

# COLLEGE & RESEARCH LIBRARIES NEWS

Association of College & Research Libraries

October 1983

Vol. 44, No. 9



Bar Harbor Times

*Staff and faculty members (inset) dry maps and library books damaged in the fire at the College of the Atlantic.*

## Fire at Bar Harbor

The Thorndike Library of the College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor, Maine, suffered a massive loss of its book, periodical, and reference collections in a fire that destroyed Kaelber Hall, the college's administration building, on July 25. The library, located in a wing of the administration building that was formerly a 100-year-old summer estate, had just been dedicated two weeks earlier in honor of donors R. Amory and Elizabeth Thorndike. Losses were estimated at well over \$600,000.

College staff, fire department personnel, and other volunteers managed to save the card catalog, OCLC computer equipment, and approximately 5,000 volumes from the flames. These volumes, although severely damaged by water and smoke, will serve as the basis for rebuilding the 12-year-old college's highly specialized collection in ecology and natural sciences.

(continued on p. 324)



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**SELECTION** A board of scholars has established the criteria for filming selections from more than 500 libraries and

historical societies. The collection will be released over the next several years.

**CATALOGING** CIHM and the National Library of Canada are cooperating to provide complete cataloging according to AACR2. University Microfilms International will make this cataloging data available outside Canada through the OCLC, Inc., database.

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## Fire, cont'd

The Town of Bar Harbor provided temporary quarters for the Thorndike Library in an industrial arts building. Library staff aided by volunteers from the college and the community worked seven days a week to dry and salvage the volumes saved from the flames. Many books were transferred to a large blueberry freezer in Ellsworth where they have been stored frozen until they can be properly treated. The library opened for business last month in time for the start of the academic year.

Besides destroying the library, flames, smoke and water also ruined the college's kitchen, dining facility, and business offices.

The fire, which has been attributed to a human, not mechanical, origin, apparently began in the front corner of Kaelber Hall in the early hours of July 25. By the time it was spotted and reported by a fisherman on the town pier, flames had filled much of the lobby and were shooting up through

the roof. Firemen from Bar Harbor, Ellsworth, Northeast Harbor, and Acadia National Park rushed to the scene at 4:30 a.m., but were unable to contain the fire which then spread to the library wing. The blaze was stopped in the library, and the library offices and Natural History Museum (in an adjacent building) received only minor smoke and water damage.

The College of the Atlantic urgently needs books and periodical backfiles to help rebuild its collection. Especially needed are indexes and abstract services in general science and ecology, as well as post-1950 books in the following areas: natural history, alternative energy, botany, ecology, environmental studies, evolution, zoology, art, architecture, contemporary literature, design, economics, psychology, and public policy.

Gifts, offers of assistance, and inquiries should be directed to: Marcia L. Dworak, Librarian, Thorndike Library, College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor, ME 04609; (207) 288-9082. ■■

# ARL Library Faculties and Their Meetings

Joan H. Worley  
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University of Tennessee  
Knoxville, Tennessee

Librarians at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK) have held faculty status and rank since 1950. They enjoy the same benefits and share the same responsibilities as teaching faculty, with a few major exceptions: unlike teaching faculty, librarians work a 12-month contract year with 24 days of paid vacation; university requirements for research and scholarly activity are not stringently applied to library faculty; and library faculty governance is minimal within an administrative hierarchy of director, associate directors, and department heads. (The library faculty is involved in the administrative decision-making process in an advisory capacity, informally on any issue and formally in tenure and promotion decisions.) The faculty meets once each month during the academic year to hear occasional committee reports; presentations by speakers from within and without the library on professional concerns; policy announcements and clarification by the library administration; or any combination of these. Tenure and promotion deliberations are held at specially called meetings. Regular meetings are moderated or led by the chair or another member of the Faculty Program Committee, appointed by the director.

When the director of the library charged the Faculty Program Committee to review the purpose and scope of faculty meetings, in addition to the committee's customary charge to plan program meetings for the year, the committee decided to investigate practices of other library faculties. It would be interesting, the committee thought, to know if faculty groups at other libraries meet regularly as a body, and if so, how their meetings are organized and what the subject matter is. A literature search yielded articles on faculty status per se and numerous studies on faculty status and compensation, faculty status and selected benefits, faculty status and publication, and so on. There were no recent articles on the organization of library faculties or their meetings, however.

To satisfy curiosity, the committee developed an informal questionnaire that was sent in February 1983 to the personnel librarians at 39 ARL libraries reporting faculty status for librarians.<sup>1</sup> Questions included the five following:

1. Does the library faculty meet on a regular basis? How often? Who chairs the meeting?
2. For what purpose does the library faculty meet? (Six items and "other" were listed, to be

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<sup>1</sup>The 39 ARL libraries where librarians have faculty status were taken from Thomas G. English, "Librarian Status in the Eighty-Nine U.S. Academic Institutions of the Association of Research Libraries: 1982," *College & Research Libraries* 44(1983):199-211.