

Collecting Scientific and Technical Publications at the Library of Congress

IT IS THE POLICY of the Library of Congress to collect extensively the current publications of the world in the fields of science and technology except for clinical medicine and technical agriculture (unless the medical and agricultural publications are issued by national governments).¹ Technical agriculture and clinical medicine are usually excepted because of the comprehensive acquisition programs of our sister institutions, the Library of the Department of Agriculture and the National Library of Medicine, whose specialized and extensive collections the Library of Congress does not wish to duplicate.

Traditionally, the Library of Congress has attempted to collect comprehensively the official publications at the national level of foreign governments regardless of subject content.

In addition to the medical and agricultural exceptions, the Library is selective in its acquisition of currently published textbooks, translations, reprints, extracts, and separates. The last three are excluded when the Library's collections contain the serial or other publications in which the material originally appeared.

Non-current scientific and technological publications are acquired selectively. The determining considerations include their availability by gift, exchange, transfer, or purchase; their importance; and,

if available only by purchase, their cost. All materials are acquired by one of the following methods: exchange, gift, transfer, purchase, or pursuant to law, including copyright deposit. Administratively, acquisitions matters are handled through two divisions under the direction of the processing department office. All purchases are handled by the order division, and acquisitions by all other means are handled by the exchange and gift division. For the 1957-58 fiscal year the Library has an appropriation of \$320,000 for the purchase of materials in all fields except law, and to defray expenses such as travel, communication, and bulk-freight charges. An additional appropriation of \$90,000 is available for the purchase of legal materials and to pay miscellaneous expenses.

In 1951 the Library expanded its system of blanket orders for the acquisition of non-serial materials issued outside this country. At the present time there are some 240, approximately half of which are for legal materials. Each blanket order specifies that the holder of the order, who may be a dealer, a university, a United States official at a foreign post or other agent of the Library of Congress, is authorized either to purchase and send current publications in all fields of knowledge with the exceptions which I have mentioned and certain other exceptions which may be peculiar to the area, or to purchase and forward current publications in specific subject fields. In countries where national bibliographies are issued currently the agent is instructed to send by air-mail two copies of the current issues, one

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of which he marks to indicate those titles which are being sent, those titles which he plans to send, and those on which he has questions. When the marked bibliography is received, it is checked by the Library's recommending officers for titles which in their opinion should not have been selected by the blanket order holder and for recommendation of additional titles. This bibliography is then reviewed in the order division for compliance with the terms of the blanket order, for compliance with the Library's acquisitions policies, and for search of the additional recommendations. Appropriate orders are then placed with the dealer and he is advised periodically on his compliance.

For several areas blanket orders are not used by reason of the presence in the Library of area, language, and subject specialists who recommend current titles from national bibliographies, special lists, etc., which in many instances are received by air mail.

The blanket order system has proved to be especially advantageous in acquiring important foreign books automatically and quickly after publication on the basis of actual examination. It has the advantage, too, of insuring receipt of commercial publications which are issued in small editions.

Subscriptions for serials are placed on an individual title basis, not under the blanket order system; but every blanket order holder is requested to send a sample copy of each new serial appearing in his area or subject field. Currently the Library spends about \$140,000 a year on serial continuations for all types of materials in all subject fields.

Exchange has long been the traditional method for the acquisition of official documents, the publications of scientific and learned societies, and those of academic institutions. The Library of Congress is especially fortunate in having available for use in its exchanges

(currently some sixteen thousand) vast quantities of material. These may be categorized as (1) the current official publications of the United States Government (125 copies of each publication excepting confidential matter, blank forms, and circular letters not of a public character—See 44 *United States Code* 139 & 139a); (2) the publications of the Library of Congress (although United States official publications, they are generally considered and handled as a separate category); (3) surplus duplicates, and (4) current commercially published American books which are purchased for use in the Library's priced exchange program.

