







THE LIBRARY AND  
THE COMMUNITY

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First steps in Librarianship

Libraries in Scandinavia

Public Libraries Today

Facts at your Fingertips

British Public Library Buildings  
*(with S. G. Berriman)*

# THE LIBRARY AND THE COMMUNITY

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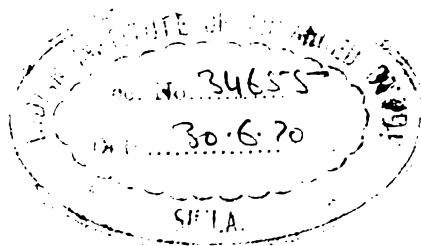
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## PREFACE

### TO THE SECOND EDITION

This book appeared in its first edition in 1963, and it was prepared and published before any examination papers had been set for Part I, Paper I of the Library Association syllabus which came into force in June 1964. The preface to that first edition of *The Library and the Community* stated that 'until several examination question papers have been experienced, it is difficult for the tutor to assess the real depth and area of each paper in the syllabus, and it is correspondingly difficult for the student, who is to be sympathised with during this uncertain time'.

A second edition of *The Library and the Community* having been called for, the opportunity has been taken not only to bring the material up-to-date in detail, but also to make additions and deletions here and there against the background of the question papers which have already been set. It may seem at first sight that this edition differs little from its predecessor, but close examination will show that there are, in fact, numerous changes.

To begin with, the syllabus itself has been slightly amended since it first appeared, and due notice has been taken of this. Then, the mere necessity of keeping the detail up-to-date has involved small but numerous amendments. This only goes to underline the fact that librarianship is now developing at

a rapid rate. Finally, there are the changes, slight but nevertheless significant, caused by the approach of the examiners in the questions already set. I may perhaps give an example of this. The annotation to the syllabus states that 'questions set in the Part I Examination will normally relate to British practice predominantly', but experience has shown that the student, the tutor and indeed the text-book writer, would be ill-advised to confine their attentions to British practice only.

Comparative librarianship has, not unfairly in view of the annotation, made several appearances in the questions so far set, and students must therefore acquire sufficient knowledge of typical national libraries, schemes of co-operation, and other basic facets of foreign practice to be able to compare them with their British counterparts.

As the preface to the first edition is not being reprinted here, I feel it is vital for me to repeat the warning given to student librarians in the earlier edition. It is that this book is placed before students merely as an outline of the examination requirements in Part I, Paper I, and not as a comprehensive text-book. An example of this is in the chronology given in Chapter II. This includes the dates, though not the details of the various British Public Libraries Acts, but it should be obvious that students must acquire knowledge of the contents of the Acts as well as their dates. This they can do from various other text-books.

Indeed, this applies generally, and not just to library legislation. It is up to students themselves to refer to the necessary source books for the purpose of filling in gaps and equipping themselves with the all-round knowledge so essential for the examination. Of all people, aspirant librarians must surely appreciate that outline books of this kind must only be used as signposts and not as substitutes for wider reading.

In my original preface I expressed the view that the contents of this book would have practical as well as academic

value, and that students could console themselves that they were acquiring necessary facts from their studies of this part of the syllabus. Judging from the many comments I have had, this view seems to have been borne out, whilst librarians overseas appear to have discovered in *The Library and the Community* that brief outline of British libraries and librarianship for which they have been searching.

I am grateful to various colleagues for helpful suggestions which have been adopted, and I shall be glad to receive further comments from users.

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# THE LIBRARY IN SOCIETY: ITS AIMS AND FUNCTIONS

The annotations to the syllabus for the examination called *The Library and the Community* state that the paper's general aim is to put the library into its social context, showing the growing needs for it and how it attempts to meet those needs. The note goes on to speak about the social function of the library, and the relationship of libraries to other media of communication and major influences in society such as education, the use of leisure, censorship and provision for research.

These constructions give the syllabus a very wide base, and superficial thought may consider it to be too wide. However, the type of question so far set, as well as the standard of marking have done much to allay any such fears. Questions on this general section of the paper have mainly been of the discussion-type, designed to test the aspirant's breadth of reading, his intelligence, his general approach and his power of expression. They have touched upon such topics as the importance of reading compared with other familiar means of communication; a comparison of the aims of formal education with those of librarianship; the effects on reading of radio and television; the censorship of reading materials; could moral standards be affected by book selection as practised by librarians; the disadvantages of books as a

medium of communication; and there was a challenging question which read: 'Assuming that society gets the libraries it deserves, what conclusions do you draw about British post-war society?'

In effect, it will be seen that most of the questions likely to be encountered in this part of the paper are challenges to the candidate's knowledge of the aims of librarianship set against the wider backgrounds of education, ethics and mass-media of communication in the modern world. To respond to such questions intelligently the student must have acquired an intimate knowledge of library aims. There has been a plethora of literature on this topic and there is no need to add to it here. Instead, I have appended a series of quotations, all of which relate to the purposes and aims of libraries. Although they are from different pens, from different periods, and from different countries, there is a striking unanimity about them. The recurring theme is that all literature should be available to all people freely, and without fear or favour, through the medium of libraries. To effect this ideal, librarians should be prepared to co-operate with outside influences such as formal education, the press, radio, television and the film.

Knowledge of the aims and progress of these other influences may be obtained by reading outline books on them, by keeping abreast of events through good newspapers and periodicals, and by studying such books as Raymond Williams' *Communications* and Richard Hoggart's *The uses of literacy*.

In the extracts which follow it may be thought that there is an undue emphasis on public libraries, but in fact many of the sentiments expressed apply equally well to all other types of libraries. It is hoped that the samples given will induce students to delve further into the documents from which they are taken. Indeed, if they are to have any hope of success in the examination, students must do this.

FROM THE ADAMS REPORT TO THE CARNEGIE  
UNITED KINGDOM TRUSTEES, 1915

'The library movement today is rich in possibilities both for town and country. It is always difficult to measure the influence of institutions on the well-being of the community. But it is certain that the love of literature adds greatly to the happiness of each generation, and also that the diffusion of knowledge and the direction of thought which a well-organised library system can promote deeply influence the future progress of the community. Thinking ultimately is that which moves and develops society, and we shall not have a real democracy until we have a well-educated people. With every stimulus to thought which good books bring, and with every development in the organised bodies of working men and women students, the well-being of the workers themselves is being surely and steadily secured. As the leisure of the workers increases, the opportunity for study becomes greater; and while the more recreative literature should not be neglected, the first call should rather be to provide the best materials of study for those who are becoming the leaders of thought amongst their fellows.'

FROM THE KENYON REPORT OF 1927

'The public libraries . . . have established themselves as an indispensable element in the life of the community. They provide information essential for the progress of commerce and industry; they make research possible in every department of intellectual life; they aid solitary students in their investigations; they provide relaxation and refreshment for every class of the population.

'The need for a supply of books for the use of the general population is a very modern development of civilisation. It is the outcome of a national system of education. So long as the bulk of the people could not read, they had no use for books.

'The industrial revolution of the eighteenth century opened the eyes of ever-widening circles of the population to the need for knowledge, and education became a prime necessity of life. The nineteenth century saw its rapid expansion, culminating in national systems of compulsory education. Education implies books; and the need for books accessible to all classes of the population led to the movement for the establishment of public libraries.

'The public library should be the intellectual centre of the life of the area it serves. That intellectual life covers all stages, from the incipient curiosity of those whose intelligence is only beginning to awaken to the advanced research of the highly trained specialist. The library has to serve not only the earnest seekers after knowledge, but also those who are merely gratifying an elementary curiosity, and those who are seeking relaxation and recreation. We are very far from decrying the recreational use of libraries. On the contrary, we believe it to be one of their most valuable services to supply that intelligent refreshment which we all need; and if for some that recreation is found in literature which does not appeal to more highly cultured minds, it is to be regarded as a foundation for better things, and as at worst, preferable to other modes of recreation which exist as alternatives.

'It is of the essence of the public library service in England and Wales that (apart from the limitations of finance) it has grown up in an atmosphere of freedom.'

FROM *The Library and the Community*,

BY L. S. JAST, 1939

'The community library must remain as "open" to thought as it is to the people who pass through its doors. When ideas cease to find sanctuary there, the last refuge of liberty will have been violated and wrecked.

' . . . wherever there is civilisation there must be books,

and wherever there are books, there must be libraries. England and the British Empire and the United States *know* that community libraries, free in every sense but that of their support, are an essential for the intellectual happiness and welfare of a free people.'

FROM THE MCCOLVIN REPORT OF 1942

'... the library service exists to serve—to give without question, favour or limitations. It is an instrument for the promotion of all or any of the activities of its readers. Therefore... it must be catholic and all-embracing.

'... libraries should be free in every sense—not only universally available regardless of a man's resources, but free also in the sense that they offer sanctuary to all facets of opinion and all aspects of knowledge. It is just because the library could be, and indeed has been, used as a powerful propaganda weapon that all who value librarianship should insist that it shall not be so used.

'... our library provision and our book stocks in particular must be designed for one thing and one thing only—to provide opportunity. If there are people who do not want to become whole individuals, influences more potent, persuasive or punitive than libraries will fail to alter them. But the library can help those who want, it may lead others to want—and it may do much to make the remainder less un-whole than they might otherwise be.

'People will not make the fullest, most fruitful use of libraries unless they are well-educated; neither will they live physically healthy lives, or be good citizens, capable workers or men and women able to enjoy their leisure. We admit our indebtedness to education; we ask that the debt shall become vastly greater. But we must insist most categorically that our functions are of such a nature as to require full independence and the opportunity to devise a machinery for our work

which will be as closely related to our purposes as the machinery of education should be related to its own.'

FROM THE L.A. PROPOSALS OF 1943

'The public library is an opportunity for enhancing the dignity of the individual human being . . . Though the public library is only one of a number of forces capable of enriching the human personality and of preventing the degradation of the individual into a functional unit, it is a potent force and the future will be greatly influenced by its vitality, variety, quality and extent.

'It is a necessary complement to all education services, providing the material essential for the utilisation of the capacities developed by education and opportunity for their further development by the individual. By the facilities it affords for wide and unfettered reading the public library enables every man not only to enlarge his mind with the refined pleasures of great literature, but in particular . . . to secure that understanding of social and economic forces and conditions without which there can be no true realisation of the democratic ways of life. Because of its essential freedom, its wide range, its hospitality to all phases of thought and its infinite adaptability the public library can serve each man according to his requirements and safeguard his development against the dangers of modern standardising influences.

' . . . the public library has proved, in the 93 years of its existence, the best means whereby books can be made available and accessible.'

FROM THE ROBERTS COMMITTEE REPORT OF 1959

' . . . the essential function of a public library is to supply to any reader, or group of readers, the books and related material for which they may ask.

‘It is the function of a public library not only to satisfy, but to promote the desire for books.

‘The public library is also an obviously suitable centre for exhibitions, lectures, adult education classes and discussion groups.

‘A library depends for its success upon an efficient and enthusiastic librarian, supported by a properly qualified staff working in suitable premises.

‘Finally, public libraries should be free. . . .’

FROM STANDARDS OF PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE IN ENGLAND  
AND WALES: REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY APPOINTED  
BY THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION 1962

‘It is impossible to isolate the public library service from what is happening in the world outside it and, in particular, from developments taking place in the educational field. The greatly increased number of people receiving secondary education beyond the age of 15 and of those receiving all forms of higher education, will make increasing demands on public libraries for books and information. The public library service can help to ensure that the heavy public and private expenditure on education and training is productive not only in economic terms but also in terms of human happiness. It can also in large measure fill in the gaps in the knowledge and awareness of those people whose education and training has necessarily been of a specialised nature.’

FROM PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

HOUSE OF COMMONS OFFICIAL REPORT,

VOL. 688, NO. 46, 5TH FEBRUARY 1964, COL. 1173

*Mr. Christopher Chataway (Parliamentary Secretary  
to the Minister of Education):*

‘We therefore see the public library as complementary to all branches of the education service, as an indispensable aid

to many activities in the industrial, commercial, scientific, and technological life of the country and as an essential element in the cultural life of the community.'

#### THE AMERICAN VIEW

'LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS. The Council of the American Library Association reaffirms its belief in the following basic policies which should govern the services of all libraries:

- '1. As a responsibility of library service, books and other reading matter selected should be chosen for values of interest, information and enlightenment of all people of the community. In no case should any book be excluded because of the race or nationality, or the political or religious views of the writer.
- '2. There should be the fullest practicable provision of material representing all points of view concerning the problems and issues of our times, national, international and local; and books or other reading matter of sound factual authority should not be proscribed or removed from library shelves because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
- '3. Censorship of books, urged or practised by volunteer arbiters of morals or political opinion or by organisations that would establish a coercive concept of Americanism, must be challenged by libraries in maintenance of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment through the printed word.
- '4. Libraries should enlist the co-operation of allied groups in the fields of science, of education, and of book publishing in resisting all abridgement of the free



access to ideas and full freedom of expression that are the tradition and heritage of Americans.

- '5. As an institution of education for democratic living, the library should welcome the use of its meeting rooms for socially useful and cultural activities and discussion of current public questions. Such meeting places should be available on equal terms to all groups in the community regardless of the beliefs and affiliations of their members.'

#### STATEMENT ON CENSORSHIP BY THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

'The function of a library service is to provide, so far as resources allow, all books, periodicals etc., other than the trivial in which its readers claim legitimate interest. In determining what is a legitimate interest the librarian can safely rely upon one guide only—the law of the land. If the publication of such matter has not incurred penalties under the law it should not be excluded from libraries on any moral, political, religious or racial ground alone, to satisfy any sectional interest.

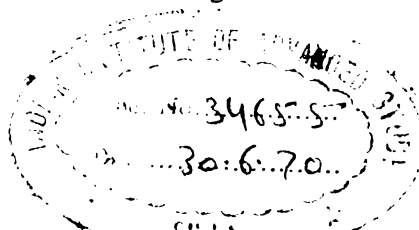
'The public are entitled to rely upon libraries for access to information and enlightenment upon every field of human experience and activity. Those who provide library services should not restrict this access except by standards which are endorsed by law.'

#### THE INTERNATIONAL VIEW—FROM

*Public Libraries and their Mission,*

BY ANDRÉ MAUROIS, PUBLISHED BY UNESCO, 1961

'Nothing is more important for mankind than to bring within the reach of all these means of broadening our horizons, escaping from ourselves and making discoveries which



literally transform life and make the individual a more valuable member of society. And the only way to do this is through public libraries.

'The public library must give children, young people, men and women the opportunity to keep in touch with their times, in every sphere. By offering them, impartially, works representing conflicting points of view, it enables them to form their own opinions and preserve that attitude of constructive criticism towards public affairs without which there is no freedom. The library, too, may reveal to them their true vocation.

*'Every library is a centre for international understanding.* By its very existence, free from propaganda and prejudice and with no axe of its own to grind, the public library serves peace as well as democracy.

'A modern public library is therefore an active, dynamic institution. It goes half-way to meet the reader, anxious to know his needs and meet them, and to attract him by offering various ways and means of obtaining information, cultivating his mind and finding relaxation.

'Thus a public library is a real centre of culture, propagating human knowledge and dispensing delight. It is a channel for the spread of ideas and provides the members of the community with a means of making intelligent use of their leisure.

'Public libraries already play a very important part in the life of modern communities, a part which, for several reasons, will certainly become still greater in the coming decades.

'The number of people who can read is increasing every year and will continue to do so. The campaign to eliminate illiteracy is being vigorously carried on throughout the world.'

The above quotations form a selection upon which the student may base his preparations for that part of the examination which deals with the library in society. If he samples

the source documents more widely, reads the books by Raymond Williams and Richard Hoggart previously mentioned, studies such publications as the Robbins Report, the Newsom Report and the Pilkington Report and, above all, takes a lively and intelligent interest in current affairs through the medium of contemporary newspapers and periodicals, he will be well-equipped to produce acceptable answers to the type of questions which are likely to be encountered.

# HISTORY OF LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANSHIP IN THE BRITISH ISLES, 1800-DATE

For the purposes of this book this chapter is presented in chronological form, but students will not need to be reminded that a chronology is not a history. Many of the entries in this chronology explain themselves, but a large number do not, and it will be necessary for students to fill some background about these. It is one thing to know that the Kenyon Report was published in 1927, but it is quite another to know something of the contents and import of that Report, as the examiners will rightly expect students to do. For this reason, special attention is drawn to relevant titles in the suggested reading list given at the end of this book. J. L. Thornton's *The Chronology of Librarianship* and the *Annals of the Library Association, 1877-1960*, edited by W. A. Munford have been used as the basis of the ensuing chronology and my acknowledgements are due to them.

- 1800 Library of Congress founded.
- 1803 Sunday School Union founded: this organisation encouraged the provision of books for working-class people.
- 1812 Malone collection bequeathed to Bodleian Library. Edward Edwards born.

