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WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES is the official organ of the West Virginia Library Association. It is published quarterly. Contributions and other Communications should be addressed to the Editor or to the appropriate Editorial Assistant. Subscription is included with the membership dues. Annual subscription is one dollar to non-members.

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The provision of adequate library facilities was one of the first major problems facing the planners of West Virginia University's vast new Medical Center. In the medical sciences, the hourly adage that "the library is the heart of the school" is literally true. Medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and the allied sciences are moving at such a rapid pace that workers in these areas must have access to a comprehensive and properly managed library. There is every intention of providing just such a library for West Virginia.

The new Health Sciences Library will contain about 100,000 volumes—-with sufficient expansion space to house 250,000. About eighty-five percent of the holdings will be periodicals. The library will have seats for some 200 users, special study rooms, carrels, current periodical display shelves and very generous work areas for the staff.

The Health Sciences Library will be located on the second floor of the Basic Sciences Building. This location is adequate but not ideal—-libraries should be on the first floor. However, the basic plan of the building makes a second floor location necessary. The main room is rectangular in shape, some 200 feet long and 90 feet wide. The extreme length of the room combined with a rather awkward location of the stack will have greatly complicated planning.

To the left of the main entrance will be the current periodical room, where about 800 periodicals will be on display. The periodicals themselves will be used as part of the decor. They will be displayed on special shelving which allows the most recent issue to stand almost upright on the shelf. The back numbers are under a shelf which lifts up to make them accessible.

On the right of the main entrance will be the combined charging-refer-
ence desk. Directly behind the desk is an ample work room.

Near the middle of the room, on the left, will be a "calling Doctor Kildare" room. This sound-proofed room will be for the use of hospital staff members who are on call. In it will be a phone and a connection with the hospital switchboard. The stack will be in the center of the room, some 117 feet from the main entrance. There are to be eight stack levels with a capacity of 28,000 volumes each. To the right of the stack well will be ten rooms, each of which will seat six students. The rooms are sound-proofed with double glass—which allows supervision from the desk. The purpose of such rooms is two-fold: they provide a convenient place for students to work together on group assignments; they help keep the library quiet by taking off the main floor the inevitable discussions.

A number of new ideas will be used in the Health Sciences Library. One will be a large reading room with the lights diminishing in power as one goes down it. Students will have a choice of reading under candle power ranging from twenty-eight to fourteen. There will be fifteen stack ranges on the main floor, accessible from both sides. To aid the student in remembering his place, the end panels of the first five ranges will be painted five different colors.
The Huntington Public Library is joining with the local Women's Inter-Club Council in a drive to improve the quality of comic books and children's reading. The Council sponsored a city ordinance against the sale of sex and crime comic books to persons under the age of eighteen. At the same time, the Council felt the need for a more positive approach and a publicity campaign to counteract opposition to the newly authorized censorship. At the Council's suggestion, the Library agreed to carry on a "trade-in" program.

A plan was made to give to each child one free copy of a good book for every ten crime, horror, or war comic books brought to the Library. Needless to say, the comic books are being destroyed. The Library had on hand about five hundred copies of the Pocket Book Junior series. They were supplemented with a wide selection of Golden Books, Wonder Books and the like. For older children, a selection of the better paperbacks was secured. In all, about one hundred titles representing about a thousand volumes were available. The local news agency provided racks for the display of the material.

The Inter-Club Council spearheaded the publicity campaign for the drive. The local newspapers, radio and TV stations gave maximum support. Pictures and stories made the front pages of both the morning and evening papers. Editorial comment was highly favorable. Comic pictures of youngsters making the exchanges were carried by the TV stations in Huntington and Charleston.

It must be confessed that the boys and girls of the city responded but modestly to the drive. In the first week of the campaign only fourteen hundred comic books were brought in for exchange. The reasons for this rather disappointing return are not clear. Certainly it can not be blamed on inadequate publicity. Nor does the quality of books given in exchange seem to have been at fault. Indeed, on the contrary, for there seemed to be general satisfaction with the books received.

The rather modest results to date have not come as a great surprise to the library staff. The library decided that such a drive would change the reading habits or would make a great contribution to the supply of good reading matter. It entered the program largely to alleviate the importance of good reading and, most important, to bring the Library into the picture. For these reasons, the Library plans to continue the trade-in program and will extend it to the branches.

