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Preservation Activities in Canada: A Unifying Theme in a Decentralised Country¹

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Introduction

In October 1990, the Canadian government called together participants from libraries, archives and museums across Canada.

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The three-day event led to the emergence of an idea: In a country such as Canada, with far-flung provinces and two official languages, the preservation of Canada's cultural heritage serves as a unifying theme. The country's rich heritage has included books since the first settlements. Today, libraries throughout Canada house unique collections. Elsewhere, such nations as Great Britain, France, and the United States hold important collections of Canadiana, reflecting cultural ties and continuing migration patterns. The record of Canada's cultural heritage - of settlement and government, of the lives of the important as well as the ordinary who have made Canada what it is - is therefore dispersed nationally and worldwide, and the preservation of these resources is a major preservation challenge.

This report summarizes the history and status of preservation in Canada's libraries and archives. Several national institutions have taken the lead in the formulation of policy and the implementation of programs for preservation. Most of these institutions operate preservation programs of their own, but the focus here is on those initiatives that contribute to the entire country, and thereby, to international preservation. Preservation is defined herein as the all-encompassing umbrella of activities covering all components from conservation of original documents to reformatting of documents by microfilming and digitization.

Preservation - An Overview of the Canadian Approach

In many countries it is still too early to talk about a national approach to preservation since it is impossible to impose a national program on a nonexistent infrastructure. In Canada, however, the rudiments of a national preservation program have been present for several decades in a decentralised model. The

Season Tse. Any mistakes or inaccuracies in the report are, of course, mine alone.

program evolved in this way based on decisions made over time - an approach that works well in a country so geographically large, sparsely populated, and politically decentralised.

This decentralization has put a premium on building consensus rather than imposing solutions on constituent provinces by a central body or bodies. In such a context, an effective national strategy for preservation depends on strong regional initiatives. In turn, even though preservation has been regionally motivated, there is a sense of common purpose and coordination at a national level. This is particularly fortuitous because worldwide regional and cooperative efforts have become critical at a time of reduced funding from centralized sources. Canada's model for preservation may prove ideally suited to other programs under development.

To provide context, this report groups Canada's preservation activities under the headings of Federal Initiatives, Decentralized Cooperative Initiatives, and Provincial Initiatives. However, in practice and by design, these sometimes overlapping activities are held together loosely by a few key components, such as their participants, resources, areas of interest, or goals. The topics of increasing importance - the emerging digital library and teaching/training - are considered separately.

Federal Initiatives

Federal initiatives are centred mainly in Ottawa. The following organizations have a national mandate.

National Library of Canada**Preservation Collection and Mass Deadification**

A central mandate of the National Library of Canada (NLC) is to collect and preserve Canadian publications in all formats, including government documents and music. Canadiana is defined as anything about Canada, published in Canada, or published anywhere in the world by a Canadian. As of 1953, the law has required that publishers deposit in the NLC two copies of each work produced in the country. Since 1988, one copy has been designated for the preservation collection and must be kept exactly as produced. If feasible, this preservation copy is treated in the library's mass deadification stream.

For twenty years the NLC has been deacidifying its collection using the Wei T'o process, which can handle most incoming materials. The National Archives of Canada operates the Wei T'o plant exclusively to treat the NLC collections. Much of the NLC's existing preservation collection has been routinely treated if technically possible, unless the item is printed on alkaline paper. The NLC continues to investigate emerging mass deadification technologies, but it should be noted that this is the only mass deadification treatment facility anywhere in the world that has been operated on a continuous basis for more than twenty years.

Permanent Paper

The NLC's involvement in promoting the use of permanent paper has included a role in lobbying Canadian publishers. When the lobbying effort started in the late 1980s, the library community realised that promoting the change to alkaline paper would be a challenge. Within a short time, however, it became economically advantageous for paper makers to retool their mills to produce

alkaline paper. As a result of this economic factor and the campaign waged by NLC in conjunction with other libraries and concerned groups, in January 1992 the Federal Government announced that all government documents to be retained for information or historical purposes would be printed on alkaline paper. The NLC has worked with government departments and agencies to implement this regulation where possible and to educate users and producers nationwide of the use of alkaline paper.

Paper Deterioration - the Lignin Factor

The NLC has been very active in research regarding lignin content and the chemical deterioration of paper. When the Canadian General Standards Board Committee on Printing and Writing Paper, in conjunction with the Canadian Advisory Committee for ISO Technical Committee 46, reviewed the proposed standard ISO DIS 9706 on Paper Permanency, the result was controversy. Specifically, the Canadian pulp and paper industry's concern focused on the scientific justification for the direction taken in the ISO specifications regarding lignin content. The industry claimed that passing this standard would exclude papers containing lignin content. The industry claimed that passing this standard would exclude papers containing mechanical and bleached chemithermomechanical (BCTM) pulps from being considered permanent, and Canadian paper mills had invested very heavily in these new BCTM pulp-making methods.

Much debate among the user groups (consisting mainly of library and archive members on the one hand and the pulp and paper industry on the other) resulted in an agreement that Canada should return a neutral vote on the proposed standard. This led to the formation of a joint research project made up of members of the user community and the industry. The NLC has played a leading role with the National Archives, Paprican (the

Pulp and Paper Research Institute of Canada), and the Department of Canadian Heritage in drawing up proposals with the industry for a project to research the paper permanency standard; this project was to be undertaken by the Canadian Conservation Institute. On the international level, the NLC has provided input to the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) for a research project on paper permanence. The ASTM project is of much greater scope than the Canadian Conservation Institute's and, in addition to the lignin question, will look at several other factors in paper disintegration.

Canadian Theses Service

In 1965 the NLC establishes the Canadian Theses Service to preserve and make accessible Canadian doctoral and masters theses. Set up as a decentralised effort in 1965, there were four participants; thirty years later, the number has grown to approximately fifty colleges and universities. An estimated 145,000 doctoral and masters theses have been filmed at the rate of 9,000 to 10,000 items per year.

From the beginning the NLC has provided bibliographic access to these theses through Canadiana and Canadian Theses (Microfiche). Since 1991 Dissertation Abstracts International and Masters Abstracts International have also listed theses. These publications can be purchased through the NLC's Canadian agent, Micromedia, or through University Microfilms International. Microfiche copies can be borrowed on interlibrary loan through the NLC. It is truly a collaborative effort, with the NLC as overall manager, while the participating university and colleges share costs and work with the NLC to make sure that filming is done according to technical specifications and that documents adhere to copyright requirements. The participating universities and colleges receive a microfiche copy of each thesis they submit. Plans are underway to monitor new electronic technology to

guarantee the continuing preservation of and access to Canadian theses.

Electronic Documents

In Canada, as elsewhere, there is growing interest in developing digital technology. The NLC recently completed its Electronic Publications Pilot Project, initiated to consider major issues in processing and providing access to online publications. The aim is for acquisitions, preservation, cataloguing, storage, repository, copyright issues, access, and use all to be handled electronically, for as low a cost as possible. The NLC has concluded that "it is feasible for a National library to build a collection of electronic networked publications ... In the distributed Internet world, many experts warn against centralised solutions. But if the solution ... is a decentralised one, the same concerns which were discussed for more traditional types of materials will surface. Among the key issues will be a acceptance of responsibilities and a sustained commitment from the various partners."³

The NLC is also digitizing some of its own unparalleled collection of Canadiana. The Confederation Project, for example, is an electronic resource that brings into focus the influence of the American Civil War on the achievement of Canadian Confederation. Another collection highlights the achievements of twenty-one women from Canada's past. This material is available on the World Wide Web through the Library's home page: <http://www.nlc-bnc/ca>.

³ Electronic Publications at the National Library of Canada (Ottawa: National Library of Canada, 1995).

Heritage Officer

The NLC recently appointed a Heritage Officer. The duties of this position include the coordination of national programs and projects designed to promote the comprehensive and cost-effective acquisition, organization, preservation, and awareness of published Canadiana and collections in Canadian libraries. The officer's job also includes the policy development, advice, and actions required to secure a coordinated, strategic plan to organize, preserve, and make accessible all collections, including foreign, held in Canadian libraries.

National Archives of Canada

A central part of the National Archives of Canada's mandate is to "conserve private and public records of national significance and facilitate access thereto, to be the permanent repository of records of government institutions and of ministerial records."⁴ The Archives' collections comprise not only paper records but also oil paintings, watercolours, all forms of prints and drawings, cartographic and architectural drawings, photographs, philately, globes, electronic and audiovisual materials, and other objects of national and historical significance. The Archives has fifty-four conservation-related full-time employees; three conservation laboratories; three laboratories for video, sound, and movies; and microfilming and photographic services. In addition to doing conservation treatments on their own collections, the Archives does conservation, microfilming, photography, moving image and sound treatment and, as previously indicated, mass deadification for the NLC. The NLC chooses the items and bases its work on an annual treatment plan. Because the two organizations report to

⁴ National Archives of Canada Act, Statutes of Canada, 1987 (Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1988), Chapter 1.

the same Federal Government minister, this is a workable arrangement from an administrative point of view.

The Archives has had a well-developed conservation policy and implementation framework in place since 1987. It has identified the need to increase the focus on long-term preservation through preservation management and shift resources from the treatment of individual items to the preservation of collections. Increasingly, the Archives is looking at techniques such as environmental control and the minimum conservation work necessary to stabilize as large a volume of material as possible, rather than the more labour-intensive work devoted to a smaller number of documents. To minimize handling, the Archives produces copies for heavily used documents. This trend toward the stabilization of a greater volume of materials will continue with the move of the Archives' Conservation Department of new climate-controlled facilities by the end of 1997.

Other priorities of the Archives include investigation of the physical custody of electronic records, investigation of the use of digital technologies for the copying of textual records, and the most appropriate format to be used for the long-term preservation of electronic records, as well as research with the National Research Council on HFC solvents for mass deacidification.

Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions (CIHM)

The Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions (CIHM), founded in 1978, began as an access project, although most Canadian libraries now think of CIHM as a preservation project. In effect, it has achieved both goals. CIHM was set up as a result of two reports in the 1970s: *To Know Ourselves*, the Report of the Commission on Canadian Studies, by Professor T.H.B. Symons and the Report of the Consultative Group on University Research Libraries. "The Symons report noted the need for

stronger collections of Canadian material as well as the need to return to Canada, in some form, printed Canadiana held for foreign libraries and archives. A library consultative group issued a report in 1977, noting that not only was it difficult to obtain access to Canadiana, but books were rapidly deteriorating, and [they] recommended immediate measures be taken to deal with the problem."⁵

The objectives of the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions are:

- To improve access to printed Canadiana
- To make rare and scarce Canadiana more widely available
- To bring together fragmented collections of Canadiana
- To ensure the preservation of Canadiana in Canada and elsewhere.⁶

A board composed of scholars, chief librarians, and business representatives oversees the Institute. Funding comes from various sources, with the Canada Council originally providing \$ 2 million. Subscriptions for the Early Canadiana microfiche collection account for about thirty to fifty percent of CIHM revenues, and other sales for an additional twenty to thirty percent. The NLC also has provided funding, along with considerable support services and work space in the NLC building.

In many respects, the Institute serves as an example of a successful cooperative microfilming project. Since 1978, CIHM has completed filming Canadian monographs from 1559-1900 and

⁵ Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions, *Annual Report 1993-94* (Ottawa: CIHM, 1994).

⁶ Ibid.

serials from the same period; in its current phase it will film post-1900 monographs (1900-1920). Since its inception, the Institute has filmed almost 70,000 monographs and 60,000 serial issues. Evidence of the cooperative nature of the Canadian preservation program at the national level appears in the geographic range of filmed materials identified nationwide by seven part-time regional researchers. All titles proposed for filming are researched for copyright status and filming permission. Materials are borrowed from the holding libraries and then filmed by a vendor in Toronto.

A valuable byproduct has been identification and cataloguing of Canadiana. The resulting fiche are fully catalogued and mounted on the NLC database. CANMARC tapes of the monographs and annuals are produced and mounted on the ISM and OCLC databases. CIHM seeks to raise awareness of its filming project both within and outside of Canada and to produce subject collection subsets that might appeal to libraries not wanting to subscribe to the complete collection. Libraries subscribing to the microfiche sets receive bibliographic records on tape. COM and print catalogs are available, and there is a World Wide Web home page connected to the complete database at <http://www./nlc-bnc.ca/cihm/home.html>.

