

Access

News from the University Libraries at Notre Dame

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VISITING LIBRARIES IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

From 1966 to 1976 American libraries experienced great changes in the areas of information technology and automation. Information science and library science became almost interchangeable concepts. Computer technology enabled libraries to share cataloging processes and established information retrieval as an important research tool in many academic and public libraries all over the country.

During the same period many libraries in the People's Republic of China were closed; books were burned or locked up, and library employees were assigned to other tasks.

Presently Chinese libraries are making great strides towards overcoming the effects of the Cultural Revolution, modernizing libraries and increasing the level of education and competence among library employees. To achieve these goals, the Chinese government, through the Chinese Association for Science and Technology (CAST), invites delegations of foreign librarians to participate in professional exchanges with their Chinese colleagues.

For two weeks in October 1985 I was fortunate to be one of twenty librarians from American academic libraries who visited, gave presentations and discussed librarianship with Chinese colleagues. We visited six university libraries, two provincial libraries, two library schools and one public library. We spent time in the following cities: Beijing (People's University Library), Nanjing (Nanjing University Library and Library School, the Provincial Library of the Jiangsu Province), Wuhan (Wuhan University Library and Library School), Changsha (Hunan University, the Provincial Library of the Hunan Province, and the National University of Defense Technology Library), and Guangzhou or Canton (Zhongshan University Library and Guangzhou Library).

The itinerary as well as the libraries visited were chosen for us by the Chinese government and CAST. An English speaking guide met us in Beijing and accompanied us for the duration of the trip. In addition, a local guide was assigned to our tour in each city. At each professional exchange, which included staff from various libraries in the city, an official interpreter was present, but many Chinese participants spoke English. Library school students generally spoke English and were very interested in using their language skills.

The format of the professional exchanges was decided by the local organization, that is, by officials from the library or the provincial library organizations. In some places the members of the American delegation gave presentations on various aspects of librarianship such as online bibliographic searching, library automation,

INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTATION CENTER

Growth in the importance of international studies at Notre Dame in the post-World War II period reflected the radically changed position of the United States in the world. In order to satisfy the intensive interest of our students in world affairs and the growing research activities of the faculty in the field, in 1954 the Program of Soviet and East European Studies, and in the following years four other interdisciplinary Area Programs, were established at the University. The Department of Political Science was renamed the Department of Government and International Studies, and in 1968 with the founding of the Institute for International Studies, the much needed organizational framework and leadership were finally provided.

It was imperative to support these programs with adequate library resources and appropriate research facilities. Our collections of books, periodicals and documentary sources on international relations (in English and in foreign languages) grew substantially, and in 1955 a Rockefeller Foundation grant made possible the establishment of the International Documentation Center. When in 1963 the Center received adequate space in the new Memorial Library, it was reorganized and expanded along the lines of its present scope and organizational form. All these years the Center with its notable collection of newspaper clippings on international relations has served as an important tool for study and research by providing our students

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reference service in undergraduate libraries, or development and progress in American academic libraries. These presentations were generally followed by a discussion. In some institutions the Chinese preferred discussions followed by questions and answers without formal presentations. The Chinese participants were especially interested in all aspects of automation, budgeting, management or administrative structures of U.S. libraries, as well as staffing patterns and library education.

Most of the libraries we visited were built after the end of the Cultural Revolution. The building at Wuhan University was so new that the move from the old building had not been completed. However, the library school at Wuhan is the oldest in China. It was founded in 1920 by an American, Mary Elizabeth Wood. The library school is housed separately in a traditional Chinese building.

In spite of the newness of most buildings, library work is still carried out in ways that would be considered outdated by most Americans. All processing is done manually and very little material is available in microformat. Library automation and online information retrieval are not generally used in Chinese libraries due to the difficulty of converting Chinese characters into machine readable form and the lack of standardization of cataloging and classification systems currently in use. Finally, a shortage of qualified people hinders the implementation of automation programs.

Unlike libraries in the United States where stacks are generally open to browsing patrons, those in Chinese libraries are closed. Thus, patrons must submit material requests in writing for retrieval by the library staff. Open stack areas are sometimes found in reading rooms, but reading room collections are often limited.

In Chinese libraries, reading rooms serve several functions. In addition to providing reading space, they may house a special collection and often provide an access point for reference service. Thus a reading room might house a collection of social science books, technical materials, or foreign periodicals with staff available to respond to reference questions. However, in regard to the latter, reference questions are often submitted in writing, and a patron may wait up to a week for a response.