The current and nation-wide campaigns against the so-called "sex-comics" comic books make it rather likely that other public libraries may find themselves in a situation similar to that described above. The following observations based on our experience at Huntington are hereby offered for what they may be worth to other librarians:

a. The response is likely to be somewhat less than overwhelming.
b. The publicity value can be vast. The Huntington Public Library has had its widest and most favorable publicity in many years. It is hoped that this publicity will be a factor in a wider understanding of the Library and in more understanding of its needs.
Almost every librarian in the state is called upon to give reference service in the general field of West Virginia—state and local history, politics, education, genealogy and the like. In many cases such activity will constitute the bulk of reference work. Most of us have learned by sad experience that the best and far too often the only source of information is buried in periodicals. "Buried" is not too strong a term, for most of the periodicals dealing with West Virginia material are unindexed. This means that exasperating and time-consuming searches are required to locate information—or, since staff time for such searching is often not available, that questions go unanswered and patrons unsatisfied.

Indexing is of course the only solution to this problem. The publication of an index to the more important journals devoted to West Virginia affairs would be of inestimable aid to librarians and students alike. It would also bring real and merited credit to the Association.

Some considerable progress has already been made in the indexing of West Virginia periodicals. The Reference Department of West Virginia University Library has prepared complete subject indexes for the following journals:

- Illustrated Monthly West Virginian
  6:1-2 1907–6:2 1909
- Hessianghery Historical Magazine
  18:1–5 1901–18:5 1909
- West Virginia Historical Magazine
  17–34:2 1901–6:2 1905

West Virginia Review

v48-52 1945–49 1949

(a less comprehensive index for v41-48 of the West Virginia Review has been prepared by the State Department of Archives and History).

In addition to the discontinued titles listed above, the University Reference Department is indexing on a continuing basis the following currently issued periodicals:

- West Virginia State Magazine
- West Virginia Municipalities

All this indexing has been done on standard 3x5 cards. Every effort has been made to conform to established subject headings. The Wilson indexes have served as a model.

It seems very likely that other libraries in the state have attempted to improve their reference service by the preparation of periodical indexes. Indeed, Mr. John Manier, Acting Librarian of West Liberty State College, is now preparing a comprehensive index to the West Virginia Educational Bulletin.

The integration and publication of locally-prepared indexes are difficult but not at all insurmountable problems. Indexes can be interfiled if they are prepared on cards and—vastly more important—if reasonably uniform subject headings have been adopted. Expense must be the chief consideration in the selection of a method of reproduction. It seems likely that the first edition of such an index should be reproduced as cheaply as possible—probably by
Mimeograph. Perhaps a second and corrected edition could be given a more elaborate format.

The task of preparing, editing and publishing an index to important periodicals dealing with West Virginians is clearly too great for one or two libraries. Cooperation and very close coordination of activities are most essential. Much advice and assistance will be required from all librarians within the state. For example:

a. What periodicals should be included in any master index of West Virginia material.

b. What libraries are both willing and able to assume the responsibility

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"MEDICAL LIBRARY" (Continued from p.2)

This pattern will be repeated for the second and third units of the stack range. Several types of tables and as many as five or six different styles of chairs will be used in a further effort to increase the comfort and the usability of the Library.

Questions concerning decor have not yet been fully settled. A subdued night club with good lighting might be considered as a model. Four or five colors will be used. External brick will be brought inside. Steel and aluminum framework will be left exposed in an effort to produce a more "masculine" looking library.

That leaves the problem of the staffing of the Library. A special library works from inside the subject rather than from the outside—just the reverse of a general library. Knowledge of subject is much more important than knowledge of library methods. The card catalog is used only if the resources for indexing all or part of a journal.

c. What libraries have unreported indexes which they would be willing to make available.

Any librarian having answers to any or all of the above is urged most strongly to pass them on to the Editor. Indeed, anyone having any opinions, suggestions, objections, questions, or what-have-you concerning this whole matter owes it both to himself and to the Association to share them with us. An editor of this journal will be glad to serve as a clearing house for all such communications.

Remember, cloth and alpaca never made an index.

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of the staff fall—as sort of a short-stop behind second base in case the baseman misses. Most of the work at the desk will be reference, and the library staff will be gathered on the basis of its ability to answer questions rather than on any talent in routine matters. Books will be cataloged on a basis of where the majority of users might be expected to look for them, rather than where they "should be." A cataloger in a medical library must know fully as much about the educational and the research programs of his institution as about the fine points of cataloging. Use must have priority over rules.