As Pam Bjornson, executive director, observes, CIHM is a creature of the subscribing libraries and is, therefore, what those libraries want it to be. At present CIHM is investigating ways it should change with the emergence of digital technologies. It has set up a technical advisory committee to examine how CIHM might use new technology and to initiate a pilot project. The agency has no immediate plans to depart from the microfiche format but is keeping open the option of converting and/or moving to digital technology within the broader twofold mandate of preservation and of access to Canadiana.

Canadian Conservation Institute

Established twenty years ago, the Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) works with Canadian museums "to promote the proper care and preservation of Canada's moveable cultural heritage, and to advance the practice, science, and technology of conservation."⁷ The Ottawa facility, staffed by 80 to 100 personnel, is primarily a research organization. CCI's Paper Group of Conservation Research Services, however, also does some work for libraries and archives. One of the unusual features of the organization is the existence of both research and conservation operations together in one building. This arrangement helps to guarantee that research has immediate and tangible practical application.

The Paper Group has conducted research of bleaching, pressure sensitive tapes, enzyme use, washing, aqueous deadification, and the effects of fumigants of cellulosic materials. A major research study conducted over the last three to four years compared mass deadification treatments undertaken for the Metropolitan Toronto Chairmen's Committee for Preserving Documentary Heritage and the NLC. The Paper Group also is working on a permanent paper project with Paprican, vendors, libraries, and other organizations in the United States, as well as the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) subcommittee working on a Canadian standard for permanent paper and the lignin question. The CCI also has bid on the accelerated ageing testing portion of the ASTM permanent paper research project.

The CCI reviews its priorities and periodically holds meetings in the community, as did its Paper Group in the spring of 1994. During this focus group session, CCI staff met with staff from art galleries, archives, and libraries in the Toronto area to discuss

⁷ Canadian Conservation Institute, Annual Report 1993-94 (Ottawa: CCI, 1993-94).

current and possible future research projects. After detailed discussion, the group drew up a list of priorities and projects for the next three years. This document then circulated among participants for comments and further suggestions. In this way, CCI keeps in close touch with key clients and makes sure that research projects are relevant and reflect needs in the field.

In other endeavors, CCI produces its own research publications and publishes in outside journals. Additionally, CCI presents papers regularly at international conferences and responds to requests for consultations from other countries. The CCI has contributed to preservation practices around the world through dissemination of its research results.

Cooperative, Decentralised Initiatives

The cooperative decentralised efforts described below are occasionally conducted under the auspices of one or more of the major participants in the field.

Canadian Council of Archives

A noted cooperative effort has been spearheaded by the Canadian Council of Archives (CCA), which was created in 1985 and represents archival resources across Canada. Funded by the Federal Government, it operates through twelve provincial and territorial councils. Canadian archives, in general, have been much more successful than libraries in obtaining government funding because of the existence of this central body, which can coordinate efforts and help to advance funding applications.

The year 1989 saw the production of the National Strategic Conservation Plan, and the CCA instituted a series of cost-shared preservation initiatives in archives across Canada with federal funding of \$ 3.5 million: "The Committee's activities, based on the priorities identified through nation-wide consultations undertaken

in the course of the strategic planning process, currently include the administration of the funding program, advocacy, communication, training issues, and applied conservation research."⁸ Between 1991 and 1994, the federal Government has funded 234 projects worth \$ 1.8 million through this program. In March 1994, the preservation committee of the CCA published *The Preservation Strategy for Archives in Canada*. This report outlined a five-year-plan for the period 1994-99, including a plan for each province and territory. Currently, the committee is focusing on implementing the planning strategy by working with provincial and territorial councils.

To give practical help to archivists, the CCA preservation committee is developing as a forthcoming publication a preservation assessment tool. Otherwise, the CCA has contributed to research publications well-regarded in the field and by the international community. The CCA has many other planned areas of consideration: advice on archival enclosures, standards for archival quality storage of material, research on the effects of washing and deadification of paper, and in partnership with the Image Permanence Institute in Rochester, NY, a project on acetate film deterioration and effects of alkali on the long-term stability of paper fibres containing lignin.

Decentralised Program for Canadian Newspapers

Early on the NLC decided that it would not collect newspapers comprehensively, with the result that the provinces have held major newspaper collections. In 1980, a NLC survey regarding newspapers established which collection and preservation practices were in place provincially. The NLC then provided seed money to relevant groups in each province and

⁸ Canadian Council of Archives, *Information Bulletin* (Ottawa: CCA, 1995).

territory identify the newspaper holdings and develop preservation programs.

Throughout the 1980s, the provinces microfilmed their holdings, with the NLC buying a copy of each title filmed as funds permitted. At the same time the NLC attempted to acquire and maintain a representative collection of original newspapers, student newspapers, and newspapers produced by special interest groups. The NLC has put considerable effort into providing bibliographic and location information on Canadian newspapers through its union catalog. Thus, there is a good repository of newspapers at the NLC, and Canada's printed newspaper heritage has been preserved and made accessible. For the NLC to have attempted to film all of these newspapers itself would have been an impossibly large task.

Canadian Cooperative Preservation Project

A more recent cooperative program is the Canadian Cooperative Preservation Project. In 1990, five Canadian university libraries - University of British Columbia, University of Alberta, University of Toronto, McGill University, and Université Laval - in conjunction with the NLC approached The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in New York. They requested funding to set up an infrastructure for a cooperative microfilming program, since the brittle book problem was as grave in Canada as it is in the United States. The Foundation granted \$ 875,000 in U.S. currency (equal to \$ 1.2 million Canadian) for the projects described below.

The participating libraries were required to adhere to the most stringent standards for preservation microfilming. To this end a technical subcommittee drew up a microfilming manual, *Guidelines for Preservation Microfilming in Canadian Libraries*. Thereafter, the five participating university libraries entered into a variety of agreements, primarily with local vendors to microfilm in order to test the procedures. In total, three generations of 8,998

volumes of 35mm microfilm, or 3,040 titles, were produced to preservation standards. After working with the project, three vendors Canada-wide were able to reach acceptable standards for preservation microfilming.

Bibliographic records for each title filmed were submitted to the NLC and mounted on the NLC database. Since an important part of the project was to report items filmed to the international community, the NLC came to an agreement with the Research Libraries Group that these records would be sent for mounting on the RLIN database. The NLC established a Canadian Register of Microfilm Masters, with each of the filming libraries reporting holdings filmed. This register is available to anyone searching the NLC database. In addition, because none of the participants had access to archival storage for the completed microfilm, the NLC agrees to provide storage space for the first generation masters in the National Archives vault used by the NLC.

To disseminate the expertise in preservation microfilming developed by the participants throughout the country, one-day training sessions were held in Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver. These workshops, attended by staff from local libraries, archives, and local vendors, succeeded in either training participants to reach acceptable standards for preservation microfilm or to recognise when a purchased microfilm meets standards.

Advisory Committee on a Strategy for Preservation in Canadian Libraries

Established in 1991 under the leadership of the NLC with funding from the Canadian Cooperative Preservation Project, the Advisory Committee was formed to "discuss and make recommendations on policy issues and strategy options for a

national program of preservation."⁹ A consultative approach was used to develop *A National Strategy for Preservation in Canadian Libraries*, a comprehensive report that covers the issues inherent in a national strategy, from collection and retention policies to research and development. "The report examines the current Canadian scene, identifies areas of concern and points to solutions, with recommendations, for a coordinated national effort to ensure the continued existence of the holdings of Canada's libraries for both present and future generations ... [This] report, ... if adopted ... should lay a firm base from which to operate and develop the application of skills and resources so necessary to secure the safety of Canada's published heritage."¹⁰ The consultant hired to work with this committee, John McIntyre of the National Library of Scotland, points out that he uncovered a great deal of knowledge and awareness of preservation issues and adds that this should stand the preservation effort in Canada in good stead, with the cautionary note that sufficient funding needs to be made available.

Task Force on Preservation and Enhanced Use of Canada's Audio-Visual Heritage

While paper materials are deteriorating quickly, audiovisual materials are perhaps in an even more critical stage of decay. In 1994, the Task Force on the Preservation and Enhanced Use of Canada's Audio-Visual Heritage was organized and led by the National Archives of Canada. The task force had a one-year-mandate to study the issues surrounding the preservation of

⁹ Advisory Committee on a Strategy for Preservation in Canadian Libraries, *A National Strategy for Preservation in Canadian Libraries* (Ottawa: National Library of Canada, 1994). Hereafter referred to as *A National strategy*.

¹⁰ Ibid.

audiovisual material and to develop a preservation strategy. Membership was drawn from archives, libraries, museums, producers, broadcasters, distributors, and users from both public and private sectors.

As part of its investigations and deliberations, open meetings were held at various sites across Canada to give local participants a forum in which to discuss problems and solutions. These forums attracted representatives from the user, producer, and vendor communities. The result of the Task Force's deliberations was the report *Fading Away: Strategic Options to Ensure the Protection of and Access to Our Audio-Visual Memory*, which was sent to the Minister of Canadian Heritage and made available across Canada.

The report's central premise is that responsibility for the preservation of these media must be handled by a consortium of public institutions and the audiovisual industry. Government bodies and agencies would be just one of the participants among many. All members would contribute to the financing of the proposed preservation project. The amount of money required includes: "\$ 2 million, cost shared for non federal stakeholders ... combined with \$ 2 million for federal agencies per year over 10 years ... a preservation fund generating a minimum of \$ 2 million annually ... \$ 1 million over three years to set up a specialised service centre ... and \$ 1.5 million over 5 years to support training and exchange."¹¹ Several regional storage facilities are recommended for use by those institutions without access to proper storage conditions.

During its investigation, the task force noted that there was audiovisual preservation expertise in many places but little communication. The proposed consortium of stakeholders would facilitate the exchange of knowledge and prevent duplication of

¹¹ *Fading Away: Strategic Options to Ensure the Protection of and Access to Our Audio-Visual Memory* (Canada: National Archives of Canada, 1995).

effort. The report is currently with the Minister and further developments are expected in 1996.

Conférence des Recteurs et des Principaux des Universités du Québec (CREPUQ)

CREPUQ is an association of Quebec universities involved in many cooperative activities. Its subcommittee on libraries task force has a work group that pursues preservation of materials in university libraries and archives in Quebec. This task force coordinates advice and access to experts and research expertise and publishes tools for library preservation.

Council of Federal Libraries

The council of Federal Libraries Library Preservation Committee was established in 1979 to keep the Federal Government library community informed on preservation issues in libraries and to promote library preservation in this community. This committee surveys the community to name current issues and problematic matters; it then delves into these issues on behalf of the member libraries. As a result, workshops have been offered to constituent libraries on matters such as alkaline paper advocacy, disaster planning, and electronic media.

Metropolitan Toronto Chairman's Committee for Preserving Documentary Heritage

In 1990, a regional cooperative, the Chairman's Committee for Preserving Documentary Heritage, was formed in Toronto. It consisted of a loose consortium of public and university libraries, archives, and other specialised libraries, under the sponsorship of the Chairman of Metropolitan Toronto. In recognition of the acid paper crisis, the committee attempted to develop strategies to

control and decrease the loss of books and other paper-based collections.

The committee's first step was to examine the various mass deadification systems available, with a view to building a facility in Toronto for the use of local institutions. A Toronto consulting firm, Lord Cultural Resources Planning & Management Inc, was hired to carry out a feasibility study for such a facility. The timeline for this study was brief - four months - and the consultants had only time and money to do a comprehensive literature search and to draw up a business plan.

The Chairman's committee concluded that it should commission a major scientific study to be carried out by the Canadian Conservation Institute since there were no reliable objective comparative studies of relevant technologies available. Funded by Canadian libraries, as well as some U.S. support, the study, *Evaluation and Comparison of Commercial Mass Deadification Processes*, was done by the Institute's Conservation Processes Research Division under the direction of Helen Burgess.

From this, the Chairman's committee agreed that no system was at a sufficient stage on development or reliability to be definitively recommended. The committee, while continuing to monitor mass deadification efforts, has now broadened its scope and is trying to raise money for cooperative digitization projects to be carried out among the Toronto participants.

Provincial and Local Initiatives

Local initiatives are carried out on the provincial level in the university and at public libraries and archives in each province and territory. Many of such organizations have noteworthy preservation programs, but as noted earlier, the scope of this report is restricted to cooperative efforts contributing to the international effort. It is worthwhile to note that there are

significant cultural heritage collections in each province, again reflecting the decentralised nature of the country.

