



# Access

## News from the University Libraries

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### THE NATIONAL COLLECTIONS INVENTORY PROJECT

The University Libraries are embarking on a program to evaluate the research quality of our collections and to examine the policies by which we build those collections. We will be comparing the size of our library holdings in various subject classes with those of other libraries; we will be checking bibliographies in various disciplines; and we will certainly be interviewing faculty members in those disciplines.

The purpose of these, and related activities, is to identify those academic subjects in which we have comprehensive, or research level collections and to examine those fields in which our collections are at a level to support instruction, or perhaps are at a more basic, minimal level. This enterprise is part of a project which is being carried out jointly by Notre Dame, Indiana University, and Purdue University. Eventually it will be extended to all research libraries in North America, under the auspices of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL).

The opportunity of joining with other libraries in mutual evaluation is made possible by the University Libraries' participation in the National Collections Inventory Project, referred to as NCIP. NCIP had its genesis three years ago in the efforts of the Association of Research Libraries' Task Force on Collection Development to find better ways to encourage and support cooperative collection development among North American research libraries. A smaller organization of some of the country's largest research libraries which includes Columbia, Yale and Stanford -- the Research Libraries Group (RLG) -- had already espoused that goal and had developed an analytical framework based on the Library of Congress classification scheme which would allow its membership to share information on collection strength and collecting levels for some 4,000 subject fields. This instrument, known as the "RLG Conspectus," can be used to allocate primary collecting responsibilities among RLG members when such a division of labor is deemed necessary to insure the continued collection and preservation of materials essential to scholarship. Participating libraries assign to specific ranges of LC classes values from 0 to 5 (with 5 as the most comprehensive) based on their collection strength and collecting policy in that area. The ARL Task Force decided to adopt this approach and to test it for possible use among the ARL membership, which is much larger and more varied than that of RLG.

Notre Dame was part of the original 1981-82 ARL pilot study, along with the Universities of Cincinnati, Manitoba, Iowa, and Wisconsin. The outcome was a positive verdict on the value of the Conspectus as a tool for inter-institutional cooperation, provided the libraries involved were given adequate preliminary guidance and assistance in using the Conspectus properly. The pilot study also showed that more tools for testing the validity and objectivity of the collection strength values assigned by individual libraries should be developed. Although the pilot study did not address the

### LIBRARY COLLOQUIA

The twentieth anniversary celebration for Notre Dame's Memorial Library will include two programs: a colloquium on library architecture and a presentation on the history of Memorial Library.

The colloquium, "Architecture and the Library," will be presented by the Friends of the Library at Notre Dame at 1 p.m. March 6 in the Library Auditorium. A presentation on the relationship between buildings, society and the library is planned by two visiting speakers.

The first speaker, David Kaser, is professor of library science at Indiana University and has served as design consultant for more than 80 academic library buildings including St. Mary's new Cushman-Leighton Library. He is the author of a dozen books dealing with libraries around the world and more than 200 articles, notes and reviews published in library, historical and bibliographical journals.

The second speaker, Peter Hoyt, is senior vice president of the international architectural firm, Hellmuth, Obata and Kassabaum, award winners for projects ranging from corporate headquarters to a submarine support base. He has served as project designer for McDonnell Douglas Automation Center of St. Louis, and the Kellogg Company Corporate Headquarters of Battle Creek.

The presentation on the history of Memorial Library will be held on Tuesday, March 13 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the

question of how the Conspectus could encourage groups of libraries to reach effective agreements that would result in materials being more widely and conveniently available to scholars who wanted to use them, that issue was recognized as being crucial, if use of the resources necessary to complete the Conspectus was to be justified.

The purpose of the current phase of the National Collections Inventory Project is to work out solutions to some of the problems revealed by the pilot test, so that eventually the entire ARL membership will be able to share information on collections, individual libraries can assume formal responsibility for continued collection building in fields where they are already strong, and various agreements for effective resource sharing can be reached. The RLG Conspectus data are available now as an online database and various combinations and levels of subjects can be computer searched to determine nationally where strong collections exist. The data from ARL libraries will be added to that database, if the present project is successful.