- 1814 Library of Congress destroyed by British troops.
- 1817 Samuel Brown, Provost of Haddington, started system of circulating or 'itinerating' libraries in East Lothian, described as forerunner of the county library movement.
- 1818 House of Commons Library started.
- 1822 Library of the Royal Academy of Music formed.
- 1823 George IV presented his father's library (now known as the King's Library) to the British Museum.  
Mechanics' Institute libraries began (Glasgow 1823, London and Aberdeen 1824, Edinburgh 1825, etc.).
- 1826 Library of the House of Lords started.
- 1827 Athanaeum Library founded.
- 1828 New Guildhall Library opened.
- 1829 University College Library, London, opened.
- 1833 Durham University Library founded.
- 1834 R.I.B.A. Library and Westminster Hospital Medical School Library established.  
*Lowndes' Bibliographers' Manual of English Literature* published.
- 1836 Edward Edwards' *Letter to Benjamin Hawes* published (re Select Committee on the British Museum).
- 1837 Library of the Victoria and Albert Museum started.  
Panizzi appointed Keeper of Printed Books at B.M.
- 1838 Public Record Office instituted.
- 1841 *Rules for the Compilation of the Catalogue of Printed Books in the British Museum* published.  
London Library opened.
- 1842 Mudie began his first circulating library.
- 1847 London Library's author catalogue issued.
- 1848 Warrington began a public library service.
- 1849 William Ewart's motion in the House of Commons, leading to appointment of the Select Committee on Public Libraries.

- 1850 Salford Museum and Library opened in April.  
Public Libraries Act, 1850, received Royal Assent on August 14th. It permitted councils of towns of 10,000 population and over to provide a library building, librarian, light and fuel. No provision for book purchases, and rate limited to  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the £. Brighton started a public library service under a local Act.  
Norwich adopted the Act on September 27th, though library not opened until 1857.
- 1851 Winchester adopted the Act.
- 1852 Bolton, Ipswich, Manchester and Oxford adopted the Act.
- 1853 Blackburn, Cambridge and Sheffield adopted the Act. Library powers extended to Ireland and Scotland under the Public Libraries (Ireland and Scotland) Act.
- 1855 Hertford, Kidderminster, Lichfield, Maidstone and Salford adopted the Act.  
Patent Office Library established.  
Public Libraries (Ireland) Act passed.  
Public Libraries and Museums Act passed. This raised rate limit to 1d. in the £, and permitted the purchase of books.
- 1856 Birkenhead adopted the Acts.
- 1857 Acts adopted in Westminster, and first London public library opened in Great Smith Street.  
Leamington Spa adopted the Acts.  
British Museum Reading Room, designed by Panizzi, opened.
- 1858 Canterbury and Sunderland adopted the Acts.
- 1859 Walsall adopted the Acts.  
Edward Edwards' *Memoirs of Libraries* published.
- 1860 Birmingham Public Libraries started.

- 1866 Public Libraries Amendment Act (England and Scotland).
- 1869 46 adoptions of the Acts to this date.
- 1870 Education Act passed.
- 1873 Guildhall Library and Museum opened.
- 1876 American Library Association founded.  
Dewey's *Decimal Classification* first published.  
Cutter's *Rules for a Dictionary Catalog* published.
- 1877 National Library of Ireland inaugurated at Dublin, growing out of library of Royal Dublin Society.  
Public Libraries (Amendment) Act passed.  
E. W. B. Nicholson in February advocated an International Conference of Librarians.  
First International Conference of Librarians held in London from October 2nd—5th. President: John Winter Jones.  
Library Association of the United Kingdom formed.  
*American Library Journal* adopted as its official organ, the word 'American' being dropped.
- 1878 First L.A. Conference at Oxford.
- 1879 98 adoptions of the Acts to this date.  
Andrew Carnegie offered £8,000 for a library in Dunfermline.
- 1880 L.A. *Monthly Notes* began and continued until 1883.
- 1881 Agitation for abolition of rate limitation began.
- 1882 National Library for the Blind founded.  
Nottingham started first separate children's library in Britain.  
*Library Journal* ceased to be official organ of L.A.
- 1884 Public Libraries Act passed.  
*Library Chronicle* first issued as official organ of L.A.  
Examination syllabus approved by L.A. Council.
- 1885 First examinations held under the syllabus.
- 1886 Edward Edwards died.

- 1887 Public Libraries Acts (Amendment Act) passed.  
Public Libraries (Scotland) Amendment and Consolidation Act passed.
- 1888 *Library Chronicle* ceased and *The Library* became official organ of L.A. (first issue January 1889).
- 1889 194 adoptions of the Acts to this date.
- 1891 New L.A. examination syllabus adopted.
- 1892 Public Libraries Act, English Consolidation and Amendment Act passed. This was the main Act for public libraries in England and Wales until 31st March 1965.  
James Duff Brown first advocated open access in libraries.
- 1893 Public Libraries (Amendment) Act passed.
- 1894 James Duff Brown introduced open access at Clerkenwell (now Finsbury) Library. Open shelves had been used eight years previously at Truro and had also been known in the U.S.A.  
Act to amend the Public Libraries Consolidation (Scotland) Act, 1887.  
Public Libraries (Ireland) Act.
- 1895 Library Assistants' Association formed (later to become the Association of Assistant Librarians).
- 1896 L.A.U.K. became The Library Association.
- 1897 Carnegie grants for public libraries stepped up between now and 1919.
- 1898 *The Library World* founded by James Duff Brown.  
*The Library Assistant* founded (later *The Assistant Librarian*).  
Royal Charter of Incorporation granted to the Library Association.  
Libraries Offences Act passed.
- 1899 *The Library Association Record* founded.  
Public Libraries (Scotland) Act.



- John Rylands Library opened at Manchester.  
Brussels Institute expansion of *Decimal Classification* began to be issued.  
393 adoptions of the Acts to this date.
- 1901 Public Libraries Act (England and Ireland) passed.
- 1902 Sidney Webb (later Lord Passfield) recommended development and co-ordination of the London public library service.  
Public Libraries (Ireland) Act.
- 1904 Melvil Dewey proposed that L.A. and A.L.A. should join in preparation of Anglo-American cataloguing code.
- 1906 James Duff Brown's *Subject Classification* published.  
Need for a register of qualified librarians advocated by W. R. B. Prideaux.
- 1907 L.A. examination syllabus revised.
- 1908 Anglo-American Joint Cataloguing Code published.  
Scottish Library Association inaugurated at Edinburgh.
- 1909 570 adoptions of the Acts to this date.  
Scheme for a register of qualified librarians adopted by the L.A.  
National Library of Wales opened at Aberystwyth.
- 1910 *The Librarian and Book World* founded.  
First L.A. Register of Fellows and Members issued.
- 1911 Public Libraries (Ireland) Act.
- 1913 Carnegie United Kingdom Trust set up by Andrew Carnegie.
- 1914 James Duff Brown died.
- 1915 Professor W. G. S. Adam's *Report on Library Provision and Policy . . . to the Carnegie United Kingdom trustees* issued.  
L.A. *Subject Index to Periodicals* (now *British Humanities Index*) first issued.

- 1916 Central Library for Students (later National Central Library) founded by Dr. Albert Mansbridge.  
Staffordshire County Library established, the first county library in Britain, predating the Act by two years.
- 1917 E. A. Savage suggested regional library schemes.  
L.A. Council's *Interim Report on the Provision of Technical and Commercial Libraries*.
- 1918 Education (Scotland) Act empowering establishment of county libraries in Scotland.
- 1919 University of London School of Librarianship founded with help of grants from Carnegie U.K. Trustees.  
Public Libraries Act passed; it removed penny rate limitation and permitted establishment of county libraries in England and Wales.
- 1920 Public Libraries (Ireland) Act passed.  
Public Libraries (Scotland) Act passed, raising rate limitation in Scotland to 3d. in the £.
- 1922 Library Assistants' Association became Association of Assistant Librarians.  
The Library Association in financial difficulties; *L.A.R.* became a quarterly, and from 1922 to 1928 the Association's headquarters was at Buckingham Palace Road Library, Westminster.
- 1923 London and Home Counties Branch of the Library Association formed.
- 1924 Public Libraries Act (Northern Ireland) passed.  
Whitaker's *Cumulative Book List* first issued.  
H.M. Treasury decided to allow 50 per cent discount to public libraries on the published price of official publications.  
Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux (later Aslib) established.

- 1925 First quinquennial *Report on the Municipal Library System of London and the Home Counties* issued. Advocates' Library, Edinburgh handed over to the nation to become National Library of Scotland.
- 1926 Pollard and Redgrave's *Short Title Catalogue* published.
- 1927 County Libraries Section of the L.A. formed. University and Research Section also formed. *The Library Review* founded. *Report of the Departmental Committee on Public Libraries* (the Kenyon Report) published.
- 1928 *Aslib Directory* published. Northern Ireland Library Association established: in 1929 it became a branch of the L.A.
- 1929 Net Book Agreement, under which public libraries obtained advantages. Bliss' *Organisation of Knowledge and the System of the Sciences* published. *Report of the Departmental Committee on Libraries in Northern Ireland* published. *Year's Work in Librarianship* first published (covering 1928). London Union Catalogue formed.
- 1930 Union of L.A. with Scottish L.A. Northern Regional Library System set up; began to function January 1931.
- 1931 *L.A.R.* resumed monthly publication. West Midlands and Wales and Monmouthshire Regional Library Systems inaugurated. Welsh Branch of the L.A. formed. Net Book Agreement revised in favour of public libraries. Carnegie U.K. Trustees offer L.A. a headquarters building (later Chaucer House, Malet Place).

- 1932 Contract signed for new headquarters building.  
Chaucer House approved as its name.
- 1933 L.A. moved to Chaucer House, its first permanent home. Building opened by Lord Irwin, deputising for Stanley Baldwin, Prime Minister of the day.  
National Central Library, adjacent to Chaucer House in Malet Place, opened by George V.  
S. R. Ranganathan published his *Colon Classification*.  
New L.A. examination syllabus started.  
South Eastern Regional Library System established.
- 1934 New buildings opened for Cambridge University Library, Manchester, Sheffield and Birkenhead Central Libraries.
- 1935 L.A. Carnegie Medal proposed.  
East Midlands, North Western and Yorkshire Regional Library Systems formed.
- 1936 Brotherton Library, University of Leeds, opened.
- 1937 First award of Carnegie Medal made to Arthur Ransome for best children's book of 1936.  
South Western Regional Library System formed.  
School Library Association inaugurated.
- 1938 L.A. *Survey of Libraries, 1936-7* published.
- 1942 Publication of *The Public Library System of Great Britain . . . a report by L. R. McColvin* ('The McColvin Report').
- 1943 Publication of *The Public Library Service: its post-war re-organisation and development—proposals by the Council of the Library Association*.
- 1945 Unesco established and began its work in the library field.  
Scottish Union Catalogue inaugurated (agreement to set this up had been reached in 1939).
- 1946 New building of Bodleian Library opened by George VI.

- Non-graduate library schools began to function at Loughborough, Leeds, Manchester and elsewhere in Britain.
- 1948 Metropolitan Special Collections scheme inaugurated: based on London Union Catalogue.
- 1950 *British National Bibliography* started publication.  
*Library Science Abstracts* started publication.  
New examination syllabus of L.A. came into operation.  
S.E. Regional Library System's subject specialisation scheme came into force.  
L.A. celebrated the centenary of the passing of the first Public Libraries Act. Centenary Conference held in London. H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh was president of the Library Association.  
S.C.O.N.U.L. inaugurated.
- 1952 Publication of the Vollans Report *Library Co-operation in Great Britain*.  
Classification Research Group formed.
- 1953 I.F.L.A. (International Federation of Library Associations) Council formed. It had worked as a committee since 1928.  
Publication of the 4-vol. edition of the *Bibliographic Classification* of H. E. Bliss.  
First Anglo-Scandinavian Public Library Conference held at Tylösand, near Halmstad, Sweden.
- 1954 Proposals of the Joint Working Party on Library Co-operation issued.
- 1955 Public Libraries (Scotland) Act passed.  
*British Union Catalogue of Periodicals*, vol. 1 issued.  
Fourth and final volume appeared in 1959.  
Finalised building of National Library of Wales opened by Queen Elizabeth II.  
L.A. Kate Greenaway Medal instituted.

- 1956 Reconstructed building of National Library of Scotland opened by Queen Elizabeth II.
- 1957 *British Catalogue of Music* started publication.  
Minister of Education appointed the Roberts Committee to report on the public library service in England and Wales.  
First award of L.A. Kate Greenaway Medal for best illustrated children's book of 1956 awarded to Edward Ardizzone.
- 1958 Second Anglo-Scandinavian Public Library Conference held at York, England.  
*Catalogue of the L.A. Library* published.
- 1959 Inter-Regional Subject Coverage scheme inaugurated.  
Report of the Roberts Committee on *The Structure of the Public Library Service in England and Wales*.
- 1960 Agreement reached with University of London whereby L.A. and N.C.L. were to vacate Malet Place premises in favour of a replacement building in Store Street.
- 1961 New examination syllabus approved by L.A. to come into force January 1964.  
Wheatley Medal instigated.  
Proposals were approved to reorganise the L.A. into a purely professional body.  
Third Anglo-Scandinavian Public Library Conference held at Hindsø, Denmark.
- 1962 *British Technology Index* started publication.  
Reports of the Ministry of Education Working Parties published.  
National Lending Library for Science and Technology opened at Boston Spa, Yorkshire.
- 1963 First award of the Wheatley Medal.
- 1964 Public Libraries and Museums Act passed.  
Fourth Anglo-Scandinavian Public Library Conference held at Sjusjøen, Norway.

- 1965 Public Libraries and Museums Act, 1964 came into operation on April 1st.  
N.C.L. and L.A. moved into new building in Store Street.
- 1966 First National Library Week in Britain.  
N.C.L. new building opened by Queen Elizabeth II.

It must be reiterated that the above is merely a list of some of the more important milestones in the development of libraries and librarianship during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in Britain. Students must fill in this outline by reading all the relevant literature mentioned in the suggested reading list at the end of this book.

Nevertheless, the above chronology helps to indicate certain well-defined periods and trends in British library history over the last 160 years, for example:

(a) The first half of the nineteenth century saw the setting-up of many learned libraries; the establishment of mechanics' institute libraries; and the consequent struggles to set up public libraries.

(b) After the passing of the first Public Libraries Act in 1850 we witness the very slow development of public libraries, crippled as they were by inadequate finances. The 1880s particularly were dark days for libraries in general and for the Library Association itself.

(c) Financial support came from Andrew Carnegie, Passmore Edwards and later the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust. The help given, not only to public libraries but to the L.A., the N.C.L. and other bodies, was incalculable.

(d) After the First World War, the passing of the 1919 Act stimulated the development of public libraries, saw the establishment of county libraries, great development in the special library field (formation of Aslib), and the beginnings of organised library co-operation.

(e) After the Second World War, all these trends have continued, particularly the growth of special libraries and the concern with library co-operation. Great technical developments have taken place (e.g. use of punched cards, microtexts, Telex, computers, etc.). There has been increased interest in education for librarianship with the spread of library schools, while developments in international librarianship have been reflected in conferences, study tours, and international exchanges of students and qualified librarians.

#### THE 1964 ACT AND AFTER

The events leading up to, and the passing of, the Public Libraries and Museums Act of 1964, as well as its potentialities in the future, should all be of special concern to students. Questions have already been set on these aspects of British public library development, and students should obviously pay great attention to them.

The background, and the Act itself, are clearly matters of reading. Not only must the Roberts Report be read, but also the Working Party Reports published in December 1962. The Parliamentary Debates in Hansard, as well as the Committee stage reports both in the House of Commons and the House of Lords, should also be studied. Finally, the Act itself must be known, and attention must be given to Circular 4/65 dated March 29, 1965, which outlines the main provisions of the Act and the steps proposed to implement them.

Potential sources of questions are the National Advisory Councils and the Regional Councils proposed in the Act. Students should give some thought to their possible impact upon library co-operation and public library development in the future, and be prepared to answer discussion-type questions relating to them.



## NATIONAL LIBRARIES

## GENERAL

The role and functions of national libraries tends to vary from country to country, but there is now some measure of agreement as to what these should be, even though there are still many differences in practice. Responsibility for material received under legal deposit, as well as for the national bibliography; the preparation of selective national bibliographies; the compilation of special bibliographies and catalogues; representing the country in international bibliography; these are just some of the functions of national libraries. There are others as well, such as the fact that in some countries the national library houses the national union catalogue and acts as the kingpin of library co-operation, both national and international. Then again, some national libraries play a leading part in the training of the country's librarians by acting either as a library school or a training library, or both.

Few national libraries carry out all the functions mentioned above, but the tendency is increasingly in that direction. Here, the newly-developing countries have the advantage of being able to base their activities upon the best examples in the older library countries.

This chapter will describe in outline the national and quasi-

national libraries of Britain, but the student should in addition acquire some knowledge of at least two or three national libraries abroad for the purposes of comparison. Questions of a comparative nature have already been asked in this field, and such questions cannot be answered satisfactorily if the student's knowledge is confined to British examples only. It is suggested that details should be sought on the growth, contents and work of the Library of Congress in Washington, the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, the Royal Libraries at The Hague, Copenhagen and Stockholm, the Lenin Library in Moscow, and the National Library of Ireland in Dublin. Information on these and other national libraries may be found in *National libraries of the world*, 2nd edition, edited by F. J. Hill and published by the Library Association.