British Columbia

The University of British Columbia Library has among its holdings the James G. Swan Papers, correspondence of a nineteenth-century ethnographer and civil servant in Washington Territory; these papers, preserved by microfilming, are primarily of interest to students of native culture in British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest. Vancouver's Japanese Canadian newspapers *Nikkan Minshu* and *Kanada Shinbun* and the British Columbia Sessional Papers from 1871 to 1982 have also been microfilmed. The Preservation Microfilming Special Projects Program, as it is called, is a cost-recovery program that is being expanded to include other publications of interest.

In the spring of 1993 the British Columbia Archives and Records Service (BCARS) initiated a pilot project with the Laboratory for Extended Media, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Victoria, to investigate the digital conversion of the BCARS visual records collections. The goal is to improve access to these collections and to limit wear and tear on the originals. Over 3,500 images have been scanned and converted onto the system. With improved access to the files, user satisfaction is high. BCARS plans to continue adding digital images to its bank. It is also working to increase the conversion of library reference cards and descriptive information related to BCARS holdings.

Alberta

Preservation and microfilming at the University of Alberta Library has focused on Alberta imprints and Native and Northern serials. With funding from the Canadian Cooperative Preservation Project, Alberta has filmed nearly 100 serial backfiles. Another

major preservation initiative has been the conversion of a local warehouse into a high-density, climate-controlled book and archival depository, capable of holding 3.2 million volumes. This is being promoted among members of the Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries as a regional resource-sharing centre.

Manitoba

In Manitoba, the Public Archives of Manitoba, Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature, and Winnipeg Art Gallery have developed strong preservation goals for themselves and have participated actively in a strong provincial preservation network. The Manitoba Library Consortium Preservation Committee has sponsored preservation presentations and printed brochures on the care and handling of library materials. The Manitoba Heritage Conservation Service provides preservation service for any publicly owned collection of heritage materials, including consulting, conservation workshops and internships, conservation treatment, loans of equipment, coordination of bulk supplies ordering, and emergency assistance.

Ontario

In Ontario, Canada's largest province in terms of population, generous collections exist in many different libraries and library systems. The University of Toronto Library, with a collection of twelve million items, is one of the largest research libraries in North America. Important collections also exist at the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library, the Archives of Ontario, and many of the other university and public libraries in the province. The Reference Library, Archives, and University Library, in particular, have mature preservation programs, employing methods such as conservation of artifacts, reprography, disaster-planning, and outreach to the library and archive

community. Staff from these organizations are involved in policy making and planning at regional, national, and international levels. They also operate in an advisory capacity on conservation treatments and disaster recovery to other organizations in the province.

University of Toronto Library

At the University of Toronto, the University Library and the University of Toronto Bookstore and Information systems Management Corp, Library Information Services Division (formerly UTLAS International) have formed a partnership to supply the Japanese market with books in the library's collection but out of print in Japan. Customers in Japan search in the University of Toronto's online catalog and send orders to the Library Information Services Division. The University of Toronto bookstore then checks the copyright status of the requests and obtains copyright permission when necessary. The books are scanned in the library using Xerox XDOD scanning equipment, and the digitized books are printed by the University of Toronto Press, bound, and shipped to Japan. In this way, the university obtains digitized copies of library materials that are at present stored on magneto optical disks. The long-term plan is to add these files to the digital library and to make these files available electronically.

McMaster University

Since 1980, the conservation laboratory of McMaster University Library has run a cooperation conservation service for ten Ontario libraries that do not have their own conservation facilities. The libraries in the consortium send books and paper artifacts to McMaster for treatment and repair. There is a high demand for this program among libraries in the province. This

type of approach is well-suited to granting smaller institutions the access to techniques and technologies that are beyond their reach in terms of cost for experience. In this way, small but valuable collections receive the same attention as larger collections.

Ontario Public Libraries

In 1990 the Ontario Library Association and the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Communications sponsored the Ontario Public Library Strategic Plan, *One Place to Look*. Objective nine of the plan was "To develop a programme to preserve printed and electronic information stored in the libraries of Ontario." Action steps to be taken under this are:

That the government of Ontario establish a body to develop a province-wide reservation policy and strategy

That the body established to develop the policy consist of library and archival interests, and representatives from the public and private sector.

That the government of Ontario establish a preservation office with appropriate professional staff to administer the policy and to support the required activities.

This strategic plan is currently under consideration by various government agencies in Ontario.

Quebec

Large collections of Quebec's cultural heritage exist at the Bibliothèque nationale du Québec, Université Laval, the Canadian Centre for Architecture, McGill University, and the Séminaire de Québec, among others. Quebec has a significant portion of the Francophone resources in the country, although there are also major Anglophone holdings in the province.

Bibliothèque nationale de Québec

The government of Quebec has agreed that the Bibliothèque nationale acquire, restore, and equip a conservation building for \$ 15 million, which would include space for the Montreal Centre of the National Archives of Quebec. Planning is underway to select a mass deadification unit with the intention of deacidifying 32,000 books a year. In addition to deacidifying the Bibliothèque's own collection, the service will be offered for a fee to other libraries in Quebec.

Atlantic Provinces of Canada

In the Atlantic provinces, especially in Nova Scotia, there has long been a strong interest in preservation and conservation. This has been kept alive through individuals working in libraries as conservators or bookbinders and more formally through the Atlantic Provinces Library Association. The main participants have been Memorial University of Newfoundland, Dalhousie University Library (Nova Scotia), the Atlantic Theological Seminary (Nova Scotia), the University of New Brunswick, and the Saint John Free Public Library, along with provincial archives.

Over the last two decades local experts and outside guest speakers have given many training courses and workshops. In New Brunswick a Conservation Cooperative has operated for a number of years, providing treatment to collections with an emphasis on library materials. A Provincial Conservation Program provides consultations, assistance, and preservation planning to archives, museums, and libraries. The Paper Heritage Group of Newfoundland is a cooperative venture established to provide conservation and preservation microfilming services to founding members and limited services to other public institutions and organizations.

Teaching and Training

Teaching and training are extremely important components of the preservation picture in any country and Canada is no exception. Unfortunately, it is in this area that Canada is most lacking on programs and resources. This means Canadians often have to travel abroad to find the necessary training and education, since formal courses are provided at very few Canadian institutions.

For the last three years the Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto, has offered an MLS credit course, "Preservation of Recorded Information." Geared to preservation administrators, the course content covers topics such as ethics of conservation, papermaking, microfilming, digitizing of library materials, and organizational structure for preservation. The Faculty of Information Studies also has offered one-day-long continuing education workshops on topics such as disaster planning, planning for preservation, and digitization of library materials.

Two formal conservation training courses in Canada are given at Queen's University and Sir Sandford Fleming College of Applied Arts and Technology. The Master of Arts Program at Queen's University offers courses on the history, technology, and conservation of paper objects. There are also courses on paper objects conservation practice. Taken together, these courses generally are considered to give excellent training in paper conservation methods. At Sir Sandford Fleming College there is a diploma program in Art Conservation Techniques, a combination of theory and practice aimed at preservation practitioners. There are also courses in preservation at McGill and the University of British Columbia Library Schools and library technician programs at Concordia University and Seneca College.

Another traditional method of training in the field has been the apprenticeship model. The National Archives has had interns,

as has the Canadian Conservation Institute and the National Library of Canada. In Toronto, the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library Preservation Services Department, the Archives of Ontario Conservation and Reproduction Unit, and the University of Toronto Department of Preservation Services, to name some, have conducted training sessions for interested people. In Montreal, the Canadian Centre for Architecture, which has an excellent and respected conservation laboratory, has taken on interns from time to time. This method of training may be as popular as it is in Canada because of the lack of more formal training courses. It is also likely that its popularity is due to the large influx to Canada of British and European conservators in the 1960s who favoured this apprenticeship or internship method.

Workshops and courses have been offered in all areas and regions of Canada, from the Atlantic provinces to British Columbia; this includes, for example, the Canadian Bookbinders and Book Artists Guild, which hosts workshops and training sessions every year on topics as diverse as gold tooling and preservation enclosures. These sessions are always led by people of excellence in the field. The International Institute for Conservation, Canadian Group, holds conferences and workshops and provides outreach to the community. The Canadian Library Association and Ontario Library Association have put on preservation workshops and lectures at their conferences.

A few years ago the media paid a great deal of attention to the brittle book problem. Many Canadian newspapers devoted space to brittle books and expounded on solutions. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation produced "Turning to Dust," an hour-long program in the Nature of Things series hosted by scientist David Suzuki. This documentary discussed all aspects of the preservation problem in Canada, in particular, but also in North America.

Digital Library

In Canada, as elsewhere, the idea of the digital library is emerging. The preservation of this electronic information is even more problematic than the preservation of either paper or audiovisual materials since much less is known about the long-term preservation and access for these formats.

The National Archives is responsible for the preservation of unpublished records and the National Library of Canada for published records. Electronic data preservation also is being carried out at universities in Canada. The University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, University of Alberta, University of Western Ontario, York University, Queen's University, and the University of Toronto all have data libraries whose job it is to track down electronic files on campus and document and preserve them.

In spite of these efforts, it is probably safe to say that much electronic information has been lost. Canada's libraries understand that they must mount a major effort, much like that relating to audiovisual materials. The need for this will become apparent as more libraries and archives mount digitizing operations. There are already a number of such digitizing initiatives at the University of Toronto Library, University of Victoria, National Library of Canada, and Memorial University. There is also widespread agreement that before too much information in electronic format is produced, lost, or duplicated, a central register of electronic files, much like the Canadian Register of Microform Masters, must be produced, and standards must be set up for the preservation and migration of such files. This register will become increasingly important as the digital or electronic library continues to expand in Canada, along with linkages to the international electronic library.

Future Directions

There is broad consensus on the need to build on A National Strategy due to a range of factors such as the evolving digital library, an increasing sense of urgency regarding paper deterioration, and user demand for electronic access. To this end the National Library of Canada organized a National Meeting on Preservation in Ottawa in November 1994. Attended by participants from libraries and archives across Canada, the meeting brought together people from key organizations to discuss what has been done and to tie together regional efforts to preserve Canada's valuable collections within a national framework.

Indeed, the symposium served to illustrate how the decentralised model has worked in Canada. The first day was spent reporting on individual activities in the various organizations, as well as cooperative activities. Descriptions of the current situation were followed by a discussion of the next steps to be taken, using the framework of the A National Strategy as a starting point. Participants developed priorities, worked out strategies, and recommended actions. One of the top priorities was to study further the need for a Canadian national forum for coordination of preservation activities. There continues to be considerable discussion between the National Library of Canada and the library community about what form this might take and how to achieve this goal. Once consensus is reached, it is probable that a structure will be developed to highlight issues and raise funding.

In A National Strategy, Canada has a well-thought-out plan to lead preservation efforts into the next century. What remains to be put into place are two pieces, not necessarily mutually exclusive: a coordinating or overseeing initiative and a powerful fundraising effort. It is with these two questions that Canadian libraries and archives are engaged at present. Canada knows what

is to be done and how it can be done. Who will take the initiative and who will provide the financial support are the crucial questions that must be answered if Canada's preservation efforts is to move from being a fortuitously decentralised effort to being a truly mature national program to preserve Canada's heritage into the twenty-first century and beyond.

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Making the Old and Precious Libraries in Westphalia Accessible

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I. Preliminary remarks on the library structure of North Rhine- Westphalia²

From a historical point of view North Rhine-Westphalia is not a grown political entity, but until the decline of the old Empire a multitude of clerical and secular governments followed each other on its territory. That is the reason for its library landscape being manifold and intricate. In the course of the political and territorial changes and revolutions that took place up to the beginning of the 19th century many library stocks have been moved. Library centres with extraordinarily important old stock do not exist, and the losses due to war damage (especially during the last two years of World War II) have been grievous. The big urban libraries in the Ruhr District have been destroyed almost entirely, and so have many special libraries.

¹ Translated by Andrea Plewe and Hellen Wobst.

² This article can only trace very briefly the most important outlines of development. You will find a more exhaustive essay on library topography, suggestions for further reading, and descriptions of the particular collections in: *Handbuch der historischen Buchbestände in Deutschland*, vol. 3: *Nordrhein-Westfalen A - I*, Hildesheim 1992, S. 21 - 36.