This short report has touched on only a few of the many questions involved in the planning of the Health Sciences Library. Several obvious and very major problems are still too much up in the air to discuss at this time. Such vital matters as finance, administration and duplication of material are still unresolved. We hope to discuss these problems in a later report.
Greetings,

As we close a Library Association year it seems an appropriate time to look back on the road we have traveled, but even more important to look forward to the road ahead.

We have just returned from an outstanding Library Conference in Bethesda. Everyone sensed a new feeling of pride and respect in the Association and in our profession. This year’s longer conference gave us more time to talk, to learn and to get acquainted. All of us found stimulation in the star-studded roster of speakers. There can never be another conference more brilliant.

As we look ahead, we must strive to retain the great gains we have made. We have come a long way indeed.

In considering goals for the new year, we must resolve to continue our struggle to build a feeling of “belonging” among the librarians of our State. We must feel proud that we are librarians and proud to belong to the West Virginia Library Association. It is against such a background that we can face and solve the great problems of library extension and expanded service.

Other goals for the coming year might include the following:

To work to create more public understanding of the need for the expansion of library services.

To look toward—and work for—a united library association which will have the enthusiastic support of all librarians.

To examine the present library legislation under which we operate and to initiate new or revised legislation.

To encourage and support the publication of bibliographies, periodical indexes and other aids for the control of West Virginians.

To encourage all members—not just a few—to take an active part in the affairs of the Association. There is more than enough work for all of us.

To attempt to win more first-rate recruits for librarianship in general and for West Virginia libraries in particular.

To encourage both formal and informal library gatherings along regional and type lines.

To work for the closer cooperation of libraries to promote better library service in West Virginia.

The above are a few goals—most of long standing—to which we might look for direction in the year to come. Of course our great goal is and has always been—MORE AND BETTER LIBRARIES FOR WEST VIRGINIA.

Camar Bacon, President

W. Va. Library Association

THE BETHANY CONFERENCE

The editorial staff of West Virginia Libraries wish to join Mr. Bacon in his praise of the Bethany Conference. The Conference seemed 'high times' in every respect—the high quality of the speakers, the excellent program, and the smooth planning. Mr. Dehymer and his staff have earned the profound thanks of the entire Association for the work above and beyond the call of duty.

Mr. Dehymer is now preparing for publication the four distinguished-service citations presented at Bethany. They will appear in the next issue of West Virginia Libraries.
PERSONALITIES

JOHN BENNETT of Uhrichsville, Ohio, has joined the staff of the Huntington Public Library. He will take over a split position as reader's advisor and administrative assistant. Mr. Bennett took his library work at the Albany, N.Y., State College.

KATHERINE C. DOWRE has accepted a position as Head of the Technical Processes Department, Free Public Library, Worcester, Massachusetts. Miss Dowre has been on the West Virginia University Library staff since 1947, since 1949 as Chief Acquisitions librarian. During these years Miss Dowre has done much to raise the prestige of our profession within the University. She has supervised—generally with an insufficient staff—the increasingly complex activities of her Department. In addition, Miss Dowre has found the time to be active in many social and professional organizations. The Association suffers a real loss in her leaving.

ALFRED E. FRANK has been appointed Health Sciences Librarian at West Virginia University. He comes from a like position at the University of Washington (Seattle). In the next two years Mr. Frank must gather together and organize for use a collection adequate to support the teaching and research requirements of a first-rate medical and dental school—no small task.

FRANCES GERARD, of Burton, W.Va., has been appointed Assistant Reference Librarian at the Kanawha County Public Library. The position was formerly held by Charles Loudermilk, who resigned recently. Miss Gerard is a graduate of Western Reserve Library School, and was formerly on the reference staff of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. She began her work at Kanawha County on October 11.

HUNTINGTON

The Huntington Public Library has had a large increase in circulation since July 1. Circulation is up 32% for the system as a whole. Barboursville branch has had a phenomenal 60% increase. Milton showed an increase
of 27.4%, downtown Huntington 20.9% and the Bookmobile 23.4%. The month of November reached an all-time high, being 3% above November a year ago.