#### NATIONAL LIBRARIES IN BRITAIN

The British Museum is the national library of the United Kingdom. In addition, Scotland, Wales and Ireland have national libraries. Several other institutions may be considered to rank as national libraries, for example, the Library of the British Museum (Natural History), the Science Library, the Library of the Victoria and Albert Museum, which may be regarded as the national art library, and the Patent Office Library. Copyright deposit in Britain dates from the first Copyright Act of 1709, though some libraries benefitted even before that date. The British Museum receives a copy of everything printed and published in Britain, whilst other receiving libraries under this privilege are the National Library of Scotland, the National Library of Wales, the Bodleian Library, the Cambridge University Library, and Trinity College Library, Dublin. These latter may request a free copy of published material, though the National Library of Wales is limited in what it may request.

## THE BRITISH MUSEUM LIBRARY

The British Museum, or B.M. as it is briefly referred to, is controlled by a Board of Trustees and was founded under the will of Sir Hans Sloane in 1753. Then the Harleian MSS were purchased and added to the Sloane collection, which was first housed in Piccadilly. In 1823 George IV presented his father's collection (now known as the King's Library) and the B.M. moved to its present site in Great Russell Street.

It possesses a very full collection of British material, and in foreign books it is strongest in the arts and humanities. It is organised into three main departments—Printed Books, MSS, and the Department of Oriental Printed Books and MSS. In addition it has a separate Newspaper Library at Colindale for newspapers, though London papers issued prior to 1801 are still kept at Bloomsbury. The B.M. now contains about 8 million printed books, half a million volumes of newspapers, over 100,000 charters and rolls, 10,000 incunabula, over 1 million items of music, over half a million sheet maps, more than 12,000 current British and foreign periodicals, and other miscellaneous material.

The B.M. is a reference library and admission to all the reading rooms—the main Reading Room, the Manuscript Students' Room, the Oriental Students' Room, and the Print Room—is by ticket, obtainable on application in writing to the Director and Principal Librarian. Tickets are valid for six months and may be renewed at the end of that period. Applicant's for reader's tickets must have a genuine need to consult the B.M. collections and must be recommended by a person in a responsible position. The Reading Room is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each weekday (9 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays). The Newspaper Library is open each weekday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Photographs, photocopies and microfilms of printed books and MSS are supplied to order. The B.M. has its own bind-

eries both at Bloomsbury and Colindale. Acquisitions to the stock come either by copyright deposit, by purchase, by gift or by international exchange. Under the Copyright Act of 1911 publishers of books and periodicals must deposit a copy of every publication within a month of the date of publication. Purchases are consequently confined to foreign material. The international exchange of official publications takes place through H.M. Stationery Office, though direct exchanges between the B.M. and libraries abroad are also carried out.

The B.M. Catalogue was published in volume form between 1880 and 1905. A revised edition was begun in 1930 and continued until 1954 when 51 volumes had been produced. Since then, volumes have been produced by photo-offset lithography made up from the current General Catalogue in the Reading Room. This edition now comprises 262 volumes. It is complete up to 1955 and for books acquired after 1955 a card catalogue is maintained. The Subject Index is made from the monthly list of accessions and used to be printed by letterpress every five years, but is now being produced by photo-offset methods.

A new building for the B.M. Library is being planned to occupy a site opposite the present building. As well as the main departments, it will house Prints and Drawings and will have specialised reading rooms, reference libraries and exhibition galleries.

The B.M. is under a Director and Principal Librarian, after whom comes the Principal Keeper of Printed Books; under him come two Keepers, then seven Deputy Keepers responsible for the main Reading Room, Map Room, Music Room, State Paper Room, Cataloguing Division, Acquisitions Division, Binding, and North Library.

There are those who believe that the effectiveness of the B.M. Library is adversely affected by the fact that it is part of a museum. On the other hand it is frequently stated that

this is not a valid criticism. Nevertheless, the practice is not one to be copied by newly-developing countries and it has not generally been copied. There is little doubt that if the British national library could be started again *ab initio* it would certainly be planned as a separate entity.

#### NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND

Founded in 1682 as the Advocates' Library, it was given to the nation in 1925 by the Faculty of Advocates and re-constituted as the National Library of Scotland by Act of Parliament. Its present reconstructed building on George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, was opened by Queen Elizabeth II in 1956. It is now controlled by a Board of Trustees.

It has been a copyright library since 1709 and its collections include a very full representation of Scottish books and MSS, foreign books on the humanities, the Warden collection of shorthand books, the Macadam collection on baking and bakery, the Glen collection on Scottish music, the Balfour collection on Handel and the Hopkins collection on Berlioz.

The Reading Room is open for reference and research if readers cannot find the facilities elsewhere. Admission is by ticket to approved applicants. The library is open each weekday from 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Wednesdays and Thursdays 8.30 p.m.) and on Saturdays from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. There is an excellent Exhibition Room and this is also open on Sundays from 2 to 5 p.m. The number of readers exceeds 20,000 annually, and visitors to the Exhibition Room number 15,000 to 20,000 each year. Printed accessions are about 80,000 annually, the majority being received under the Copyright Act. Donations, purchases and exchanges account for the remainder.

There is a card catalogue of printed books, a shelf catalogue and a subject index of foreign books. The library's holdings of pre-1641 British and pre-1601 French books are

separately recorded. There is a printed *Catalogue of Manuscripts acquired since 1925*.

Binding is carried out by the H.M.S.O. Bindery at Sight-hill, Edinburgh. Photographs, photocopies and microfilms can be supplied by the library.

#### NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES

Controlled by a Board of Governors, the National Library of Wales was founded by Royal Charter in 1907 and is maintained by annual grants from the Exchequer. Its fine building stands on a commanding eminence at Aberystwyth and was begun in 1911 being finally completed in 1955 when Queen Elizabeth II marked the occasion with a visit.

There are three main departments, those for MSS and Records, Printed Books, and Prints, Drawings and Maps. There is also a private bindery and printing press. It has also been a copyright library since 1911, though only certain books (mainly Welsh) may be demanded by it under the Act. The library has been appointed by the Master of the Rolls as a depository for manorial and other records, and it is also a repository for pre-1958 Welsh probate records.

It collects books and MSS, especially those in Welsh or any other Celtic language and those relating to the Welsh or any other Celtic peoples. It has a fine collection of Welsh hymns and ballads. The library now has 2 million printed books, 3½ million documents, over 30,000 MSS, and many maps, prints and drawings.

It is the headquarters of the Regional Library System for Wales and Monmouthshire. Many publications emanate from its printing press, among them having been *Calendars of Deeds and Documents* (3 vols.), *Catalogue of Oriental Manuscripts*, *Catalogue of Manuscripts*, *Bibliotheca Celtica*, 1909-date, the *National Library of Wales Journal*, and supplements.

The library is classified according to the Library of Congress scheme. It is open from 9.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Saturdays 5 p.m.) and closed on Sundays. Admission is free, but readers' tickets are necessary for entry to the Reading Room. Application for these has to be made to the Librarian. There is a Photographic Section for the supply of microfilm copies, photocopies and photographs. A notable feature of the National Library of Wales is the splendid series of Exhibition Rooms where changing displays of books, MSS, maps, music, prints and paintings are on view.

#### LIBRARY OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

There are other institutions ranking as national libraries though their scope is special rather than general. One of the most important is the Library of the British Museum (Natural History), housed in the Natural History Museum, South Kensington and opened to the public in 1881. It now contains nearly 350,000 volumes, amassed from the nuclei of the Sloane collection and the library of Sir Joseph Banks (1743-1820). It consists of a General Library and five sections devoted to Zoology, Entomology, Palaeontology, Botany, Mineralogy and Anthropology. The General Library includes reading room, map room, catalogue room, staff rooms and offices, and is housed in the new North Block opened in 1959.

A catalogue in 5 volumes was published between 1903 and 1915, with 3 supplementary volumes issued between 1921 and 1940. A card catalogue is now maintained in the General Library, duplicate slips being provided for the sectional library catalogues. Since 1955 a *List of Accessions to the Museum Library* has been issued nine or ten times per annum, arranged according to UDC. Books in the General Library and the section libraries on Zoology and Palaeontology are classed on a scheme devised by B. B. Woodward; the Botany and Mineralogy sections use UDC.

The library possesses many original MSS relating to scientific voyages and explorations, as well as a large number of drawings and illustrations of fauna and flora. It is primarily for the use of the Museum staff, but is open to accredited students who should apply to the Director. Many postal and telephone enquiries are dealt with.

#### THE SCIENCE MUSEUM LIBRARY

Formed in 1857 as the library of the South Kensington Museum, it became the Science Museum Library in 1883. It now holds about 450,000 volumes on science and technology, and has over 25,000 sets of periodicals, nearly 10,000 of which are current. It receives all British patent specifications and the publications of the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority.

The library is open each weekday from 10 a.m. to 5.50 p.m. for consultation, and it lends material to Government departments, research institutions, academic organisations and industrial bodies, as well as to public libraries through the N.C.L. Photocopies are supplied through a prepaid requisition form system. The library is classified according to UDC. A large amount of material from the Science Museum Library has been transferred to the National Lending Library for Science and Technology (see page 93).

#### LIBRARY OF THE VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM

This is a reference library for the study of the arts and is situated at the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington. It is open each weekday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. A readers' ticket is needed, for which students and research workers should apply to the Director.

It began in 1837 as the library of the first School of Design in Ornamental Art. In 1855 when the V. and A. Museum was formed the library's collections were transferred to



South Kensington. The first classified printed catalogue was issued in 1855, and in 1870 a 2-volume universal catalogue was published, with a supplement in 1875.

The library now has over half a million volumes and over 300,000 photographs. Its holdings include MSS, British and foreign books, catalogues of collections, public and private, sale catalogues, periodicals, transactions etc., relative to all aspects of art. Among the subjects covered are costume, metalwork, calligraphy, medals and seals, jewellery, illuminated manuscripts, and heraldry.

Exhibitions are featured in the Book Production Gallery, and among the special collections are the Dyce Library of Drama, the Forster Library, and the Clements collection of fine bindings.

#### THE PATENT OFFICE LIBRARY

This is a State public reference library, opened in 1855. Its present building in Chancery Lane, E.C.1 was opened in 1902 and extended in 1954. It is open each weekday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. (Saturdays 1 p.m.) and may be consulted with no more formality than the signing of a visitors' book. Nearly 500 readers use the library daily. Its contents include over 400,000 volumes and about 14,000 periodicals sets, about half of which are current ones. In addition there are over 2 million U.K. patent specifications and more than 3 million U.S.A. specifications. Twenty one British public libraries receive and make available complete sets of Patent Office publications, and an exchange of patents with other countries is maintained. Most books and periodicals are acquired by purchase, but some come as gifts or by exchange.

The Library is divided into four sections: U.K. Patent Section, Overseas Patent Section, Technical and Scientific Periodicals Section, and Textbooks, Pamphlets and Trade Catalogues Section. Publications include *Guide to the use of*

*the Library and Periodicals Publications in the Patent Office Library.* The *World List of Scientific Periodicals* includes the Patent Office Library holdings.

There is no printed catalogue, but the author catalogue to 1930 is in loose-leaf form, since then being on cards; there are also subject indexes. Patents are classified according to a special scheme, while the book arrangement is on a scheme devised by E. Wyndham Hulme and based to some extent on the Library of Congress classification.

Any patent specification or periodical article can be photocopied and supplied at reasonable cost to readers. This service dates back to 1918, after the presentation to the library of an early photocopying camera.

The Patent Office and its library will in the fairly near future move to the South Bank site, near Waterloo Bridge, and the library will form the nucleus of the proposed National Reference Library of Science and Invention.

#### OTHER NATIONAL LIBRARIES

Although the N.C.L. and the National Lending Library for Science and Technology are national in name, they are outside the scope of the type of national library described above. Detailed information on them will be found in chapter VIII.

## ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

## GENERAL

**T**he Library Association definition of academic libraries for the purposes of the syllabus is 'the libraries of universities, university colleges, and all other institutions forming parts of, or associated with, universities and other institutions of higher education which have students'. For the purposes of this book I am including under this heading libraries belonging to universities, university colleges, university extra-mural departments, institutes of universities, colleges and schools of education, technical colleges, and also medical libraries. Some of these fall into the category of academic libraries, while others may be classed as special libraries, but I place them with the academic libraries as there is a precedent in the fact that one of the main standing committees of the Library Association, the National, University, College and Medical Libraries Committee, covers all the above types.

## UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

There are now 25 degree-granting universities in England, five in Scotland, and one each in Wales and Northern Ireland. Apart from Oxford, Cambridge and London, which are the

oldest English universities along with Durham, there are others at Birmingham, Bristol, East Anglia, Essex, Exeter, Hull, Keele, Kent, Lancaster, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Nottingham, Reading, Sheffield, Southampton, Sussex, Warwick and York. The University of Wales is at Cardiff with colleges at Aberystwyth, Bangor, Cardiff and Swansea; the Scottish universities are those of Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, St Andrews and Strathclyde, while that in Northern Ireland is the Queen's University, Belfast. Many of the above are new universities, such as those of Essex, Kent, Lancaster, Sussex, Warwick and York, and more new ones are planned in order to meet the Robbins Committee's recommendation of 218,000 full-time students in institutions of university status by 1973-4. All the existing universities have important libraries, but they vary in the range and size of their contents, the chief factor in this being the age of the university.

By far the oldest English universities are those of Oxford and Cambridge, the former being served by the Bodleian Library and the latter by the Cambridge University Library. Both these are copyright libraries, which means that they may receive, on application, a free copy of every publication issued in Britain. They both possess well over 2 million volumes, including many important collections and rare items. The Bodleian Library has collections which began to form in the fourteenth century, but its growth was spasmodic and unremarkable until Sir Thomas Bodley reorganised it in 1598. It has its own classification and cataloguing rules; printed catalogues have been issued and also a comprehensive staff manual. Extensions in the form of a new building were opened by George VI in 1946.

The Cambridge University Library also has collections dating from the fourteenth century and it was a copyright library since before the passing of the first Copyright Act in 1709. As well as over 2 million printed books, it has many

MSS and is particularly rich in maps. Its fine building, distinguishable by its book tower, was opened by George V in 1934. Being copyright libraries, the Bodleian and the Cambridge University libraries have no loan facilities, these being provided by the college libraries. By contrast, the libraries of the newer universities generally do have loan facilities.

The University of London Library, for instance, is open for reference and borrowing to every member of the university, including all staff, students internal or external, and all graduates. Other persons may have access to the library in special circumstances. The total stock, including the extra-mural library is about 800,000 volumes, while over 4,000 periodicals are currently received. Over 110,000 volumes are lent annually, and the library has fine collections of archives, maps, slides and music, as well as a bindery and a photographic section. Its special collections include the Goldsmith's Library of Economics, the Durning-Lawrence Library on Bacon and Shakespeare, the Harry Price Library on psychic phenomena, and the Sterling Library containing many treasured early editions of the classics of English Literature. By their very nature, university libraries have to maintain very generous hours of opening and during term the reading rooms of the University of London Library, for instance, are open from 9.30 a.m. to 9 p.m. (Saturdays 6 p.m.) while during vacations these hours are only slightly curtailed.

With the recent advent of so many new universities in Britain, university librarianship has encountered a unique problem in the need to build up important general and special book stocks *ab initio*. This problem is a likely question in the examination, and other potential questions relative to university libraries are their relationships with the college and institute libraries, and how far lending facilities should be extended by university libraries. Many others pose themselves, for example, the place of university libraries in systems of library co-operation, and their relationships with public,

special and other libraries in their immediate neighbourhood. Finally, university librarianship is a field which lends itself easily to comparative study, which means that students should acquire some knowledge of university librarianship abroad. The work of some typical American, German and Scandinavian university libraries should therefore be studied.

#### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LIBRARIES

The universities of Oxford and Cambridge each consist of a large number of colleges and these too have important libraries, often dating back several hundred years and containing many rare treasures. Magdalene College, Cambridge has, for instance, the Pepys Library. Much of the archive material in these older college libraries is, of course, retained for reference and research purposes, but loan collections are maintained for the use of undergraduates and other members of the colleges.

University colleges in the newer universities possess libraries which are perhaps more specifically geared to the needs of undergraduates, though staff and post-graduate research students are not forgotten. Among the schools of the University of London, for example, are Birkbeck College, King's College, the London School of Economics and Political Science, Royal Holloway College, the School of Oriental and African Studies, University College and Westfield College. All these possess good collections, some of them falling into the category of major research libraries. University College Library possesses half a million volumes, the London School of Economics has 400,000, the School of Oriental and African Studies contains nearly a quarter of a million books, MSS, and other items, while King's College Library in the Strand has over 200,000 volumes.

These figures are quoted in order to put university college libraries into their proper perspective, which is an extremely

important one. There are many other university college libraries outside London, including several which form Durham University, while mention has already been made of those at Aberystwyth, Bangor, Cardiff and Swansea, forming the University of Wales. In Scotland, the University of St Andrews has three colleges, and in Northern Ireland there is the Magee University College at Londonderry.

