

Research in Librarianship

Dean Edward G. Holley opened the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration on Wednesday evening with greetings to the participants, characterizing the celebration as an "opportunity to look at the future as we celebrate the past."

RESEARCH IN LIBRARIANSHIP

David Kaser, Professor at the Graduate Library School, Indiana University.

David Kaser suggests that, in the past, the priorities for research in librarianship have been three: significance, methodology, and creativity, in that order. He suggests that we have given inadequate attention to creativity and calls on us to reorder our priorities.

Research in librarianship, Kaser pointed out, has emphasized significance and methodology at the expense of creative scholarship. Creative research begins with problem recognition when the scholar identifies enigmas and paradoxes and recognizes wide relationships in order to hypothesize. Each researcher must find his own problems, for his curiosity alone is the motivation to research. Dr. Kaser urges that we look for significance in its broadest sense, that we see methodology as a means to an end, and that we redouble efforts to bring creativity into our own research and that of our students.

CHILDREN'S MATERIALS AND SERVICES IN SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Two faculty members of the School of Library Science spoke on research concerned with "Children's Materials and Services in Schools and Public Libraries."

Professor Mary E. Kingsbury began by reminding the group that Frances Henne, more than twenty years ago, had called for a systematic approach to research concerned with services to children. "Yet today," said Kingsbury, "we still base much research on myth." The assumptions, or myths, on which research is based still separate us from reality.

Professor Susan Steinfurst said that the relationship between children and books is often done by social scientists and English scholars, who look at the form and content of a work. In children's literature there are four major kinds of studies: Reading interest, content analysis, historical analysis, and literary

Editor's Note: The Graduate Library School of University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill celebrated its 50th anniversary March 26-28, 1981, with a symposium focused on Research in Librarianship. Included in the following pages are reports collected by Betty Young and edited by Herbert Williams. Besides these seminars the celebration included the Beta Phi Mu dinner at which David Kaser spoke, a reception honoring Susan Grey Akers, and a breakfast for past presidents of the UNC-CH Library School Alumni Association. Seated: Poole, Query; Standing: Fussler, Greenaway, Powell

analysis. Current research seems to be particularly concerned with how our social and cultural values are reflected in literature for children. Professor Steinfurst said there was a dearth of longitudinal studies available and also a great need for studies on religious and informational books.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC CONTROL AND ACCESS

Dr. Joe A. Hewitt stated that the terms "bibliographic control" and "access" were used first to document and record the status of published and unpublished works, and second to provide library records to make research accessible in topics such as cataloging, management, bibliographic coverage by geographic or subject areas, networks, data bases, use studies, or the impact of new systems on library operations.

Dr. Hewitt observed that there are, nevertheless, hopeful signs for sound research, among them the smaller, more focused problems and dissertations. Computer analysis permits and monitors studies and search strategies never before possible. He added that growing concern by funding agencies is causing researchers to give more scrupulous attention to data and methodology.

SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC: THE ROLE OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

In her discussion of "Service to the Public: The Role of the Public Library," in terms of research carried out in the 1970's, Mary Jo Lynch, Director of the ALA's Office of Research, stated that the past decade had been rich in research on public libraries. Ms Lynch discussed what she considered to be a few of the important studies done during this period, including studies on reference service, performance measures, user's views of public libraries, statistical information systems for management, local policies and financing, the question of fees for library services, and the planning process as developed by the Public Library Association.

PERSONNEL

Ann Stone, Duke University's Personnel Librarian, addressed issues in personnel in libraries in the 1970's. Ms Stone pointed out that increased attention was paid to personnel matters during this period as it became more evident that effective development of human resources was essential for existence, and as attitudes toward work and rights of workers changed. She described it as an era of entitlements for personnel, of technological change, of turning to modern management techniques, and of recognizing the necessity of accountability in libraries.

SEMINAR: RESEARCH IN LIBRARIANSHIP

Author of a well-known book on *Selecting Materials for Libraries* and comfortably familiar with all library literature in his field, Dr. Robert W. Broadus

chose references from 21 articles and five books relevant to the current status of research in collection development and use.

Recent use studies continue to use citations in many fields and laws such as Bradford's (1934) specifying the number of examples needed for a valid sample and Urkhart's, which states that interlibrary loan is a measure of journal use throughout the country.