New equipment received includes a Boardman Drive-Up Book Return, a Kodakograph Microfilm Reader and a Kodakograph Microfilm Reader. The branch libraries are receiving Remington Rand Kardex visible filing systems for their registration files.

As part of Bookweek the Library co-sponsored an autograph party with Anderson-Sewcomb Department store for Charles Ripper, local author and well-known illustrator of children's books. He has illustrated Scratchy, by John Parks, Sons of the Seasons, by Addison Webb, and his own book Bats. His publisher is William Morrow.

KANAWHA COUNTY

Six members of the staff attended the Convention at Bethany: Mark Crum, Librarian; Jerome Felkey, Reference; Wila Brown, Boys and Girls; Juliette Bynum, Circulation; Jane Brugger and Marcella Kramer, Catalog Department.

The Record Collection celebrated its first birthday in October. In the past year some 787 cataloged records and albums have been added. A listening room has been prepared and put into use.

The Picture Collection, formerly in a corner of the main circulation room, now has a room of its own.

Two Great Books discussion groups are again being held in the Library.

The United Carbide and Carbon Corporation have prepared a booklet, Your Public Library, which it has presented to local libraries for distribution.

MUSkingum

Some 250 new books were displayed at the Waitman Barbe Library in connection with the observance of National Book Week. Included were books for the "picture reading" age up to and including those for high school age groups.

A rental shelf of recent fiction and mysteries is a new project for the Library. These books are bought in the regular manner, but are charged out for three days for five cents and five cents each day thereafter. Circulation of these books is greater, and the new shelf has proved both profitable and popular.

OHIO COUNTY

Two members of the Board of Trustees and nine of the staff attended the Conference at Bethany. All were most enthusiastic in their praise and agreed that the Conference has been most rewarding.

Fall and winter activities are in full swing. Colleges and schools, clubs and organizations, are making greater use of library facilities.

Mr. Hughes of West Liberty conducted a session of his English class in the Reference Room. Miss Ebeling addressed its members and presented books to successful "researchers". One hundred twenty-five elementary school children have been brought to the Library by their teachers for conducted tours. The Ladies of the Moose gave an illustrated children's book. This organization plans to help build up the Children's Department. The American Legion has again contributed toward the purchase of books for distribution among the shut-ins.

The Library is reaching the public through sponsored broadcasts over station WVNK each Monday evening. Thirteen transcribed programs of Gilbert Highet's "World of Books" series are being given. Spot announcements on both TV and radio stations also help
to publicize the Library's program.

The monthly Saturday morning showing of children's movies got under way last month with "Olivia Family Robinson" and a packed house.

W. VA. LIBRARY COMMISSION

"How can we increase and improve circulation throughout the county" was the topic of discussion as librarians from Region A, West Virginia's first regional library, met at the Calhoun County High School in Grantsville on Thursday, November 4. Kenneth E. Brown, regional consultant from the West Virginia Library Commission, presided at the all day workshop. Miss Joan Collett and Mrs. Norma Stewart were the other Commission staff members present. The regional bookmobile librarian and driver, Miss Betty Jean Jolliffe and Robert L. Kelly, attended.

County librarians present were: Mrs. Lilian Wetzel from Doddridge Co.; Mrs. Janet Cunningham, Ritchie; Mrs. Elizabeth Molloy, Calhoun; Mrs. Mary Quiney and Mrs. Velma Hutchinson, Jackson; Mrs. Evelyn Simon for Roane County.

WANTS AND OFFERS

Starting with this issue, West Virginia Libraries will contain a "Wants and Offers" section. The purpose of the project is, of course, to bring together the "have" and the "want". Many libraries in the state are burdened with duplicate or unwanted material for which other libraries are searching. The following operating procedures are suggested to insure a maximum of confusion and a maximum of usefulness:

a. Wants and Offers should be sent directly to the Editor. They will be printed as submitted.

b. Once the lists have appeared, the responsibility of West Virginia Libraries is terminated. Librarians who wish items should correspond directly with the offering library.

OFFERED BY WEST VIRGINIA INSTltUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Charleston Daily Mail (film) Ag 1925—Je 1922
Charleston Gazette (film) Ag 1925—Je 1922
New York Times Mr—Sept 1930; Dec 1930—Il 1932
United States Daily Mr 1926—Sept 1931; Jan—Je 1932

Federal Code Annotated

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Offered by West Virginia University

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West Virginia, Board of Control, Report

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