Phase I of NCIP was completed by ARL's Office of Management Studies with funding provided by the Council on Library Resources. It has resulted in a manual, training sessions for the library personnel who will complete the Conspectus, some expansion of the guidelines for interpreting various parts of the Conspectus, and the beginnings of a clearinghouse for the validation studies which will verify the levels assigned by various libraries and insure greater reliability of the data. These aids will be tried, reviewed, and further developed by the three Indiana libraries involved in Phase II, which has been funded by the Lilly Endowment. Although eventually we hope to work through the entire Conspectus during the year-long Project, Notre Dame, Indiana, and Purdue have agreed that we will first examine LC classes BF (Psychology), N (Art and Architecture), P (Language and Literature), QE (Earth Science) and T (Technology). The three libraries, assisted by Office of Management Studies' representatives and National and State Advisory Committees, are also searching for ways in which research-level collections in certain subjects which are in libraries other than research libraries may be incorporated into the national reporting. Finally, all of the complex issues which must be solved before effective cooperative agreements between institutions can be achieved will be examined and attempts will be made to explore such agreements among University libraries in Indiana.

The promise which a successful outcome of NCIP holds for cooperative collection development in North America and the resulting increased support to scholarship there is clear. We anticipate immediate advantages for the University Libraries as well. It will assist us in establishing carefully considered, and well documented priorities for collection building which can be of value internally and in attracting outside funds. It will set us on the road to systematic collection assessment which will make well-founded employment of available money possible. It will enhance the knowledge and judgment of our collection development staff, and increase the amount of useful information available to those who handle the Libraries' interlibrary loans. And finally, it will more thoroughly integrate our library with the national library community, thus opening doors for our faculty to wider spectrum of the nation's scholarly resources.

Recently Deans, Department Heads and Department Library Coordinators had the opportunity to learn more about NCIP through informational sessions held on February 7th. As we begin the actual work of assessment and policy delineation many more of you will be contacted by your Library Liaison Officers. In the meantime, if you have questions about any aspect of NCIP, call me at 5252.

Maureen Gleason

## LIBRARY COLLOQUIA (continued)

Memorial Library Lounge. Brief memoirs concerning the old and new libraries will be followed by the solemn high partitioning of an anniversary cake.

Additional information on either program may be obtained by calling the Reference Department in the Memorial Library (239-6258).

Patrick Max

## CONSTRAINTS ON INFORMATION ACCESS

In January 1982 a publication appeared which may turn out to be a classic of our times. Only two pages in length, it was issued by the American Library Association's Washington Office. Entitled "Less Access to Less Information By and About the U.S. Government," it enumerates a growing series of restrictions on information, as thousands of publications are eliminated, destroyed, or discontinued, fees are increased, and other publications are turned over to the private sector. For example, the annual subscription price for the Congressional Record was raised from \$75 to \$208 in 1981, and for the Federal Register, from \$75 to \$300 in 1982. As the price of the Congressional Record was increased, its circulation has dropped. The Department of Education's annual Education Directory: Colleges and Universities has been discontinued. Instead, the 1983 HEP Higher Education is published and offered for sale by Higher Education Publications, Inc. No longer a government publication, it cannot be expected to be distributed to depository libraries.

At the same time, government information services and statistical programs are reduced, and knowledge about the activities of government is circumscribed. Many of these changes will significantly

limit access to public records and statistics by the public at large, and will undermine or eliminate basic source materials used by the academic community for scholarly research.

In an overview of current developments, the ALA publication, updated in July 1982, states:

The current climate in which government agency activities are considered unnecessary frills goes well beyond the need to review information dissemination programs and to eliminate duplication and waste. The new ground rules in Washington represent more than the natural shift of priorities from one Administration to another.

The allusion here to the basic and underlying character of these changes is fundamental. These are expressed in the definition of information as a saleable commodity. The major realignment of public/private sector relationships that we have seen developing nationally, is also evident in the information sphere; but applied to information, the shifting public/private sector balance may have unprecedented impact on the character of our society.