Access to collections is generally through author/title/subject and classification card catalogs. The latter is equivalent to the shelf-list in American libraries. Often the broad classification categories were posted by the card catalogs.

Approximately two percent of library workers have degrees in Library Science. Much is being done to increase education and skills among library workers. Both graduate and undergraduate degrees in Library Science are offered at a number of universities. In addition, televised and correspondence instruction is available.

Within large libraries departments are also responsible for training of staff. Workshops and seminars are also conducted at various levels.

New buildings, emphasis on training, and (in spite of the difficulties involved) steps toward automation are factors that will contribute towards the modernization of Chinese libraries. However, as in other areas, the people are the major resource. In every library we visited we were welcomed with unmatched graciousness and hospitality. Library workers were eager and interested in U.S. libraries. Without exception the library school students we met were intelligent, inquisitive, very interested in modern information retrieval and dedicated to their work. After the images of closed stack areas and overcrowded reading rooms have

faded, I will still remember the people I met. I am convinced that in a few years China's libraries will resemble those in the U.S. to a far greater extent.

G. Margaret Porter

IDC

and faculty with an exceptional source for analysis of world affairs.

Newspaper articles are a primary source on international relations providing the reader with immediate observations and analyses of facts, events, people, opinions and ideas. For this reason collections of clippings of this kind are maintained by many institutions that share Notre Dame's interest. Listed among such institutions are, for example, the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London, and a number of major universities in the United States.

The clippings included in the collection at Notre Dame come from fourteen newspapers and news magazines, both domestic and foreign. The clippings are filed chronologically following our own subject heading system which is mostly geographical.

This semester marks the 30th anniversary of the Center's existence, and looking back we can proudly state that it has fulfilled its mission to the University.

The Center is scheduled to move in the near future into Room 213 on the second floor of the Memorial Library. A number of improvements which will greatly enhance the Center's scope and functioning are being contemplated.

Theodore B. Ivanus

SA'UD PROJECT COMPLETED

In the spring of 1984, Peter Hoyt, senior vice president in

charge of design for the architectural firm Helmut-Obata-Kassabaum, lectured at Notre Dame regarding his design for King Sa'ud University in Saudi Arabia. The lecture, a part of the annual library colloquium series of the Friends of the Library at Notre Dame, discussed the design and construction of a large university in a rather remote desert setting. At that time Hoyt spoke of incorporating traditional Saudi designs and cultural elements into his overall plans; additionally he touched upon problems created by a construction project of such magnitude. An article discussing the completion of the project appears in the September-October issue of Aramco World Magazine.

"There will never be another contract like it," is the way the project manager describes the building of Sa'ud University in Aramco. The 3.5 square miles of buildings were constructed in less than forty months at a fixed price of four billion dollars. The project manager further indicates that this pace is almost "overnight" by industry standards. Aramco states that "at the peak, the various companies were working at a pace that could produce three ten-story office buildings a month in the United States." The job involved 171 companies with 12,000 on-site workers speaking 16 different languages. Among the structures included in the project are a research library, 1,492 classrooms, student housing, a teaching hospital and two theaters.

The photographs of the University in Aramco indicate that the magnitude of the project may only be exceeded by the felicity of its design. It is indeed a pleasure to view the record of this recently completed project of which Hoyt spoke many months ago.

Patrick J. Max

INVASION OF COMPUTER SOFTWARE -- PART I

Microcomputers and accom-

panying software are being aggressively marketed, sold and rented to schools and colleges to integrate computers into curricula. The purchase of software is likely to become a major expenditure as individual departments and units on campus stumble over each other trying to obtain the latest software package. Expenses can escalate rapidly if the campus doesn't organize a strategy for obtaining software packages to support teaching and research. Tens of thousands of dollars worth could be purchased before anyone realizes what is happening. This increased use of microcomputers in schools and homes will have a direct impact on academic libraries.

Impact on Libraries

Academic libraries have for some time dealt with more than the print format of books and periodicals. Audio-visual information and multimedia packages have found a place in libraries as have a variety of microformats. Libraries have successfully integrated these formats into their collections and acquired the necessary expertise and equipment to service the new formats.

A number of questions, however, need to be addressed by a library as computer software is added to its collection. What needs to be done to provide the best physical access to and bibliographic control of computer software? What extra demands will be placed on the library's equipment budget for microcomputers and special storage cabinets or shelving? What implications are there for staffing and staff development? How is computer software affected by the copyright law? How will the addition of this new format and service thereof be funded?

Questions which need to be examined on each campus include: Should faculty and students have physical and bibliographical access to computer software in the library? Should some of these materials be dispersed into aca-

demical departments? If so, which software? Which departments? Who will fund it?

