

The Literature of American Library History, 1995-1996

Edward A. Goedeken

The very ink with which all history is written is merely fluid prejudice.

Mark Twain

No place affords a more striking conviction of the vanity of human hopes than a public library.

Samuel Johnson

One of the joys of presenting this biennial essay is that it affords the author an opportunity to gather together in one place and at one time a large quantity of writings on library history, which by a discussion of their substance and content, he hopes will provide illumination of the current direction our discipline is traveling. As has been the case of earlier editions of this enterprise, this essay is by its very nature broadly conceived and executed, with occasional excursions off the beaten path for which no apology is offered. And as is always the case, the author appreciates any omissions being brought to his attention for inclusion in future versions. It should also be noted that in some instances this essay will refer to literature that actually appeared before 1995, but was unfortunately overlooked the last time around.

The Library History Round Table and the Indiana University Center on Philanthropy sponsored the 9th Library History Seminar at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, in 1995, the proceedings of which appeared in successive issues of *Libraries & Culture*.¹ The seminar focused on the theme of "Libraries and Philanthropy," with numerous essays devoted to Carnegie and other patrons of American libraries who devoted their time and resources in establishing fledgling libraries throughout the United States. In this essay the seminar's papers will be treated individually within their appropriate subject sections.

Sources and Historiography

A new edition of our profession's standard historical survey represents the major historiographic event for 1995-96. Michael Harris, who took

over responsibility for Elmer Johnson's venerable *History of Libraries of the Western World*, continues to squeeze more years of library history into an increasingly smaller space, with this latest edition being the smallest yet.² In fifty pages Harris covers the entire spectrum of American library history, which is no mean task. And because of this, probably everyone can find something Harris missed. More on women, more on library services and how they were conducted, more on how information was organized and distributed. But Harris's one-volume study is the only one we have for now, so we must accept it warts and all until something better comes along.

Another long-established historical source with a fresh face is the recently published third edition of the American Historical Association's *Guide to Historical Literature*.³ Thirty-four years transpired between the second and third editions of the AHA's guide and it was certainly time for a new one. In two thick volumes containing over 25,000 entries, the annotated writings of thousands of historians are displayed. Unfortunately, researchers will seek in vain for any representations from the world of library history. There is no entry in the index for "library" or "libraries." The closest one comes to our literature is found in entries for "Books and the Book Trade" which point to some of the recent works on that topic in the colonial period. Nor will one find *Libraries & Culture* or *Library Quarterly* among the list of the most important historical journals. This means, of course, that it is incumbent that library historians continue to promote our scholarship within the traditional historical framework, so that when the fourth edition of the AHA guide appears, the literature of library history will be an established part of the canon.

As historians of libraries and the culture within which they function, it is important that we take the time to venture into some of the theoretical dimensions of what we are trying to do when we write history. Often we get so immersed in sorting our way through primary and secondary sources that the larger picture gets blurred (if it isn't already that way!). To assist in discerning the larger historiographical context, some of the recent work on the philosophy of history merits some consideration. These books, in no particular order, are Robert Frykenberg's *History and Belief*; David D. Roberts's *Nothing but History*; and Alex Callinicos's *Theories and Narratives*.⁴ Ralph Cohen and Michael S. Roth have edited an informative collection of essays, especially Carl Schorske's one on "History and the Study of Culture."⁵ Finally, David Russo's *Clio Confused* focuses on American historiographical tradition.⁶ Although this type of literature is often challenging to the uninitiated, spending some time with it will reward the reader and contribute toward a greater understanding of the current state of historiographical thought within the larger historical profession.

Finally, we cannot leave this section without paying homage to the new index to the library history profession's flagship journal *Libraries & Culture*, edited by Hermina Anghelescu and Elizabeth Dupuis.⁷ Actually this was a project of an indexing class at the University of Texas GSLIS taught by Linda Webster. The index covers the twenty-five-year span of the journal and its predecessors from 1966–1990. Divided into two sections—a general index and a book review index—the work is remarkable for its level of detail and comprehensiveness. More importantly, it is graphic testimony to the redoubtable editorial skills of Donald G. Davis Jr., who has been at the helm for over twenty years. As one reads through this review, it will become clear that library history appears in a wide variety of journals. Nevertheless, *Libraries & Culture* continues to represent overall the best journal scholarship on our subdiscipline.

Private Libraries

Private libraries received little attention during the period under review. Indeed, a series of short essays by Joel Silver in *AB Bookman's Weekly* comprises the majority of the literature in this section. Silver's subjects include John Carter Brown (1797–1874), whose avid collecting of books relating to American history in the nineteenth century served as the basis for the library that bears his name at Brown University.⁸ In addition to Brown, Silver fleshes out another famous collector of the era, James Lenox, who often competed with Brown in the race to collect rare Americana.⁹ Lenox is well-known for his involvement in the creation of the New York Public Library, and in a short space Silver summarizes the major events in his active life.

Another great collector to receive his due by the prolific Silver is Robert Hoe, who founded a prominent printing business in New York City in the 1820s and managed to gather together over fifteen thousand volumes, including a Gutenberg Bible on vellum, which was subsequently sold to Henry E. Huntington for the then-fabulous price of \$50,000. Hoe was also cofounder and first president of The Grolier Club. Upon his death his highly regarded collection was sold at auction.¹⁰ Probably the most interesting of Silver's essays is his portrait of the librarian for J. P. Morgan's personal library, Belle da Costa Greene.¹¹ Beginning in 1905, at the age of twenty-one, Greene served both the senior and junior John Pierpoints until her retirement in 1948. Although the subject of several smaller articles, no full-length biography exists for this fascinating woman, whose lifelong service to the Morgans helped them create one of America's most fabulous private libraries.

Other private libraries that received cursory notice include the Adams family library in Quincy, Massachusetts, which is treated in a brief essay

by Shirley Adamovich and Diane Tebbetts.¹² And in summary fashion, Joseph Rosenblum examines the life and times of John Alden Spoor, one of Chicago's most prominent nineteenth-century book collectors. In addition, Estelle Ellis, Caroline Seebohm, and Christopher Sykes have produced a well-illustrated volume on contemporary private libraries, useful for its comparative information and to help us appreciate the architectural aspects of contemporary private libraries. Also valuable is Kevin Guthrie's history of the New York Historical Society, which includes information on the development of its library.¹³

Finally, though perhaps not completely appropriate for this section, but still pertinent for its interest in personal libraries, is Kevin Hayes's sophisticated analysis of colonial women's reading habits.¹⁴ Hayes examined numerous wills and estate inventories to help him construct some generalizations about the reading habits of colonial women based on the private libraries they left behind. Granted, his sources are at times quite limited. Nevertheless, Hayes's book is an important examination of private libraries maintained by those who were not rich or famous, and his work provides important insights into the intellectual life of early American women.

Other than Hayes's book, the foregoing items are nothing more than cursory treatments. None represents the kind of scholarship necessary to more fully explicate the role individuals have played in collecting and disseminating the published word, or in assisting in the creation of our current system of libraries. As is the case nearly everywhere we look, there is plenty of work for library historians in further exploring the neglected realm of private collecting.

Special Libraries

Literature in this section is necessarily diverse, since it reflects the wide variety of libraries classified under this heading. Vernon Kisling Jr. continues his exploration of zoological libraries in an extensive essay in the *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science*.¹⁵ He notes that American zoological parks were late in establishing libraries, many of them only getting established and organized after World War II. Moving from taking care of animals to taking care of people, Nancy Panella provides a well-researched summary of the early-twentieth-century patients' library movement, which sought to place in all hospitals a collection of reading material for the patient, not necessarily for the doctors and nursing staff.¹⁶ Only after midcentury did hospitals and the Medical Library Association produce standards for hospital collections. Medical librarianship as a career receives historical consideration in Daria Carle's brief survey of the Associate Program at the National Library of

Medicine.¹⁷ The associate program is the nation's oldest postgraduate training program for health sciences librarians, and Carle's article provides context for learning more about the demographics of this specialty.