Nevertheless the state possesses still a large stock of old and precious literature worth protecting. University and regional libraries, archives and museums, municipal and school libraries as well as monastery and parish libraries hold valuable collections. But they are scattered all over the state.

The *Handbuch der historischen Buchbestände* has made the first attempt to describe the collections comprehensively. Since the growing historical interest has been accompanied by an increasing demand for these stocks further measures had to be taken. Therefore the *Arbeitsstelle für Historische Bestände in Westfalen* (Department for Historical Collections in Westphalia) was established at the *Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Münster* in the autumn of 1990.³

II. The tasks of the *Arbeitsstelle*

Considering the fact that a growing consciousness for the endangering of old books and the need for them in scientific research are continually gaining in importance, the following tasks arise:

- The indexing of old and precious collections according to modern standards: the basic requirement for dealing with old, precious and endangered prints are efficiently computerized catalogues, which are based on the commonly accepted rules of cataloguing. For this reason the cataloguing does not take place at the original location of collections, but at the *Arbeitsstelle*, which is online with a North Rhine-Westphalian wide computer network and therefore has access to bibliographic records of other libraries.

³ It is in charge of the three administrative districts of Arnsberg, Detmold and Münster, the districts of Düsseldorf and Cologne are covered by a similar department at the *Universitäts- und Stadtbibliothek Köln*.

After the state-wide cataloguing, alphabetical and classified catalogues as well as shelf lists are produced for the different libraries.

- Measures for maintenance, conservation and restoration of the books: in spite of the alarming and sometimes even disastrous state of many old and precious collections, we should not give up on the project. We can only save these valuable cultural assets from total destruction if we put more emphasis on appropriate measures for their restoration. Beforehand conservatory measures must be taken. These include careful treatment as well as correct storage, i.e. in a dark place and at a low temperature. It is of equal importance to create a public awareness for the historical as well as cultural value of these old books and to intensify the understanding for their necessary restoration.
- Making the collections accessible to the public: a prerequisite for the use of the collections is making them accessible in a non-subject and a subject index. Only after the bibliographic informations are made available the collections can be made use of on a regional and national basis. The stocks should be permanently looked after by a professional aid, who is unfortunately missing in many cases. For the user there are three possible ways to access the books: on the spot, in the reading room of a suitable library, to where the literature was transported (in coordination with the *Arbeitsstelle*), or in the *Arbeitsstelle* itself, where the books themselves can be accessed or can be reproduced on microform.

- Advisory services, concerning the cataloguing, restoration and use of old collections, for all non-professional aids, who are in charge of these: there are numerous cases in which the *Arbeitsstelle* gave professional advice to smaller libraries, which cannot employ a trained librarian. The advice given is manifold: there are questions concerning the correct storage and placement of the books, help is given in the examination of the holdings and make-work-schemes for initial cataloguing can be initiated. Moreover they expect the *Arbeitsstelle* to give assistance in organising expositions (e.g. on conservatory principles), advising on factual issues, on applications for grants (giving an expert opinion), on construction projects and to help with all kinds of questions that arise in managing and handling of old book collections.

III. To date realized projects

1. The former governmental library of Arnsberg⁴

In correspondence to the extensive scope of duties of the staatliche Mittelinstanz this collection (about 2.500 titles in 7.500 volumes with an emphasis on the 19th century) comprises literature on general science, applied science (mathematics, civil engineering, technology, hydraulic engineering, road and bridge building), history and geography. The main emphasis is on administrative writing, constitution, legislation, law, political science and economics, particularly agriculture, trade and industry.

⁴ Cf. Hans Mühl in: *Handbuch der historischen Buchbestände in Deutschland*, vol. 4: *Nordrhein-Westfalen K - Z*, Hildesheim 1993, S. 214 - 217.

In 1988 the library was handed over to the *Universitätsbibliothek Münster* and was shelved in an entity. The stock has been completely incorporated into the catalogues of the *Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek*. The bibliographic data are being processed, so they can be offered to the district government, archives, and libraries as hard copy or on floppy disk. The German Research Society supported the cataloguing within the scope of its programme for cataloguing special stocks.⁵ In 1991 and 1992 important pieces of the collection were exhibited in Arnsberg and Dortmund.⁶

2. The historic library of the Landesoberbergamt Nordrhein-Westfalen

Since 1992 the old and valuable stock of the historic library of the Landesoberbergamt Nordrhein-Westfalen (Head Mining Office of North Rhine-Westphalia) is being incorporated into the union catalogue of the state. This project is also supported by the German Research Society. The library's stock comprises about 7.000 old titles in 18.000 volumes.⁷

⁵ Cf. Leonhard, Joachim-Felix and Rutz, Reinhard: Die Erschließung von Spezialbeständen in Bibliotheken der Bundesrepublik Deutschland : zum Stand eines Förderungsprogrammes der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft, in: *Zeitschrift für Bibliothekswesen und Bibliographie*, 33 (1986), S. 325 - 345.

⁶ *175 Jahre Regierungsbezirk Arnsberg : Streiflichter aus der Geschichte*, bearb. von Reinhard Feldmann und Hans Mühl, Arnsberg 1991, (Schriften der Universitätsbibliothek Münster; 7).

⁷ For information on the library's history and its stock see Marlene Uhlenbruch und Reinhard Feldmann in: *Handbuch der historischen Buchbestände in Deutschland*, vol. 3, Hildesheim 1993, S. 241 - 243, furthermore the exhibition guide *Geologie und Bergbau im rheinisch-westfälischen Raum: Bücher aus der historischen Bibliothek des Landesoberbergamtes Nordrhein-Westfalen in Dortmund*, bearb. von

Starting with the founding of the office in 1792 in the Prussian town of Wetter the most important literature has been continuously collected as an instrument for the work of the office. The library represents a unified special collection, containing literature on geology, palaeontology, petrography, mineralogy, mining, deposit science, saltworks and metallurgical engineering, as well as general and applied science, engineering, material science and power engineering. Furthermore the collection focuses on political science, and economics, as well as literature on law and administration. Particularly the literature on mining law, labour legislation, and the workers' social welfare contain important contemporary information.

The library offers inter-library lending and generous opening hours for external users. The management of the library is carried out in several steps. All these steps are exemplary for the management of external stocks by the *Arbeitsstelle Historische Bestände in Westfalen* (historic stocks in Westphalia). To begin with the books' bibliographic descriptions are entered into the online union catalogue of North Rhine-Westphalia at the *Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Münster*. It has become apparent that the books have to be on hand while they are catalogued, at least as long as there are not enough machine-readable entries of old titles in the union catalogue and the bibliographic standard of the existing entries is insufficient for conversion.

Unfortunately only very few catalogue entries can, therefore, be converted. According to a recent random test of 100 titles there is much less overlap than had always been expected. Only 12 % of the Dortmund titles can be found in the union catalogue. One third of these (that is 4 %) belong to the stock of the governmental library of Arnsberg, which the *Universitäts- und*

Landesbibliothek has recently incorporated in its function as a regional library. The *Mikrofiche-Zentralkatalog 1800-1975* (union catalogue of the state on microfiche) illustrates a similar development: 24 % of the stock could not be found in it, and in 34 % of the cases only one or two copies of the title were available by regional inter-library loan.

Further bibliographical aids are some printed catalogues of collections from the turn of the century, which the *Arbeitsstelle* has access to. Additional assistance is not available.

3. Baroque catholic sermons: books from the Capuchin monastery in Münster

A large collection of more than 2.000 sermons, editions of the Early Fathers and ascetic literature has been handed over to the *Universitätsbibliothek Münster* in 1990. The collection's origin is the library of the Capuchin monastery in Münster, which served as central depot of preserved or transferred monasterial libraries of the Rhine-westphalian province.⁸ Therefore books from several illustrious convents, e.g. Clemenswerth, Koblenz-Ehrenbreitstein, and Mainz can be discovered there. The stock has been taken over completely, it is shelved in a unified body and is completely incorporated into the local catalogues. Additionally provenances and previous owners are recorded. Since the books were in a bad state due to improper storage, extensive measures of maintenance and restoration had to be taken. From January to March 1993 a much frequented exhibition of the collection was shown in the *Universitätsbibliothek Münster*.⁹

⁸ Cf. Hans-Jürgen Loska und Siegfried Schwedt in: *Handbuch der historischen Buchbestände in Deutschland*, vol. 4: *Nordrhein-Westfalen K - Z*, Hildesheim 1993, S. 240 - 241.

⁹ Flachmann, Holger: *Die Stimme ins Buch gebannt oder die katholische Predigtsammlung vornehmlich der Barockzeit in einer Ausstellung dr*

4. Piety and cosmopolitanism: the library of the former Cistercian convent Gravenhorst

A highly interesting special library, which was already good for quite a few surprises, is found at Gravenhorst. The library's beginnings in the Cistercian convent, founded in 1256, are obscure. Only few previous owners have been so far discovered: a small number of books originates from the former Jesuit college in Münster, one multi volume work was the property of the elector Clemens August (*ex libris*), another two come from the Cistercian monastery Marienfeld, residence of the confessors at Gravenhorst.

The *Reichsdeputationshauptschluß* of 1803 (the decision of the Deputation of the German Estates compensating German sovereign princes for losses of territories ceded to France) secularized the convent which was finally closed down in 1808. Parts of the stock were handed over to the parish of Ibbenbüren, many books were scattered over surrounding villages, irretraceable by now.

In the nineteen seventies and eighties Franz-Joseph Graf Strachwitz (+ 1990) and minister Alfons Wevering arduously recompiled the stock, shelved it temporarily and made an inventory. In 1991 this collection was brought to the *Universitätsbibliothek Münster*, measures for maintenance were taken, and some of the most valuable pieces from the 16th century were even restored.

Today the collection comprises 732 titles. Naturally the theological works predominate: editions of the Bible, commentaries and concordances, the *Oeuvres* of Bossuet (previously owned by elector Clemens August). There are editions of the Early Fathers as well as exegetic and dogmatic literature. Moral theology, ethics, devotional and ascetic literature are

Universitätsbibliothek Münster, in: *Verband der Bibliotheken des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen: Mitteilungsblatt*, N.F. 43 (1993), S. 9 - 36.

represented more strongly than ecclesiastical and council history and the canon law. A large part of the stock consists of homilists' works and collected sermons from the end of the 18th century. There are also numerous non-theological works, the majority of which are philosophical or intended for school use and teaching (including editions of classical authors, geography, mathematics, and economics), as well as a few encyclopaediae and reference books.

This library may be the smallest of the above mentioned collections but at the same time it is most representative of the work of the *Arbeitsstelle*. After the transport to Münster and the descriptive cataloguing a system of classification is developed since the stock had been shelved completely unclassified. Furthermore a catalogue of the former owners is to be set up. In the bookbindery damaged stitchings are newly bound and other necessary measures for maintenance are taken. For extremely endangered stocks a proposal for restoration is made. The funding body is responsible to subsidize to this task, preferably aided by another sponsor. While the books are in Münster, constructional measures are carried out on the spot. The room designated for storing the books, suits this purpose very well (thick walls, small windows). It is architecturally redesigned, equipped with shelves and secured, so that it will finally be at the library's disposal. In addition it will be used for museum purposes. Thus after only two years the collection could be returned to its rightful location. A printed catalogue with introductory essays guides through the library.¹⁰

¹⁰ Reinhard Feldmann, Elke Pophanken: *Die Klosterbibliothek Gravenhorst: Katalog der Bibliothek des ehemaligen Zisterzienserinnenklosters Gravenhorst*, Münster 1993, (Schriften der Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Münster ; 10).

The development of the two latter collections has been supported by the Ministry of Culture, Education and Church affairs of North-Rhine Westphalia.

IV. Catalogue databases: supraregional and local¹¹

The data are fully available in the union catalogue of the *Hochschulbibliothekszenrum* (Centre of University Libraries of the state) and also in the union catalogue of the *DBI* (German Library Institute). For local use the magnetic tapes are converted from MAB-format to Allegro, so they are available on a special data file or can be converted to a book catalogue by means of word processing software.

Although this sounds rather simple, it actually is an extraordinarily complicated and tedious procedure. The *Hochschulbibliothekszenrum* as the library data centre of the state delivers the complete data of the North-Rhine Westphalian subsystem on two separate tapes, one with the bibliographic records and one with the home data.