#### INSTITUTE LIBRARIES

Another type of academic library is the institute library, of which there are numerous good examples in London. Among these are the Institute of Education, the Courtauld Institute of Art, the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, the Warburg Institute, and the Institute of Historical Research. These are some of the institutes belonging to the University of London. They are post-graduate research institutes and they maintain specialist libraries of comparatively recent growth, but already they are of great importance. The Institute of Historical Research was the first to be founded: this was in 1921, but its library now has 100,000 volumes and it concentrates upon printed source material.

The library of the Institute of Education has over 90,000 volumes on education and many related topics, and is one of the country's best examples of a pedagogical collection. It dates back 60 years when it was founded at the London Day Training College, but the collection was transferred to the University of London in 1932. Another library of note in this category is that of the Warburg Institute, remarkable because it had its origins as the private collection of a German professor who died in 1929. The Warburg Institute was started in Hamburg but it moved to London in 1934 in the face of the Nazis, and in 1944 it was formally transferred to the University of London. The collection is confined to the humanities, in particular the history of religion, art, philo-

sophy and literature. It includes over 110,000 books as well as a vast and important collection of photographs. A monumental catalogue of its holdings was published in two volumes in 1962.

#### UNIVERSITY EXTRA-MURAL LIBRARIES

In his *University Extra-mural Libraries*, published as a Library Association pamphlet in 1961, E. P. Pritchard says that the purpose of this type of library is 'to supply books and allied material to courses organised by university departments of extra-mural studies. These departments bring the facilities of universities to students who are "outside the walls" of the university in the sense that they are not members of it.'

There are 25 extra-mural departments in the U.K. but only 17 of these maintain libraries specially for the purpose. These are at the universities of Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Durham, Glasgow, Hull, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Nottingham, Oxford, Sheffield and Southampton, and at university colleges in Newcastle and Swansea. The stocks of these university extra-mural libraries range from over 100,000 to only 1,000, but many of them possess audio-visual aids as well in the shape of gramophone records, films, film strips, projectors and epidiascopes.

Adult education courses in Britain are usually organised either by these extra-mural departments or by the W.E.A. (Worker's Educational Association). Tutors and students of the courses get their book supply either from the extra-mural libraries, or from their public libraries, or from the Adult Class Department of the National Central Library, or from combinations of these sources.

The needs of the classes are for highly specialised books or for multiple copies, and for these reasons the public libraries often cannot give as much help as they would like.



The extra-mural librarian must therefore build up his stocks with these requirements in mind. He maintains close liaison with the tutors of these courses and his first concern is with the students of the university extra-mural activities. Classes arranged jointly by the extra-mural departments and the W.E.A. are often supplied by the extra-mural libraries, which sometimes also supply classes arranged solely by the W.E.A. But generally speaking, W.E.A. classes rely upon the public libraries and the N.C.L. for their book supply, as also do the eight areas where university extra-mural courses are not backed by libraries designed specially for their purpose.

In this field there is obviously room for more comprehensive services, as well as for more co-operation between the three springs of book supply.

#### LIBRARIES IN COLLEGES OF EDUCATION

Teachers' training colleges, or colleges of education as they are now known, have been in existence for many years, but the majority of them have grown up since 1945 to cope with the shortage of teachers. In many instances their libraries have developed in a haphazard way, but most college principals now recognise the need for an adequate library and for qualified librarians to organise it.

Some little time ago the training course for teachers was lengthened into a three-year course from a two-year one, and this move underlined the need for up-to-date and living libraries within the colleges of education. In 1958 the Library Association and the Association of Teachers in Colleges and Departments of Education published a joint memorandum on the general principles of training college library provision. This had some effect but with the advent of the three-year course the two bodies found it necessary to prepare an amplified joint statement, and this was issued in 1961 under the title of *Training College Libraries: recommendations on*

*their development to meet the needs of the three-year training course.*

This important document agreed that the role of a library in an educational institution must be much more than merely a store. It made recommendations as to premises and equipment, stating that the library should be attractive and comfortable, 'encouraging the student to spend the right proportion of his free time in study'. As well as a reading room, there should be study carrels with microfilm reading facilities, a school library and text-book collection in a separate room, and a separate library office.

The recommendations visualised college of education libraries of at least 20,000 volumes as well as ancillary material. The size of the library should be calculated on the basis of 40 square feet per reader, assuming that a quarter of staff and students may be in the library at a given time. Training college libraries should be in the charge of a full-time chartered librarian who should be a graduate. He may be given some tutoring duties but these should be in his own fields of librarianship and bibliography.

'The basis of the stock', went on the recommendations, 'must be a good general library, with a representative collection of books on all the subjects taught; this should include a selection of foreign works in translation or original . . . Background material not directly related to the curriculum plays an important role, and must therefore be provided.' The need for co-operation with public libraries and with institutes of education and university libraries is emphasised, as also is the need for the librarian to be given senior status on the college staff.

Many college of education libraries have not yet achieved the standards put forward in the recommendations, but if the minimum standards referred to are generally adopted, librarians of a suitable calibre will be attracted to college of education libraries, which will soon begin to flourish and to

play a leading part in the expansion programme. The L.A. and A.T.C.D.E. joint recommendations ended by pointing out that other bodies are already competing for the best talent in librarianship, and that it would be a bad mistake if colleges of education were to fail to secure their share of this talent. Incidentally, the joint recommendations are now under revision, and a new edition may be expected shortly.

#### TECHNICAL COLLEGE LIBRARIES

Technical education in Britain dates from the nineteenth century with the start of the polytechnics and its story since then has been one of continual growth. In the present century and particularly since 1945 the growth may fairly be described as phenomenal. There are now four main types of technical colleges, as follows:

- (i) Colleges of Advanced Technology (C.A.Ts). 10—at Birmingham, Bradford, Bristol, Cardiff, London (4) (Battersea, Brunel, Chelsea and Northampton), Loughborough and Salford.
- (ii) Regional Colleges. 25—at Brighton, Coventry, Dagenham, Hatfield, Huddersfield, Kingston-upon-Thames, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool (2) London (6), Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Nottingham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Rugby, Stoke-on-Trent, Sunderland, Treforest (Glamorgan), and West Ham.
- (iii) Area Colleges. About 160 providing mainly part-time courses up to Higher National Certificate or its equivalent.
- (iv) Local Colleges. About 270 providing on the vocational side a wide range of mainly part-time courses up to Ordinary National Certificate or its equivalent.

In addition there are six national colleges providing advanced and post-graduate courses for specialised industries, about 8,500 evening institutes, as well as other technical colleges in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

It is true to say that most of the colleges in the four main categories possess libraries of varying size, though by no means all of them are yet in the charge of qualified librarians. The older and larger technical colleges have, however, important and well-organised libraries. In London the Polytechnic in Regent Street, now ranking as a Regional College, has had a library since its foundation in the mid-nineteenth century and it may be taken as an illustration. It now possesses nearly 60,000 volumes, over half of which are available to staff and students for home reading. About 400 periodicals are currently received, a majority being permanently filed. There is a main reference library as well as two departmental reference collections covering architecture and commerce, economics and sociology. The library is an Outlier of the N.C.L.

Many of the smaller technical colleges suffer from inadequate library accommodation with insufficient space for stock, readers and staff. To try to ameliorate this state of affairs, the Library Association published in 1965 a pamphlet entitled *College libraries: recommended standards of library provision in colleges of technology and other establishments of further education*. Students should acquaint themselves with the contents of this important publication, which can only have a good effect in the long term.

#### MEDICAL LIBRARIES

Medical librarianship has grown rapidly since the end of the Second World War. In 1947 the Medical Section, now the Medical Group, of the Library Association was formed, and it has been very active. It helped to organise the Inter-

national Congress of Medical Librarianship in 1953, and four years later it prepared and published a *Directory of Medical Libraries in the British Isles*. A second edition appeared in 1965. This publication shows that there are 320 medical libraries in the British Isles, more than half of them in London, and these do not include the smaller hospital libraries.

In the face of modern research, medical literature has assumed great proportions, not only as far as printed books are concerned, but also in regard to periodicals. The Royal Society of Medicine Library in Wimpole Street, W.1 contains 350,000 volumes and 2,200 current periodicals. It has been described as the chief medical library of the Commonwealth and 'one of the busiest libraries of any kind in London.' It is a private subscription library used by consultants and research workers throughout the country, as also is the British Medical Association's library which is, however, not so large. The latter is important though for its periodicals holdings, used in connection with an abstracting service.

Other important medical libraries are those of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, the Royal College of Surgeons of England, the Wellcome Historical Medical Library, and the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.

Special mention must be made of two more medical libraries differing widely from each other both in their scope and in their aims. One is Lewis's Medical, Technical and Scientific Lending Library, a subscription lending library, formed in 1848. Not only is it used by many doctors and students personally, but in recent years special libraries and public libraries have taken out block subscriptions enabling them to borrow books for their readers. Lewis's Library confines itself mainly to English and American books and it has published a comprehensive catalogue, with supplements.

The other library which must be mentioned is the Medical Research Council Library at Mill Hill. This was founded in

1919 and it exists to supply reference and loan material to the staff of the National Institute for Medical Research. It is housed in spacious, well-furnished premises, has a liberal loan policy, is an Outlier of the N.C.L., and has an extensive collection of home and foreign periodicals efficiently routed throughout the organisation.

A peculiarity of medical libraries is that their collections are mainly not lent to the general public, for reasons which should be obvious. Genuine students can, however, always obtain the books they want, either through the specialist medical libraries, or through public libraries which in turn obtain them through subject specialisation schemes, through the N.C.L., or through Lewis's Library. The advent of subject specialisation schemes has meant that medicine has, for the first time, been fully represented in the responsible public library. In the Metropolitan Special Collections scheme the Westminster Public Libraries are allotted medicine as a subject, and books from this 15,000 strong collection housed at the Public Library, Marylebone Road, N.W.1 are lent with few restrictions.

## PUBLIC LIBRARIES

## GENERAL

Public, i.e. rate-supported, libraries may be said to have begun in England in 1850 with the passing of the first Public Libraries Act in that year. This permitted towns and parishes to set up public libraries, and it was not until 1919 that county councils were empowered to become public library authorities. The move towards public libraries supported from local rates or taxes took place more or less concurrently in Britain, the United States and Scandinavia, but public libraries became a *fait accompli* in the U.S. and in Norway a year or two before their inauguration in Britain.

## PURPOSE

Many definitions of the aims and objects of public libraries have already been given in Chapter I. Briefly, the public library may be said to exist for the free and unrestricted provision of books and related material to members of the community for study purposes, and for vocational and recreational use. A cardinal principle of public libraries is that access to them, either for reference or for borrowing, must be free. This principle has been underlined and strengthened in the reports and debates which led to the passing of the

Public Libraries and Museums Act, 1964, and by the Act itself. Attempts to link public libraries too closely with formal education have always been resisted. They are, and must remain, instruments of informal education, existing for 'self-development in an atmosphere of freedom'.

The Anglo-American concept of the public library has spread to many other countries, especially since 1945 with the encouragement of Unesco. Because the public library movement is world-wide, students should acquire some outline knowledge of its development in countries outside Britain, and it is suggested that fairly detailed knowledge is necessary about the public libraries of one country. This would provide ammunition to help answer questions of a comparative nature. It is not for me to lay down which particular country should be studied, but I may perhaps suggest that in Europe either Denmark, Finland, Holland, Norway, Sweden or West Germany could be chosen; in the New World either the United States or Canada; in Africa either Ghana, Nigeria or South Africa; in Asia either India, Ceylon or Israel; and in Australasia either Australia, New Zealand or Tasmania.

#### DEPARTMENTS

To assist in the realisation of its aims, numerous different departments have been evolved in the public library framework. Most important of these are those for Reference, for Home Reading, for Children and Young People, for Periodicals, for Bibliographical Services (including Acquisitions, Cataloguing and Inter-Library Loans), and for such specialist activities as Music and Gramophone Records, for Technical and Commercial Libraries, and for Archives and Local History Collections. Other fields of importance in public library development concern branch libraries, mobile libraries, lectures, exhibitions, and service to special classes of readers such as hospital patients, the blind, the housebound,



the forces, seamen and prisoners. Brief references will now be made to these various departments and special services.

#### REFERENCE LIBRARIES

The primary conception of the public library was for lending books for home reading, though for many years this was done in a guarded way. It was not long before reference departments began to be built up, and in the larger cities and towns these have now assumed great importance. They are becoming increasingly important in the county libraries too. The object of reference work is to answer questions or to provide information for readers from books and other material. This object is now so well-known to readers that every library, however small, must provide some reference facilities.

There are many public reference libraries in Britain with over 10,000 volumes and indeed those below that size can hardly be called reference libraries. The medium-sized reference library, i.e. containing *c.* 25,000 volumes, will feature among its stock such material as directories, dictionaries, atlases, encyclopaedias, bibliographies, yearbooks, maps, some Government and official publications, biographical dictionaries and materials relating to local history.

Larger reference libraries will contain all these with the addition of monographs on specific subjects, files of periodicals and a wealth of pamphlet and other fugitive material. Some will be divided into departments, such as Commercial, Technical, Foreign, International, etc., Other libraries, e.g. Edinburgh, Liverpool etc., work on the subject department principle, whereby reference and home reading stock is amalgamated into several separate departments, such as Fine Arts, Science, Theology, each with its specialised staff.

All reference libraries need a large amount of stock accommodation, for the many files of serials which inevitably

grow with the general collection. Most reference libraries may be compared to icebergs, in that only about one-fifth of their potential is visible. Open-shelf stock accounts for a small proportion only, the majority being housed in the stack. Prompt supply of books and information to readers depends upon meticulous organisation and arrangement, good and up-to-date catalogues, and the deployment of an intelligent and well-trained staff.

The book stock must be ordered and supplied promptly, particularly serials such as yearbooks and periodicals. Standing orders will no doubt be in operation, but even so deliveries must be constantly checked.

Services to students include provision of study carrels, often with typewriters. Microfilm and other readers are supplied for the reading of microtext materials, while photocopies can usually be supplied for a small fee, subject to copyright formalities.

Examples of public reference libraries providing all or most of these services are, among others, Birmingham, Bristol, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Plymouth, Sheffield and Westminster. Edinburgh is an example of arrangement according to the subject department principle, while a more recent example of a library organised on the integrated stock principle, i.e. with reference and home reading books shelved in one sequence, is to be found at Eastbourne.

Students, if not already familiar with the work of a large reference library, should make every endeavour to visit one, not just once, but several times so that they may become familiar with its range, contents and work.

#### HOME READING LIBRARIES

Up to the 1890s home reading or lending libraries in Britain and elsewhere issued books on the indicator or closed access method. Examples of closed access libraries may be still seen in Holland and some other European countries. In

Britain, open access began to be generally introduced after 1894, the pioneer being James Duff Brown at Finsbury. Even then, safeguards in the form of wicket gates were retained, but these have now largely disappeared and the modern home reading department has a service counter which is nothing like a barrier. Inside it is, or should be, warmly welcoming, with accessible shelving, comfortable lounge furniture, attractive colour schemes and adequately staffed with librarians fully equipped with both professional expertise and bibliographical guides to advise and help readers.

Most British public libraries are classified according to the Decimal Classification, but a dwindling number are arranged by the Subject Classification of James Duff Brown. Public catalogues are always provided, sometimes on cards, sometimes on sheaf, and the catalogues may be either the dictionary or the classified type. Printed cards of the *British National Bibliography* are used by many libraries, and a more recent development is the appearance of the computer-produced catalogue, examples of which may be seen in some of the new London boroughs and elsewhere.

Home reading libraries have arrangements whereby readers may reserve books, while books not in stock will either be purchased or borrowed from other libraries through the machinery of the Regional Library Systems.

Mounting issues in recent years have caused many libraries to examine the issue methods. The Brown (or Browne) system, adequate enough on the exit sides of the service desks, caused intolerable queues in busy libraries on the incoming side. Since 1945 many and varied new methods have been introduced and the following list, which is not intended to be exhaustive, mentions some of the libraries where the various charging systems may be inspected.

Readers' tokens: Westminster.

Library tokens: Worthing.

Punched card charging: Camden (Holborn Library).

Photocharging: Wandsworth, Hertfordshire County, York.

Photocharging with punched cards: Barnet, Croydon, Hull.

Bookamatic with punched cards: Camden (St Pancras).

Cheque book charging: Haringey (Hornsey Library).

Periods of loan in British home reading libraries vary. Fourteen days used to be the most common period but the recent tendency is to issue books for three or sometimes four weeks.

#### CHILDREN'S LIBRARIES

Nottingham had the first separate children's library in the 1880's but the greatest impetus to library service for young people was given by Croydon early in the twentieth century. It is now true to say that every municipal and county library system in Britain makes provision for children. In central libraries children usually have a separate department, and this applies too in the larger branch libraries. Other branches have children's sections, smaller but nevertheless efficacious. Wherever possible, trained children's librarians are on duty, although these are still in short supply.