Special librarianship has an extensive presence on academic campuses, reflecting higher education's proclivity for creating branch libraries to assuage the teaching faculty's desire to have their research materials close at hand. Yet historical works are rare on this type of library. Only one example appeared this time, with Jeffrey Katz's slender recitation of the historical dimensions of the Rutgers University Management and Labor Relations Library.¹⁸ Another type of specialized campus library is explored by David Flynn in his study of Indiana University's Halls of Residence Libraries, which began in the early 1940s based on dorm libraries at Harvard and Yale.¹⁹ Through archival records and interviews Flynn reconstructs the development of this now extensive library system on the Bloomington campus over the past half-century.

Over one hundred years ago the Franciscan Province of St. John the Baptist started educating men for the priesthood in a vast area extending from Michigan to Louisiana. Michael T. Krieger probes the development of the seminary libraries established near Cincinnati, Ohio, connected with institutions at St. Francis, Duns Scotus, Oldenburg, and St. Leonard.²⁰ Krieger sets the growth of these libraries within the larger context of expansion of the Catholic Church in America. His research base is impressive and reflects diligent work in the archives of each seminary as well as thorough knowledge of the secondary literature. Seminary libraries are a scarcely tapped avenue for future research.

The *Government Information Quarterly* has published another "Symposium on Presidential Libraries and Materials," designed to complement the one that appeared in 1994.²¹ With essays on every presidential library from Hoover to the new one created for George Bush, this is a valuable collection and will serve as ready grist for later historical syntheses on this remarkable group of special libraries. To this work should be added Pat Hyland's recent general survey, which is much less sophisticated in its presentation.²²

The venerable journal *Special Libraries* changed its name to *Information Outlook* at the end of 1996. Happily for library historians, the association devoted one of its last issues to a reprinting of selected articles that had appeared during the journal's eighty-six year run. If nothing else, the reader can gain an episodic sense of some of the major issues facing special libraries during this century. In an earlier issue of *Special Libraries*, Bonnie Biggs and David Whitehorse collaborated on an absorbing history of tribal libraries in southern California that reflects the efforts of Native Americans in that area to establish and promote institutions to meet

their information needs. This is an unexplored aspect of librarianship for a special population and much more can be done here!²³

The paucity of literature reviewed in this section shows clearly that special libraries and librarianship are excellent candidates for future investigations. As just one example, on large university campuses all over this country resides a bevy of special libraries devoted to specific academic disciplines, all of which need further explication as to how they were established, how they grew, how they provided library services, and how they related to the larger main library. What about an historical analysis of the Special Libraries Association and its relationship to other sectors of the American library community? Enough said.

Public Libraries

Since nearly every community, large and small, has a public library, it is not surprising that these institutions continue to receive significant attention from library historians. Although book-length studies are few, we are blessed with an especially good one by Abigail Van Slyck. Van Slyck's *Free to All* is an attempt—and a very successful one—to examine in close detail the architectural dimensions of the Carnegie library movement that occurred between 1886 and 1917 throughout the United States.²⁴ But Van Slyck's work is much more than architectural history. She weaves into her narrative a well-informed understanding of the social and cultural aspects of these libraries in their communities to create a remarkable synthesis of scholarship that makes her book one of the best surveys of public librarianship yet to appear. If you are going to read only one book this year on the history of public libraries, this one certainly deserves consideration. In addition to her monograph, benefit can be gained from Van Slyck's fascinating exploration of gendered space as it was reflected in the establishment of reading rooms for women only in late-nineteenth-century public libraries in a recent article in *Winterthur Portfolio*.²⁵

Another monograph that offers a broad historical sweep is Verna Pungitore's *Innovation and the Library*.²⁶ Pungitore investigates how public libraries have adapted to change between 1920 and 1965. She argues that libraries began as innovative service-oriented agencies seeking to meet the needs of a society industrializing at the end of the nineteenth century. Once established, however, libraries for most of this century have become more cautious and reactionary, which, Pungitore asserts, now hampers the public library's ability to accommodate today's rapidly changing information society.

Phyllis Dain, so well known for her histories of the New York Public Library, turns her attention to the role philanthropy has played in the

development of public libraries in the United States.²⁷ The result is a learned overview of the significant results of philanthropic giving to a variety of public libraries during the past one hundred years. Dain's erudition is quite evident as she traverses the decades in this excellent essay. Neil Harris complements Dain with his discussion of how American government officials have resisted using public monies for obtaining manuscripts, rare books, or works of art.²⁸ He points out how such reluctance by American governmental bodies encouraged private collectors to become increasingly important to such prominent libraries as the Boston Public Library and the Library of Congress as a source for valuable research collections.

The recent literature on the history of individual public libraries reveals a marked shift in interest in southern public librarianship. The majority of the studies produced in 1995 and 1996 focused on libraries in this region. One prominent theme receiving attention is fleshing out the complicated history of African Americans, racism, and southern libraries. Cheryl Malone extracts from her recent dissertation a well-researched narrative of the African American library experience in Louisville, Kentucky.²⁹ Louise Robbins delves into the complex factors that led to the firing in 1950 of Ruth W. Brown, who served for thirty years as the director of the Bartlesville, Oklahoma, public library.³⁰ Brown had run into problems with the city fathers when she sought to expand library services to African Americans as well as to include in the library's collection liberal publications like the *Nation* and the *New Republic*. Stephen Cresswell brings the topic forward with his inquiry into the issue of segregation in southern libraries in the 1960s. Additionally, scholars pursuing the various threads of a history of African American librarianship will gain from the informed perspective of Mark Tucker in his recent review essay.³¹ The coincidence of the Civil Rights movement of that decade turned the spotlight on the ALA's halting efforts to confront this explosive situation. Not one of the ALA's finer moments.

Continuing with southern libraries, Patrick Valentine has authored two pieces that demonstrate his acquaintance with how to conduct historical research in expanding our knowledge of the history of North Carolina public libraries. In "The Spread of Public Libraries," Valentine charts how North Carolina communities struggled to establish libraries despite chronic underfunding.³² In a related article for the Library History Seminar, Valentine investigates the impact of philanthropic efforts to spur the growth of North Carolina public libraries.³³ In both essays Valentine's research base is quite impressive. Southern library history performed in a more popular manner is represented by Kathlyn Dunagan's first-person account of her experiences with the Ward County Library of Monahans, Texas.³⁴

Moving northward, union activity in the post-World War I era in the public libraries in New York City is the subject of Catherine Shanley's insightful essay. As the first union of public library workers in the United States, the Library Employees' Union, led by Maud Malone, sought to build upon the strength of the suffrage movement in vogue at the time and to improve the miserable salaries and low status of women workers in the city's library system. Alice Hudson shares her knowledge of the NYPL's efforts to support the war effort in a well-crafted essay for the *Bulletin* of the Geography and Map Division of the Special Libraries Association.³⁵ Libraries in Akron, Ohio, and Cedar Rapids, Iowa, receive general treatments, but neither study benefits from primary sources. And both are innocent of the existing historiographical framework. Useful is Peter Wiley's recent richly illustrated work which appeared simultaneously with the opening of the controversial New Main San Francisco Public Library. Wiley is mute with respect to that ruckus, but he does give a nice summary of the library's past along with a nice chapter on the history of the public library in America.³⁶