The first step of the procedure is to convert the data from EBCDIC to ASCII with a special conversion routine. The stock of the respective library is selected in a second step from the complete subsystem by its short form in the home data file. After the selection the third step converts the new file to Allegro. For the printed catalogues the selected and edited file is finally entered into the Word-Perfect word processor.

With the help of this word processor the catalogues for the holding libraries are compiled. Usually book catalogues are produced: one alphabetical, and one subject catalogue and one shelf list. This traditional procedure will soon be a matter of the past. In the not too distant future the catalogue will assume the

¹¹ I owe my thanks to my colleague Elke Pophanken (ULB Münster) for numerous hints regarding data conversion and cataloguing of old prints.

form of a database, that can be implemented on any personal computer. The retrieval is directed by the Allegro software, which offers various access points.

V. Strategies for the future

Further projects have already been started, several others have reached the stage of actual planning. In all activities the *Arbeitsstelle* cooperates closely with the funding bodies and other involved institutions (German Research Society, *Hochschulbibliothekszenrum*, diocesan libraries, the state church office and others) in order to protect and preserve the old and precious literary stocks in our region so science and research can benefit from them.

Gekuppelte Personenzug-Locomotive.

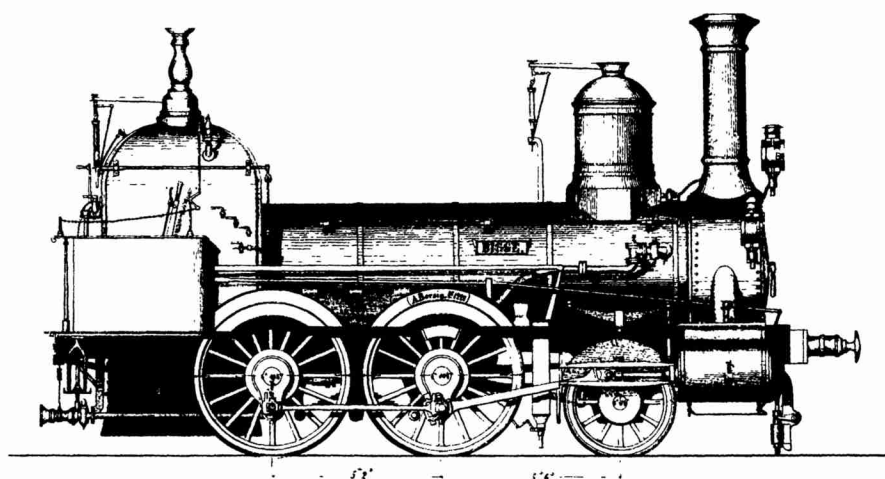
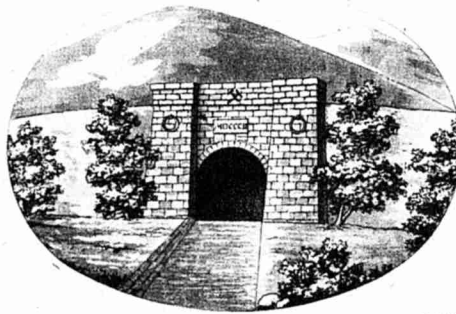


Fig. 1 *Bau-Anlagen der Ruhr-Sieg Eisenbahn.*
Düsseldorf: Breidenbach, 1864.
(ULB Münster, from the former governmental library of
Arnsberg)

B e i t r ä g e
z u r
Geognosie und Bergbaukunde



verfasst

von

Wilhelm Schultz,

Königl. Preufs. Bergrath etc.



Nebst 6 Blatt Karten und Zeichnungen.

Berlin, 1821.

Gedruckt und verlegt
bei G. Reimer.

Fig. 2 Schultz, Wilhelm. *Beiträge zur Geognosie und Bergbaukunde*.
Berlin: Reimer, 1821.
(Landesoberbergamt Dortmund)

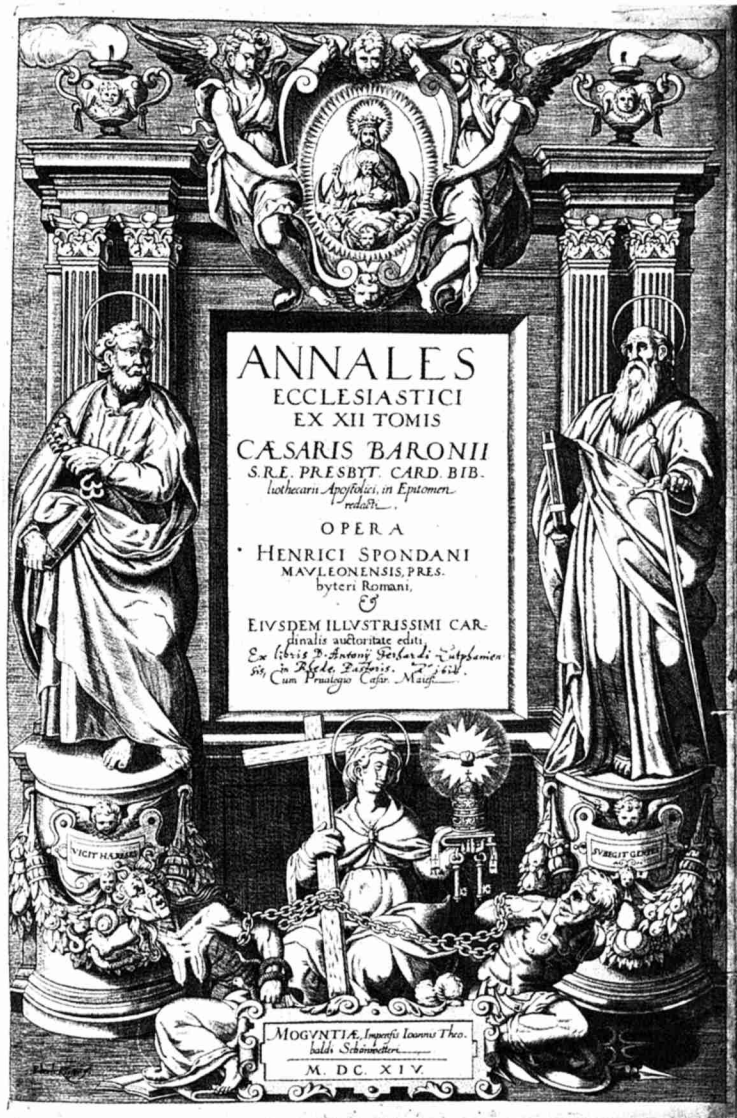


Fig. 3 Baronio, Cesare. *Annales Ecclesiastici*.
Mogvntiae: Schönwetter, 1614.
(From the library of the former Cistercian convent Gravenhorst)

Libraries and Archives in Russia, The Ukraine and Hungary: Preserving Man's Memory and Material Past

LASZLO KOVACS
Valparaiso, Indiana

At the end of 1991 I was approached by People to People International (which was established by President Eisenhower in 1957), to undertake a major project and participate in organizing a tour of academic librarians into the countries East of Vienna. I was to take the initiative by formulating the objectives and the itinerary for the tour. The opportunity was most intriguing since I had previous contacts with a number of libraries in the region having visited them in the past.

As a member of the East European library community in the United States for two decades I also considered it an honor having been nominated by my peers for this assignment. But personal considerations were less important than the objectives of the tour.

Libraries in East Central Europe and the former Soviet Union faithfully mirror the political, cultural, educational, social and economic developments of the region. After we established contact with libraries and key individuals we were most pleased when learned of their interest in hosting us as colleagues. It should be noted that many of the individuals whom we approached were replaced by others, yet in some cases some of

the "old guard" was still in place, as one colleague noted: "We still need them, in many instances they are the only people who know what is in the filing cabinets.

Having agreed on the objectives, and itinerary, the trip finally materialized. In mid-October, 1992, 15 librarians gathered in New York for a pre-travel briefing by a representative of the host organization, and myself. The delegation was comprised of individuals with broad range of expertise in academic and research libraries, including technical services and library automation, acquisition and collection development, administration and management, conservation and preservation, and library education. Our goals were to exchange ideas, concepts, information, and experiences in all areas of library activities. The fifteen American librarians represented over 370 years of professional experience.

My own role during the trip was to make the journey personally and professionally enjoyable for all participants, and serve as the manager and guide of the delegation. This also involved representing the delegation at the initial formalities of the protocol at the beginning of each visit, and introducing the delegation to our hosts, to initiating and steering our participation in the discussion in an orderly fashion. We all had different expectations. Developing a mutually conducive climate with our hosts and colleagues was essential to the success of the delegation.

A. St. Petersburg

1. The Library of the Academy of Sciences

It was established by order of Peter the Great in 1714, and is the oldest of all the libraries in Russia.

In 1718, construction of a special building for the library and the "Cabinet of Curiosities" began, and in November of 1728, the Library was opened to readers. At the opening ceremonies it was

decreed that henceforth, the Library shall be open twice a week, namely on Tuesday and Friday afternoons from two until four o'clock, with entrance free to all.

Initially the core collection was composed of several parts: books and MSS from the tsar's library in the Moscow Kremlin brought to St. Petersburg in 1712, books from the Gottorp Library and the library of the Curland dukes. It was also enriched by the gifts received from the private collections of some of the most noted figures of the times, including the personal library of Peter the Great his books, maps and personal papers. Many of these "curiosities" were on exhibit during 1992, in the Peter the Great Room, in conjunction with the Columbus celebration: "Russia in North America." Here maps from the 16th century on, as well as reports, and unique publications were tastefully prepared for the visitors. All items were exhibited in secure display cases which were carefully covered with dark green felt cloth during the off hours.

The history of the Library is closely connected with the development of science in Russia. In 1725, the Library became part of the newly created Academy of Sciences, and together with the "Cabinet of Curiosities" became its first institution. When the Academy of Sciences was established, the contents of the library were transferred there. The current building was constructed in 1914, and operated with no fire extinguishing system, with a minimal alarm system, and no climate control.

During its distinguished development the most prominent scholars were patrons of the Library. Michael Lomonosov, the brilliant Russian scholar-encyclopedist was deeply interested in all aspects of the Library's work. His statement that the beauty of a library rests not in carved bookshelves of costly woods but in the "multitude of rare books and objects worthy of curiosity," is still quoted in Russian library circles.

Throughout the 19th century the role and significance of the Academy's Library expanded. The Library numbers among its

readers such names as Chernyshevsky, Mendeleev, Pavlov, Chekhov and Lenin.

It should be mentioned that during Hitler's invasion and the Great Siege of Leningrad the Library remained open, without a single day's interruption. Preserving the Library's collections in conditions of terrible cold, under constant bombing and artillery fire, was a struggle with death. Half of the staff working during those years perished by starvation.

It should be noted here, that there were days during the Siege of Leningrad when as many as 10,000 people died each day due to starvation and cold. There was an instance when the person who was ordered out to dig graves fell into the pit he managed to carve out that very day.

By 1988 the Academy Library in St. Petersburg was one of the richest and most valuable collections not only in the USSR but in the world. Its collection comprised over 12 million items of MSS, incunabula, and printed materials, and microforms. As a network, it comprises the Central Library and 38 specialized libraries of the institutes of the St. Petersburg Scientific Center of the Academy. The amalgamated collections of the Central and Branch libraries today number 17 million items.

The annual volume of accessions is more than half a million in books, pamphlets, and serials. Since 1783, the Library has received deposit copies of all national publications. Half of its annual acquisitions are purchased of received as gifts. The Libraries maintain reciprocal exchange agreements with libraries and scientific organizations in 101 countries.

The rare book division is especially distinguished. Among its holdings are publications of the first Russian printer, incunabula, and foreign books of the 16th to 18th centuries, including publications of the great Aldine and Elsevier presses. The Library's Manuscript Division is one of the richest in the world, from the 5th century on.

The cartography collection is outstanding and includes Russian and foreign materials: 18th century Russian maps, atlases from the era of Peter the Great, seafaring charts, description and travel in many languages. The Asian and African scientific literature alone has 200,000 publications in 35 Oriental languages. The reference collection contains more than 300,000 works.

It should be noted that the Library opened to readers in the first decade of its existence. Library historians note that the Bibliothèque Nationale opened its doors in 1735, and the British Museum in 1753.