The Library's exchange arrangements stem from the following sources: (1) the Brussels Convention of 1886; (2) the Executive Agreements concluded on behalf of the United States with foreign nations by the Department of State, in which the Library of Congress is named as the recipient of the foreign documents and is charged with implementing the agreements for the United States; (3) informal agreements concluded by the Library with domestic and foreign institutions and foreign governments with which there are no bases for formal agreements; and (4) priced exchange agreements. The Library's agreements pursuant to the Brussels Conventions and the Executive Agreements encompass currently issued official publications solely; the informal agreements may include current and non-current official and non-official publications, including surplus duplicates; while priced exchange arrangements generally embrace current non-official publications.

To the eleven active "Brusselians" and the forty-five Executive Agreement countries, and to forty-nine foreign jurisdictions with which there are informal arrangements, the Library sends either a "full set" of documents consisting of about eight thousand pieces printed an-

nually at the United States Government Printing Office or a "partial set" made up of about one thousand pieces a year from the same source. In return the Library expects to receive a comprehensive set of the official publications issued currently by the foreign exchange partners.

Formerly by statute, now under regulations issued pursuant to the Surplus Property Act of 1950, the Library receives annually from other federal libraries in the District of Columbia between two and one-half and three million pieces which are deemed by them to be of no further use to their agencies. About 98 per cent of this material is non-current. As the receipts are reviewed, materials are selected for the Library's collections and for exchange use. The remainder is disposed of by transfer to other federal libraries, by sale to dealers and others, by donation to American public and private educational institutions, and by sale as waste paper, in that order. Because of the quality of surplus duplicates available for exchange use, no attempt is made to list them. Exchange partners are asked to indicate subject fields of interest and the exchange assistants select titles for them within these fields.

Exchange matters are handled by four sections of the exchange and gift division: the American and British exchange section, the European exchange section, the orientalia exchange section, and the Hispanic exchange section. These sections are organized on a geographical and language basis, and the staff of each section works with exchange relations occurring in the area assigned to it.

Under this division of responsibilities, the exchange staff may explore the possibilities of acquiring materials desired by the Library in their respective areas beyond the mere acceptance or rejection of exchange offers. Each section head is responsible for conducting a country-by-country survey within his

area of operation to determine the existence of scientific and learned societies and academic institutions, to discover the publications of these cultural bodies, to determine those publications which the Library receives, to ascertain from the recommending and selection officers the desirability of acquiring those not received by the Library and to attempt to acquire by exchange those desired for addition to the collections. This survey responsibility extends also to the review of foreign governmental agencies to determine whether needed official publications may be acquired under existing agreements or whether new documents-exchange agreements should be concluded. In all these activities the advice and assistance of the various divisions of the reference department and the law library play a tremendously important role. The Library is especially fortunate in being able to call upon the Department of State and the United States Information Agency, including their posts abroad, for aid and information in its exchange and purchase programs.

Of particular assistance in locating possible exchange partners is Part II of the *Handbook on the International Exchange of Publications*, second edition, published by UNESCO in 1956, and current exchange offers listed in the monthly issues of the *Unesco Bulletin for Libraries*. The *Handbook* contains in Part II, Section I, the names and addresses of international organizations, subdivided as to intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, and in Part II, Section II, an outline of the exchange activities in eighty-four countries and thirty-seven territories, including the work of the national exchange centers, addresses of national bibliographical centers, and exchange offers of individual institutions. Countries are arranged in alphabetical order and a separate index to them is included. The section is arranged in the

form of a directory, since it consists mainly of addresses and titles of publications. Within each country the subjects of materials for possible exchange are indicated by numerals from 0, for general interest and bibliography, to 16 for applied science and technology. Physics and chemistry constitute category 12 in this classification.

One notes that only three institutions are listed as exchange sources for the USSR: The Lenin State Library, Moscow, the Fundamental Library of the Social Sciences Section of the Academy of Sciences, Moscow, and the Academy of Sciences, Department of International Exchange, Leningrad. When the *Handbook* was compiled, the Library of Congress's exchanges with institutions in the USSR were restricted to the three mentioned, but during the last two years LC and many other American libraries have found that direct exchanges may be concluded with other Russian institutions. At present, the Library of Congress has some 180 such exchanges.