Rounding out this section are a couple of more general histories of public librarianship. Martha H. Swain explores the impact of the Works Projects Administration and its predecessors on the conduct of library services throughout the United States during the Depression.³⁷ Swain notes that it was the extension of library services to those who had either lost their libraries, or never had them, that was the enduring legacy of these New Deal programs. James V. Carmichael Jr. explains the historical background to the unending struggle public libraries have had with how to handle sexually explicit material.³⁸ The issue transcends the nature of the printed text and strikes at the very heart of how librarians perceive themselves as guardians of culture. As usual, Carmichael makes good reading. Finally, for what it is worth, Mary and Richard Maturi have gathered together a collection of photographs accompanied by brief historical essays describing selected public library buildings across the country.³⁹

Historical research into the past of public libraries and librarianship is alive and well, even if it is rather skimpy and uneven. Only twenty-one items were reviewed in this section, which is not an overwhelming amount considering the enormous number of public libraries in this country. When one realizes that hundreds and hundreds of public libraries thrive in this country and that they employ more librarians than any other sector of the profession, it is abundantly evident that we have a great deal of work ahead of us to understand more fully the role that this essential and ubiquitous institution has played in our nation's history.

Academic Libraries

Scholarship in academic libraries has remained relatively steady over the years, probably because so many library historians labor in an academic setting. For this essay, the literature is reflected in a mixture of monographs, chapters in monographs, and articles. The only book-length study is Douglas Ernest's history of the Colorado State University library, which appeared in 1996.⁴⁰ Ernest combines a thorough mining of archival materials with pertinent secondary literature in the fields of educational and library history. His study can serve as a good model for future investigations of land-grant institutions and their libraries.

John Y. Cole builds on his already extensive corpus of writings on the Library of Congress with three recent publications. In "Publishing at the Library of Congress: A Brief History," Cole surveys the printing history of this great library as it sought to fulfill its mission of providing published information about its growing collection to Congress and the nation.⁴¹ He also put together a short book detailing the inscriptions and quotations decorating the walls of the various buildings that comprise our national library.⁴² Finally, Cole summarizes for foreign readers the main points of the Library of Congress's history for India's *Herald of Library Science*.⁴³ We still await the prolific Cole's definitive history that would collect and synthesize within one volume his vast knowledge of our country's most significant library.

Although history is not the dominant focus of Jed Bergman's *Managing Change in the Nonprofit Sector*, his volume is still a valuable compilation of historical data on five prominent research libraries: the Huntington Library, the Pierpoint Morgan Library, the Newberry, the Folger Shakespeare Library, and the library of the American Antiquarian Society.⁴⁴ Bergman traces the early history of each library, examining the careers of significant individuals who led these libraries to greatness. His research base is not extensive (and most practicing library historians could improve on the sources he used), but his work brings within the covers of one book important background on the development of these libraries.

Turning to shorter studies, Marvin Leavy delves into the early history of libraries at the University of Chicago.⁴⁵ He focuses on the work of individual teaching faculty members and their influence on the growth of the emerging branch collections at the turn of the century. Leavy notes that although departmental libraries still exist, for the most part today librarians have taken over management of these specialized facilities. Ed Holley, who is completing his history of the University of North Carolina in the twentieth century, reflects on the role that philanthropy and the library had in the UNC's rise to national prominence during the

period from 1917 to 1950.⁴⁶ With Holley one finds a happy combination of impeccable scholarship enjoined with a deep understanding of the historiography of libraries and higher education in this century.

Three other brief works that should be mentioned in passing include Simon Donoghue's cryptic overview of the history of the library at Belmont Abbey College related in *Catholic Library World*.⁴⁷ Charles King's even shorter summary of the main developments in the growth of the library at Edward Waters College is equal in length to Charles Hay's equally succinct treatment of the Eastern Kentucky University library system.⁴⁸

The rise of undergraduate libraries was the focus of two articles, one appearing in a recent issue of *Library Trends* devoted to the undergraduate library, and the other in *College & Undergraduate Libraries*. The better of the two is by Michael Engle, who explores the early years of Harvard's Lamont Library within the context of the development of the idea of a separate library for students seeking their first degree.⁴⁹ Mark Watson, Jody Foote, and Roland Person examine some longitudinal data to discover how undergraduate libraries have evolved since 1971.⁵⁰ Their piece is not overly historical, but it does provide a comparative picture of undergraduate library developments in the past two decades.

Bibliographic instruction and reference also were topics of historical investigation. Mary Salony provides a solidly researched essay explaining the evolution of the idea of user instruction from its inception in the mid-nineteenth century up to the present.⁵¹ In twenty pages she ably synthesizes this story and in the process cites the basic secondary historical literature on the subject. For anyone interested in how library instruction evolved from its early roots, Salony's article will point them in the right direction. One of the most prominent proponents of bibliographic instruction in the post-World War II era—indeed he could probably be called the "Father of BI"—is Evan Farber. Now retired from his many years at Earlham College, Farber reflects not only on his own program, but also on how his own ideas were influenced by user education courses at other institutions.⁵²

Inga Barnello charts the historical course of reference beginning with Samuel Green, moving through Melvil Dewey's call for a modern library in the 1880s and then onto John Cotton Dana and James Wyer and his first text on reference instruction published in 1930. Similar to what Salony accomplishes for BI, Barnello succinctly surveys more than a century of the function of reference, citing a solid core of the established historical literature.⁵³

The role of student workers in the academic library setting has been mostly neglected in the historical literature. This has now been partially

remedied by David Gregory's thoughtful and well-researched investigation published in the *Journal of Library Administration*. Gregory traces the background of student employees back to the early part of this century and brings the story forward to the present. His efforts should lay the groundwork for more detailed explorations of this topic in the future.⁵⁴

Library Associations

One of the interesting developments over the past few years in our literature has been the boomlet of writing on that venerable institution, the American Library Association. In many respects the leader in this effort has been Louise Robbins, who has now produced her first book-length study chronicling the ALA's response to various challenges to intellectual freedom between 1939 and 1969.⁵⁵ Robbins's work is first-rate and shows how mature scholarship can marry archival research with critical analysis to create an outstanding piece of historical literature. This book joins Van Slyck's on Carnegie libraries as one we should all read. In another effort, Robbins adds to her expanding scholarly corpus when she returns to one of her favorite topics—the ALA and the Cold War. This time she explores the ALA's response to the Truman Administration's implementation of loyalty oaths during the late 1940s and discovers that while the ALA developed policies against these practices, they were often not used.⁵⁶ The Cold War era is also the subject of Christine Jenkins's interesting inquiry into the ALA's international efforts to promote American reading for children in war-torn Europe after World War II.⁵⁷

More on the ALA and intellectual freedom can be found in a special issue of *Library Trends* on the Library Bill of Rights, edited by Wayne Wiegand. Robbins appears again, this time with an extensive critique of the ALA and the Library Bill of Rights during the Eisenhower years.⁵⁸ Toni Samek continues the story with a look at how the ALA coped with this dynamic issue during the turbulent sixties.⁵⁹ Although Robbins has clearly explored the 1950s, Samek's article outlines some of the possibilities for more research into the happenings of a decade that does not seem to many of us to be that far in the past, yet is now ripe for historical investigation as it steadily recedes into misty memory while we hurtle toward the end of the century.