The modern trend is to have no restrictive age limits, so that the range of the children's library stretches from picture books for the under-fives to books for adolescents. Co-operation with schools is a prominent feature of modern children's librarianship, and it is a common thing to find school classes visiting the children's library for lessons in how to find books and how to use the library. Children's librarians also visit schools to give talks there about library facilities. More informal contact is made with younger children by means of the story hour, and special story hour rooms are a feature of many libraries, that at Luton being a striking

example. In most children's libraries illustrations collections are maintained, loans being made from these to teachers and student-teachers.

With so much good library provision for children up and down the country it would be invidious and indeed it is unnecessary to name any particular systems. The student should visit several children's libraries and compare the services provided.

#### PERIODICALS

Time was when newspapers were given more prominence than periodicals in public libraries, but this is no longer so. Many libraries take only the minimum of newspapers but they have greatly increased the number of periodicals currently received. More periodical titles are being bound or permanently filed by libraries, and it is only lack of space that prevents them from expanding even further in this direction. Because of their value for reference purposes, periodicals are part of the reference library stock in most systems of any size and importance. Periodicals holdings of many important public libraries are given in the *World List of Scientific Periodicals* and in the *British Union Catalogue of Periodicals*. Holdings of London public libraries are listed in the *London Union List of Periodicals*. The student should refer to all these works.

#### EXTENSION WORK

By extension work we mean lectures, talks, exhibitions, displays, printed publicity, concerts, recitals and any other similar means by which the services of the public library may be projected to a wider public. Most libraries indulge in planned extension work of one kind or another. Public lectures are traditional in this field, but the advent of first

radio and then television has reduced their popularity, though they still survive here and there. Celebrity lectures are featured by a number of libraries, while others still successfully run university extension lecture courses. Talks to schools, colleges and local organisations by qualified librarians on the services provided by the library are a continuing and useful method of extension work.

Window displays and displays inside the library are invaluable but they must be expertly done. Exhibitions, either inside the library or elsewhere, are justifiable if they lead to the use of books and if they are professionally presented. Printed publicity of all kinds may be considered part of extension work: this includes annual reports, printed catalogues, bulletins or booklists, leaflets and booklets on how to use the library, exhibition catalogues and recital and concert programmes. Cheap production of these should be avoided and, if possible, professional designers and typographers should be consulted.

Good extension work is practised by many, but still not enough, public libraries. Swindon and Camden organise ambitious arts programmes; Croydon arranges concerts and presents gramophone record recitals; Haringey and Barnet arrange lecture programmes; Reading and Eastbourne have children's book weeks; Islington, Bristol, Gloucester and Lincoln produce good printed publicity. Again, these examples are not exhaustive, merely indicative of what can be done.

The year 1966 saw the start of the National Library Week project in Britain and though this is by no means confined to public libraries, it was left to many public librarians to organise local committees and to plan activities in their areas. The first year was experimental but it resulted in some praiseworthy local programmes, in which public libraries played leading parts. Birmingham, Cambridge, Haringey, Hull, Islington, Luton, Norwich, Oxford, Waltham Forest and

Wandsworth were just some of the places which ran enterprising NLW programmes, and this first year's experience is certain to lead to greater and more widespread activity in future. There seems to be no reason why NLW in Britain should not become a regular event similar to the movement in the U.S.A. where the Week has been organised annually since 1957.

#### BRANCH LIBRARIES

Early in the history of public libraries the need for branch libraries was seen in the large cities. Some library authorities have now planned their systems so that no reader lives more than a mile (sometimes  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile) from his nearest service point. This has led to the provision of no fewer than 40,000 public library service points by the 500 or so library authorities in Britain. Some of these are central libraries, others are halts regularly visited by mobile libraries, but the great majority are branch libraries.

The term 'branch library' includes full-time and part-time branches, as well as what may be called delivery stations. The over-provision of branch libraries is now seen in some areas to have been a mistake, and the present tendency is to re-develop, providing fewer but larger service points with greater potential. Manchester has provided an instance of this. In the counties too, the trend is towards regional or district libraries, supplying smaller satellite libraries in the villages and hamlets around.

Systems with branches in cities and towns are usually centralised for administrative purposes, though in the more progressive systems the branch librarians have a full say in book selection. In the counties, centralised administration and book ordering is usually the rule, but in Surrey for instance there has been a certain devolution of authority.

Although the building of new central libraries has been

limited since 1939, a large number of new branch library buildings have been erected, especially in the counties. To provide a complete list would be quite impossible here, but some outstanding achievements must be mentioned. In the counties, Lancashire, West Riding, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, West Sussex, Essex, Staffordshire and Cornwall are among those which can show good examples. In the cities and towns there are some excellent new branch libraries at Plymouth, Greenwich, Lewisham, Camden, Bristol, Liverpool, Hammersmith and Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

#### MOBILE LIBRARIES

The mobile library, travelling library, or bookmobile, as it is variously called, was originated as a means of supplying a book service to scattered rural communities. After 1945, when building restrictions for a time prevented the erection of very necessary new branch libraries in cities and towns, mobile libraries began to be used in urban areas as well as rural. Now they are an accepted and welcome sight in both town and country. They are also widely used in the United States, in Scandinavia, Holland and Germany, and in many of the new independent countries, notably those in Africa.

For greater manoeuvrability the trailer type is often used in urban areas, but much more common is the single self-contained vehicle. Mobile libraries need careful planning so that the maximum number of books can be safely carried and adequately displayed. The service desk must be correctly sited and must occupy the minimum of space. Access to the vehicle must be made easy for young and old. Heating and lighting need special attention. Halts must be conveniently sited and full publicity must be given to the vehicle's regular programme. A large reservoir of books must be available at headquarters, so that the necessary changes of stock may be made frequently.



Students should see as many mobile libraries in action as they possibly can. The counties offer many good examples, West Riding, West Sussex, Buckinghamshire, Essex and Hertfordshire among them. In urban areas mobile libraries can be seen at Luton, Barnet, Greenwich, Widnes, Lewisham and other places. At Rendsburg in West Germany there is an interesting bookmobile which can be expanded laterally in about three minutes, thus affording about double the normal floor space. In Scandinavia there are intriguing variants of mobile libraries, including bookboats in Norway, Sweden and Denmark, and a railbus service which operates in Swedish Lapland.

#### MUSIC IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Every public library of any size features music as a part of its stock, and this includes orchestral, instrumental and vocal scores, miniature scores, libretti and books about music. In the larger systems such as Edinburgh and Liverpool, music merits a separate department with a specialised staff. Accurate and consistent cataloguing is more than ever necessary for this section of the library's stock. As for classification, it is perhaps true to say that the ideal arrangement for music has yet to be evolved, the nearest approach to the ideal perhaps being the Music schedules of the Library of Congress classification. Music libraries need a good binding service, but for sheet music more use is now being made of stitched manilla covers, while the vertical file is the best method of storing most of the sheet music.

Special mention must be made of the Henry Watson Music Library, Manchester, and of the Central Music Library, Westminster. The former has a splendid collection of sets of music, and for a small annual subscription other libraries may have the right to borrow these sets for the use of their patrons. The Central Music Library in Westminster has over

70,000 volumes and scores, lending to anyone who produces a current library ticket from any other authority. It also lends through the post, to satisfy requests channelled to it through the N.C.L.

#### GRAMOPHONE RECORD LIBRARIES

Since 1945, gramophone record lending libraries have sprung up all over Britain, though more especially in the London area. Some medium-sized library systems have taken the opportunity to merge the music collection with the gramophone record library to form a comprehensive Music and Records Library. The Public Libraries and Museums Act of 1964 allows authorities to make a charge for borrowing gramophone records. Some already did this before the passing of the Act, but many did not and still do not charge.

Most gramophone record lending libraries use a form of indicator system to show which records are available for borrowing. Cards giving details of the records are filed in composer order and the patron detaches the card denoting the record he wants, and hands it in to the service desk in exchange for the disc. Some libraries now use the record sleeves displayed in browser boxes for this purpose. Others go one step further and keep the records inside the sleeves within browser boxes available to patrons, so that open access is achieved.

Separate rules are usually made for gramophone record lending libraries covering periods of loan, charges for overdue records, and costs for lost and damaged records.

The stocks of record libraries are often confined to classical and semi-classical music, to speech records such as plays, poetry readings and recitals, and to language tuition records. More libraries are now entering the field of jazz.

Gramophone record libraries may be inspected at nearly every main library in the London Boroughs, and at such

places as Coventry, Dudley, Liverpool, Wakefield, and Widnes. Such collections are usually confined to the central libraries, but examples of record libraries at branches may be found at Enfield, Greenwich, Lambeth and Wandsworth, among other places.

#### OTHER PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES

Many public libraries extend their services to special classes of readers in different ways. A book delivery service to the aged and housebound is provided in many places, while others provide hospital library services. In some areas, the school library service is provided through public libraries. Libraries in prisons are also supplied by some public library authorities, examples being at Buckinghamshire County, Islington and Wandsworth. Finally, mention should be made of a few libraries having their own binderies, among these are Croydon and Lewisham.

## SPECIAL LIBRARIES

## GENERAL

The present syllabus of the Library Association contains some definitions, and special libraries are rather unsatisfactorily described as 'all libraries which are not academic, public or national libraries'. It is not too difficult to pick holes in this statement, and a much better definition was that of D. V. Arnold, who described a special library as 'one serving a group of readers forming a unit with particular and identifiable subject interests'. D. R. Jamieson would extend this by adding the words 'the activities of the group shall be directed to a common purpose'. The idea behind this addition was to exclude university and college libraries.

Whatever definition we decide upon, the inexorable fact is that special libraries, which began to appear during and after the First World War, spread gradually in the 1920s, and grew even more quickly during and since the Second World War. Their growth was reflected by the formation in 1924 of the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux (later known as Aslib), a body which now has over 2,500 members. Within the Library Association there has been a Reference and Special Libraries Section (now Group), and since 1962 there has been a Special Libraries Committee, responsible to the Council and to members for matters pertaining to special libraries.

Most special libraries fall into one or other of the following categories:

- (a) Government libraries.
- (b) Libraries belonging to public authorities.
- (c) Industrial libraries, including those of research associations.
- (d) Professional libraries, i.e. those belonging to professional associations and similar bodies.

#### GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES

The Government is by far the biggest library owner in the country, when one considers the national libraries (outlined in Chapter III), the libraries of the House of Lords and the House of Commons, the departmental libraries belonging to the various Ministries, the libraries of the Forces education services, and the collections administered by the British Council, which gets most of its money from Parliament.

The growth of Government libraries has been striking since 1945: before that time they were generally inadequate. It was the war which showed up this ineffectiveness in the library and information services, and the lesson was not long being learnt. As one result of a *Report on the Training of Civil Servants* issued in 1944, professionally qualified librarians were introduced into many Government libraries, with immediate good results. There is, however, still some way to go in this respect, for by no means all the Government libraries employ chartered librarians.

It is difficult to say whether the House of Commons and House of Lords libraries should be classed as general or special libraries because their coverage is as universal as the topics discussed in the two chambers. In the broadest possible sense they cover politics, economics, law and other sociological subjects, and in view of the select clientele for whom

they cater, perhaps it is justifiable to include them under the heading of special libraries.

The House of Commons Library originated in 1818: since 1922 it has been governed by an unofficial all-party committee appointed by the Speaker. Its progress in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was woefully slow, and it is only since 1945 that, after a Select Committee had reported, it was reorganised and revitalised. It is now organised into the Reference Division, the Parliamentary Division and the Research Division. The latter carries out research for the House of Lords as well as for the House of Commons, and also deals with outside enquiries. The stock of the House of Commons Library now well exceeds 100,000 volumes, and over 1,600 newspapers and periodicals are received.

The House of Lords Library dates from 1826 and is smaller than its counterpart in the Commons. Nevertheless, it has over 70,000 volumes and it concentrates upon law books, in view of the Lord's judicial responsibilities. It co-operates closely with the House of Commons Library so that unnecessary duplication is avoided.

The departmental libraries, that is, those of the various Ministries such as the Home Office, the Air Ministry, and the Department of Education and Science, vary considerably in size and importance. Two or three examples are described below, but for fuller detail of these and other departmental libraries the student is referred to *A Guide to Government Libraries*, published by H.M.S.O., to *Special Library and Information Services in the United Kingdom*, edited by J. Burkett and published by the Library Association (2nd ed., 1965), and to *Government Information and the Research Worker*, another L.A. publication, edited by Ronald Staveley and Mary Piggott (2nd. ed., 1965).

The Board of Trade Library dates from at least 1843, when there was a librarian's post on the establishment, but its main growth has been in the present century and more noticeably

since 1945. The main reference library has about 350,000 books and pamphlets relating to current material on the social sciences, concentrating on trade and commerce. Over 3,000 periodicals and 7,000 annuals are currently received and the library is open to the public, though only by appointment, and only for the consultation of material not readily available in other libraries. There is a separate Statistics and Market Intelligence Library which has nearly 100,000 statistical publications on trade, population and like subjects dealing with all countries of the world. It also has overseas trade directories and foreign manufacturers' catalogues. This departmental library is open to the public for reference without formality.

The Library of the Department of Education and Science is housed in purpose-built premises in Curzon Street, W.1. Its history goes back to 1854 and it now has over 150,000 books and periodicals on education in the various countries of the world. It includes a fine collection on the histories of individual schools and universities. Primarily existing for the use of the Department's own staff, it may also be used by the staffs of other Government departments, and by *bona fide* research workers in the field of education. Borrowing facilities are only available to other Government departments if the material is not otherwise accessible.

Another major departmental library is that belonging to the Ministry of Defence and incorporating the former War Office Library. Dating from about the end of the seventeenth century, it has grown steadily through amalgamation with related collections. The latest of these amalgamations took place in 1959 with the addition of the Army Historical Section, which previously formed part of the Cabinet Office. It now has over 400,000 books and pamphlets on military science and history, the arrangement being according to the Universal Decimal Classification. Nearly 1,100 periodicals are received, and the library, situated in Whitehall, is open for

consultation by the staffs of Government departments and other public bodies, and by research workers and students of military history. It also lends material to other Government departments, public corporations, research institutions and academic bodies, as well as to the reference departments of public libraries. There is a printed catalogue supplemented by a printed accessions list each month, and a photocopying service is provided.

These three examples should give some indication of the scope and range of Government department libraries. When it is remembered that there are similar libraries for the Admiralty, Air Ministry, Central Office of Information, Colonial and Commonwealth Relations Offices, H.M. Customs and Excise, the Foreign Office, the Home Office, the Treasury, and the Ministries of Agriculture, Aviation, Health, Housing, and Local Government, Labour, Power, Pensions and National Insurance, Transport and Works, to say nothing of many other specialist collections such as those of the Forestry Commission, the Public Record Office and the Road Research Laboratory, to name only three, no more proof need be offered of the Government's commitments in the special library field.

In Government libraries the money for books, periodicals and stationery comes from funds voted annually by Parliament for H.M.S.O. The libraries are classified on various schemes, some being on the Decimal Classification, some on Library of Congress, one or two on Bliss, and some on specially prepared schemes, but the majority use U.D.C. Most Government department libraries produce accessions lists and these, together with the *Guide to Government Libraries*, make possible close co-operation between them. They are also active in the national scheme of library co-operation: some are Outliers of the Science Library and the National Central Library, lending to public, special and academic libraries through these agencies.



Before leaving the topic of Government libraries, students are again reminded that these include the British Museum and the National Libraries of Scotland and Wales, as well as such other institutions as the Patent Office Library, the Science Museum Library and the National Lending Library for Science and Technology. These are dealt with in other chapters of this book.

#### PUBLIC AUTHORITY LIBRARIES

The present century has seen the growth of public authorities, that is, national bodies financed by public expenditure but controlled by specially appointed boards. Examples are the B.B.C., the National Coal Board, the Gas Council, the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority and other bodies. All these have developed important special libraries, one or two of which will be taken as examples.

The B.B.C. has, in fact, many important libraries, among them the Gramophone Library, the Music Libraries, Recorded Programmes Library, the *Radio Times* Hulton Picture Library, the Film Library, Scripts Library and a general Reference Library. These are all in London and variously located, but there are also other collections in the Regions.

The Gramophone Library, with well over half a million records, is the largest in the world, but it may be used only by B.B.C. personnel. There are four music libraries in the organisation, the B.B.C. Music Library itself, situated in Great Portland Street, and those for Light Music, Variety Music, and Television Music. Loans from them are made only for the purpose of broadcasting, and they are geared to produce a large range of material expeditiously. The *Radio Times* Hulton Picture Library was originally the *Picture Post* Library and is of interest because it is one of the biggest illustrations collections in the world, with well over ten

million items. Since the coming of television this collection has been of increased importance, and it has developed, and is still being developed, rapidly. Unlike most other B.B.C. libraries this is available to outside users. There is a price list for borrowing, and details may be had from the library at 35 Marylebone High Street, W.1.

The Central Reference Library of the B.B.C. is at Broadcasting House, but there are branches of it in the shapes of the Television Centre Library, the External Services Branch Library, the Monitoring Library and the Research Department Library. Like the music libraries, these too are organised to produce material and results quickly, and they make use of an impressive number of indexes.

Typical of the special library organisation of the nationalised industries is that of the National Coal Board. There is a central library and information service at the Board's headquarters in London, with a stock of about 25,000 books on industrial relations and on the history and economics of the coal industry. Over 700 periodicals are taken and indexed. Used principally by headquarters staff, the central library may also be consulted by the staff of the National Coal Board in other parts of the country.