To make its receipts of materials generally known, the Library of Congress publishes, in addition to numerous monographs and its printed catalog cards, the following periodicals:

The *National Union Catalog, a Cumulative Author List Representing Library of Congress Printed Cards and Titles Reported by Other American Libraries* which includes titles with imprint dates of 1956 and subsequent years.

New Serial Titles (alphabetical arrangement), a monthly list with annual cumulations which are self-cumulative over five-year periods, contains serials commencing publication after December 31, 1949. Some 280 libraries report their new serial titles to this publication.

New Serial Titles—Classed Subject Arrangement contains the same material as that in the alphabetical arrangement but is available in monthly issues only.

The *East European Accessions Index*

is a monthly record of publications issued in the languages of the following East European countries: Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Rumania, and Yugoslavia. It includes monographic publications issued after 1944 and periodical publications issued after 1950 which are currently received by the Library of Congress and, as reported, by about 120 other American libraries.

The *Monthly Index of Russian Accessions* is a record of publications in the Russian language issued in and outside the Soviet Union. It includes monographic publications issued after 1944 and periodical publications issued after 1946 which are currently received by the Library of Congress and, as reported, by 155 other American libraries.

The *Southern Asia Accessions List* is a monthly record of publications pertaining to Southern Asia currently accessioned by the Library of Congress and some thirty cooperating libraries. The *List* includes monographs in several languages of South Asia and Southeast Asia bearing an imprint of 1947 or later. Selected articles from periodicals in Western languages and periodicals in the major vernacular languages of these Asian areas, published since January 1954, are included.

The *Monthly Checklist of State Publications* lists those documents of the states and territories of the United States received by the Library of Congress.

The *Library of Congress Catalog, Books: Subjects, a Cumulative List of Works Represented by Library of Congress Printed Cards*. The possibility of expanding this publication to become a union subject index is now being explored.

It should be noted that all of these publications except the *Monthly Checklist of State Publications* and the *Library of Congress Catalog, Books: Subjects*

contain the reported holdings of other American libraries.

For other periodical and monographic publications of the Library, one should consult the *Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress* and the current issues of the *Library's Information Bulletin*.

Because the accessions lists of Russian and East European materials contain most of the titles currently received in this country from their respective areas and because of their wealth of detail, it appears worthwhile to describe them further.

The *Monthly Index of Russian Accessions* consists of three parts, with the first two arranged under seventeen broad subject classes: *Part A* lists monographic literature with titles both transliterated and translated into English; *Part B*, lists Russian periodicals with their transliterated titles and the tables of contents of each issue translated into English; and *Part C* serves as an English subject guide to the monographs and periodical articles listed in each issue. In Volume IX, completed in March 1957, the number of subject index entries for periodical articles and monographs reached 137,797 of which, it is estimated, over 70 per cent were in the fields of science and technology. (At the Library of Congress these fields are treated in separate classification schedules under Geography and Anthropology, Science, Medicine, Agriculture, Technology, Military Science and Naval Science.) Over eight thousand subject headings are employed in each monthly issue of *Part C*. If, for example, one is interested in artificial satellites, he will find under this subject entry in the November 1957 issue, eight titles in English followed in each instance by the periodical title and issue in which the article appeared. Similarly, ninety-seven article and book references can be found under thirty-nine general chemical subject entries in the letter *C* and sev-

eral hundred other references can be found for specific chemical topics in other sections of the alphabetical subject guide. Thus, the research worker who does not read Russian but does read English may determine those current Russian language accessions in his subject field which may be worth having translated for his study.