#### Information as a Saleable Commodity

The new information technologies invented and developed in the last four decades have made it possible and profitable to use information in new ways in the industrial, financial, commercial, and educational sectors. Information itself has become a crucial element in much of the economy.

The potential for deriving profit from information has energized a dramatic shift in the overall institutional structure of informational provision, dissemination, and use. In the process, information access is moving toward a clientele whose ability to pay is the essential

characteristic.

Some recent headlines are indicative: "Public Printer Goes Private," states one. "Lost our Census" notes that basic data from the latest decennial census, which would normally have been available within a year or so after the questionnaires were returned, are still unavailable to the general public, several years later.<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile, however, new corporate clientele with large-scale computer capabilities, obtain and process the computer tapes of the census, and use or sell these demographic data on how or where to market products.

One firm claims, "Now, you can buy America," a fitting slogan which may be closer to describing current reality than most of us would choose to think. The advertising brochure goes on to state: "Since the U.S. Government is not in the business of providing data to the public, it is often very difficult for decision-makers to get U.S. Census data in a concise, understandable and economical format ... thus, our Pop Facts Books publication of 1980 U.S. Census Population and Housing Characteristics.

As free or inexpensive distribution of census data to depository libraries and the general public lags, this five-volume compilation is sold at \$395. Comparable information, the brochure claims, is not yet available from the government.

Computer tapes of the census may be purchased by anyone. Few, however, have the resources to utilize the data in this form. As a matter of government policy, commercial distribution is increasingly favored, and public access to public documents and data is seen less and less as the government's business. According to political scientist Andrew Hacker, "The problem is not budget cuts, but rather that ours is no longer a citizen's census."<sup>2</sup>

Today, when the new tech-

nology should make it possible to distribute these public data far more rapidly and conveniently than ever before, their accessibility to the general population which created and paid for them in the first place, has been reduced. Government policy itself, increasingly supports the view that information is first and foremost a market commodity, indistinguishable in the way it is treated, from industrial products.

Similarly, regulations too (from the Department of Commerce, etc.) have been newly applied to the information sphere, and have had widespread ramifications. In an editorial in Science entitled "The Government, Secrecy, and University Research," Stanford University President Donald Kennedy has noted that security restrictions on academic exchanges, foreign students, and research dissemination in certain fields of study, have been sought "by applying to fundamental research, regulations originally intended for devices or industrial processes."<sup>3</sup> Kennedy emphasizes further, "the potential damage to the scientific enterprise from government efforts to restrict its openness -- especially when these coincide with efforts of private sponsors to expand secrecy for proprietary reasons."

#### Constraints on Openness

Why these efforts coincide, is a question worth considering. Diminishing public resources have encouraged higher education to turn to private support for what have been public purposes. Yet not only federal budget cuts and reduced public support propel this realignment. The growing profitability of information has made the corporate sector increasingly aware of the gains from having close, organic ties to academia, and particularly in certain fields of knowledge.

But as profitable areas of scientific research in the universities begin to be funded by industry, new constraints are

placed on the openness of the research process, and scholarly communication. An article, symbolically headlined "Academia Inc.," highlights some of the new arrangements and the troubling questions that have begun to appear.<sup>4</sup>

Suggesting what may be at stake, Philip Abelson, editor of Science, noted in an editorial that "the value system and mode of conducting research and development in industry are quite different from those of academia. To survive, a company must make a profit.... The goal is not pursuit of knowledge; it is the attaining of proprietary advantage."<sup>5</sup>

However, "proprietary advantage" means the capability of restricting information. The dynamic that operates when university research is commercialized is a perilous one. Some, including Yale President Giametti, believe that the university can resist corporate pressures to impose secrecy, and maintain free access to information and the freedom to publish research.<sup>6</sup>

#### A Matter of Concern

Yet how realistic is this view in the face of institutional changes that are restructuring the basic arrangements affecting the generation and dissemination of information? Indeed, we are coming dangerously close to the point where not only information, but research as well, is increasingly regarded as a commodity, whose proprietary economic value to the private sector transcends all the other values, interests, and uses it has in society. In this evolving environment, how long will it be before the suppression of ideas, for proprietary reasons, begins to be seen as necessary and reasonable?