The Board has three research establishments, each of which has a library and information department. The Coal Research Establishment (CRE) started its library in 1948. The stock is not large but it is highly specialised. Much indexing and abstracting of periodical articles is done, information searches are carried out, bibliographies prepared, and microfilm and photocopying facilities are provided. This library is at Stoke Orchard in Gloucestershire. Then there is the Mining Research Establishment (MRE) which has a library at Isleworth. This was established in 1952, and since 1954 there has existed the library of a third section known as the Central Engineering Establishment (CEE). Here emphasis is placed on engineering in all its facets, and the staff carry out detailed

indexing and abstracting of periodicals, as well as other services.

The National Coal Board also has a library in its Scientific Department, as well as smaller libraries at Divisional level. All the Board's collections are available to all within the industry, and to others through the national interlending service.

#### INDUSTRIAL LIBRARIES

Numerically speaking, industrial libraries form the bulk of special libraries in Britain. All are of fairly recent origin, and some are very recent, but all are developing rapidly, if the steady increase of expenditure on research is anything to go by. Industrial libraries vary greatly in size: some have staffs of 20 to 40 in their library and information departments, though many have much smaller staffs. As with the libraries of Government departments and public authorities, it is difficult to generalise about these collections; they cover so many different subjects that there is little common ground, except to say that all of them concentrate upon periodical and other serial material, and many make use of up-to-date methods of information retrieval in their work of speedily providing scientific and technical information. Research and development associations are vitally important and most of them have good libraries, but this does not mean that individual firms can afford to be without their own libraries and information departments. A list of some typical industrial libraries is appended, after which one or two are singled out for brief description.

#### SOME RESEARCH ASSOCIATION LIBRARIES

British Iron and Steel Research Association (BISRA).

British Cast Iron Research Association (BCIRA).

British Non-Ferrous Metals Research Association.  
 Aluminium Development Association.  
 Copper Development Association.  
 Zinc Development Association.  
 Lead Development Association.  
 British Welding Research Association.  
 British Shipbuilding Research Association (BSRA).  
 British Internal Combustion Engine Research Association.  
 Motor Industry Research Association (MIRA).  
 Electrical Research Association.  
 British Electrical Development Association.  
 Petroleum Information Bureau (PIB).  
 The Institute of Petroleum.  
 British Paper and Board Industry Research Association.  
 Rubber and Plastics Research Association.  
 Natural Rubber Producers Research Association.  
 Wool Industries Research Association.  
 International Wool Secretariat.

#### LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION OFFICES OF SOME INDIVIDUAL FIRMS

The following list is not intended to be anything like complete, but an attempt has been made to cover most of the major industries and to include at least one significant and important library in each.

The United Steel Companies Ltd.	Pressed Steel Co.
The Metal Box Co. Ltd.	General Electric Co. Ltd.
Tube Investments Ltd.	EMI Group.
Fairey Engineering, Ltd.	Nuclear Power Group.
The Hawker Siddeley Group.	British Oxygen Co.
Bristol Siddeley Engines, Ltd.	Boots Pure Drug Co.
	Courtaulds Ltd.
	Bowater Research & Dev. Co.

BSA Group.	Fisons Ltd.
Babcock and Wilcox Ltd.	Unilever Ltd.
Rolls Royce Ltd.	Kodak Research
Austin Motor Co.	Laboratories.
AEI Group.	British Nylon Spinners
C. A. Parsons and Co. Ltd.	Ltd.
Ferranti Ltd.	Dunlop Rubber Co.
Monsanto Chemicals.	ICI Metals Division.

As an example of a Research Association library let us look at that belonging to the British Non-Ferrous Metals Research Association. This body represents nearly 650 British and Commonwealth firms and has a staff of 170. The library's stock is about 6,000 volumes and over 45,000 extracts from periodicals, as well as many British Standards and foreign patent specifications. Over 400 periodicals are received, and from these abstracts are prepared which are published in the Association's monthly bulletin. Over 10,000 postal loans are made each year, and there are many personal consultations as well. A Technical Enquiry Service is also part of the Association's commitments, and this throws much research work upon the librarians and information officers. A specially made classification is used by the library, and there is an alphabetical subject catalogue.

Among libraries owned and operated by individual firms, one of the largest and best known is that of Boots Pure Drug Co. at Nottingham. A medical and scientific library, it is a division of the Research Department, although it serves the company as a whole. Among the many subjects covered are pharmacy, pharmaceutical chemistry, biology, veterinary science, horticulture, soap manufacture, engineering and microbiology. In addition there are departmental libraries, covering chemistry and biochemistry, veterinary science and other subjects. The stock is over 35,000 volumes and over 2,000 periodicals are currently received. Classification is

according to UDC, slightly modified, and a union catalogue is maintained. Compactus shelving is used in the stack, and microfilm and microcard readers are available. Full indexing and abstracting is undertaken, and a daily contents list of journals is circulated to senior technicians. The library is an Outlier of the National Central Library, and a member of the East Midlands Regional Library System, and a member of NANTIS (see page 99). Its holdings are recorded in the *British Union Catalogue of Periodicals*. Local doctors and consultants may use the library freely, and so may other students and research workers who obtain recommendations from their local public libraries.

It should not be assumed that all libraries of industrial firms are as large, comprehensive and well-developed as that of Boots, which has been described here because of those very qualities.

#### PROFESSIONAL LIBRARIES

Special libraries in another category are those belonging to the many professional bodies in Britain. As most of these associations have their headquarters in London, it follows that most of their libraries operate from the Metropolis. Even the smallest professional associations and institutes have found it necessary to start a library, while the larger ones run comprehensive collections of books, periodicals and other material, properly classified and catalogued, with reading facilities for students and a postal loan service for members living outside the London area. Examples of some important professional libraries are:

The Institute of Marine Engineers  
The British Federation of Master Printers  
Royal Institute of British Architects  
The Library Association

and many others. The best way for student librarians to appreciate the value of the work of special libraries of this kind is to utilise the library of the Library Association. Those living in or visiting London should make a point of inspecting and using this service, which is freely available to all the Association's members. Points to note are the duplicate copies of books to allow for both lending and reference, the world-wide coverage of periodicals, the availability of other material such as photographs, plans, pamphlets, annual reports, publicity material issued by libraries, tape-recordings etc., the provision of a qualified staff, the availability of a postal loan service, and the library's willingness to take part in the national inter-lending service, evidenced by its possession of Telex. Students who are unable to visit London can still utilise the library's services by borrowing through the post. The *Catalogue of the L.A. Library* was printed and published in 1958, and this used to be supplemented by lists of recent additions regularly published in the *Library Association Record*. Some time ago this feature ceased, but since 1966 a *Library Information Bulletin* has been issued by the Association, and this helps to keep members informed about new additions and library matters generally.

The object of this chapter has been to try to show the scope, range and variety of special libraries in Britain. It has been written chiefly for the student librarian whose practical experience has been outside the special library field. Although not generally open to the public, special libraries collectively play an important social role in the life of the community. To appreciate this, and to widen his experience for examination purposes, he should visit some representative special libraries of varying sizes. A preliminary letter is desirable, but he will find special librarians hospitable and eager to demonstrate the comprehensive and expanding services they are providing.

## OTHER TYPES OF LIBRARIES

## GENERAL

In the original draft syllabus, private libraries were included though they were not defined. However, before the syllabus was finalised this term disappeared from the outline. This is not to say that students and tutors can dismiss them entirely, especially when it is realised that, depending upon definition, such institutions as the London Library, Chetham's Library, the John Rylands Library and others fall within this category.

Earlier chapters have dealt with libraries which derive their financial support from public funds, as the national, university, college and public libraries do. We have also covered professional libraries, restricted to the members of associations, as well as collections belonging to individual firms, research associations and the like. There are still many other kinds of libraries such as private subscription ones like the London Library, the libraries of learned societies such as the Royal Institution of Great Britain, libraries belonging to private clubs such as the Athenæum or the Marylebone Cricket Club, collections owned by private individuals, libraries belonging to hospitals, and such services as the National Library for the Blind, which is maintained by subscriptions and donations.



This brief chapter outlines one or two of these institutions and services so that they will not be overlooked.

#### THE LONDON LIBRARY

The story of the founding of the London Library is well known. It was Thomas Carlyle's library needs in the 1830s which led to its formation and opening in 1841. Helping Carlyle in his venture were such celebrities as Gladstone and Monckton Milnes, though it was W. D. Christie who did much of the real spade-work. The library began operations as a private subscription library on May 3, 1841, at 49 Pall Mall. The entrance fee was £6 and the annual subscription £2. Four years later it moved to its present premises in St James's Square, premises which have several times been extended to accommodate the stock, which now amounts to over three quarters of a million volumes.

There have been only seven librarians of the London Library since its inception, one of the most notable being Sir Charles Hagberg Wright, who devised the scheme by which the books are arranged, and who also initiated the catalogue which was published in 1903. The first catalogue had been issued in 1842, with supplements at regular intervals up to 1888. Hagberg Wright's 1903 catalogue was extended into a two-volume edition in 1913-14, and supplements have subsequently been produced in 1920, 1928 and 1953. An alphabetical subject index appeared in 1909, supplemented in 1923, 1938 and 1953.

The London Library has many treasures and has received many important donations. It is particularly strong on the humanities and on archaeology and natural history. The present subscription is 10 guineas per annum, for which readers in the London postal district may borrow 10 books at a time, and those living outside London may have 15 at any one time. In 1962 a new kind of membership was approved,

allowing public and other libraries to borrow from its stock. For a 5-guinea subscription a library may borrow one book at a time, and pro rata.

#### THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY, MANCHESTER

If the London Library is a good example of a subscription library, the John Rylands Library in Manchester may be taken as illustrating a fine endowed institution. Although it is exceptionally strong in older material, having over 3,000 incunabula, many private press publications, and large numbers of deeds, documents and other MSS, the library belongs to the present century, having been started in 1899. It was endowed by Mrs. John Rylands in memory of her husband, a Manchester businessman. It regularly exhibits some of its treasures, and its publications include exhibition catalogues and descriptive handbooks as well as catalogues of its collections. It is not in any way a private library, being open for reference to accredited students on application to the librarian.

#### LIBRARIES FOR SPECIAL CLASSES OF READERS

An institution of which Britain can be proud is the National Library for the Blind, which has been functioning since 1882. Although called "national" it receives only a modicum of support from the Exchequer, being mainly reliant upon voluntary support in the shape of donations and bequests, and upon subscription income from local authorities in return for services rendered to blind readers within their areas. The headquarters building is in Great Smith Street, Westminster, but it has a branch in Manchester serving the northern half of the country. It is a free lending library for the blind, and it now contains over 300,000 books and music in embossed type. Material is lent to members and

to other libraries, and for many years the Post Office has played a generous part in this important social work by transporting free of charge literature for the blind.

Mention must also be made of the Seafarer's Education Service, founded in 1919 to provide libraries and educational facilities to men and women at sea and in shore establishments. The service supplies books to the crews of over 1,500 ships, and to do this it draws upon a stock of nearly 300,000 books, including a maritime collection. The money is obtained from the owners of the ships supplied, also from donations. The headquarters of this service is in Balham High Road, S.W.17.

#### HOSPITAL LIBRARIES

Although some other countries, notably those of Scandinavia, have rationalised their hospital library services, in that they are normally run by public libraries with the help of financial grants from the state, this is not yet the case in Britain, and the present condition of the hospital library service generally is most unsatisfactory.

So far from rationalisation the service is a veritable patchwork quilt. In many areas a voluntary library service is run by such agencies as the British Red Cross and St John; in others the public libraries help either wholly or in part; in others the hospital authorities themselves have been far-sighted enough to initiate library services for patients and staff. All this is not to say that there are not some good hospital authorities here and there. These do in fact exist, but the trouble lies in the inequality and lack of organisation of the service. The best British hospital libraries are good, but there are many institutions where the service is sketchy or non-existent.

One of the outstanding examples is at St Thomas's Hospital, London. Financed and controlled by the hospital authority,

which happens to be well-off through endowments, the service is up-to-date and comprehensive. Qualified librarians are employed, and though the present accommodation is restricted, more space has been allocated in future extensions to the hospital buildings. Both patients and staff are supplied, reading aids are available for immobilised and gravely handicapped patients, and there is a comfortable reading room for the consultation of reference books, periodicals and browsing generally.

The Library Association has in recent years been interesting itself increasingly in this field. A separate Group has been formed for Hospital Libraries, paper B33 in the Association's Final Examination is devoted to the subject, and the *L.A. Standards for Hospital Libraries* have recently been published. Now that the public library service of the country comes under the supervision of the Minister of Education and Science, the time would seem ripe for him to liaise with his colleague the Minister of Health to produce a scheme whereby public libraries, aided by grants from the Ministry of Health, would be fully responsible for administering libraries in hospitals in their areas.

#### PRIVATE LIBRARIES

There are still many privately owned libraries in Britain, though the tendency is for some of the older collections to be broken up, auctioned, or presented to national, university or public libraries as time goes on. Fewer and fewer private libraries are of such a size that they need a full-time librarian, but notable examples can still be quoted. There is, of course, H.M. The Queen's private library at Windsor Castle, and there are important collections at Arundel Castle, belonging to the Duke of Norfolk, and at Chatsworth, owned by the Duke of Devonshire, to mention only a few.

Information about private libraries is not easy to come by,

for obvious reasons, but it can be said that the trend is towards smaller and more specialised private collections. They have some social significance, because they are often made available to students who cannot see the material elsewhere, and items from their contents are sometimes generously loaned as part of public exhibitions.

A fillip was given to private libraries in 1956 when the Private Libraries Association was founded. This is 'a society of people interested in books from the amateur or professional point of view,' and it has proved to be a necessary and successful movement. There is an annual membership fee, and for this the member receives a copy of *The Private Library*, issued quarterly, and can take part in activities, including visits which the Association arranges to private and other libraries. Members also receive *The Exchange List*, a bi-monthly publication listing desiderata, surplus books, and sale offers by members. Among other publications are the annual *Private Press Books*, and *Simplified Catalogue Rules*, a code for the amateur book collector. All in all, the Private Libraries Association gives good value and has filled a gap in book and library organisation.

## LIBRARY CO-OPERATION

## GENERAL

Library co-operation in Britain is a twentieth century movement, emanating originally from the book needs of adult classes, which the public libraries could not fully supply. Later, the growth of published literature, and British reader's needs for access to foreign material, have caused developments which have created in Britain the most tightly knit schemes of library co-operation to be found anywhere in the world. The kingpin is the National Central Library, augmented by the National Lending Library for Science and Technology, the Regional Library Systems, and local or district schemes of co-operation. Although in this examination and in this book we are mainly concerned with British developments and practice, students are reminded that library co-operation is a subject which can be looked at from a comparative viewpoint. This means that there is a possibility of questions comparing British practice with that of another country, and for this reason some outline knowledge should be acquired of library co-operation in a chosen country overseas. Denmark, or one of the other Scandinavian countries, is recommended.

## NATIONAL CENTRAL LIBRARY

This was begun by Dr. Albert Mansbridge and others in 1916 as the Central Library for Students after W. G. S. Adams had suggested the need for a central lending library for adult classes in his *Report on Library Provision and Policy* made to the C.U.K.T. in 1915. It was supported financially by the C.U.K.T. in its early years. In 1927 the Kenyon Report suggested its reformation as a national central lending library based on the British Museum.

In 1930 it was reconstituted as the National Central Library, though entirely separate from the B.M. The N.C.L. is controlled by its own Board of Trustees and an Executive Committee. It was granted a Royal Charter in 1931, and is now financed by an annual grant-in-aid from the Exchequer and contributions from libraries and other organisations. In its early days the N.C.L. lent many books to readers directly through public libraries but in the 1930s it encouraged the formation of the Regional Library Systems to take over much of this work.

A new building presented by the C.U.K.T. was opened in Malet Place in 1933 by George V. A system of Outlier Libraries (now nearly 400) has been built up since the early 1930s. War damage caused the loss of about 100,000 books, and final reconstruction of the Malet Place building was not finished until 1952. The University of London has now taken over these premises, and a replacement building in Store Street was occupied in November 1965 and officially opened by Queen Elizabeth II in March 1966. This event coincided with the first National Library Week ever to be held in the United Kingdom, and also with the 50th anniversary of the founding of the N.C.L.

A deposit library in Government premises at Woolwich was also utilised in 1963 to house reserve stock. The N.C.L. accommodates the Bureau of American Bibliography (started

1938), the Union Catalogue of Russian Books and Periodicals (started 1947), and the Union Catalogue of German Wartime Books and Periodicals. There is also a National Union Catalogue in sheaf form, and an Outlier Union Catalogue in card form. Work on the unification of these is nearing completion.