Betty Milum investigates the political intrigue that led to the hiring of Quincy Mumford over Vernon Clapp for Librarian of Congress in 1954 in a well-researched and well-written piece for *Libraries & Culture*.⁶⁰ Especially noteworthy is Milum's use of archival materials available at the Eisenhower Presidential Library as the basis for much of her research. Whenever possible, we should go beyond what the ALA archives

contains in our quest for primary sources. Peggy Sullivan charts the efforts the Carnegie Corporation made during the 1930s to underwrite fellowships geared toward developing future library leaders. Between 1929 and 1942 over \$125,000 was spent on this program and nearly one hundred librarians benefitted.⁶¹

Within the ALA reside numerous subdivisions, roundtables, and assorted groups which are also eminently eligible for historical probing. Andrew Hansen writes knowingly of the history of the Adult Services Division and the Reference Services Division from their inception in 1956 to their merger in 1972 to form the Reference and Adult Services Division. Hansen served in various executive positions in the RASD and its predecessors between 1971 and 1993, and provides valuable insights into the development of the numerous programs and publications the division sponsored over the years.⁶² Similarly, Susan Grabler has penned an extremely well-documented treatise on the eighty-year history of the ALA's Public Documents Committee. Grabler, who has a Ph.D. in history, ably demonstrates her research and interpretive skills in this remarkable essay.⁶³

In shorter pieces, Frances Groen explains the early history of the Medical Library Association through brief biographies of its founders, William Osler, George Milbry Gould, and Margaret Ridley Charlton.⁶⁴ Ed Holley briefly summarizes the development of ACRL's mainstay publication, *College & Research Libraries News*, as it completes its thirtieth year.⁶⁵ Established after World War I in Paris, the background to the ALA's first foray into establishing international branches is succinctly described by Robert Doyle in an article in *International Leads*.⁶⁶

Closer to home, J. B. Howell surveys quickly the history of the Southeastern Library Association, with particular emphasis on Mississippi's role.⁶⁷ Similar brevity characterizes Jonathan Jeffrey's treatment of the Friends of Kentucky Libraries.⁶⁸ Neither of these articles represent much in the line of historical scholarship, but they could help undergird a larger study.

The recent studies of the American Library Association by Robbins, Samek, Milum, Jenkins, and Sullivan demonstrate that explorations into the past life of our library associations have commenced with vigor and panache. This type of energy can and should be applied to other areas as well!

Library and Information Science Education

Given that a good number of library historians writing today are ensconced as teaching faculty in library schools, it is ironic that the historical literature on library science education is so slim. One can count on

the fingers of one hand (almost) the number of writings on this topic. Yet amid such paucity exists quality. Michael Buckland applies his considerable analytical skills to a useful overview of the topic as part of a special issue of *Information Processing & Management* devoted to the "History of Information Science."⁶⁹ He is especially interested in the tension that arose after World War II between library science and information science, especially as it related to the application of technical and technological innovation to libraries. Another example of quality research is Robert Sidney Martin and Orvin Lee Shiflett's explanation as to why the ALA ceased its support for the Hampton Institute in favor of Atlanta University in 1941 as its main training facility for African American librarians.⁷⁰ Martin and Shiflett do the requisite digging in the archives to buttress their story, and in so doing clear up some of the mystery surrounding this event. This essay also reflects the growing interest in how southern librarianship developed in the first half of this century and is a valuable addition to the literature on southern public libraries referred to earlier in this essay.

Thomas Walker has created an interesting assessment of the "Inspection Visit" program that the University of Illinois Library School and its predecessor, the Armour Institute of Chicago, carried out from 1895 to 1948.⁷¹ As a method of instruction, on-site visits to various types of libraries was considered an essential part of any student's educational experience. Walker has thrown light on an important aspect of the library science curriculum that several schools used during the pre-World War II period.

Library education for international students is the focus of Katherine Cveljo's lengthy essay for the *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science*.⁷² She provides an impressive summary of library educators' efforts to encourage, support, and educate students from foreign lands, beginning in the late nineteenth century and continuing unabated throughout this century. Cveljo's subject has been largely unexplored, so her contribution is greatly appreciated.

James V. Carmichael Jr. weighs in with articles on two different issues. In "Library History Without Walls" he outlines the problems library historians experience in pursuing their avocation and surviving in a profession that seemingly little values historical scholarship.⁷³ He has some good advice for the novice library science faculty member interested in succeeding as a library historian. In a second essay based on quantitative research, Carmichael examines the historical and contemporary biases in the library science curriculum relating to confronting gay and lesbian issues. He notes that in 1970 the ALA was the first professional organization to form a task force to address gay concerns.⁷⁴ Rounding out this section, mention should be made of a short undocumented piece on the

career of Gladys Sachse, who taught for thirty-five years at the University of Central Arkansas library school.⁷⁵ With over twenty-five active library schools and several others that have folded over the past few years, there are plenty of opportunities for historians to delve into the storied past of our library schools, how they developed, what they considered important to have in the curriculum, and who the prominent teachers were—especially in the relatively unexplored period since 1960.

Women in Librarianship

Finally, the role of women in librarianship has found a historical voice in Suzanne Hildenbrand's remarkable and highly impressive edited work *Reclaiming the American Library Past: Writing the Women In*.⁷⁶ Hildenbrand's volume not only brings to the fore a solid collection of well-written and researched essays but also effectively places the entire topic within the structure of a larger historiographical setting. The work is divided into two parts, with the first devoted to biographical approaches and the second to larger professional issues such as pay and professionalism. A sampling of chapters includes, but is certainly not limited to, Glendora Johnson Cooper ("African-American Historical Community: Jean Blackwell Hutson and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture," 27–51), Clare Beck ("Adelaide Hasse: The New Woman as Librarian," 99–120), Helen H. Britton ("Dorothy Porter Wesley: Bibliographer, Curator, and Scholar," 163–86), Anne Lundin ("Anne Carroll Moore [1871–1961]: I Have Spun Out a Long Thread," 187–204), Joanne Passet ("You do Not Have to Pay Librarians: Women, Salaries, and Status in the Early 20th Century," 207–19), Christine Jenkins ("Since so Many of Today's Librarians Are Women . . . : Women and Intellectual Freedom in U.S. Librarianship, 1890–1990," 221–49), and Barbara B. Brand ("Pratt Institute Library School: The Perils of Professionalism," 251–78). These and the other essays within this important volume are essential reading for all historians of libraries and librarianship.

A recent issue of *Library Trends* devoted to women and children's library services, and edited by Karen Patricia Smith, contains essays of a historical nature.⁷⁷ The number of articles and the limits of available space require again that only a representative core be listed. As is the case with the Hildenbrand book, all the essays merit attention and should be consulted: Kay E. Vandergrift ("Female Advocacy and Harmonious Voices: A History of Public Library Services and Publishing for Children in the United States," 683–718), Margaret Bush ("New England Book Women: Their Increasing Influence," 719–35), Betsy Hearne ("Margaret K. McElderry and the Professional Matriarchy of Children's Books," 755–75), Ann D. Carlson ("Zena Sutherland: Reviewer, Teacher, and

Author," 776–93), and Christine A. Jenkins ("Professional Jurisdiction and ALA Youth Services Women: Of Nightingales, Newberries, Realism, and the Right Books, 1937–1945," 813–39). The Hildenbrand book and the *Library Trends* issue both testify to the growth of historical scholarship relating to women in librarianship. And both represent excellent models of such scholarship.

