

Letters

Dear Editor:

In his letter in the December issue of *C&RL News*, Eugene Dukes agreed that the ACRL Board of Directors made a mistake when its members approved a policy statement at their Midwinter meeting in January of last year to the effect that the master's degree in librarianship was the appropriate terminal degree for academic librarians.

I find myself no less in agreement and would go a bit further in characterizing the Directors' action—it was retrograde. Notwithstanding the academic arguments, which Mr. Dukes has stated well, the action is incongruous with the realities of the employment market. Ten years ago, it might have been at least superficially credible, but now, with the collapse of the market, it is hopelessly regressive. When a candidate for academic employment has not only the best qualities of the generalist, whatever those may be, and a second master's degree or the doctorate as well, what employer could se-

lect instead someone with only the generalist's qualities? When a large proportion (over a quarter in my estimation) applying even for beginning positions have an advanced degree in some subject, this situation is the rule, not the exception. Despite antiacademic resistance on the part of some academic employers, the expectation still must be that employment opportunities will deteriorate increasingly for those with only the ordinary degree. The advanced degree in librarianship alone, which has been something of an anachronism for a decade or longer, now constitutes an even more unimposing credential. The cause is lost. The march to the advanced degree cannot be stopped, and it is more than a little ironical that the *academic* library division should try.

Sincerely yours,
Thomas Gwinup
Associate Librarian
San Diego State University
San Diego, California ■■

Academic Library Statistics Released for 1974-75

The National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) has released a preliminary report of its 1974-75 survey of college and university libraries. Based on a 95 percent return for the 2,977 academic libraries in the U.S., NCES reports that total expenditures for libraries increased at an annual average rate of only 5 percent from 1972-73 to 1974-75. The increase is considerably less than the previous average annual rates of increase of from 12 to 15 percent for the years from 1967-68 to 1970-71.

Average book prices increased 8 percent since the previous survey in 1972-73, while expenditures for books increased only 2.8 percent over the same period. Average periodical prices increased 34 percent during the two-year period between surveys; expenditures for periodicals increased 36 percent, indicating that libraries were continuing to keep up with the

sharp price increases for periodicals.

Expenditures for salaries and wages increased at an average annual rate of 8 percent, compared to the average annual rates of 14 to 16 percent for the previous years. Libraries increased the total number of librarians 3 percent over the two years, while decreasing sharply the number of other professional staff employed in libraries (down 18 percent over the two-year period). Size of clerical and support staff increased 5 percent. The total size of staff in college and university libraries increased 2.6 percent from the fall of 1973 to the fall of 1975.

The survey was prepared under the direction of Stanley V. Smith. Inquiries should be directed to NCES, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20202. ■■

News From the Chapters

LeMoyné Anderson addressed the ACRL Oregon Chapter on Friday, December 12, 1975 in the Oregon State University Memorial Union on the topic: Implementing Full Faculty Status. Mr. Anderson is visiting the Oregon State campus as a consultant in technical ser-

vices. He is director of libraries at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, where he has done much to advance the position of librarians. For the past two years, he has headed a committee that is evaluating the goals and organization of ACRL. ■■