Although use studies should continue, and they help administrators make better use of resources, they could be improved. More use of data processing will help. So far, use studies say only what has been used; they ignore new approaches and do not show future use.

ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

Richard M. Dougherty, Director of Libraries at the University of Michigan, presented a paper pointing out the problems that academic librarians will face in the decade of the 1980's with escalating costs and deteriorating collections. He ended with a challenge to make this an exciting period of change based on a philosophy of shared dependencies.

Problems that Dougherty believes will make the next ten years crucial for academic libraries are related to a decrease in access to collections: lack of space will require more books to be placed in storage, the high cost of books means buying less of the materials users want, deterioration of collections will bring restricted use for preservation reasons, more research materials on film and fiche means less possibility of home use, and there will be increased charges for interlibrary loan and data-base searching.

HISTORY OF LIBRARIES

Before beginning his presentation on the history of libraries, Professor Budd L. Gambee distributed that "most traditional keepsake of library conferences" — a bibliography. The focus of Dr. Gambee's presentation was the methodology used in preparing "Books on Library History since 1970: a Selective Bibliography." Quality was not the criterion used to select the final eighty-five items; instead, Prof. Gambee's stated aim was to compile a list of book-length research by one author (or the close collaboration of joint authors) in library history or biography published since 1970, in English, by reputable publishers in the form of printed hard cover or paperback books. Dr. Gambee also included in his bibliography a list of sources, a subject index, and information about library history course offerings at ALA accredited library schools.

RESEARCH IN MEDICAL LIBRARIANSHIP DURING THE '70'S

Mary Horres, Associate Director of the Health Sciences Library at UNC—CH, gave a brief overview of technical developments in medical libraries during the seventies, then noted that some of the most important research in the field during this period concerned exploration of technological applications in medical libraries, use and user surveys, collection development, library administration, and development of online reference services.

INFORMATION SCIENCE AND LIBRARIES

Charles H. Davis, Dean of the Graduate School of Library Science at the University of Illinois presented a paper on the impact of information science on libraries and the educational process and suggested areas for further study and thought.

Even though computer technology is bringing the most important changes to libraries since the invention of printing from movable type, a paperless society is not nearly upon us. After all, users of online services very often require printouts, he pointed out. Davis believes that in the future no one medium will predominate. All media, telecommunications, films, books, etc., should and will serve the educational and recreational needs of library patrons, each medium in its own way. It will be the responsibility of the librarian to serve as intermediary between the media and users, interpreting needs of the users and selecting the medium which will best fill those needs.

EDUCATION FOR LIBRARIANSHIP: PRESENT AND FUTURE

Dr. Lester Asheim, William Rand Kenan, Jr., Professor of Library Science at UNC-CH, addressed the broad issues of education for librarianship. Characterizing this age as a rapidly changing one, Asheim noted that the library as a social agency (and hence library education) is subject to the same forces. He enumerated some of these changes as being the increased importance of communication and information, the dramatically changing technological scene, the tendency toward specialization, the uncertain economic situation, the complexity and therefore increasing difficulty of managing service organizations as well as the new moves toward interagency cooperation.

To prepare librarians to deal adequately with these forces, library education procedures and tools must change. One area for possible change, of course, is the curriculum. Asheim noted that the content, the teaching methods, the prerequisites and length of the training program are all areas which should be evaluated and possibly modified. He further noted the dichotomy between the professional and technical staff with a library, emphasizing, however, the value and importance of both.

Despite the "threat" of information being provided by agencies other than libraries, the future looks promising because the value of information and those who provide access to it (by whatever name they are called) is clearly recognized by our society.

CORE CURRICULA AND EXTENDED PROGRAMS

Kay Murray, Associate Professor at the School of Library Science reported on what the school is currently doing in the way of "Core Curricula and Extended Programs." Dr. Murray explained that a core curriculum is based on the assumption that there is a body of knowledge central to librarianship that all librarians should know, and she described the development of the "block" which was begun in 1974 following two years of discussion and planning. The "block" is essentially a 12 credit hour course required during the first semester for all new students, which gives them all a common background in six subject areas from which they can develop more specialized knowledge. Dr. Murray then described the extended program on which the School of Library Science

will embark in the fall of 1982, which extended course requirements from 36 to 48 semester hours.