Women and philanthropy receive coverage in two good articles in *Libraries & Culture* as part of the 9th Library History Seminar. Paula Watson, building on research from an earlier article, enlightens us about the activities of individual women donors who contributed greatly to the construction of libraries all over the United States. Watson points out that although many of her subjects had little formal education, they had an active interest in reading and literature, and devoted their considerable energies to expanding library opportunities for the citizens in their communities. Anne Lundin fleshes out the contributions of Caroline Hewins and Anne Carroll Moore to the creation of children's collections in a tightly crafted article in an unusual source for library history—*Collection Building*.⁷⁸ Finally, Susan L. Richards brings out of the shadows the extensive philanthropic efforts of Phoebe Apperson Hearst, who was instrumental in founding libraries in Lead, South Dakota, and Anaconda, Montana.⁷⁹ Both Watson and Richards add greatly to our understanding of how women used their resources on behalf of fledgling libraries in the nineteenth century.

As demonstrated in this section, historical writings on women in librarianship show encouraging promise for the future, especially when one looks at some of the areas in which historiography has lagged behind. We need to build on the solid platform erected by the authors represented here.

Technical Services, Preservation, and Technology

The single most important item in this section is the recent festschrift for the Illinois GSLIS's longtime cataloguing instructor, Kathryn Luther Henderson.⁸⁰ In a series of essays examining technical services in the era of 1965–1990, the authors allocated developments along a broad subject spectrum relating to technical services and preservation. Although for the most part the authors are not historians, they provide for the rest of us the grist for future historiographical efforts relating to technical services issues during this significant transitional period in American library history. Representative essays in this collection include Kathleen L. Shannon and Mary Ellyn Gibbs ("From Catalog to OPAC: A Look at 25 Years of Technical Services in School Libraries," 41–53), Larry Millsap ("A History of the Online Catalog in North America," 79–

91), Edgar A. Jones (“Death of a Cataloging Code: Seymour Lubetzky’s Code of Cataloging Rules and the Question of Institutions,” 121–54), Lori L. Osmus (“The Transformation of Serials Cataloging 1965–1990,” 171–90), John P. Comaromi (“The Dewey Decimal Classification: 1965–1990,” 223–38), William T. Henderson (“Preservation: A Quarter Century of Growth,” 275–90), and James Orr (“Combining Old World Craftsmanship with New World Technology: A Quarter Century of Library Binding in Review, 1965–1990,” 291–6).

After the Smith-Carter festschrift things drop off rather quickly. Serious historical scholarship relating to technical services is no more than a bump on the landscape, although a few smaller items deserve mention. Using archival materials, Alan Thomas outlines Henry Bliss’s theories of classification in a short piece for *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly*.⁸¹ Karen Spicher explores the history of MARC in a well-researched article using Library of Congress manuscripts. Although not lengthy, Spicher’s work is good quality scholarship.⁸² Bill Anderson concisely summarizes the history of Cooperative Online Serials (CONSER) and adds a nice bibliography of writings on that project.⁸³

Michael Kaplan reveals in an undocumented narrative how Harvard Library made the transition from manual to automated technical services processes.⁸⁴ Of similar quality is Myrle Myers’s overview of OCLC union listing.⁸⁵ More informative from the standpoint of someone who was present at the creation is Clifford Lynch’s clearly written explication of Elsevier’s monumental effort to make available in electronic form a subset of its journals in the TULIP project.⁸⁶ Lynch’s essay lays the groundwork for later investigations of this early electronic text venture. Richard Abel is someone else with a long involvement in technical services issues. In a short essay he presents his perspective on the development of approval plans in American academic libraries for *Publishing Research Quarterly*.⁸⁷

Rounding out this section, Sue Medina surveys the history of cooperative collection development in a lengthy essay that covers the literature of the past half-century.⁸⁸ Beyond the Henderson festschrift and Spicher’s article on the development of MARC, technical services, preservation, and technology were largely ignored this time around. On the plus side, one can safely say that just about anywhere you look opportunities exist for further historical work in the area of technical services. A history of OCLC seems like an especially attractive topic for some energetic graduate student with a dissertation to write!

Biography

History remains at its core an account of what people did, so there is always room for another biography. Along those lines, we are blessed this

time with the appearance of Wayne Wiegand's magnum opus (or at least his latest magnum opus) on Melvil Dewey.⁸⁹ In fewer than four hundred pages (short books are always a challenge for Wiegand) we are exposed to a magisterial survey of not only Dewey but also the organization he wrought. In sometimes more detail than most of us need, Wiegand traces the remarkable career of the man who almost single-handedly shaped the future course for the ALA, its educational foundation, created the Library Bureau, which supplied its furnishing needs, and along the way also tried to put Lake Placid on the map as a popular resort. Dewey has finally met his biographer, and all of us will benefit from a thorough reading of this informative and exhaustively researched book.

Since Wiegand can write history faster than most of us can read it, during the past year he has scattered about in other publications some of his other work on Dewey. These shorter essays complement the monograph. *American Libraries* deigned to publish a little history and put out a greatly boiled-down version of Wiegand's book, which should, at the very least, expose Wiegand's writings to a broader popular library audience.⁹⁰ In another article, we learn of Dewey's recalcitrance in admitting Jews as members of the Lake Placid Club, which led to his resignation as New York State Librarian in 1905.⁹¹ Finally, Wiegand traces Dewey's failed efforts to entice Andrew Carnegie into establishing an endowment for the ALA. But the bad odor of anti-Semitism and womanizing that lingered around Dewey turned off the proper Scotsman, and Dewey's plans went nowhere.⁹² Speaking of Dewey's womanizing, Clare Beck, who authored one of the essays in Hildenbrand's collection mentioned above, expands her remarks about the relationship Dewey sought with Adelaide Hasse in a short article in *American Libraries*.⁹³ Clearly Dewey has had more attention—and deservedly so—in the past couple of years than he has had in the past twenty!

Another major library figure with his own biography is Louis Shores, whose life and times were the subject of a recent effort by Lee Shiflett.⁹⁴ Delving into the multitude of activities Shores engaged in during his lengthy career, Shiflett has produced a masterful study that blends in-depth research and scholarly interpretation. Scarecrow should be commended for supporting this kind of research. Not as well-known as Shores, but worthwhile for study in her own right, is Gratia Countryman, whose tenure as director of the Minneapolis Public Library is charted by Jane Pejsa.⁹⁵ Book-length biographies of librarians are rare, and one on a midwestern female library director is even rarer. Pejsa, the author of other biographies, has taken advantage of existing primary and secondary sources in writing a lively recounting of Countryman's life. Both Shiflett and Pejsa provide good models for future scholarship.

Speaking of lively accounts, Zoia Horn, whose battles for intellectual freedom in the 1970s earned her some time in jail (a place most librarians seldom find themselves), has written her memoirs detailing her remarkable journey as an activist librarian.⁹⁶ Especially valuable to historians is her first-person account of the highly controversial film *The Speaker* of the mid-1970s and her role on the ALA's Intellectual Freedom Committee. Chris Dodge and Jan DeSirey have edited a collection of tributes to Sandy Berman, which contains some biographical information on this indefatigable gadfly to the stuffy Library of Congress cataloging headings.⁹⁷ And Teresa Neely and Khafre Abif have edited an interesting volume, which includes several autobiographical accounts of minority librarians and helps improve our understanding of the diverse nature of our profession.⁹⁸

Shorter biographical pieces abound, some of which are quite good. Mary Mallory brings out Mary Rothrock's signal contributions in creating coordinated library services in the Tennessee Valley in a well-researched article for *Library Quarterly*.⁹⁹ Under John V. Richardson's editorship *LQ* should continue to be an excellent source for historical scholarship and whenever possible be considered as a good place to submit future manuscripts. Nancy Becker Johnson explains the importance of Sarah Bogle and Andrew Carnegie's wife, Louise Whitfield Carnegie, to the overall success of Carnegie's extensive philanthropic enterprise.¹⁰⁰

As has been the case in other sections of this review, African American librarians and librarianship are beginning to enjoy sustained scrutiny by historians. From a biographical standpoint, Sibyl Moses illuminates the Carnegie's philanthropic assistance to Monroe Nathan Work and his *Bibliography of the Negro in Africa and America* in an informative paper, which helps flesh out Work's professional career.¹⁰¹ Moreover, one of the pioneers in African American librarianship, Dorothy Porter Wesley, is the subject of two articles. In an edited collection of essays on African American women professionals, Helen Britton traces Wesley's career and includes a bibliography of writings by and on Wesley.¹⁰² Wesley is interviewed by Avril Madison in an informative discussion published in *Public Historian*, a rare source for library history.¹⁰³ Madison buttresses her manuscript with extensive notes expanding upon or clarifying Wesley's comments.

