

## Books are for use: Ranganathan centennial year

During the 19th and 20th centuries, two great librarians—Melvil Dewey (1851–1931) of the United States and S. R. Ranganathan (1892–1972) of India—were responsible for the development of library and information science. In this centennial year of Ranganathan's birth it is important to recall his many contributions.

Born on August 9, 1892, Ranganathan may most commonly be remembered for his formulation of laws. In 1929 he felt that librarianship lacked a set of unifying, guiding principles and set down the following: books are for use; every reader has his book, every book its reader; save the time of the reader, save the time of library staff; and the library is a growing organism.

In 1925 he introduced the Colon Classification, a radical departure from the Dewey Decimal and Library of Congress Classification systems. In 1934 he published the *Classified Catalogue* code which showed that an analytic-synthetic approach is useful irrespective of what scheme for classification is used for developing a structured subject index.



Ranganathan

After spreading his reforms throughout India, Ranganathan was active in international librarianship from 1948 until his death on September 27, 1972. A visionary, he predicted in the 1950s that computers would play an

important part in libraries and that online catalogs would replace the card catalog in all types of libraries. He coined such terms as "facet," "phase," "isolate," "librametrics," and "chain procedure" and his ideas on bibliographic instruction, faculty status, and internships for librarians have become popular in Western countries. During his lifetime he wrote 62 books and over 2,000 articles on all aspects of library science.

At its 1992 Midwinter Meeting, the Council of the American Library Association passed two resolutions in honor of Ranganathan. One said "that the ALA on the birth centennial of an international giant, S. R. Ranganathan, expresses the gratitude of its members to him for his contributions, many years of dedication and outstanding services to the promotion of international librarianship."—R. N. Sharma, *University of Evansville* ■

Dewey would subscribe by sending the following message: SUBSCRIBE ALA-WO Melvil Dewey. *Newsline* is available through Internet, CompuServe, MCI Mail, and any other e-mail service that can receive Internet messages. Note that this is a newsletter and not a discussion group. Questions or comments should be sent to NU\_ALAWASH@CUA or NU\_ALAWASH@CUAVAX.DNET.CUA.EDU.

### Proposals in BI and preservation sought

Proposals are needed for the poster sessions at ACRL's Bibliographic Instruction Section Conference Program, on Sunday, June 27, 1993, in New Orleans. The program, entitled "Coping with Chaos, Thriving on Change," needs poster sessions dealing with practical suggestions for successful and innovative responses to change. For example, how has the BI program adapted to new technologies, changing student populations, budget con-

straints, staffing changes, new teaching methods, new instructional media. Proposals consisting of a 250-word abstract describing your project or research and how you will communicate your ideas should be submitted by January 8, 1993, to: Susan Miller, Coordinator of Library Instruction, Milner Library, Illinois State University, Normal, IL 61761.

Proposals for contributions to volume 2 of *Advances in Preservation and Access*, a Meckler publication, are being sought by editor Barbra Buckner Higginbotham. Papers are wanted on current topics in library preservation, conservation, and related access issues, particularly in the areas of special materials and disciplines (music, theatre, dance, film, recorded sound), curator/conservator relationships, education and training, preventive measures, surveys and collection assessment, mass deacidification, international efforts, and automation applications for program management.