Policies curtailing public access to information have been strongly opposed by the American Library Association. Issues arising from government restrictions on the openness of scholarly communication in cer-

tain fields, and the growing corporate involvement in university research rightly have become matters of concern within the academic and scholarly communities. In the advancing information age, awareness of information issues is crucial to ensure the democratic right to know.

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#### References

- 1 Andrew Hacker, "Lost Our Census," Harper's, April 1983, p. 16.
- 2 Ibid.
- 3 Donald Kennedy, "The Government and University Research," Science 216 (1982):365.
- 4 Philip H. Abelson, "Differing Values in Academia and Industry," Science, 217 (1982):1095.
- 5 Laton McCartney, "Academia Inc.," Datamation, March, 1983, pp. 116-126.
- 6 Fred M. Hechinger, "Yale President Sees Danger if Federal Aid to Education is Cut" New York Times, 7 July 1981.

#### A Local View

The 1980 Census publications (long delayed as mentioned above) are arriving daily in the Memorial Library and are expected to be complete by June 1984. The promised ZIP code data was contracted out to a private contractor who was granted an 18 month copyright. This copyright was precedent-setting in that government information has never been copyrighted.

Many Environmental Protection Agency reports, once received regularly, have been replaced by summaries; the full report is available from the National Technical Information Service for a fee. Several publications such as Naval Research Logistics Quarterly or the Current Index to Journals in Education (annual) have been contracted to private publishers. This results in higher costs to the Library since these must now be purchased instead of arriving free through

the depository collection.

Still other publications have ceased and been replaced by machine readable datafiles. The Handbook of Labor Statistics is an example. The 1980 edition was the last published. This means the library, or patron, must contact the agency to request newer statistics or rely on older printed data.

Recently, regulations have been proposed by two agencies which effect information flow. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) submitted "Development of an OMB policy Circular on Federal Information Management" (Federal Register, Sept. 12, 1984, p. 40964), and the Department of Energy (DOE) presented "Identification of Unclassified Controlled Nuclear Information" (Federal Register, April 1, 1983, p. 13988). OMB proposes wide ranging plans including user charges for information products and services without appropriate safeguards for the public's right to know, while the DOE regulations can apply security classification to materials already published and in the library. This could potentially turn the library into a regulatory entity with perhaps some censorship responsibilities.

The Federal Information Policy affects us all in what information is available, the format in which it is published (print, fiche, or datafile) and at what price. I am a member of the American Library Association's Government Documents Round Table which is concerned with developments in the government information sector. I will be glad to discuss this topic with anyone. But what can you do as an information user? You can be aware of the information policy, contact or write the agencies when a publication is cancelled or contracted to a private publisher, comment on proposed regulations before they are finalized, express your concerns to your Congressional representatives. But do something! Once a publication is gone or an element of data no longer collected, it

is very difficult to have it reinstated. The comments of professional people such as yourselves carry great weight in Washington.

Stephen Hayes

#### FEDERAL LIBRARY COMMITTEE HOSTS FORUM ON ACCESS

The Federal Library Committee presented a day-long forum on "Federal Information Policies: Emerging Issues in Managing Information Resources" on February 15 in the Mumford Room of the Madison Building, Library of Congress.

The Forum focused attention on some of the major concerns facing Federal library and information center management and helped initiate cooperative planning for the years ahead.

Recent executive and legislative directives require that all Federal agencies develop and implement coordinated information policies at the highest levels. These requirements have serious organizational and budgetary implications for Federal libraries and information centers. FLC Forum speakers discussed information policy issues with a view toward helping managers creatively strengthen information resources within their agencies.

A keynote statement, made by Congressman Major R. Owens (D-NY), was followed by a panel outlining "Perspectives on Federal Information Policies." Several panels on aspects of "Emerging Patterns for Managing Federal Information Resources" and on "Private Sector Perspectives" took place during the remainder of the day, featuring prominent speakers and time given to audience participation.