In another journal not known for publishing library history, Renee Feinberg explores the career of Jennie Flexner, who established the Readers' Advisory Services at the New York Public Library.¹⁰⁴ Although not lengthy, Feinberg's article is well documented and presented cogently. Joel Silver, whose other articles were noted in the section above on private libraries, has written a short overview of Justin Winsor's remarkable career. He correctly observes that Winsor still lacks a full-scale

biography.¹⁰⁵ Oscar Handlin, who served as Harvard College Librarian, reminisces briefly about his experiences in that job, taking pride, for example, in Harvard's development of HOLLIS as its on-line catalogue.¹⁰⁶ Scholars interested in Archibald Macleish, Librarian of Congress from 1939–1944, among many other things, will benefit from the extensive bibliography by Helen Ellis and Bernard Drabek. The volume suffers unfortunately from an inadequate subject index.¹⁰⁷ Ed Goedeken examines the *Dictionary of American Library Biography* and its *Supplement* to gain a general picture of the characteristics of the profession as represented by the essays in these volumes.¹⁰⁸

Rounding out this part are three shorter treatments relating to individuals connected more closely with information science than librarianship. Charles Meadow recounts his career as an information scientist working at IBM and for various agencies in the federal government.¹⁰⁹ Robert M. Hayes, who has had an impressive library career himself, relates the work of Joseph Becker, with whom Hayes was associated at UCLC. Becker was a prominent figure in the ALA for many years and instrumental in developing our understanding of on-line systems and their application to library processes. He was named an honorary member in 1992 and also served with distinction on the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science during the 1970s.¹¹⁰ By far the best of the three, however, is Trudi Hahn's extensively researched and far-ranging survey of the people who contributed to the development and success of on-line systems and services from their inception in the 1950s through the 1970s. This is an excellent article and will serve as the basis for future historical research in the discipline of information science.¹¹¹

From the foregoing it is obvious that biographical research is making some good progress. We should be inspired by the work of scholars like Wiegand and Shiflett, and vigorously promote more book-length studies about the people who built our past. There is room for plenty more!

Reading, Printing, and Publishing

Although sometimes considered tangential to the history of libraries, the literature on reading, printing, and publishing is a burgeoning area of contemporary scholarship and a subject library historians need to recognize is crucial to their understanding of the role of the written word and its use in the growth of libraries in the United States. Unfortunately, this scholarship is also great in size, so the following is by no means a comprehensive gathering of the existing works but instead a representative sample of what exists to serve as the context for library history.

The general history of printing is well represented by John Trevitt's revision of Sigfrid Steinberg's classic survey of the past half-millennium

of this industry. Equal in scope and erudition is Alberto Manguel's magisterial and highly informative *A History of Reading*, which should now serve as the standard introduction to the subject.¹¹² More specifically to the history of the book, we benefit from two recent reference volumes that include a wealth of information. The second edition of Geoffrey Glaister's *Encyclopedia of the Book* consists of shorter entries.¹¹³ A year earlier appeared Philip Altbach and Edith Hoshino's *International Book Publishing: An Encyclopedia*, which has longer essays, including John Tebbel's concise history of book publishing in the U.S.¹¹⁴ A convenient compendium of writings on the history of the book can be found in Joseph Rosenblum's annotated guide to this literature.¹¹⁵

Richard Clement has written a nice overview of book publishing in the United States, richly illustrated and sponsored by the Library of Congress.¹¹⁶ In less than 150 pages, Clement takes the reader from the colonial period up through the 1950s and illuminates the major publishing houses and men who established, encouraged, and benefited from our nation's culture of reading. Our quick tour of general writings on the history of books and printing will end by noting a recent book on one of our most prominent book designers, William Morris. Susan Thompson has updated her major 1977 work on Morris, who has been the recipient of an outpouring of scholarship in the past few years.¹¹⁷ In her book, Thompson explores not only Morris's productive career but also the state of book designing and illustrating in the nineteenth century. All future work on Morris will still have to start with Thompson.

Turning to studies of books and reading, Donald Hall, one of the leading historians of reading culture, has collected some of his essays in a volume entitled *Cultures of Print*. Hall draws from his extensive research, especially in the period of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century colonial America. His concluding chapter, "Readers and Reading in America: Historical and Critical Perspectives," is especially good.¹¹⁸ Ronald and Mary Zboray build on their well-established reputation as respected scholars in pre-Civil War reading habits with a 1996 article in *American Quarterly* on books and reading in New England.¹¹⁹ Ethnic reading societies in the eighteenth century are the subject of two solidly researched articles by Elizabeth McHenry and Steven Keillor.¹²⁰

Haworth Press has published an interesting set of articles on the impact of dime novels and pulp fiction on reading habits. Four of the essays reflect the library debate over how to handle this type of literature published during the last decades of the nineteenth century and the early decades of this one: Clark Evans ("Librarian in Disguise: V. Valta Parma and the Development of Popular Culture Collections at the Library of Congress," 23–38), Alison M. Scott ("They Came from the Newsstand: Pulp Magazines and Vintage Paperbacks in the Popular Culture Li-

brary," 39–46), Karen Nelson Hoyle ("Keeping Abreast of Series Fiction Publishing: A Challenge for Children's Literature Bibliographers," 47–58), and Lydia Cushman Schurman ("The Librarian of Congress Argues Against Cheap Novels Getting Low Postal Rates," 59–71).¹²¹ More on the reading of series books can be found in an exceptional article by Catherine Ross, who provides a nice discourse on the history of this type of publishing in the introductory part of her essay.¹²²

As usual a good bit of attention continues to be directed toward the history of individual book publishers. Rosalind Remer outlines in admirable fashion the seventeenth- and eighteenth-century origins of Pennsylvania publishing in her extensively researched *Printers and Men of Capital*.¹²³ Scribner, another prominent publisher with a long past, is the subject of John Delaney's volume in the *Dictionary of Literary Biography*.¹²⁴ The remarkable and tragic life of Horace Liveright, whose publishing house launched the careers of such luminaries as Theodore Dreiser, T. S. Eliot, and Eugene O'Neill, is ably portrayed in Tom Dardis's *Firebrand*. Likewise, Ticknor and Fields, a prominent Boston-based publisher, is thoroughly covered by Michael Winship in his impressive history.¹²⁵ Susan Albertine has edited an admirable collection of essays demonstrating the error of thinking that only men were involved in the printing and publishing business. And the impact of religious publishing is revealed in Peter Wosh's extensively researched and sprightly written volume.¹²⁶