In the *East European Accessions Index* monographic and periodical titles are arranged by country and grouped under the seventeen general classes with monographs and periodicals separately alphabetized under each class. Each monograph is listed in the original language or in transliteration followed by an English translation of the title. Each periodical is listed in the original language or in transliteration followed by a descriptive annotation in English. A listing of the contents in English is provided for selected periodicals in accordance with their importance and the availability of staff. This index, too, contains a subject guide in English to the monographic and periodical publications analyzed in it. In volume VI, completed in December 1957, the number of subject index entries for periodical articles and monographs reached 135,664 of which, it is estimated, over 50 per cent were in the fields of science and technology.

Over 25 per cent of the Library's classified collections consists of materials in the areas of science and technology. Through its science division the Library offers reference and bibliographical services on its materials in these fields including its extensive collection of United States Government scientific reports, for which it maintains open catalogs that may be consulted by any reader visiting the library.

Monographs are generally available on loan from the Library under usual

(Continued on page 495)

become vacant in June 1959 as a result of the resignation of Anne F. Jones, who has held the post for the past seven years. Applications from persons with appropriate experience in college or university libraries are invited. For further information, write to Miss Elizabeth Ralston, Near East College Association, 40 Worth Street, New York, N.Y.

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY Graduate School of Library Service has been awarded \$25,000 by the U. S. Office of Education to conduct a pilot study of the effectiveness of central library service in elementary schools. Part of the Office of Education's Cooperative Research Program, this project is the first to be supported in the library field. Professor Mary V. Gaver will be research director of the eighteen-month study.

ST. BONAVENTURE UNIVERSITY presented its centennial citation to Sister Mary Berenice, R.S.M., Librarian of Mercy Hospital, Buffalo. The award was "in recognition of her outstanding library service in her religious community, to the Catholic Library Association and to the Diocese of Buffalo."

A NEW PUBLISHING HOUSE has been founded to advance scholarly publishing in this country. University Publishers, Inc., 59 East 54th Street, New York 22, is an independent nonprofit organization that will provide complete editorial, manufacturing and distribution services to academic and nonprofit institutions. In addition to work for universities that lack their own presses, University Publishers will produce items with its own imprint. Francis R. Bellamy, former director of Associated College Presses, is president of the firm.

ALA representatives at collegiate ceremonies this fall include Mrs. RODNEY M. CHADWICK, assistant cataloger at Russell Sage College, at the inauguration of Richard Gilman Folsom as president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y., October 4; Miss MARION B. GRADY, librarian of Ball State Teachers College, at the inauguration of Robert H. Reardon as president of Anderson College and Theological Seminary, Anderson, Ind., October 11; WYMAN W. PARKER, librarian of Wesleyan University, at the inauguration of Francis Horn as president of the University of Rhode Island, Kingston, R.I., October 15; FELIX E. HIRSCH, librarian of Trenton State College, at the inauguration of K. R. Bergethon as president of Lafayette College, Easton, Pa., October 18; JOSEPH N. WHITTEN, librarian of the Cooper Union, at the inauguration of Richard H. Heindel as president of Wagner Lutheran College, Staten Island, N.Y., October 19; CHARLES W. MIXER, assistant director of libraries of Columbia University, at the inauguration of Harold Walter Stoke as president of Queens College, Flushing, N.Y., October 22; LAWRENCE CLARK POWELL, librarian of UCLA, at the inauguration of Norman H. Topping as president of the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, October 29; Miss FLORA B. LUDINGTON, librarian of Mount Holyoke College, at the inauguration of Glenn A. Olds as president of Springfield College, Springfield, Mass., October 31; and CLARENCE GORCHELS, visiting assistant professor at the school of librarianship of the University of Washington, at the inauguration of Charles Odegaard as president of the University of Washington, Seattle, November 6-7.

Collecting Scientific Publications

(Continued from page 478)

interlibrary loan regulations and, subject to donor, copyright and other legal restrictions, photoreproductions of its holdings may be purchased from its photoduplicating service. For the purpose of furnishing research workers with photocopies of unpublished or out-of-print

government-sponsored scientific and technical reports, the Office of Technical Services of the Department of Commerce and the Atomic Energy Commission have deposited over 142,000 such reports with the Library's photoduplication service.