Funding Implications

Information in machine-readable form is important for supporting instruction and research, and the library is a logical place to house and service much of the software or, at the very least, keep some type of bibliographic and inventory control over it. Faculty, administrators, and librarians need to be especially aware, however, of the funding implications of adding computer software to library collections.

Some microcomputer software is process-oriented and will represent a new type of material for libraries to collect. Examples of such process software are spreadsheet programs by Lotus. On the other hand, most software added to library collections will be subject-oriented and will be a supplement to, not a replacement of, printed materials already in library collections. Subject-oriented software might include a college-level program such as Advanced Electricity and Accounts Payable.

Since the purchase of new microcomputer software will not relieve libraries from buying print information, library budgets will have to be adjusted upwards. If they are not, the already limited funds will have to be reallocated and purchase and support of existing collections reduced.

Ronald G. Leach
Indiana State University

(The issue of copyright and how it affects computer software will be addressed in "Invasion of Computer Software -- Part II" in the next issue of Access.)

ASIS MEETING

The annual meeting of the American Society for Information Science (ASIS) was held in October. Papers presented at the meeting reviewed the progress made

in information science over the past twenty years and indicated even brighter future prospects in the field.

ASIS was founded in 1937 and presently has a national membership numbering about 4,700. The membership includes information specialists, scientists, librarians and others interested in the "use, organization, storage, retrieval, evaluation and dissemination of recorded specialized information." The organization serves as a forum for "the discussion, publication and critical analysis of work dealing with the theory, practice, research and development of elements involved in communication of information." The annual meeting of ASIS functions precisely as this sort of "forum."

Among the topics discussed at the 1985 meeting were optical cards and disks, "CD-ROM" (a compact hard disk capable of storing enormous amounts of electronic information), and sophisticated "deep structure" indexing.

The most informative session addressed electronic publishing and optical disks. Panelists described current products available on CD-ROM including InfoTrac (a telereference system), certain components of several electronic databases such as Compendex, ERIC, NTIS and the "toxic waste" section of Chemical Abstracts.

Speakers suggested that within a few years libraries would have a variety of large information banks available on optical disks which could be read through a common player. Patrons could select an item on a "juke box." This technology would permit low stress end user searching at significantly lower costs than online searching.

The speakers raised many questions about which formats would best suit specific types of publications. The answers to these questions are not yet clear and will certainly be debated at future ASIS meetings.

Joanne M. Bessler

THE LIMITATION OF DISSEMINATION, ACCESS AND COLLECTION OF GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS -- A CONTINUING CONCERN

Attempts to reduce federal spending by cutting back the dissemination, access and collection of U.S. government documents could seriously affect citizens' rights to information and obstruct the research process in the academic community as well. Speaking to the Calumet Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) on November 15, 1985, Stephen M. Hayes, Government Documents Librarian at Notre Dame, presented background data and illustrations of the problem.

In response to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, President Reagan, in April 1981, imposed a moratorium on the production and procurement of new audiovisual aids and government publications. By June 1981, policies and guidelines for the proposed reductions were issued by the Office of Management and Budget, and by January 1983, 3,200 publications were eliminated. One of every six government publications was either eliminated, consolidated, converted to a sales item by the issuing agency, or transferred to the private sector. As a consequence, publications which historically have been provided free of charge to depository libraries such as Notre Dame are now available as either moderate cost items for subscribers (e.g., Monthly Catalog), available at a significantly greater cost (e.g., Congressional Record and Federal Register), or available at relatively high cost from private publishers (e.g., SEC News Digest). However, many other important titles, not falling within these categories, have simply been discontinued.

Because many agencies are converting their information from paper to electronic formats, the question of access has become critical for government depository libraries, such as Notre Dame, as well. The present depository distribution policy does not include a provision for elec-

tronic formats, and questions regarding right to access (the government has mandated various levels of clearance for some database use) and sources of payment for computer and printing fees must be resolved if effective use of the medium is to be made. Potential for the inflation of research/information costs is extreme. For example:

a) The Department of Agriculture has recently contracted with Martin Marietta for a data system for its "perishable," or statistical, data. Users of the system will not only require special hardware and software, but will be assessed a \$150 monthly fee plus all time sharing computer costs.

b) The Securities and Exchange Commission has contracted with Bechtel to provide 250,000 fiche to its reading rooms and to develop a system for its filings. Bechtel expects to make four to six million dollars from the sale, depending on the number of annual filings.

c) The Environmental Protection Agency has turned twenty databases over to two different companies, thus requiring those interested in complete information retrieval capability to deal with both companies on a subscription basis. Furthermore, there seems to be concern that scientifically necessary but economically unprofitable information may be dropped from these databases altogether.