Three catalogs facilitate access to the collections. There is a General (Official) catalog used primarily by the staff, a Reader's catalog (alphabetically arranged), and a Central classified catalog. In addition there are numerous catalogs and card files for specialized and subsidiary collections. Professional reference librarians respond to more than 150,000 oral inquiries a year, and compile some 12,500 subject indexes and bibliographies. The interlibrary loan service is very active: 70,000 orders are received from 2,400 subscribing libraries, and about 1,500 orders from 190 libraries outside the former Soviet Union.

The library suffered a terrible fire on February 14-15, 1988, which was unquestionably a great tragedy for Russian people and for the world at large. While this fire will not rank as high as burning of the library at Alexandria in 48 B.C., it will almost certainly rank as the greatest cultural disaster since 1945.

On the 14th and 15th of February, 1988, the Library was struck by a devastating disaster. A fire started on the 14th, and was under control by the evening. However, it rekindled overnight again, and a second and a third inferno resulted in additional loss or damage. Materials of all kinds and formats were burned in the fire, and flame, water and smoke spread throughout the library. Materials which were shelved on wooden shelving suffered very heavily.

After the fire a bulldozer was called in and huge piles of books and newsletters, burned, drenched, and *undamaged*, were further damaged or destroyed by this brutal removal process. Library employees were forbidden to salvage books from that pile.

The entire affair attracted attention on high levels. The library administration tried to minimize the loss and announced it at 3,000 rubles and asserted that the library would be open for the staff in several days. In fact, twelve days after the fire the library's director fell ill and was hospitalized. The recovery effort was taken over by the deputy director, and the library was reopened one month after the disaster.

The fire in 1988 resulted in the destruction of 398,000 monographs and periodicals, and an estimated 3.6 million volumes were damaged. The damaged materials have been sorted by the staff and with the assistance of the international library community established a conservation program to salvage what can be restored. Incunabula and rare books, piles of newspapers and single volumes, maps and broadsides are awaiting to be processed by the staff.

A sprinkling system has been installed, and the staff in the conservation laboratory are hard at work to address a Herculean task. The building is still permeated by smoke, and piles of damaged books and burned newspapers are about. The two major methods in the recovery of materials involved disinfection treatment aimed at the preservation of items. The other, was a method of drying water damaged items that were frozen shortly after the fire. The disinfection and drying chambers are still being used with positive results in this continuing recovery program.

The reasons for this somewhat elaborate discussion on this library are twofold. As in other disasters a state of shock existed for several days after the fire. Librarians are not ready for such unexpected events. The other is that those who visit the Library even today are impressed by the impact of the loss of recorded knowledge to the world of civilization, and the heroic effort

performed by the staff to restore as much of the damaged materials as possible.

Public reaction was swift and judgmental over how the Academy Library was maintained. Leading academic figures published articles pointing to the fact that ministries and government agencies have shown no interest in raising the standards of bibliographic information services or their facilities. Clearly, this library still face a long and difficult task to replace losses and restore the many severely damaged collections. But libraries and archives can and should learn from this example, review their safety programs, develop a local disaster and recovery plan for the library, and appropriate training for the staff with the full involvement and coordination of the agencies of the home institution.

The international library community responded with assistance to the Library. The Library of Congress was among the first to send a delegation of experts to inspect the site and recommend steps to install a recovery plan. Several members of the staff remained in residence in St. Petersburg as consultants in this most difficult project. Libraries from other countries also contributed funds, technical assistance, and the UNESCO and IFLA provided aid in critical and helpful professional ways.

2. The Saltykov-Shchedrin State Public Library

The Saltykov-Shchedrin State Public Library in St. Petersburg, is one of the largest libraries in the world. It is the oldest public library, and the national library of Russia.

It was founded in 1795, but it was only in 1814 when the Library opened its doors to readers. Many great Russian writers had been among the patrons of the library, including the famous Ivan Krylov, the great Russian writer of fables, and many others, a list of which is like a Who is Who among the Russian creative world. Today the Library houses have over 28 million items. The

Russian book collection is the pride of the Library, totalling more than 6 million copies, it represents the world's most comprehensive collection in the Russian, Ukrainian, and Byelorussian languages.

Since 1810, the Library has served as a depository and received two copies of every published item. The Library's stock includes some precious collections of writers and other notables who donated their private libraries. It should be added that since the 1920s it also served as a depository of not officially approved or censored publications well into about 1980s.

By the wealth and variety of its collections the Library is noted for its richness and depth in every area of human knowledge, and ranks among the major libraries of the world.

It is not possible to provide an exhaustive description of the contents of the library, nevertheless some highlights can be provided.

The Foreign Book Collection totals nearly 5 million copies of foreign edition of all areas of knowledge. e.g. in 1872, the Public Library acquired a collection on the Paris Commune. The widely known Russia, about 250,000 books and periodicals, is the world's largest collection of materials about Russia in foreign languages printed prior to 1917.

The Periodicals Collection includes 6 million items, the newspaper holdings are over 480,000. The Music and Recorded Sound Division number over 320,000 pieces, which also includes MSS of Russian music since the 1820s. The Map Division contains 162,000 pieces, many of them are unique and irreplaceable. The Division of Prints contain over 1 million units of posters, playbills, postcards, albums and engravings, including "A Gallery of Portraits of Peter the Great." Engravings depicting Russia in 16th century, as well as description and travel materials by travellers in Russia from abroad abound.

The Library holds the Russian patent literature dating from 1814 to the present day where some three million copies of items

are inventoried. The Microform Division contains over 140,000 microfilms.

The Division of Literature in the Languages of the Peoples of the former USSR houses printed materials in 86 languages, and the Division of the Literature in the Languages of the Peoples of Asia and Africa comprises nearly 434,000 editions. The Manuscript and Rare Book Division houses real treasures, including one of the largest incunabula in the world, totalling over 6,000 volumes, including a 1533 Luther Bible. Among the rare items is the well known Voltaire Library (7,000 volumes), and books from the private library of Denis Diderot. Materials from the "Decembrist circle" are also housed there.

The MS collection, founded in 1805, is the richest in the world (400,000 units in storage), the earliest dating back to 462, containing Greek, Roman, and Arabic materials. The pride of the MS Division is the autograph collection, including that of Peter the Great, Lomonosov, Radishchev, Kutuzov, Turgenev, Glinka, Herzen, Tschaikovsky, and others. One must mention the Leningrad Siege Collection, which is revered by all who visit the Library.

The Library acquires works in all areas of knowledge, and add about half a million items each year. The Library actively maintains exchanges with libraries in the Russian Federation and abroad with libraries, and research institutions, with over 2,600 organizations in 109 countries.

The representatives of the library have been going out to remote areas of Russia, to small communities and families where they often uncover precious and unique MSS and printed materials. These are treated and added to the collections permanently.

The library is visited annually by 1,300,000 readers, and issues 10 million books, which include non-circulating materials. The 26 reading rooms can seat about 1,400 patrons at one time. Interlibrary Loan program is maintained with 325 organizations in

44 countries. Many of the orders are filled by photocopies or microfilming of the requested titles. More than 1,500 exhibitions are held annually, with nearly 25,000 books and items on display.

There is a public card catalog, which use the Russian (or Soviet) system of classification known as the BBK or "bibliothecal-bibliographical classification." Since the catalogs of most libraries in the former USSR have never been published - unlike many of the larger libraries in the West - there is little public knowledge about Russian collections. Inter Documentation Company (IDC) of The Netherlands, has an agreement with the Saltikov-Shchedrin Library, and is now planning to publish on microfiche the catalogs of the vast catalogs of this library. It will probably take several years to film all 8.5 million cards. The first 57,400 cards have already been filmed on 41 microfiches.

3. N. K. Kruspkaya Institute of Culture

This was founded in 1918, and now has an enrollment of 6,000 students, including 1,500 in the library training program. The Institute is named after Lenin's wife. It should be noted that it is not possible to draw parallel between educational systems, and this is certainly true in the countries we have visited. Sufficient is to say that until recently Soviet education had a 10 grade compulsory (which has been change to 11) requirement, after which several options were available to young people.

The Institute has several main divisions: Library including technical branches for preservation of books: Art works, building restoration, Creative Works (art, folk dance, music, etc.); Culture (management of cultural institutions, museums, guides); Humanities and social sciences; language programs which prepares interpreters for foreign service and diplomatic assignments, etc. There is a day, evening and correspondence program.

The library program includes heavy emphasis on children's and school librarianship, and also prepares specialists for clubs and cultural centres. The subject preparation of students is based on market demand and is largely targeted for actual employment.

Once accepted students can enter the day, evening or correspondence courses. During the first three of the five-year program students are required to take literature, history, sociology, and languages. The specialization is emphasized in the last two years of the academic program. The average contact hours per week is 25. A comprehensive examination and a diploma work is required for all graduates as well as proficiency in two foreign languages.

Unfortunately in this case we did not see the library, or met with students. The dean of the Institute was appointed recently excused himself for not having a business card by saying: "our budget does not permit this extra expenditure."

4. The St. Petersburg State University Library

The University, and its library, is housed in a building 200 years old, originally built for a ministry. The building is nearly four blocks long and shows obvious needs of repair. The Library itself was started in 1783. Currently the University has an enrollment of 20,000 in 18 departments, and is the second largest university in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

We met with the director, a former acquisitions librarian, who appeared to be tired of the many demands of her position. Having inherited the third largest library in St. Petersburg she is facing a set of problems which very few American institutions do. For example, her predecessor reported the shortage of space in 1913 (sic). There is hardly any work space for the staff, and the building is dark most everywhere for conserving energy. The library has 300 librarians and 37 reading rooms.

The collection is very rich in rare books, some 100,000 and some 50,000 in Oriental languages.

During a tour of the library we observed books, periodicals and printed matter of all sorts piled up 5-6' high on stairwell's landings, in the stacks, and workplaces. Housed on wooden shelving up to the ceilings unprocessed materials were by the tens of thousands. Books were piled in the aisles to a height of 6-8'. No wonder that it takes *four hours* to retrieve items for a patron. We agreed that should all of us remain there for the rest of our lives we could not make a small impact on the organization and management of that library. There is some rudimentary fire equipment which would be of limited use in a crowded matchbox such as that. We observed in a microfilm area about ten old Kodak film readers with American plugs, never used at that site.

The annual growth of the collection is at 100,000 items. The Library relies heavily on 1,000 exchange partners in 77 countries. Since the postal rates are nearly prohibitive, it is increasingly difficult to forward Russian materials to exchange partners outside Russia.

Students receive an introduction to the use of the library during the first semester of their studies, about 8 hours. This is offered by a "bibliographer" who may be somewhat similar to our reference librarian.

The obvious priority is a new building, and the reorganization of a cumbersome card catalog, its automation. This alone may require 10 years even under favourable economic circumstances. The lack of hard currency has put tremendous pressure on the library which reduced its subscription to foreign periodicals to the bare minimum. This is by far the gravest concern among educators and researchers. The fear is that this will create, in a very short order, a new curtain, and the lack of access to current literature will contribute to the brain drain in Russia, everywhere. The Soros Foundation is addressing several issues in Russian

libraries but the impact is not sufficiently broadly based to halt the deteriorating and alarming lack of literature from abroad.

There appeared to be very little cooperation among the three main libraries. There is common interest in library education and conservation but beyond that not much interaction is evident among the three great libraries.

B. Kiev

1. The State Public Library of the Ukraine

Established in 1957, this is a rapidly growing library in size and prestige. Its contents is nearly 4 million items, serves as the state library of the now independent state of The Ukraine.

In a panel format the delegation learned first of what they consider to be their priorities for the coming years.

The library director noted that their primary objective is to establish a government support base for the fiscal operation of the library. A law has been passed by the legislature which will serve as the base of support to develop long-range planning for the library. Also, several library proposals have been submitted which also includes the development of a library network for the state. They plan to develop a distribution system that will guarantee the flow of library materials to libraries across the country. This distribution program will focus on newly published works, particularly in the Ukrainian language. They also wish to include in this system the spreading of foreign publications to break with the former isolation of the country from the rest of Europe and the world. The computerization of the library as a major item was also discussed. It is in the best interest of the library to eliminate the former ideological influence and strict formalism on the library. It should be a place of openness with a focus on the reader and not on centrally dictated norms. There is an acute shortage of materials about the Ukraine in the Ukrainian language. The library

is contacting organizations and known individuals outside the country, asking for assistance.