Since 1959 requests for current British books are met through the Regional Systems because of the existence of the Inter-Regional Coverage Scheme. The N.C.L. consequently does not normally buy current British publications and is left free to concentrate its comparatively small book fund on the acquisition of foreign books and periodicals. The library also acts as the central agency in Britain for arranging international library loans. In 1964-5, it arranged the lending of 4,150 books from British to overseas libraries, and the borrowing of 3,683 books from abroad. It also supplies microfilms and photocopies, over 4,500 in 1964-5. In addition, it houses the British National Book Centre, which arranges the redistribution of redundant material from libraries. Adult class work still continues, though this is gradually diminishing: in 1961-2 over 11,000 volumes were issued by this department, but by 1964-5 the number had dwindled to 8,500.

Since 1962 the N.C.L. has taken over the *British Union Catalogue of Periodicals* and is now publishing supplements to this work. The library is in Telex communication with all Regional Systems. In 1964-5 the N.C.L. dealt with 119,668 applications, satisfying 86,218 of them. When considering these figures it must be remembered that the library is now receiving applications for material which is often abstruse, out of the way, and difficult to trace. The library's budget for 1964-5 was £123,255. The N.C.L. was the subject of much debate before and during the passing of the Public Libraries and Museums Act of 1964, but despite this it is not mentioned in the Act. However, one clause states that the



Secretary of State may make grants to any body which maintains book catalogues or indexes to which all library authorities are permitted to refer, or otherwise makes available to all library authorities facilities likely to assist them in the discharge of their duty. Although majority opinion in the profession believes that the N.C.L. should be 100 per cent state-aided, the latest Government statement on this subject is to the effect that only 50 per cent should come from the Exchequer and the remainder from those who use the library.

#### NATIONAL LENDING LIBRARY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

By contrast, the National Lending Library for Science and Technology is 100 per cent state-aided, and its budget for 1965 was in the nature of £450,000, almost four times that of the N.C.L. The N.L.L. was officially opened in 1962 at Boston Spa in Yorkshire on a site covering over 60 acres, occupying buildings which previously formed part of an Ordnance Depot. Its aim is 'to provide the practitioner in science and technology with all the current literature of the world he may need'. Older literature will be acquired only if there is evidence of its need.

The N.L.L. receives about 23,000 scientific and technical periodicals from all over the world. These are mainly purchased though some are obtained by exchange. It lends material or provides photocopies through the N.C.L., the Regional Library Systems, university libraries and certain specified public and special libraries.

Much of the initial stock was transferred from the library of the Science Museum in London. The N.L.L. has an 'archival store' of pre-1960 less frequently used material which will eventually accommodate about half a million volumes. It possesses a large microfilm store, and uses a Rank-Xerox Copyflo printer to produce photocopies from micro-

film etc. Periodicals are filed by titles and are sent to despatch desks by conveyor belt. English language books are also filed alphabetically by titles.

#### NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL LIBRARY CO-OPERATION

Formed in 1931, this exists (*a*) to act as an advisory body on all matters concerning existing or potential Regional areas, and (*b*) to provide liaison between the various Regional Systems and the N.C.L. Its constitution includes representatives of the Regional Systems, the Library Association, the Association of University Teachers, and the N.C.L. The C.U.K.T. was also represented on the Committee originally. Meetings are attended by the Editors of the Regional Library Systems, and the librarian of the N.C.L. acts as Honorary Secretary and Convenor.

Recent activities have included the setting-up of the Inter-Regional Coverage Scheme whereby each Region undertakes complete coverage of books within various main sections of the Decimal Classification. Applications for British books published after January 1st 1959 which cannot be satisfied with the Region are now passed to the specialising Region and not to the N.C.L. Other activities have included the inauguration of a National Joint Fiction Reserve covering the whole of England less London and the S.E. Region, which draws upon the Metropolitan Joint Fiction Reserve. Details of each Region's responsibilities under this and the Inter-Regional Coverage Scheme are given in the following section. Uniformity of statistics, centralised book storage and periodical coverage are among recent concerns of the N.C.R.L.C.

The need for the N.C.R.L.C. may diminish in the future, because under the Public Libraries and Museums Act, 1964 the Secretary of State will be designating regional areas and providing regional councils for inter-library co-operation.

At the time of writing however, no such designations or provisions have been made.

#### REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEMS

There are ten Regional Library Systems at present, but the near future is likely to witness some amalgamation of these. The idea behind the reduction is generally accepted, but there is still controversy as to the extent of the amalgamations. Some believe there should be one system only for the entire country, others considering that the present ten might usefully be telescoped into four or five.

**EAST MIDLANDS R.L.S.** H.Q. at Leicester. Covers Cambridgeshire, Derbyshire (less Glossop), Huntingdonshire, Isle of Ely, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire and Suffolk. Formed 1935. 72 member libraries (50 public, 11 university and college, 11 special). Receives about 30,000 requests annually. Union catalogue: sheaf, basic compilation complete. Inter-Regional Coverage Scheme responsibility: DC classes 400 and 800. National Joint Fiction Reserve: authors G—J.

**LONDON UNION CATALOGUE.** H.Q. at London (N.C.L.) Covers the 12 Inner London boroughs and the City of London. Formed 1929. 14 member libraries (all public). Receives about 35,000 applications annually. Union catalogue: card, basic compilation complete, virtually no current arrears. Inter-Regional Coverage Scheme responsibility: DC class 700. Maintains own Joint Fiction Reserve in shape of MJFR (Metropolitan Joint Fiction Reserve).

**NORTHERN R.L.S.** H.Q. at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Covers Cleveland, Durham, Cumberland, Northumberland and Westmorland. Formed 1931. 66 member libraries (26 public, 17 university and college, 23 special). Deals with about 17,000 requests annually. Union catalogue: sheaf, basic

compilation complete; some arrears. Inter-Regional Coverage Scheme responsibility: DC class 000. National Joint Fiction Reserve: authors D—F.

NORTH WESTERN R.L.S. H.Q. at Manchester. Covers Lancashire, Cheshire and the Isle of Man (plus Glossop from Derbyshire). Formed 1935. 108 member libraries (77 public, 13 university and college, 18 special). Receives about 36,000 applications annually. Union catalogue: sheaf, basic compilation not completed. Inter-Regional Coverage Scheme responsibility: DC class 600. National Joint Fiction Reserve: authors A—C.

SCOTTISH UNION CATALOGUE. H.Q. at Scottish Central Library, Edinburgh. Covers Scotland. Formed 1945. 96 member libraries, including public, university, college and special. Receives about 20,000 applications annually. Union catalogue: sheaf, basic compilation not completed, but staff of S.U.C. are engaged on this work. Inter-Regional Coverage Scheme responsibility: DC class 350—399.

SOUTH EASTERN R.L.S. H.Q. at London (N.C.L.) Covers Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, Surrey, Sussex and the 20 London boroughs of Greater London not in the L.U.C. Formed 1933. Plans are being made for the future amalgamation of the S.E.R.L.S. and the L.U.C. 88 member libraries (all public). Receives about 100,000 requests annually, which makes it by far the busiest Regional System. Union catalogue: sheaf, basic compilation complete, some current arrears, particularly of withdrawals. Inter-Regional Coverage Scheme responsibility: DC class 900. Does not participate in the National Joint Fiction Reserve, as it has access and contributes to the Metropolitan Joint Fiction Reserve.

SOUTH WESTERN R.L.S. H.Q. at Bristol. Covers Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight,

Oxfordshire, Somerset and Wiltshire. Formed 1937. 74 member libraries (43 public, 21 university and college, 10 special). Deals with about 30,000 applications annually. Union catalogue: sheaf, basic compilation complete, but there are current arrears. Inter-Regional Coverage Scheme responsibility: DC class 200. National Joint Fiction Reserve: authors T—Z.

WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE R.L.S. H.Q. at Aberystwyth and Cardiff. Covers Wales and Monmouthshire. Formed 1931. Aberystwyth Bureau: 36 member libraries (28 public, 2 university, 6 special). Deals with about 5,000 requests annually. Union catalogue: cards and slips, basic compilation not completed. Cardiff Bureau: 39 member libraries (17 public, 2 university, 16 special and 4 workmen's institutes). Deals with about 9,000 requests annually. Union catalogue: card, basic compilation abandoned; since 1950 based on printed weekly parts of B.N.B. Inter-Regional Coverage Scheme responsibility: DC class 100.

WEST MIDLANDS R.L.S. H.Q. at Birmingham. Covers Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire. Formed 1931. 78 member libraries (45 public, 16 university and college, 17 special). Receives about 20,000 applications annually. Union catalogue: sheaf, basic compilation complete, except for additions before 1957 to Birmingham Public and University Libraries. Inter-Regional Coverage Scheme responsibility: DC class 500. National Joint Fiction Reserve: authors K—M.

YORKSHIRE R.L.S. H.Q. at Sheffield. Covers Yorkshire (less Cleveland). Formed 1935. 53 member libraries (49 public, 4 university and college). Deals with about 14,000 requests annually. No union catalogue, as System works through Zonal and Sub-Zonal centres. Only 18 libraries are normally asked to lend books through Y.R.L.S. Inter-Regional Cover-

age Scheme responsibility: DC class 300—349. National Joint Fiction Reserve: authors N—S.

A close study of the above data will reveal several weaknesses of the present structure. One is that there are two separate bureaux in Wales, another that in London and the South East there are no academic or special libraries in the systems. These have to apply direct to the N.C.L. Yet another weakness is the state of the union catalogues, very few of which are up-to-date. This being so, it might be thought that the creation of fewer and larger regions may make the union catalogue position quite impossible. On the other hand it must be borne in mind that the answer to this problem may well lie in the use of computers, and this is being currently studied.

#### DISTRICT SCHEMES OF CO-OPERATION

These have grown up since the 1930s and are usually based on a public library (or libraries) linked with scientific, technical, industrial and commercial libraries in a given area. Union lists of periodicals, directories, dictionaries, etc. are compiled and maintained; abstracting and translating services are often provided; and the schemes generally provide comprehensive bibliographical and information services. Among many such schemes are:

SINTO (Sheffield Interchange Organisation) inaugurated by the Sheffield Public Libraries in 1933 and based on the Central Library there.

CICRIS (Co-operative Industrial Commercial Reference and Information Service—West London) formed 1951. Based on Ealing (Acton Library) and other public libraries of W. and N.W. London in collaboration with many industrial and commercial firms.

HULTIS (Hull Technical Information Service) started in 1952, has about 30 member organisations and is based on Hull Central Library.

LADSIRLAC (Liverpool and District Scientific and Industrial Research Library Advisory Council) began in 1955 and is centred on Liverpool Central Library which provides the bulk of the information service. Industrial and commercial members of the Council give financial rather than bibliographical service.

NANTIS (Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Technical Information Service) formed 1963. Based on the Nottingham Central Library, this is run by a Council and a Technical Committee. Publishes a Directory of member's resources, and a regular news bulletin.

Other local technical and commercial schemes of co-operation are based on the public libraries of Birmingham, Burnley, Cardiff, Coventry, Edinburgh, Huddersfield, Luton, Manchester, Norwich, Preston, Thurrock and other places.

#### INTER-AVAILABILITY OF LIBRARY TICKETS

Another form of library co-operation is the inter-availability of library tickets between authorities. For many years libraries at holiday resorts accepted current library tickets from visitors and issued books on them. In London the old Metropolitan borough libraries had such a scheme since the 1940s, and up and down the country many local schemes were agreed upon.

The Library Association for many years urged and encouraged the complete inter-availability of library tickets throughout the country. In 1961 the Association of Municipal Corporations (A.M.C.) also urged its member bodies to adopt the idea, while in 1959 the Roberts Committee Report

suggested it and urged that financial agreements between authority and authority for this purpose should be abandoned.

Unfortunately the Public Libraries and Museums Act, 1964 did not include the latter recommendation. Whilst making it clear that a library authority must make its facilities available to all who live, study or work within its area, it also permits the making of contributions from one library authority to another for facilities provided. Happily there is nothing in the Act to prevent free inter-availability. The present position is that while inter-availability of library tickets on a national basis is not yet quite a *fait accompli*, most progressive library authorities, indeed the majority, will honour current tickets from other libraries and will issue books upon them.



PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND  
QUALIFICATION

## HISTORY

Almost from its outset, the Library Association interested itself in the training and education of librarians. In 1880, only three years after its foundation, the L.A. formed a Committee on the training of Library Assistants. Recommendations were made in 1881, but were not adopted; nevertheless, the Committee was reappointed the same year. In 1882 a new report was received and approved by the Conference, and the A.G.M. of 1883 approved a resolution that an examination syllabus be drawn up. This was done and it was approved in 1884, and the first examinations under this syllabus were held in July 1885. There were revisions of the syllabus in 1891 and in 1907 when the six sectional examination system was approved. Under this, the certificates could be taken separately; possession of any four gave the Associateship, and all six gave the Fellowship. Meanwhile, the professional register came into being in 1909.

In 1933 the sectional examinations were abolished and the new syllabus was arranged into Elementary, Intermediate and Final examinations. Passing of the Intermediate gave the A.L.A. and of the Final gave the F.L.A. After the Second World War the Association gave a great deal of attention

to its syllabus needs, and more changes came into force in 1950 with the syllabus based on Entrance, Registration and Final examinations. The Registration was a considerable extension of the previous Intermediate examination. In 1961 the present syllabus which came into force in 1964 was approved. For full details of this students will no doubt already have consulted either the *L.A. Year Book* or the current edition of the *Students' Handbook*.

#### PRE-ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS

Candidates for the Part I examination must have (a) passed the General Certificate of Education in five subjects, of which one must be in English Language and two must be at Advanced Level; *or* (b) obtained a Scottish Certificate of Education in five subjects, of which one must be English and three at Higher grade; *or* (c) obtained the Northern Ireland Senior Grammar School Certificate with five passes, of which one must be English and two at Advanced level; *or* (d) as a temporary measure, passed the Entrance Examination of the Library Association; *or* (e) passed the First Professional Examination of the Library Association; *or* (f) obtained such other general education certificate as the Council shall from time to time accept as being of equivalent standard.

#### FACILITIES FOR STUDY AND TRAINING

Organised study for student librarians may be said to have begun in 1892 when a committee of the L.A. was appointed on the subject. The first Summer School was held in London in 1893 and the Education Committee of the L.A. was first appointed in 1896. In 1898 the first series of classes in librarianship were organised in London, while correspondence courses, later taken over by the Association of Assistant

Librarians, were begun by the L.A. in 1905. Summer schools started in the North West in 1897, at Aberystwyth in 1917, in Scotland in 1922, and in Birmingham in 1930. In 1919 the University of London School of Librarianship was inaugurated with help from the C.U.K.T. Part-time classes were started at many technical colleges in the 1920s and 1930s, but it was not until after 1945 that full-time library schools for non-graduates were set up in Britain.

SCHOOL OF LIBRARIANSHIP AND ARCHIVES,  
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Founded in 1919 with C.U.K.T. encouragement and financial help, the University now offers a Diploma in Librarianship, and a Diploma in Archive Administration. The librarianship course is open to graduates of approved universities, and applicants are normally expected to have obtained a year's experience of practical work in a library. Full-time students complete Part I of the course in one year, and continue with Part II (consisting of a bibliography or a thesis) after leaving the School and obtaining a post in a library. Twelve month's full-time service in an approved library is required before the Diploma is awarded.

The courses, details of which may be found in the *L.A. Year Book* and the *Students' Handbook*, include two or three week's practical work in libraries or record offices for all full-time students.

For many years, the University of London School of Librarianship and Archives ran the only post-graduate course of study in the country, but now the University of Sheffield and Queen's University, Belfast, have started such courses. In addition, some of the other full-time library schools, listed below, also offer one-year courses for graduates.

## LIBRARY SCHOOLS

Full-time library schools grew up in Britain in the years immediately following the Second World War. There were originally nine of them, but there are now eleven and these, added to the three post-graduate schools mentioned above, mean that there are now fourteen graduate and non-graduate library schools in the United Kingdom.

School of Librarianship, North Western Polytechnic,  
N.W.5

School of Librarianship, Ealing Technical College, W.5.

School of Librarianship, City of Birmingham College of  
Commerce.

School of Librarianship, Brighton Technical College.

School of Librarianship, Leeds College of Commerce.

School of Librarianship, City of Liverpool College of  
Commerce.

School of Librarianship, Loughborough College of  
Further Education.

School of Librarianship, Manchester College of Commerce.

Department of Librarianship, Newcastle Municipal  
College of Commerce.

School of Librarianship, The University of Strathclyde  
(Scottish College).

College of Librarianship, Aberystwyth, Wales.

The last-named is interesting because it is the first independent college in the United Kingdom to specialise in the study of library science.

Two overseas library schools should also be mentioned. These are the School of Librarianship, Ghana Library Board, Accra, which offers a full-time two year course lead-

ing to the L.A. Part I and Part II examinations. Since 1965 a degree course and a post-graduate diploma have begun at the University of Ghana. The other school is the Institute of Librarianship, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, which offers courses leading to an Ibadan Diploma in Librarianship open to graduates and others with two years' full-time library experience and part of the Registration Examination.

Education in Librarianship is yet another subject which lends itself to comparative study. For this reason students should obtain some outline knowledge of the library school position in at least one overseas country, so as to be able to compare this with British practice. Suggested countries are the U.S.A. (which might be described as the home of library schools), Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Holland and West Germany.

#### CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

As already stated, correspondence courses began in 1905, being taken over by the A.A.L. in 1930. Because the syllabus which started in 1964 is designed for full-time study, it was decided not to offer correspondence courses for the Part I and Part II examinations generally, although courses are available for four papers of List C in Part II. These are intended for Associates requiring an additional paper and for transitional students. However, courses are still arranged for the old Entrance Examination and for the 1950 Final Examination, until these end in 1967 and 1968 respectively.

#### PART-TIME COURSES

Classes in librarianship, on a part-time basis, are still organised by 28 technical colleges and colleges of further education, eight of these being in the London area, one in Scotland, one in Wales, and the remainder in the English provinces.

This method of study, though better than the correspondence course method, is still not as satisfactory as the full-time courses. For the time being, however, there is a clear need for the part-time courses, especially as the library schools, despite notable expansions, still cannot take all the students who would like full-time education in librarianship. Reference to the *L.A. Year Book* or the *Students' Handbook* will give the addresses of the colleges where part-time classes are still arranged.

#### SUMMER SCHOOLS AND OCCASIONAL COURSES

Summer schools are now held regularly at Edinburgh and Birmingham. The South Eastern Division of the A.A.L. and the Youth Libraries Group hold annual week-end schools, details of which will be found in the *Students' Handbook* or in the *Library Association Record*.

#### COUNCIL FOR NATIONAL ACADEMIC AWARDS

At the time of writing there is little information on the possible impact of the Council for National Academic Awards on library education, but it appears likely that the near future will see C.N.A.A. degrees in librarianship. The Library Association and the Association of British Library Schools are at present studying the position.

#### LIBRARY FACILITIES

The main professional library in the country is that of the Library Association, housed in its headquarters at Ridgmount Street, W.C.1. It includes the former A.A.L. Library and it now has about 30,000 volumes, excluding runs of periodicals, thousands of pamphlets and reports, photographs, plans, slides, transparencies, tape-recordings and other material. Over 400 current periodicals on librarianship and biblio-

graphy are currently received. Both lending and reference facilities are available to members, and books are sent by post. The *Catalogue of the L.A. Library* was printed and published in 1958. Photocopying services are available, and the library is on Telex.

There are other special libraries of librarianship, notably the Greenwood Library for Librarians, a department of the Manchester Public Libraries. Originally belonging to Thomas Greenwood, its 10,000 books and pamphlets were presented by him to Manchester in 1904, together with a legacy of £5,000 for future purchases. Since then, the library has been augmented by donations and by the additions bought by the Manchester Public Libraries. Books may be borrowed for home reading by librarians and students in any part of the United Kingdom. The period of loan is one month, borrowers must pay postage both ways, and not more than three books may be borrowed by any one person at a time.

All the library schools, as well as most public and academic libraries, and some special libraries, maintain good collections of books and other material for the use of student librarians. Specially notable collections are:

Aslib Library, 3 Belgrave Square, S.W.1, open for reference to accredited students, and many items may be borrowed by members of Aslib.

Southwark Public Libraries, under the Metropolitan Special Collections Scheme, hold over 7,500 volumes and 95 files of periodicals at their Bermondsey Library.

Ealing Public Libraries have a good collection formed under the S.E. Regional Library System's subject specialisation scheme. It has published a list of them (3rd ed. 1961). Where there is more than one copy available, books may be lent out for home reading.

Barnet Public Libraries specialise in printing and the physical aspects of the book, also under the S.E. Regional Library System's subject specialisation scheme.

National Book League Library contains over 6,000 volumes on bibliography, publishing, printing, bookselling, authorship, book collecting and English literature. Books may be borrowed by members.



# PROFESSIONAL AND OTHER ASSOCIATIONS CONNECTED WITH LIBRARIES

## THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The Library Association was founded in 1877 after the first International Conference of Librarians, which was held in London. The founder President was John Winter Jones, Director and Principal Librarian of the British Museum. Its first official organ was the (American) *Library Journal*. Later, this was superseded by *Monthly Notes* (1880-3), *Library Chronicle* (1884-8), *The Library* (1889-98), and the *Library Association Record* (1899-date).

The Library Assistants' Association was started in 1895. In 1922 it became the Association of Assistant Librarians, and eight years later the A.A.L. became a section of the Library Association.

A Royal Charter was granted to the Library Association in 1898, and this, together with the current Bye-laws, can be referred to in the *L.A. Year Book*.

Membership has grown from 240 in 1880 to 2,800 in 1930 and over 15,000 in 1965. In 1929 revised bye-laws provided for the formation of Sections, although the County Libraries Section and the University and Research Libraries Section

already existed at that time. In 1930 the A.A.L. joined them as another Section, and after 1945 the Youth Libraries, Medical, and Reference and Special Libraries Sections were formed.

A radical reorganisation of the L.A. was approved in 1961 by the A.G.M. and by the Privy Council in 1962. This took voting rights from delegates representing institutional members, and henceforth these became known as affiliated members. Other changes revolutionised the internal organisation of the L.A. by altering the committees of the Council. Now there are separate standing committees for Public Libraries, Special Libraries, National, University, College and Medical Libraries, Education, Publications, Library Research, and finally there is the Executive Committee. Meetings of Committees and Council are normally held four times a year.

Under the reorganisation the Sections became known as Groups, and new Groups, including those for Hospital Libraries, Sound Recordings, Library History and Cataloguing and Indexing have since been formed. The L.A. is also divided geographically, into eleven branches, each of which is represented on the Council by a Branch Councillor elected by the Branch membership.

The Association has issued many important publications. As well as its monthly journal the *Library Association Record*. it issues a *Year Book* and a *Students' Handbook* annually. *Library Science Abstracts* (quarterly) has appeared since 1950; *British Humanities Index* (earlier title *Subject Index to Periodicals*) since 1915; *British Education Index* since 1961 and *British Technology Index* since 1962; Among its many other publications may be mentioned Walford's *Guide to Reference Material* and the *Catalogue of the L.A. Library*.

The L.A. was formed at a conference and it has held an annual conference ever since. From 1963 there has been an annual member's conference, and in addition a Public

Libraries Conference. Furthermore, the Branches and Groups hold conferences and organise other meetings for members.

#### THE ASSOCIATION OF ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS

The history of the A.A.L. has already been outlined. Its journal is *The Assistant Librarian*, first published in 1898 as *The Library Assistant*. The A.A.L. is organised into divisions covering the whole country. It holds conferences, organises meetings, has an active publishing programme, mainly in the field of students' textbooks, and has for many years arranged correspondence courses in connection with the L.A. examinations. One of the A.A.L.'s main contributions to British librarianship is that it has been a good training ground for young librarians through the opportunities it has given them to take part in public discussions and committee work.

#### ASLIB

Founded in 1924 as the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux. In 1949 it combined with the British Society for International Bibliography to form a new body known as Aslib. Its present headquarters is at 3 Belgrave Square, S.W.1.

It is the chief body in Britain concerned with the development of special libraries and information bureaux. Services to its members include a Research Department, Consultant Service, Information Service, the Aslib Library Service, Locating Service, Photocopying Service, and the organisation of conferences and meetings. In addition it maintains registers of specialist translators and indexers, as well as a staff employment register, useful to those who seek posts in special libraries.

Aslib is organised into Branches and Groups, there being branches in Scotland, North England, and the Midlands. The

Groups cover aeronautics, chemical industry, economics, electronics, engineering, film production librarianship, fuel and power, furniture, textiles and technical translation.

The membership of Aslib is now approaching 3,000, the majority of members being industrial and commercial concerns. There are, however, over 500 individuals in membership, as well as universities, colleges, public and national libraries, and Government departments.

Like the L.A., Aslib has an active publishing programme. In 1928 the *Aslib Directory* was issued, and a second edition of this appeared in 1957. Among its many other publications are the *Aslib Cranfield Research Project*, *British Scientific and Technical Books*, *Faceted Classification*, *Handbook of Special Librarianship and Information Work*, and many other titles. *Aslib Book List* is a monthly publication listing recent scientific and technical books; *Aslib Proceedings* is also issued monthly while *Journal of Documentation* is a quarterly containing major articles, book reviews etc. Other publications are the *Aslib Year Book*, which despite its title appears irregularly, and the *Index to Theses Accepted for Higher Degrees in the Universities of Great Britain and Ireland*.

Aslib has a comprehensive library on all aspects of librarianship and documentation, and this is at the disposal of all members.

#### STANDING CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES (SCONUL)

SCONUL was formed in September 1950, its object being to promote the work of national and university libraries. There are now 62 representatives in membership, but this does not mean that there are this number of libraries, because some, such as the British Museum, the Bodleian and others have more than one representative in membership.

The Conference meets twice a year at a different university

each time, and the meetings last two days. It has a number of working sub-committees, dealing with such matters as Export of Books and MSS., Co-operation in Acquisitions, Automation in Librarianship, Training for Librarianship, and other special problems.

SCONUL has also organised courses at the Bodleian Library, the National Lending Library for Science and Technology, and elsewhere. It has also sponsored publications, among them being Ramage's *Finding List of English Books to 1640*. Although SCONUL grew out of a certain dissatisfaction with the Library Association's attention to national and university library affairs, co-operation between it and the L.A. is now close and is growing closer.

#### SCHOOL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The School Library Association was founded in 1937 to promote the development of school libraries, to encourage efficient administration in them, and to provide opportunities for school librarians to meet and to make contact with other bodies having like interests. Its headquarters is at 150 Southampton Row, W.C.1 and every school term the Association publishes *The School Librarian and School Library Review* which is issued free to members. It has also published several handbooks and bibliographies of value to school librarians, one such being *The Library in the Primary School*, issued in 1958. The Association also maintains a library for the use of its members.

#### NATIONAL BOOK LEAGUE

The National Book League has its headquarters at 7, Albemarle Street, W.1. Membership is open to anyone interested in books. Book exhibitions are on view almost continuously, and there is a club, restaurant and library. The

latter contains about 6,000 'Books about books', there being a printed catalogue with this title. The library is classified according to the Bibliographic Classification of Bliss.

Publications include *Books*, a regular journal including articles and news, exhibition catalogues, and *Readers' Guides* and *Book Lists* covering a variety of subjects.

The N.B.L. was one of the four sponsors of the first National Library Week to be held in Britain in 1966, the others being the Booksellers' Association, the Library Association and the Publishers Association.

#### CIRCLE OF STATE LIBRARIANS

This organisation was formed in the 1930s, and since 1952 it has included all members of Government library staffs. It has no headquarters but its activities include the arrangement of meetings, both professional and social, as well as the organising of visits to libraries and other places of interest. It publishes duplicated newsletters and bulletins for distribution to members.

#### THE BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

This society was formed for the study of bibliography, book collection and book production. Its headquarters is at the British Academy, Burlington Gardens, W.1. The Society possesses a library from which it lends material to members, and loans are also made through the N.C.L. Its official journal is *The Library*, published quarterly.

#### ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH THEOLOGICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL LIBRARIES

Known as ABTAPL for short, this organisation used to be known as SCOTAPLL (Standing Conference of Theo-

logical and Philosophical Libraries in London). The Association now includes nation-wide public, university and special libraries devoted to or with special interests in these subject fields. A directory list of member libraries has been issued, as well as a union list of periodicals available in them, and a news bulletin is published at regular intervals. Attempts have been made towards co-operative book purchase, and a standard readers' ticket, available in all member libraries, has been devised.

#### OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

There are numerous other bodies in Britain organised for the study and furtherance of various aspects of librarianship and bibliography, among them being the Society of Archivists, the Society of Indexers, the Microfilm Association of Great Britain (formerly the Council for Microphotography and Photographic Reproduction), the Institute of Reprographic Technology, the Institute of Information Scientists Ltd., the Classification Research Group, the Association of British Library Schools, the Cambridge Bibliographical Society, the Edinburgh Bibliographical Society, the Oxford Bibliographical Society and the Society for the Bibliography of Natural History.

The names and addresses of the secretaries of these organisations may be found in the *L.A. Year Book*, and further information about them may be had from these secretaries.

### *International Associations*

#### INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

Formed in 1928 as an international committee, this body has since 1953 been constituted as the IFLA Council. It works through a series of sub-committees, dealing with such sub-

jects as public libraries, union catalogues, international loans, cataloguing rules, exchange of publications, etc. It organises a regular international congress, and committee conferences are held annually. News of IFLA is published in *Libri*, a quarterly publication edited and issued from Copenhagen. It also issues *Actes du Conseil de la FIAB* annually, and in 1963 it published its long-term programme under the title of *Libraries in the Modern World*. Although named 'International' IFLA is more of a European than a world organisation, though American librarians are now happily taking increased interest in it.

#### UNESCO

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) has since 1945 concerned itself very closely with developing the public library conception in newly independent countries. From its headquarters in Paris, Unesco has operated through a Public Libraries Division, and has organised pilot library projects in India, Colombia, Nigeria, Sudan and other places, with the assistance of expert librarians from America, Britain and Scandinavia. Unesco has its own library and information office, has helped to further international exchange of publications and other international bibliographical projects.

In 1961 it issued the publication *Public Libraries and their Mission*, written by André Maurois. It also publishes the *Unesco Bulletin for Libraries*, a regular journal of news and articles issued in English, French, Spanish and Russian editions, as well as the bi-monthly *Bulletin on Bibliography, Documentation and Terminology*.

#### THE BRITISH COUNCIL

The work of the British Council in international librarianship is well worthy of study, and an excellent brief review of



it may be perused from pages 1 to 16 of the Council's annual report for 1964-5. Ever since its inception in 1940 the British Council has paid great attention to the provision of libraries, but its greatest work has been done since 1945 for emergent countries overseas. Not only has it set up libraries in many of these countries in the first place, but it has also helped to train local librarians and has paved the way for many new services such as those in Ghana and Uganda.

At the present time the British Council maintains 141 libraries of its own, and is directly associated with a further 55 to which it sends regular supplies. To quote the Council's report: 'These 196 libraries cover 83 countries, and include 62 in Asia, 42 in Africa and 42 in Europe. There are 12 in India, 8 in Pakistan, 7 in Nigeria and 5 in Iran. They are kept closely up-to-date; 252,372 volumes were supplied to them in 1964. They have about one-third of a million regular and registered readers, and in 1964 lent about 4½ million books'.

This, however, is only part of the story. One great virtue about the British Council's work for libraries is that it employs professionally-qualified librarians, and these in their turn have done outstanding work in training those who work for them.

Mention must also be made of *British Book News*, a monthly annotated list of new British books published by Longman's for the British Council. Although this is circulated in Britain as well as overseas, it is designed as an aid to overseas librarians and readers.

#### FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE DOCUMENTATION (FID)

Though its headquarters is now in Holland, the FID grew out of the Institut Internationale de Documentation at Brussels, which in 1895 began to formulate the Brussels expansion of the Decimal Classification, now known as the

Universal Decimal Classification (UDC). FID now has many more interests than classification, although this topic, together with the related ones of cataloguing and information retrieval, form the mainstay of its publications and conferences. It is perhaps more truly international than IFLA. Its conference delegates come from all over the world but this leads to language difficulties and perhaps reduces the value of the conferences. FID publishes *Révue de la Documentation* quarterly and *FID News Bulletin* monthly, while among its other publications is the *Manual on Document Reproduction and Selection*, a loose-leaf production, in progress since 1953.

#### INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MUSIC LIBRARIES

This was founded to unite music libraries and librarians all over the world, and among its members are national, university, academic and public libraries, and those who work in them. It produces a valuable thrice-yearly journal *Fontes Artis Musicae*. There is a United Kingdom branch of the I.A.M.L. which organises meetings and publishes news bulletins. The parent body also arranges conferences, and among the subjects which have been studied are music cataloguing and classification, gramophone record libraries, music shelving, display techniques and other matters of interest to music librarians.

#### OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES

Numerous other international bodies exist for the furtherance of librarianship and bibliography throughout the world. Among these are the Asian Federation of Library Associations, the International Association of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists, the International Association of Tech-

nical University Libraries (IATUL)), and the International Council for Building Research, Studies and Documentation (CIB).

Details of the addresses, secretaries and publications of these will be found in the *L.A. Year Book*.



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- PRITCHARD, E. P. University extra-mural libraries. L.A. 1961.
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- THORNTON, J. L. The Chronology of librarianship. Grafton. 1939.
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Also reports of the British Museum, National Library of Scotland, National Library of Wales, National Central Library and the various Regional Library Systems.

A knowledge of the scope and contents of professional periodicals is also essential. These include the *Library Association Record*, *Library Review*, *Library World*, *Assistant Librarian*, *Journal of Documentation*, *Aslib Proceedings*, *The Indexer*, *The School Librarian*, *Library Science Abstracts*, *Unesco Bulletin for Libraries*, *Libri*, *Library Journal*, *Library Trends* and *Wilson Library Bulletin*.





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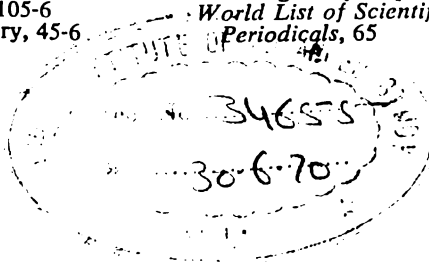
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