Shorter works include John Harrison's history of Iowa's homegrown Prairie Press, which was guided by Carroll Coleman and established in Iowa City in the 1940s.¹²⁷ Similarly, Megan Benton takes a quick look at the publishing life of Grabhorn Press during the 1920s.¹²⁸ Chicago's Caxton Club, founded in 1895, combined its members' interest in the reading of fine literature with a commitment to producing finely crafted books. Its history is traced by Frank Piehl in a volume celebrating the club's centennial.¹²⁹ Moving closer to the present, F. W. Lancaster explores the comparatively recent past of that new phenomenon, digital or electronic publishing.¹³⁰ Although his story begins with the 1960s, Lancaster's article can serve as a good starting point for future studies. Rosemary Mokia examines the role of publishing and publishers in American foreign policy as it relates to the Third World during the collapse of the colonial empires in the Kennedy and Johnson years. Mokia's work is complemented by Margaret Olsen's summary of the exchange programs that developed between the United States and other western European libraries and those of the Soviet Union and its satellites.¹³¹

Turning to historical works on serials literature, the Wallace family, who began *Reader's Digest* in the 1920s, continue to provide fodder for new books. Peter Canning, former managing editor of the magazine,

writes of his own twenty-five-year involvement with the Wallaces. It is not as well done as John Heidenry's 1993 work, but still informative.¹³² Kenneth M. Price and Susan Belasco Smith have collected an impressive set of essays treating various aspects of serial publications that were significant sources of information during the nineteenth century.¹³³ Scholars interested in gaining a sophisticated perspective on the historical and social impact of serial literature will benefit from this volume.

Interestingly, the curiosity about what rural people read has spawned two useful histories. Norma Bruce investigated records of household account books for an Illinois farmstead during the first half of this century and produced a fascinating and detailed picture of the type of magazines an average farm family would have read during this period.¹³⁴ In this same vein, reflecting little scholarship but still valuable as a summary of information about a wide number of titles is Wayne E. Swegle and John R. Harvey's edited history of the American Agricultural Editors' Association from 1921–1996.¹³⁵

As time passes we will begin seeing more historical writings on the advent of electronic publishing, and this is reflected, for example, in Bernard Naylor and Marilyn Geller's intriguing study of two early electronic journal ventures that transpired during the period from 1975 to 1985, the EIES (Electronic Information Exchange System) and BLEND (Birmingham and Loughborough Electronic Network Development).¹³⁶ Finally, Michael Krieger delves into the publishing background and related collection development issues pertaining to American Catholic periodicals in a brief article for *Serials Librarian*.¹³⁷

The United States government has long been this country's foremost publisher, and histories of its activities continue to appear regularly. Peter Herson, who has written extensively on U.S. government publishing, joins Harold Relyea to produce a well-written, though brief and slanted toward the present day, overview of our government's publishing enterprise since its inception at the end of the eighteenth century.¹³⁸ The *Journal of Government Information* has become a dependable source for high-quality historiographical writing in recent years. For example, John Walters summarizes GPO publishing from Wilson to Kennedy in an impressive and well-articulated essay.¹³⁹ Ridley Kessler Jr. explores the past twenty-five years of the 1962 Federal Depository Library Program, which expanded the number of depository libraries and publications in the program.¹⁴⁰ Stephen Weiss continues the story and looks at the period from 1975 to 1993.¹⁴¹ Nancy F. Stimson and Wendy Y. Nobunaga examine the life of John Hickcox Sr., whose ten-volume catalogue (1885–1894) served as the precursor to our beloved *Monthly Catalog of United States Government Publications*.¹⁴² Finally, Suzanne DeLong takes us on a tour of the 175-year history of the venerable *United States Serial Set*.¹⁴³

But by far the busiest scholar in this area (and though mentioned last, his work is certainly not least) is the indefatigable Robert D. Armstrong, who continues to generate a remarkable corpus of writings on government publishing in the Old West.¹⁴⁴ Any of his work is well worth consulting!

Although this section is rather lengthy, the scholarship devoted to reading, printing, and publishing provides library historians with an important and necessary context for our interest in explaining the growth and evolution of libraries as essential institutions of American history and life. Take time to include some of this material in your reading schedule.

General Studies

This section can quickly become a hodgepodge of items not locatable anywhere else, so care will be taken to include only the most pertinent works that would not lend themselves readily to inclusion in any of the regular sections of the essay. Kenneth Carpenter, longtime editor of the *Harvard Library Bulletin*, writes from his broad knowledge of the profession in an extended essay on the history of American libraries and librarianship for a booklet in a new series from the Library of Congress's Center for the Book.¹⁴⁵ In his essay Carpenter calls for library historians to set their histories of libraries within the context of American social, intellectual, cultural, and political life. Another view is available from Francis Miksa who, in a perceptive article in the *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science*, outlines his "long view" of the development of the modern American library and the role of library education in this process.¹⁴⁶ Miksa has some good things to say and deserves a look.

Michael Buckland, mentioned above for his work on the history of information science and documentation, joins Ziming Liu to produce an informative general overview of information science for the *Annual Review of Information Science and Technology* accompanied by extensive bibliography.¹⁴⁷ W. Boyd Rayward applies his deep erudition to the same topic and urges his readers to blend the histories of technology, science, and librarianship into a new historiographical synthesis.¹⁴⁸ Similarly, Lawrence McCrank explores the issues involved in integrating historical and information sciences in a well-conceived piece for *The International Information & Library Review*.¹⁴⁹

A rather unusual source for library history, but exciting nonetheless because of its broad dissemination and reputation for quality, is *Daedalus*, which recently devoted an entire issue to "Books, Bricks, & Bytes."¹⁵⁰ A number of historical articles appear in this volume, with the following only a sampling: James H. Billington ("Libraries, the Library of

Congress, and the Information Age,” 35–54), Kenneth E. Carpenter (“A Library Historian Looks at Librarianship,” 77–102), and Susan Goldberg Kent (“American Public Libraries: A Long Transformative Moment,” 207–20). This is a very fine collection of essays and will reward anyone who consults it.

Theoretical works on library and information science can often assist us in our efforts to set our work within larger intellectual contexts. Toward this end, recent essays by John Budd, Archie Dick, and Frank Webster should be consulted to enhance the scholarly framework within which our historical research can be set.¹⁵¹ Although space constraints force this brief mention to be the extent of our coverage here, it is recommended that the readership look at these insightful writings for future benefit. In addition to these essays focused on library science, the larger picture surrounding our information-dependent society is presented in recent books by Frank Webster and by Jorge Reina Schement and Terry Curtis.¹⁵² The Schement and Curtis book builds upon the solid foundation constructed by Fritz Machlup in his classic *The Production and Distribution of Knowledge in the United States* (1962).

In a more historical vein, two recent books deal with the importance of library catalogues as representatives of printed knowledge as it existed in the pre-electronic era (which still comprises the bulk of our history!). Robert Singerman has collected an enormous amount of information in his impressive bibliography of American library book catalogues, and his work will stand for years as the definitive collection of citations for this valuable resource.¹⁵³ More narrowly conceived, but equally noteworthy, is W. H. Bond and Hugh Amory’s massive compilation of Harvard’s printed catalogues from 1723 to 1790.¹⁵⁴ Although the text is a little blurry because of the quality of the original pages, this is still an essential resource for eighteenth-century book collecting.

Two essays explore the involvement of the Catholic Church in censorship issues. Ralph Wagner explores the list of titles that were to be excluded from high school libraries generated by the Catholic Library Association in 1942.¹⁵⁵ Similarly, Thomas O’Connor sheds light on the activities of the National Organization for Decent Literature from the late 1930s through the 1960s to restrict from youth any materials that did not meet the NODL code.¹⁵⁶ Both of these articles shed new light on this neglected area of intellectual freedom and show us that the challenges of McCarthyism were but one front in the war for the minds of America’s children.