Assembling a representative Ukrainian collection will be a major responsibility. The library is interested in emigree literature, newspapers, memoirs, and all sorts of publications about the country and its people regardless where it is housed now. The library will widen its horizon and expressed an interest in developing contacts with the European Division of OCLC. They also consider the library as the natural center for conservation and preservation. However, a comprehensive laboratory will be developed at a later date.

The Soros Foundation has provided significant financial and technical assistance to the library, which will make the library more responsive and its collections more accessible to users.

2. T. G. Shevchenko State University Library

The University was founded as an institute in 1834, and is now housed in a former theological seminary building. The library itself has a holdings of 3.5 million items, of which 3 million are books including 388,000 titles in foreign languages. A separate Rare Book Room was established in 1976. It contains materials issued prior to 1700, including valuable items mostly Russian but also by well known Ukrainian authors. The library is collecting Ukrainian materials whenever it can identify them. Also, we had access to the collection which until recently has been closed to the public. Of the 160 staff members 99% are women. About 1.5 million items circulate, and the staff responds to 69,000 reference inquiries each year. There are five reading rooms some of which have been designated for faculty, periodicals, or student use. There is a special Ukrainian study room as well.

The first interesting feature in the library is the large number of Cannon copiers available to staff and public use. The university has an agreement with the German division of Cannon

Corporation to showcase the copiers and personal computers. The mutilation of books by users declined as a result of copiers in the library.

There is a divided catalog: alphabetical and systematic sections, and the cards are filed according to rules prescribed by the Ministry of Education. Users have access to a rather clever but cardex-like catalog/index file for periodicals, cards mounted on a cylinder that rotates when you want to select a title.

The library relied heavily on regular shipment of materials from a Moscow distribution center. With changes in political relationship and in the publishing industry, these are no longer being received. The country has not developed a sufficient publishing industry to compensate for this loss. Also, there is a "shortage of paper", much of which is still distributed in Russia. This is considered a form of censorship in the independent country. Also some publishers are more interested are more interested in meeting users' interest and publish less scientific and academic materials. This occurs at a time when Ukrainian literature, history and culture is being stressed at all educational levels, and the university is using less Russian in its lectures and the reading assignments. Until recently, the library was responsible to supply the prescribed textbooks in several copies. Now, due to the lack of funds this is no longer feasible, and had been changed to the detriment of students.

Inflation is very high, the country is attempting to disallow the use of the Russian ruble, and is now paying employees with coupons which has a decreasing purchasing power. Libraries are not among the priorities of the state and the decline in foreign periodicals subscriptions is drastic and potentially harmful to the academic and research communities.

3. Vernadsky Central Scientific Library of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukraine

This institution was founded in 1918, and its library is the largest in Ukraine, and also among the most notable in the world. The library was started with just one book and has grown into a large research collection. Some 700,000 items were lost during the terrible siege of Kiev in World War II, and also as many in a fire in August 22, 1964. A modern, new, multi-purpose building was completed in October, 1989, with plenty of space for exhibits, reading rooms, and 27 floors of modern stacks furnished with steel shelving.

Now this is the largest library system in the Ukraine with 12 million items in the central library and 13 million in 105 branches. The book stock includes a wealth of collection of MSS and incunabula (517 items), historical documents, and archives. Of particular value is the Cyrillic book collection (700 items), the Paleotypes Collection (2,518 items), Printed Music Collection dating from the 17th century, prints, maps, atlases, since the 16th century. There are Assyrian-Babylonian Cuneiform tablets, possibly from the third century B.C., and early Slavonic and Kiev Glagolitic leaflets.

The library provides service to 84,000 readers and circulates 3 million items a year. Some 1,500 patrons use the library each day. Thirteen subject and general reading rooms serve the public in spacious ambience, smartly decorated with modern and comfortable furniture. Plenty of natural light in the reading areas is provided through a smartly designed series of circular tube-like windows in the ceilings throughout the public reading rooms.

The annual growth of the collection is at 200,000 items, including 75,000 in foreign languages, 4,000 newspapers. The library maintains international contacts with 1,650 research institutions and libraries in 69 countries, and receives in exchange 35,000 items annually.

The country as a whole is going through considerable financial hardship due to political and economic changes in the region. As one library official said: "We have gone through the War, the siege, Chernobyl, and we are conditioned to face and overcome hard realities." The purchasing power of the library has been reduced drastically which prevents the maintenance of periodicals acquisition on the desired level. The library system recently received 100,000 books from England and through the offices of the Ford Foundation for distribution in the Ukraine.

Once again the Soros Foundation is providing essential technical and monetary assistance to the library at a critical time in its existence.

Library automation is high on the priority list. Two individuals (brothers) in charge of this project, have briefed our delegation about their achievements, including the implementation of a CD-ROM network. The 300 meter network serves 40 computers.

The system is running Netware version 3.11 on IBM computers. The systems librarians are fully aware of the advantages of having OCLC, and wish to establish contacts with that international provider. The installation of Internet and E-Mail is now in progress.

The staff expressed concern about the lack of a national or comprehensive Ukrainian bibliography. Contacts have been established with Ukrainian colonies in the world, including the United States and Canada requesting assistance for materials in all formats. Preservation is also on the agenda with particular concern for the conservation of those valuable items which were damaged in the 1964 fire.

Library education and the training of specialists, including conservation experts, were mentioned by our hosts as key elements to progress. There are 50,000 (including 27,000 children and school) librarians in the country, and their continuing education through workshops and institutes will require planning and financial commitment. Developing long-range plans for the

growth of the collection in the library system and the state is also a concern in which special attention will be given to the acquisition to materials in foreign languages.

C. Budapest

1. National Széchényi Library

This library was established by Count Ferenc Széchényi, who donated his prestigious personal library to the Hungarian nation in 1802. The Hungarian Diet set up the Hungarian National Museum in 1808, and the two institutions existed together for a very long period of time.

The Mission of the library was clearly defined from the start: that is to collect (1) all publications issued in Hungary in any language; (2) all materials published in Hungarian; (3) all works published by Hungarian authors, in or outside of Hungary; (4) all works published abroad with reference to Hungary, about its history, people or culture.

The library is now housing the largest and most prestigious collections in Hungary. The library moved into its own building away from the Museum, to a new location in 1985, and now occupies a large wing of the restored (1945-1985) royal palace on the Buda side of Budapest. The entire building complex was seriously damaged during the siege of Budapest in 1944-45, when 45% of the buildings either suffered considerable damage or almost completely destroyed. Some parts of the large structures are still under restoration. The entire interior of the buildings was destroyed, and restored in modern, contemporary style. The interior design of the library utilizes new technical devices. From compact movable shelves titles are transported horizontally and vertically by a "Telelift," and electronically operated book transportation system, especially designed for the library in West Germany. This system carries books over a 1,000 meter distance

to 56 stations gathering materials from a total of about 75,000 meter shelf space.

In its new and splendid location the library houses over 6 million titles, including 840,000 MSS; it employs 700 staff members, and has an annual readership of 65,000. The new and comfortable reading room accommodates 700 readers who have access to 80,000 reference items on the nearby open shelves.

Among the high-spots the holdings include valuable incunabula, several of which were displayed upon my request to Director Gyula Juhász and his efficient staff. These included examples of the Corvina 32 volumes of King Mátyás (216 authentic Corvinas are in libraries and private collection in the world), and both 1488 editions Thúróczy's celebrated publication. With its 8,500 titles published before 1711, the Collection of Ancient Books is the richest collection of such works in the country. In addition, there are 1,700 incunabula. The Hungarian periodicals and newspapers collection numbers 300,000 volumes, the largest in the country. The Map Collection numbers about 200,000 items, including the oldest map of Hungary.

Items in the Széchényi's collection do not circulate, and is considered *the* premier library of Hungary, where standards are established for the management of other libraries and archives, and the development and maintenance of collections in all formats. It is also a clearinghouse which distributes materials to 64 libraries.

The staff briefed our delegation on the history of the library, and its progress made in several areas at the new site since 1985. In contrast to earlier visits in Russia and the Ukraine, the initial protocol, the presentations by our hosts, and the discussion that followed was *entirely in English*. This made communication more enjoyable and direct for all participants.

The head of automation described the library's objectives and progress made to date. The library installed a central computer in 1989, Dobis Libris, which serves as an in-house network. The

database serves as the first step toward a national bibliographic facility, at least those titles have been entered into the database which the library produces. The last 15 years of cataloging are in machine-readable form but the final designs for the Hungarian version of MARC has not been decided. Periodicals records are also available on-line. The library is not a member of OCLC but is planning to join, funds permitting.

The Széchényi Library serves as the primary center for conservation of materials in all formats. There are three conservation laboratories in the library complex. The national program of microfilming all Hungarian newspapers (located in Hungary and elsewhere, including the United States) began in 1969. This is the largest library preservation program in Hungary so far which employs twenty staff members. Annually about one to 1.5 million newspaper pages are transferred to microfilm. A second workshop, also in 1969, was put in charge, with a staff of 12, to prepare newspapers before microfilming.

The third conservation program was established with assistance from the Soros Foundation in 1987, with a staff of twenty. Their mission is twofold. First, to provide direct conservation of materials in the Széchényi Library, and also for libraries, including to precious collections in the ecclesiastical collections, at no cost! Three conservators with special training in chemistry are also part of this progressive conservation laboratory. Second, it provides training in the conservation of books with a variety of bindings (parchment, leather, and paper). As part of this educational program seventeen conservators have been trained there during the past three years. The Széchényi Library and its conservation staff is developing standards for the production of acid free papers for newspapers and the publishing industry in general.

Hungarian libraries also need to adjust to the changing publishing industry. While publishers are required to deposit at the Széchényi Library two copies of every publication, some do

not comply. This has been a particular problem in recent years. Staff members must check publishers' catalogs and identify titles which yet to be deposited into the library and acquire them.

Considerable assistance has been provided by the Soros Foundation, SABRE, and the International Book Bank. Technical assistance, and book materials have been invaluable to the library and its affiliates throughout the country.

2. Center for Library Science and Methodology

This is the research and education facility for library science in Hungary, and is located within the shell of the Széchényi library itself.

The school offers a library degree in a four year basic program which prepares candidates for a variety of librarianship including children, school, public, special and academic library assignments. In addition to classroom training practicum is part of graduation requirements.

The Center also serves as the primary facility for theoretical library research and methodology. The spacious reading room of the Center houses basic library science journals including several from the United States. A well conceived and written guide was published in 1987, on "How to use the library's catalogs and its collections." This 183 page monograph was the first comprehensive guide to a library which was presented to us during the tour.

The Soros Foundation has provided significant support to the programs of the Széchényi Library since 1981. This funding have provided scholarships to students and senior staff members for several years. Many of these students received additional training at Kent State University, and subsequently earned the Ph.D. degree in Hungary. The benefits of these studies abroad are incalculable for they open up not only new vistas to librarianship but also improve the language facility of every participant. One

cannot thank enough the Soros Foundation for this essential support. This assistance has made it possible for some fifteen students to study abroad for ten months, which has already produced immeasurable benefits to the Széchényi Library and to librarianship in Hungary. Upon return these colleagues served as leaders in technological progress and introduced library management principles with lasting impact on libraries and archives on a larger scale.

3. Hungarian Academy of Sciences Library

The establishment of the Library is linked to the name of Count József Teleki, the first president of the Academy, who in 1826, by offering his 30,000-volume library to the Academy, laid the foundation of a major scientific and research library.

The library opened its operations in 1831. The collection grew in significance and was opened to members of the Academy and scientists in 1844. During the period of Absolutism (1849-1867) the library functioned under difficult circumstances until 1865 when the permanent building for the Academy was dedicated. Finally, in 1867, the library was opened "for the use of all the citizens of the country."

The collections increased in size and significance during the decades that followed. Unfortunately the period after World War I, and the inter-war-period the development of the library stagnated. During the siege of Budapest (1944-45) the building and its contents did not suffer very heavily. Upon restoration the library facility reopened in the Spring of 1945.

The significance of the library was influenced by the reorganization and changing mission of the Academy in 1949, on the Soviet model. The Academy was designated the main research organ in the country and the main center, and its library, along with its network of subject "institutes," attained formidable status. The physical facilities were expanded with the addition of large

buildings adjacent to the Academy, in 1985 and 1988. A large new reading room was opened to the public in November, 1988.