The Federal Library Committee, established in 1965 by the Library of Congress and the Bureau of the Budget, presented this Forum as part of its leadership role to encourage the

exchange of information about policy related issues throughout the Federal library and information community. James P. Riley is the Executive Director of the Federal Library Committee.

#### ND LIBRARIANS IN SERVICE

Not too many years ago, it was a rare occasion when a member of the library faculty left the campus to participate actively in the work of a national or state level professional or scholarly organization. In fact, only one or two librarians, out of a faculty of 32 or 34, could be found who were devoting time and energy to this type of endeavor. During the last few years, however, the once professionally somnolent library faculty at Notre Dame has become increasingly involved with off-campus organizations.

Twelve members of the library faculty served on 36 different national and state committees in the last year alone. These groups concerned themselves with a wide variety of issues that were of importance to the future development of libraries, research, and education.

Eight of the faculty were involved with the library profession's main national organization, the American Library Association. They served on 12 different committees, and two of them assumed the responsibilities of the chairmanship. Among the issues with which they concerned themselves were intellectual freedom (Doug Archer), planning for up-coming national programs (Karla Gold and Larry Woods), the acquisition and/or bibliographic control of books and journals (Lorry Zeugner), government documents (Steve Hayes, Chairperson), microforms (Dave Sparks), the development of regional workshops to aid libraries in dealing with journals and serials (Marcia King-Blandford), the costs of technical services (Bob Miller),

the technical standards for automating libraries (Larry Woods), the evaluation and measurement of machine-assisted reference service (Doug Archer), and the commercial automated support of technical services (Marcia King-Blandford).

Our new Assistant Director for Automated Systems at Notre Dame, Larry Woods, played a very active role in advancing the programs of a specialized national organization, the American Society for Information Science. He was the technical chairperson for the Association's 1984 Mid-Year Conference, and holds the chair of its Special Interest Group on Library Automation and Networking and of its Networking Committee. In addition, he is a member of the Chapter Assembly Steering Committee and the Special Interest Group Cabinet Steering Committee.

Another national organization with a clearly defined orientation and membership with which a member of the library faculty is working is the Association of Research Libraries. Since it limits its membership to the directors of some 100 of the largest academic and research libraries in the United States and Canada, the involved faculty member is Bob Miller, the Director of Libraries. He is the current chairman of the ARL's Committee on Collection Development, and was a member of its General Electric Foundation Public Services Project Advisory Committee. Despite the fact that library directors dominate the work of the ARL, there are areas where other faculty can make a contribution, and one is ARL's Office of Management Studies Systems and Procedures Exchange Center. George Sereiko serves as Notre Dame's liaison to that particular group.

Two of our library faculty have chosen to work with regional and national organizations with a subject focus. Jim Deffenbaugh was recently elected by the membership of the Chicago Area Theological

Library Association to the office of Vice President/President Elect, and now serves on its Board of Directors. In addition, he is a member of the American Theological Library Association's Committee on Publications. Bob Havlik was recently appointed to the Nominating Committee of the American Society of Engineering Education's Engineering Libraries Division.

On the state level, the library faculty is also quite active. Six members are contributing their talents to a number of organizations and committees. Two are working within the Indiana Library Association on problems gener-

ated by concerns with intellectual freedom (Doug Archer), reference and information services (Doug Archer), and the development of the profession of librarianship through scholarships and loans (George Sereiko). Larry Woods serves on the Executive Board of the Indiana Cooperative Library Services Authority. Patricia Janicki was appointed to the Indiana Library and Historical Board's Council for Approval of Providers. Steve Hayes is a member of Indiana's Task Force on the State Plan for Federal Depository Library Service. Bob Miller is the chairman of the Indiana State Library Advisory Committee's Network Coordinating Committee. Lastly,

George Sereiko is a member of the Indiana Historical Society's Library Committee.

Though the efforts of a year's work with off-campus organizations by the library faculty are here compressed into a few paragraphs, they are nevertheless significant contributions to the advancement of librarianship and the work of libraries nationally and regionally. Equally as important, they give evidence of a library faculty which is alive to the opportunities to serve which librarianship offers them and is willing to take advantage of them to promote their own and their profession's development.

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