

Review Articles

A Survey of General Interest

The Columbia University Libraries. A Report on Present and Future Needs Prepared for the President's Committee on the Educational Future of the University. By the Subcommittee on the University Libraries. Maurice F. Tauber, Chairman, C. Donald Cook and Richard H. Logsdon. New York: Columbia University Press, 1958. 320p. \$5.00.

This monograph on Columbia libraries evolved from and was part of a patently sincere and critical investigation recently undertaken to answer questions on the educational future of Columbia University. The fact that it is a survey made by Columbia talent, a professor in the School of Library Service, the director of libraries, and the now assistant to the director, in no way detracts from its usefulness as a book that will interest, instruct, and assist many who are concerned with the operation, management, and development of contemporary research libraries. Indeed, additional validity is given to the findings, conclusions, and recommendations because the authors have a capacity for self-analysis and are men of sound and mature judgment thoroughly acquainted with the complex administrative and educational structure that exists at Columbia University.

Using almost every source available to those who investigate modern library operations—personal knowledge and observations; records, reports, and memoranda from the libraries and administrative offices; observations, opinions, and knowledge of faculty, university officers, and students—the authors have examined in some detail the major problems that confront Columbia libraries. Nine chapters are devoted, in the order listed, to: the libraries in the university program; administrative organization; resources; cataloging and classification; quarters—equipment—preservation of materials—photoduplication; personnel; readers services; interlibrary cooperation; and financial support. A tenth chapter is devoted to a

résumé of conclusions and recommendations contained in the first nine chapters. Fifty-two pages of appendices contain sample questionnaires and forms used in gathering data from faculty, administrative officers, librarians, and students. These are skillfully worded and may, and probably will, be adopted for local use in other institutions.

Those who are searching for quick cures for the ailments of research libraries will not find them in this volume. The recommendations are cautious and restrained—no revolutionary inventions that will radically change the nature of library service are promised—and will not plunge Columbia libraries into any irrevocable or restrictive pattern of development but will permit them to evolve with the unpredictable but certainly changing teaching and research demands of the future.

The following, of the many conclusions and recommendations contained in the volume, seemed important to the reviewer:

1. The present centralized administrative organization operates efficiently and no desirable results could be seen in separating any present library unit from the central administration.

2. Acquisitional policies should be closely linked to the curricula and research programs of schools and departments and the necessity to use materials in other libraries, particularly in the metropolitan area, should be recognized. The libraries should continue their efforts toward the formulation of acquisitions codes.

3. There is need for a program to catalog a sizeable backlog, revise classification, and bring subject headings up to date.

4. Space to alleviate present crowded conditions can be obtained from new construction for the libraries of law, business, and medicine and by renovations within Butler or the addition of four levels on the stack—well as provided in the original design of that building.

5. As the curricular and research programs of the university expand, provisions for additional staff must be made. Columbia has a problem, held in common with most

libraries: a high rate of turnover in clerical employees. No permanent solution to this costly and frustrating condition is given.

6. No positive conclusion was reached about the type of library facility Columbia should provide for undergraduates in the future. The present College Library located in Butler can be expanded or separate undergraduate quarters may be provided.

7. Columbia cooperates in interlibrary ventures nationally and locally and should continue. The authors recommend the revival of the idea of the abortive Northeast Regional Library.

8. In the ten years from 1945-46 to 1955-56 the expenditures for Columbia libraries increased 106 per cent, but the total percentage of the university budget for library service decreased from 5.64 per cent to 5.25 per cent. Additional financial needs are listed as \$1,540,000 for capital sums, \$150,000 for continuing needs, \$6,000,000 for new quarters. An increase in library endowment from approximately \$3,000,000 to \$10,000,000 plus regular appropriations from the university is the suggested method of meeting present and future needs.

Throughout the report the reader is made aware of the necessity for closer understanding between those who approve research programs and those who must supply the research materials: "The requirements of the university library as we know it today are determined by programs developed by faculties and approved by university administrators, of which the librarian is only a part. The librarian accordingly has responsibility for meeting demands which are actually beyond his jurisdiction and control" (p. 2). Though the authors do not say cooperate or smother, a credo is enunciated: "It is the firm belief of the Subcommittee that many of the library problems of Columbia University are similar to those of other large research libraries, and that local expedients alone will not solve them completely. What is needed are regional and/or national approaches to many of the problems" (p. 3).

The library profession should be grateful to the authors for this assiduous performance. The problems of library service to American universities that are rapidly becoming characterized as institutions of "re-

search unlimited" can be more fully comprehended because one university had the courage and capacity for self-examination. The formulation of a program for development in one great research library is of positive benefit to all research libraries, great ones or those less than great.—*Cecil K. Byrd, Indiana University Libraries.*

Uses of Bibliography

The Uses of Bibliography to the Students of Literature and History. By Edwin Eliot Willoughby. Hamden, Conn.: The Shoe String Press, 1957. 104p. (Lithoprinted) \$3.00.

In four chapters, based on lectures given in 1952 at the Universities of Liverpool, Leeds, and Manchester, the author undertakes to show that "the study of the physical book by means of analytical bibliography has uses that no student of literature or of history or of the historical aspects of any other subject can safely neglect." While disavowing any intention to provide instruction in bibliographical techniques, the author claims, correctly, that his work does "attempt to show the reader the uses to which he may put the art of analytical bibliography, if he masters it. It does attempt to show him the unsuspected mystery and excitement that may lurk behind type and paper, evidence which read aright may even give the lie to the words that the type has printed upon the paper. This book does endeavor to show the reader why he should wish to possess that art of the analytical bibliographer."

Most of the examples will be familiar to students of bibliography: the innocent fraud of the *English Mercurie*; the Wise forgeries; the problems of the "Mecklenburg Declaration," the *Ulster County Gazette*, the 1619 Shakespeare quartos, and the like; yet all the stories are good enough to bear repetition, and there is some virtue in having them brought together as parts of the larger story of the role bibliographers play in untangling the details of history. For the newcomer to bibliography or to librarianship this small book might very well provide the stimulus the author hopes for, thereby bringing new recruits to the fascinating study of