OFF-CAMPUS DEGREE PROGRAMS

"Off-Campus Degree Programs" were discussed by Library School Associate Professor Marilyn L. Miller. Dr. Miller began by enumerating the variety of methods and techniques used in providing non-traditional education programs, and proceeded to describe the development of the Portsmouth, Virginia, project in which the MLS program is made available to practicing school librarians in the Portsmouth school system. Library School faculty visit Portsmouth to teach specialized courses using local resources, and the students spend two summers in Chapel Hill to study the basic "block" courses.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

JoAnn Bell, Director of the Health Sciences Library at East Carolina University, defined Continuing Education as any learning activity of a professional that builds on knowledge of the individual and does not lead towards a degree or certificate.

Although library schools should be the place best equipped to give continuing education, usually it is a peripheral activity of such schools. To find out why this is so, Ms Bell surveyed deans and faculty of library schools as to what continuing education programs they consider appropriate for library schools, and surveyed deans regarding actual continuing education activities of their schools. The results indicate that library school faculty and deans do not have strong attitudes either for or against continuing education programs within the professional school, although more responses favored participation in workshops, institutes and invited conferences than for continuing education courses in the school's curriculum.

NON-TRADITIONAL LIBRARY POSITIONS AND THEIR IMPACT ON EDUCATION FOR LIBRARIANSHIP

Protesting, firmly and clearly, that they did not regard their professional work as "non-traditional" or even as "alternative" careers, the panelists proceeded to describe their libraries' services and collections to nearly 100 participants at the Saturday session.

Panel moderator Gene Lanier from East Carolina University opened the session with a brief, concise discussion of the wide variety of professional careers available in library science today. Panelists Eva Metzger, Mary Metter and Barbara Semonche, all from the Triangle area, picked up Lanier's lead and graphically described their career development from their professional education at UNC-CH School of Library Science to their present involvement as information managers in three different kinds of libraries.

REPORTS OF DOCTORAL STUDENT RESEARCH

The seminars were concluded with six current doctoral students reporting on their dissertation in progress research. Frances Holt discussed her study of collection use in three black liberal arts colleges, including variables for subject, publication date, inclusion in selection of tools, as well as circulation. George Craddock discussed the results of his preliminary survey to determine the role

of the library director of the small private liberal arts college as perceived by administration, library staff, and faculty. George Gaumond's research involves an organizational analysis of departmental libraries in American universities.

Brian Nielson is reseaching the impact of a user fee on librarian responsiveness in providing on-line bibliographic services. Arlene Dowell has made a five year projection of the impact of rules of form of heading in AACR2 on selected academic library catalogs, looking at types of headings which conflict, types of materials which conflict, types how much conflict exists following the first year, and the difference the size of the library makes in the impact. Delmus Williams discussed his research on the role of accreditation as performed by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools on the process of change in academic libraries, and the impact and value of the accreditation process on these libraries as well.

AWARDS DINNER

At a gala dinner on Saturday evening, alumni from each decade reminisced about the School at the time that they were students. Their memories were tied together by alumni President Nell Waltner who set the scene for each decade by recalling events that took place during those years outside of the University of North Carolina.

The main focus of the evening was the presentation of five Distinguished Alumnus Awards to Herman Howe Fussler, Emerson Greenaway, Mary Elizabeth Poole, William Stevens Powell, and Mary Eunice Query. Herman Fussler, class of 1936, is an acknowledged authority on library management and



Seated: Poole, Query; Standing: Fussler, Greenaway, Powell

resources, microphotography, and documentation. He directed the University of Chicago library for 25 years and has published a number of articles and books in the field of library science. Mary Elizabeth Poole, class of 1936, is a retired librarian from North Carolina State University who is a nationally recognized documents librarian with numerous publications in the field. Emerson Greenaway, class of 1935, is recognized as innovator in public library administration and author of the Greenaway Plan for acquiring current trade books for public libraries. Mary Eunice Query, class of 1939, is retired from the faculty of library science at Appalachian State University and is recognized for outstanding contributions to the field of school librarianship. William Powell, class of 1947, is a noted North Carolina historian who is recognized for his contributions to research and professional organizations in both history and library science.

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