to be filed in the Public Catalog. After filing (about three weeks after the cataloging of the book) the order form is returned to the Acquisitions Department where the call number is entered in ACQUIS. The order form is then returned to you with the call number. The order is now on your desk and the book is on the shelf. The cycle is complete.

If you have any questions about how we process your orders, just give us a call or drop by the Acquisitions Department in the Memorial Library.

J. Douglas Archer

DATA BASE SERVICES

Computer Searching of Social Science Data Bases

Since the inauguration of online computerized data-base searching here at University Libraries over a year ago, the use of the Libraries' Data Base Services has slowly gained acceptance among Notre Dame faculty and students. In the publicity campaign which accompanied the inception of the new service, we emphasized the remarkable time-

saving nature of computerized bibliographic searches. Actually, most online searches are quite literally the same as an extensive manual search through a printed index such as Psychological Abstracts, except that online searches are vastly, almost infinitely, accelerated versions of manual searches.

Computerized data base search is applicable to a great variety of subject disciplines. Historically, the science and engineering indexes and abstracts were the first data bases commercially available online; computers were utilized to typeset the hard copy of such publications as Chemical Abstracts and Engineering Index before they were applied to the indexing of the disciplines not generally classified as "hard sciences." As online data base searching developed as a research tool, the computer applications to journal indexing spread to the business disciplines, then to the social sciences, and finally to the humanities. Today, online bibliographic data base searching is widely available in all general fields except the humanities.

The purpose of this article is to call attention to the social science data bases accessible online through the Libraries' Data Base Services. Those data bases delineated below represent a wide spectrum of the social sciences which can be searched through our services.

Social SCISEARCH, the online version of Social Science Citation Index, scans the titles of journal articles indexed by SSCI for keywords chosen by the searcher. A full citation from this data base includes not only the author, title, and where the article or report is located, but also the complete list of footnotes included in the article. Furthermore, this data base can also be searched for articles which cite a particular author. Social SCISEARCH is the one data base available to us which is generally relevant to all of the social sciences.

PsychInfo, the online equivalent of Psychological Abstracts, is a particularly comprehensive data base covering all branches of psychology and some related clinical areas. A full citation from PsychInfo includes author, title, where the article appears, abstract, and subject descriptors. Relevant to educational psychology is the U.S. Office of Education data base ERIC (Educational Resource Information Center), which indexes and abstracts both journal articles and reports, handbooks, policy statements, etc., from in-house and other institutional research.

History is well covered by our service via America: History and Life (for the full range of U.S. and Canadian history, area

studies, and current affairs) and Historical Abstracts, which deals with the history of the world other than the U.S. and Canada from 1450 to the present. The latter is especially broad, abstracting articles from more than 2,000 journals published in 90 countries in some 30 languages.

Also in the print version, the online Sociological Abstracts covers not only journal articles, but also reviews, monographic publications, conference reports, panel discussions, and case studies.

Our service has access to one data base directly related to research in political science, United States Political Science Documents. Coverage includes detailed abstracts and indexing from approximately 120 major American scholarly journals in the area, treats of such topics as foreign policy, international relations, public administration, and theory and methodology of political science. Related data bases are: CIS (Congressional Information Service), a comprehensive index and abstract of all Congressional documents; Federal Index, which provides coverage of proposed federal rules and regulations, court decisions, executive orders, contract awards, relevant items from the Washington Post, Federal Register, Congressional Record, etc.; PAIS (Public Affairs Information Service), a standard index for all public affairs issues, national and international; and GPO Monthly Catalog (Government Printing Office), the monthly update of U.S. government publications, which treat a wide variety of subjects from political science to agriculture.

It may be said that the discipline of economics though considered a social science, has certain bridges to the various business fields. And in view of this, it is often helpful for economics researchers to use one or more of our many business data bases, which will be the topic of a later article such as this one. In the social science sector of our collection of online data bases, however, there is Economics Abstracts International, which surveys and abstracts approximately 1,800 journals, in addition to books, directories, and reports in the field of economic science and management. In general, Social SCISEARCH, noted above, has also been found to be especially good in most areas of economics.

Other more specialized data bases of possible use to social scientists include the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Population Bibliography, Language and Language Behavior Abstracts, and Child Abuse and Neglect.

Multidisciplinary data bases which are applicable to social science researchers are: Comprehensive Dissertation Index, Conference Papers Index, National Newspaper Index (New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Christian Science Monitor) as well as the government publication indexes noted above in the section on political science.

New data bases are being added to our list regularly; and a fair amount of the new arrivals are relevant to the social sciences.

If you think any of the data bases mentioned here might be of assistance to you, contact James Deffenbaugh or Margaret Owsley, Reference Department, telephone 6258. Fees charged for use of these data bases vary with the base used and are on a strict cost-recovery basis.

James T. Deffenbaugh

THE SELECTIVE DEPOSITORY

Notre Dame's Government Documents Deposit Third Oldest in State

Memorial Library has been a selective depository for U. S. government publications since 1883. As such, the depository is regularly asked what newly issued series (more appropriately termed "items") it would like to receive. Then, when a new publication is issued by an agency in an item selected to be received by the depository, it is automatically shipped. The majority of government publications received since 1968 are maintained in the Document Center (Doc Ctr.) Since the material in the Document Center does not appear in the Public Catalog, Access will occasionally publish a list, not only to inform you of specific items, but to call your attention to the variety of materials included in the Document Center. The Document Center is adjacent to the Reference Department on the first floor of the Memorial Library and the documents are shelved there according to their Superintendent of Documents (SuDoc) number.

Commerce: Journal of Minority Business (quarterly)

Issued by the Commerce Department. "Consists of short articles and new items on minority business enterprises and government programs and legislation intended to aid them. Issues are expected to contain black and white photographs and tables and to be about 25 pages in length." SuDoc C 1.78:

(Travel folders) USTS (series)

Issued by the United States Travel

Service. "Consists of travel folders on various cities and areas of the United States such as San Francisco, Northern California and Northern Nevada, Boston and New England, etc. Folders contain colored and black and white photographs, maps, and other general information of interest to tourists." SuDoc C 47.16:

Economic Discussion Papers (numbered)

Issued by the International Labor Affairs Bureau. "Highly technical papers on such subjects as the impact of international trade on U.S. domestic employment opportunities. Papers may contain tables and graphs and are expected to consist of two 24x microfiche fiche." SuDoc Mircoform L 29.15:

In addition to these new publications, the Document Center regularly receives many useful publications which do not appear in the Public Catalog. The following are examples:

Area Handbook Series

Issued by Foreign Area Studies, The American University. "Each book in this series deals with a particular foreign country, describing and analyzing its economic, military, political and social systems and institutions and the ways that they are shaped by cultural factors. Each study is written by a multidisciplinary team of social scientists." Includes bibliographies. The

series covers over 100 countries and updated editions appear regularly. The latest editions may be found under SuDoc D 101.22:

Energy Information Administration
Issuances

Issued semiannually by the Energy Information Administration, Energy Department. Includes text of all publications issued dur-

ing the six-month period covered. Accompanied by an index, EIA Publications Directory (SuDoc-Microfiche Cabinet E 3.27:) with access by DOE-EIA report number, title and subject. More than 250 microfiche (24x) are received each year and may be found under SuDoc Microform E 3.27/2:

Stephen M. Hayes

University Libraries
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, IN 46556

David E. Sparks, Editor