Lastly, the security classification issue presents an increasing concern to those interested in research and information. In 1984, almost 20 million documents were restrictively classified; statistically, this figure exceeds previous years by nine percent. When in doubt, an agency's action appears to be to classify restrictively, and clauses once exempting basic research from security classification are being excluded from contracts. Reclassification of previously released material is increasing. Of even greater potential negative impact on the research community is the fact that, under the Export Control Act, various groups, such as the

Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers, have been directed to exclude unclassified research papers from technical symposia. Audiences attending these symposia are being restricted, and clauses are being added to contracts that require pre-publication review of research findings by government officials. Similarly, many government employees are being required to sign pre-publication censorship agreements.

Hayes concluded his presentation by voicing his concern that irreparable harm might be done to the tradition of free flow of information between the government and its citizens. This is in part due to the fact that the public is somewhat unsophisticated in regard to the government's information function and remains largely uninformed in these matters. He suggested that, as Americans, we have substantial rights to information by and about our government and that we should contact our congressmen immediately to express our concerns.

Katharina J. Blackstead

NEW LIBRARY FACULTY

The University of Notre Dame has welcomed two new members to its library faculty during the past few months.

Thomas Lehman became Head of Copy Cataloging effective August 1, 1985. Lehman is a Goshen College alumnus who received his Master of Library Science from Indiana University. He has come to Notre Dame from the University of Louisville where he was Head of the Online Records Cataloging Section.

Jan Maxwell started as Assistant Head of Acquisitions effective October 14, 1985. Maxwell earned her Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and her Master of Library Science from Indiana University, and comes to Notre Dame from Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne, where she served as Serials Librarian.

Eilene M. Franson

NEW ACQUISITIONS IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The Department of Special Collections has received a number of interesting additions to its collections recently. Cited below are a first edition of a very early Slavic-Greek-Latin lexicon, a Bohemian missal, and the manuscript of Rupert T. Gould's treatise on the evolution of the marine chronometer. The lexicon was the gift of Sister Joachim of the Monte Casino School in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Professor Rasmussen acquired the Bohemian missal for us in Copenhagen this summer. The manuscript was the gift of Karl Kleiderer, an alumnus.

Polikarpov-Orlov, Feodor.

Lexikon slavenogrekolatinski v' pl' azu mudroliubivomu, ouchashchikhse, vrazumlieniu. [Moskva]: Moskovska Tipografia, [17__].

Catholic Church.

[Missal (Prague). Latin. 1735] Missale Romano-Bohemicum ... Vetero-Prague: M.A. Höger, 1735.

Gould, Rupert T.

The marine chronometer: its history and development.
London: J.D. Potter, 1923.

Printing came late to Eastern Europe and Polikarpov-Orlov's lexicon was an early attempt to codify Russian orthography and simplify it in its Old Church Slavonic form. Polikarpov was a teacher of grammar in the Moscow schools.

The Bohemian missal is (or was) sumptuously bound in blue velvet (now faded) over oak boards. To this were added, on the covers, elaborate and heavy silver-plated brass corner plates, clasps, and heraldic devices of the bishop of Bohemia. The missal has inserted rubrics for a number of saints, orations for the Emperor and Empress, and prayers for the pregnant Queen and a happy childbirth.

The manuscript includes the original typescript with Gould's corrections and emendations and several earlier summaries of the treatise. The work is part of the gift of Erwin C. Kleiderer who gave

his substantial collection on horology to the University some years ago.

David E. Sparks

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THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY AT NOTRE DAME
CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SPRING SEMESTER 1986

- * Faculty Forum on extra-terrestrial life
with Professor Michael J. Crowe
Tuesday, January 21, at 7:30 p.m.
in the Rare Book Room, West Concourse, Memorial Library

- * Faculty Forum on the People's Republic of China
with Professor Dian H. Murray
Tuesday, February 4, at 7:30 p.m.
in the Rare Book Room, West Concourse, Memorial Library
followed by a celebration of the Chinese New Year
in the Faculty Lounge, East Concourse, Memorial Library

- * Faculty Forum on Irish music
Monday, March 24, at 7:30 p.m.
in the Rare Book Room, West Concourse, Memorial Library
followed by a celebration of Saint Patrick's Day
in the Faculty Lounge, East Concourse, Memorial Library

For more information, please contact
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