Other book-length studies that deserve mention include Robert Warner’s lively, detailed account of his years as head of the National Archives.¹⁵⁷ Covering the period from 1980 to 1985, Warner’s book is a

fascinating portrait of the incredible politics involved in getting the National Archives restored as an independent agency and out from under the uninformed grasp of the General Services Administration, which knew more about toilet paper than about archives. Fascinating in a different way is Nicholas Basbanes's smoothly written and endlessly informative tale of book collectors, bibliophiles, and even—sad to say—bibliomaniacs, who went to great ends to acquire information in its codex form.¹⁵⁸ Basbanes's book contains a virtual *Who's Who* of collectors and scoundrels smitten with a nearly irrational passion for possessing books.

Historical aspects of the "feminization" of librarianship are found in Christine Williams's new study of professions that employ great numbers of men but are still considered female by the larger society.¹⁵⁹ Williams's book examines librarianship along with teaching, social work, and nursing. One of Williams's most interesting points is that men's involvement in these professions is not spurred by a rejection of traditional male roles but instead by the view that librarianship affords an opportunity to take advantage of their gender to move more quickly up the managerial ladder, since there has existed historically a bias of putting men in administrative positions ahead of often better-qualified women. Someone else who has explored the issue of gender and librarianship is Jim Carmichael Jr., who in a well-researched and cogently written article for the *Journal of Homosexuality* sets within an historical framework his research on contemporary gay librarianship.¹⁶⁰ Both Williams and Carmichael provide readers with the most recent thinking on gender issues in librarianship, and both merit attention.

One of the overriding themes of Library History Seminar IX is philanthropy, and two essays from that program bear special note because of the overview they present on that topic. James Raven provides background to the larger issue of reading and philanthropy in his erudite exploration of the founding of British and colonial private libraries and how they served to extend the whole idea of reading as a way to serve the Enlightenment ideal of improving humankind.¹⁶¹ Another expansive essay by Peter Hall explains the role of libraries in the development of American civilized society.¹⁶² Taken together, the Raven and Hall papers survey the intellectual foundations of libraries in the period after the middle of the eighteenth century and help us better understand our intellectual heritage from that century.

The seminar yielded informative essays on other aspects of philanthropy, which seem to fit best in this last section. Deanna Marcum, whose credentials as an historian are well established, outlines the history of the 1956 founding of the Council on Library Resources, which was the result of the Ford Foundation's belief that such a body would prove useful

in the post-war era when competition for resources was already occurring. Also useful is Mary Haskell's nicely written piece on the contributions that the Rockefeller family made toward the development of libraries both in the United States and throughout the world through such devices as its General Education Board.¹⁶³ Colin Burke, who earlier provided us with an excellent study of Vannevar Bush, has recently authored two articles on the remarkable effort by the CLR and the Ford Foundation in the 1960s to sponsor MIT's INTREX project, which hoped to redesign the library and the new computer technology that undergirded it. Using CLR archives, Burke details the often-frustrating course this huge project traveled during its lifetime, while it gobbled up over two million dollars in grants.¹⁶⁴ For INTREX and other large-scale projects, computers were not yet powerful enough to handle the large-scale automation dreams of the engineers who often drove these initial ventures.

Philanthropy abroad is the subject of three other articles from the Library History Seminar. Maxine Rochester illuminates the background to the Carnegie Corporation's activities in the British Empire's dominions in the period between World Wars I and II.¹⁶⁵ In an earlier paper Rochester treats Canada specifically with an informative essay that focuses on the Carnegie Corporation's support in establishing rural libraries in British Columbia and on Prince Edward Island.¹⁶⁶ And Nicoletta Hary comments on the collaboration between the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace—founded by Carnegie in 1910 and energized by the cataclysm of the First World War—and the Vatican Library in Rome.¹⁶⁷ Nicholas Murray Butler, longtime president of Columbia University and also president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, sought to enlist the offices of the Carnegie Endowment to improve bibliographic access to the Vatican's invaluable collection. Through the leadership of Michigan's William Warner Bishop, the Papal collection was catalogued for the first time, and the library modernized. Both of these essays point out Carnegie's philanthropic impact on international libraries and librarianship.

Conclusion

The Library History Round Table celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 1998, and it is fitting that this essay over the years has served as a vehicle for helping us discover the increasing richness of the scholarship devoted to the history of libraries and librarianship. With this edition we can point to outstanding books by Wiegand, Robbins, Shiflett, and Hildenbrand as well as to numerous journal articles demonstrating clear and convincing evidence of the increasing sophistication of the research that

now characterizes so much of our historiographical work. We have come a long way in the past fifty years!

Important new work is being produced on the American Library Association, on significant figures like Dewey and Shores, and on the neglected role of women in librarianship. But as I have indicated throughout the essay, there is no shortage of untapped subjects in the garden we till. We have now begun to master the tools of historical investigation; the next step will be to broaden our focus to include other disciplines wherever they can be applied effectively to limning our stories and rescuing them from the shadows of our contemporary era. So go ye forth and tell your stories!

Unpublished Master's Theses and Doctoral Dissertations

Master's Theses

Alexander, S. L. "The History of the North Carolina Collection under the Leadership of Mary Lindsay Thornton, 1917-1958." Master's thesis, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1993.

Bolton, Bonnie J. "A Community Documents Its History: A Brief Account of the Shaker Historical Society and the Elizabeth Nord Library." Master's research paper, Kent State University, 1994 (available also as an ERIC Document, ED376860).

Czerniejewski, Marilyn. "The History of the Duns Scotus Library at Lourdes College." M.L.S. unpublished research paper, Kent State University, 1993 (available also as an ERIC document, ED367328).

Daily, D. L. "Donn Michael Farris: Theological Librarian of Duke University Divinity School, 1950-1992." Master's thesis, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1994.

Dickey, Ellen Elizabeth. "Serving the African American Population in Durham County, North Carolina: A History of the Bragtown Branch Library." Master's thesis, North Carolina Central University, 1993.

Dillon, Mary Jane. "History of the Development of the Two Large Regional Branches of the Cape May County Library System." Master's thesis, Glassboro State College, 1992.

Gailey, Kathleen Jennings. "The Emerging Profession: School Library Media Specialists." Ed.S. thesis, Georgia State University, 1992.

Gifford, Linda June. "Into Bookless Louisiana: Essae Martha Culver and the Louisiana State Library." Master's thesis, Louisiana State University in Shreveport, 1993.

Jones, Alan Clifford. "History of the Temple, Texas, Public Library, 1900-1996." Master's thesis, Baylor University, 1996.

- Kimmel, Leigh Husband. "The History of the Implementation of the Library Computer System (LCS) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign." Master's thesis, Illinois State University, 1996.
- Kirilova, Ilona. "Development of Access Policies at the Massachusetts Historical Society from 1791 until 1916." Master's thesis, University of Massachusetts, 1994.
- Latimer, Carlos. "Edward Christopher Williams and His Impact on Librarianship." Master's research paper, Kent State University, 1994 (available also as an ERIC document, ED376857).
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- Thompson, Nancine Jane. "Edward M. Heiliger and the Florida Atlantic University Library: An Experiment in Automation (1955–1967)." Master's thesis, Florida Atlantic University, 1996.
- Vlatas, M. E. "Copyright Law: A Legislative History of Mandatory Deposit." Master's thesis, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1994.
- Young, V. "From Immigrants to Refugees: American Public Library Service to the Foreign Born from 1920 to 1950." Master's thesis, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1994.
- Walker, Robert Burke. "Georgia's Carnegie Libraries: A Study of Their History, Their Existing Conditions, and Conservation." Master's thesis, University of Georgia, 1994.

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Notes

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