The library collects all literature concerned with classical studies, philology, Oriental studies. Individual special collections are maintained for scholarly research, including the Department of MSS and Rare Books, the oriental Collection, the Archives, Microfilm Collection, and the Periodicals Department. The total holdings of the library is now at 1.8 million items, of which 950,000 are books, 270,000 volumes of periodicals, about 550,000 MSS, and about 21,000 microfilms.

The library provides literature searches, compiles bibliographies, offers reference service. The library has been using Dobis until recently, and is now switching over to ALEPH software package, an Israeli database system that is also used in Spain and Northern Europe. Science Citation Index is available on laser disc as well as Dissertation Abstracts, and Medline. Likewise, Ulrich's Periodicals Directory, and the alphabetical catalog of the Library of Congress, are also provided on compact disc. Modern services such as photo copying, microfilming capability, and fax service are also available within the library complex.

A very significant part of the collection is in remote storage. The library maintains an automated retrieval system which make it easy to call up titles, and shipped to any of the branches of the library in greater Budapest or other locations.

4. Loránd Eötvös University Library

This library is the oldest among the academic and research libraries in Hungary. Originally founded as a Jesuit college at Nagyszombat in 1560, it moved to Buda Castle in 1777. The University's present home was erected on the Pest side in 1873-75.

The library's holdings have grown since the 16th century, and now consists of 1,3 million volumes of books and serials, and

45,000 MSS, and other rare items. There are only 30 periodicals from the United States, and about 90 from other countries in foreign languages.

The basic mission of the library is to collect books and periodicals which are required in the educational and research functions of the Loránd Eötvös University. It serves primarily the students, faculty and staff of the institution, as well as other scholars, but it is also accessible to the general public. Circulating books can be checked out for 30 days and can be renewed for another 30. The stock area is crowded and needs considerable maintenance without much delay. Much of the circulating material is housed in remote locations and it often takes a full day for retrieval and delivery.

It should be noted that this venerable institution is surrounded by 80 institute or "faculty" libraries and seminar collections each of which has its own budget and local catalog. The central library maintains a very large textbook collection which is prescribed by the departmental faculty. Faculty members determine what is acquired for the collection in fact their influence has been considerable for a long time. Textbooks in heavy demand are stocked in several copies. The main reading room has space for 136 readers at tables with two seats at each. A type of reference or "information" service is provided to locate materials or data. This service is also available by telephone or through correspondence.

The library's collection is accessed through a complex system of 30 catalogs. The primary catalogs are: the basic descriptive or alphabetic catalog; descriptive alphabetic catalog, old subject handwritten catalog on 4 million octavo cards arranged in file cases. This is the chief treasure and key access tool of the library. In addition, Special Collections and "rarities" have their own catalog used by special arrangement.

The strength of the collection is in the history and civilization of the Middle Ages and of early Modern Europe, history of religion and Christianity, philosophy, psychology, and scientific

atheism. In these fields the library aims to maintain a comprehensive research collection. It also acquires all works written in Hungarian, and has a comprehensive reference collection with titles in many languages. The average annual growth before 1945 was at 9,000, and since the 1950s is about 12,000-14,000 volumes.

The Rarities Department's MS Division houses 160 codices, the oldest being from the 8th century, a Greek Gospel compiled in Constantinople in the 10th century, and a collection of guild charters comprising of 870 items.

Among the precious 11,222 incunabula there are 11 from the Bibliotheca Corviniana, a book from 1280 with description and illustrations of surgical instruments, and 14th century miniatures. There is a sizable collection of titles printed between 1501 and 1550. In addition, there are 703 titles in Hungarian and 864 in other languages which were printed in Hungary before 1711, as well as rara, first editions and titles published abroad about Hungary.

In a remote section of the closed stock area we saw another "secret collection" of censored publications. These will be processed and added to the rest of the collections in the near future.

Summary

Among the three countries we visited the state of libraries in Hungary was the most advanced. In Budapest one could sense more direction and progress than in Russia or the Ukraine. While there is a significant commitment by the central government libraries do not seem to have a state-wide long-range objective. For example, the Lajos Kossuth University in Debrecen decided to install Carlyle Voyager. Isolated decision such as this will further delay the installation of a state-wide automated library system, and also make it more costly. Hungary is a compact

country, the size of the state of Indiana, and it would make eminent sense to coordinate future planning such as this for the benefit of all the academic, research and ecclesiastical libraries in the entire state.

Libraries in Eastern and Central Europe are going through a quit and painful transformation. The major development in libraries in the former USSR is the transformation of the library from being "an organ of propaganda to be used for immediate, frequently changing ideological, political and other purposes, to being a cultural institution providing for the collection and preservation of the nation's riches and universal access to them." The rigidly centralized system for administering libraries mirrored the rest of society, where personal initiative and creativity was not rewarded. Libraries and their staff took directives from above, rather than addressing the needs and interests of their readers.

All of the eleven libraries maintain closed stacks. Access to collections is cumbersome and time-consuming. Space for collections, staff and readers is crowded, and the reading rooms are dark. The Academy Library in Kiev, and the Széchényi Library in Budapest are the exceptions where the new facilities have been well planned and are comfortable.

The accumulated wealth of these libraries is simply astonishing. While there are encouraging signs of conservation and preservation programs, more coordination is required in the future to save the most valuable segments of these precious collections. The most progressive is the Hungarian example where, with the assistance of the Soros Foundation, significant progress is being made in the right direction which also includes the training of qualified staff.

A comprehensive review of library education in each country is also highly desirable. In many instances, directors and top administrators, and also some of those on the general staff were political appointees with very little preparation in how to lead and manage a large, research library. A new generation of leaders is

sorely needed who possess the requisite managerial and technical knowledge. The fact that several librarians from Hungary have either studied or toured abroad, including in the United States, makes their knowledge more current, and they are certainly more informed than others we have visited.

We have been impressed that despite the lengthy political and cultural isolation of these countries, almost all the libraries are developing or considering some form of automation. The cumbersome and enormous card catalogs will make transformation costly and difficult in most cases. However, a comprehensive plan would benefit all of these libraries, link them together as well as with others in the European and world library community.

All of the libraries have expressed serious concern and are financially struggling to maintain subscription to scholarly journals and periodicals, and to purchase foreign language monographs, reference titles and expensive sets due to lack of hard currency. The real concern is that this sudden disruption will create a lasting gap in collections with negative impact on a generation of younger scholars. There is serious concern of brain drain in these countries for many of their prominent teachers, writers and scientists are accepting assignments in other lands.

Note: This paper presents the status of eleven libraries as of the end of 1992. Therefore, statistics, conditions and observations in this paper represent data of that period.

Preserving The Intellectual Heritage

A Report of The Bellagio Conference¹

Preface - by Knut Kleve²

Papyrus was the writing material of the Egyptians, Greeks and Romans, and papyrus rolls the brittle books of antiquity. Lucretius and other authors tell how the rolls crunch and go to pieces in use, and these accounts are confirmed by modern discoveries of papyri under the lava of Herculaneum and the sands of Egypt. Papyri had other deficiencies. One could write only on the inside of the roll, for the outside was too liable to damage when unrolled. A roll could not be too long, lest it become unmanageable. Most of the Greek and Latin rolls that are preserved are less than ten meters long. For that reason, a roll did not contain much text, and major works, such as Homer's *Iliad*, had to be divided among several rolls. It was, furthermore, difficult to look up a particular

¹ The conference was held on June 7 - 10, 1993, at the Rockefeller Foundation Study and Conference Center in Bellagio, Italy. The report on the conference was originally published by The Commission on Preservation and Access, 1400 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036-2217, in October 1993, and is reprinted with kind permission by the Commission.

² Knut Kleve, Professor of Classics at the University of Oslo, is a papyrologist who attended the Bellagio conference. He prepared a delightful essay that puts our current consensus for preservation into a truly longrange perspective. The essay has been slightly condensed and makes a splendid introduction to this report (Patricia Battin).

place in a papyrus roll. The text columns were unnumbered and you had to roll up until you found the place you were searching for. Therefore, current authors were likely to cite from memory - and erroneously.

Parchment was occasionally used from the second century B.C. and it eventually became the material of the future, while papyrus gradually fell out of use. Parchment held sway, in turn, until it was replaced by Arabic paper. Here we have the three p's of cultural history: papyrus, parchment and paper. Now we seem to have a fourth: the PC.

Parchment was a tougher material than papyrus and could easily be bound into codices (i.e., our form of books). One could write on both sides of the parchment and one codex could contain the content of many papyrus books, say, the whole of the *Iliad*. A numbering system was introduced for the pages (or the chapters and verses) in the text especially for the Holy Scripture where it was important to find the right quotation.

The fourth century was a critical time for the classical literature of Greece and Rome. Written on papyrus, it was gradually crumbling away and threatened to sink into oblivion unless transferred to parchment. Constantine the Great had begun that process by having the books of Holy Scripture copied, and his son the Emperor Constantius II undertook to continue the effort. The result of his initiative was the first imperial library of Constantinople, which contained more than 100,000 volumes. The leader of the project was Themistios who commanded a considerable team of calligraphers and librarians.

One of the main problems was, as it is today, to choose what to save, for it was impossible to save everything. First, Themistios and the emperor chose to save the old literature - Homer and other great authors of the golden age of Greece. Themistios seems to have been uninterested in Latin authors. He did not, and did not want to, understand Latin. He was an arrogant Greek who regarded all other people, including Romans, as simply

barbarians. But the emperors were Romans and Latin speaking, so Constantius saw that the classical literature was also transferred to parchment.

Although the older literature was regarded as more valuable than contemporary work, no one any longer spoke the Greek of the great Attic authors, so it was necessary to save commentaries and works of grammar as well as the texts of Sophocles, Plautus and other classical works. From the record, we can see that Themistios knew many more classical authors than we have today. For instance, he mentions a triad of Stoic philosophers whose work is completely lost to us except for a few citations by other classical authors and some scraps among the carbonized remains at Herculaneum.

Themistios also had a remedy for the papyrus rolls that could not possibly be transcribed. He tried to delay the decay by putting the rolls into parchment coverings, rather like our attempt to encase brittle books in special envelopes or boxes.

The greatest enemy of ancient literature was, however, fires. Several fires in the Constantinople library eventually destroyed much of the collection, but Themistios' efforts had not been wholly in vain, for visitors came to the library from the provinces to consult works and take away copies - and some of the copies were recopied. Without the efforts of Constantius and Themistios our knowledge of the classical literature would certainly have been even smaller.

Certainly some of the lost literature was deliberately and systematically destroyed. A quite unhistorical, but probably apt, story comes to us through the Norwegian humorist, Nils Kjaer. At the time of Caliph Omar's invasion of Egypt, the Arab officer on duty in the destruction of the library of Alexandria used two stamps with which he marked the books. One said: "Does **not** agree with the Koran - heretic, must be burned." The other said: "Agrees with the Koran - superfluous, must be burned."

I. Introduction and Summary

On June 7, 1993, the Commission on Preservation and Access convened an international group of scholars, librarians, archivists and information scientists at the Rockefeller Foundation Study Center in Bellagio, Italy, to explore opportunities for international collaboration in saving the contents of libraries from loss through the embrittlement of the pages of their books. This conference, *Preserving the Intellectual Heritage*, had three principal objectives:

- to increase awareness and concern about the problem of decaying library collections, especially among European scholars;
- to begin to build a European-centered effort that can effectively collaborate with scholars and libraries in the United States, while still addressing preservation issues that may be unique to some of the European countries; and
- to enlarge and begin to solidify the scholarly linkages between Europe and the United States in all fields that depend on the endangered literature on both continents.

Preserving the Intellectual Heritage was organized by the Commission on Preservation and Access and supported by the Rockefeller Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The 23 participants came from eleven countries of Western Europe and the United States. None were official delegates of their nations or of the professional organizations to which they belong. They were chosen to provide the widest possible range of scholarly, national, and technical interests consonant with the purposes of the meeting and the capacity of the conference facilities. They were invited to participate because of their interest

in preservation issues in their particular countries as well as a desirable degree of prominence and influence there.

The decision to center the objectives and the agenda of the conference on Western Europe and the United States was motivated by several factors: the overlap in the scholarly contents of Western European and North American libraries; the comparatively good physical condition of many of the books in Western European collections, as well as a desirable degree of prominence and influence there. The decision to center the objectives and the agenda of the conference on Western Europe and the United States was motivated by several factors: the overlap in the scholarly contents of western European and North American libraries; the comparatively good physical condition of many of the books in western European collections, as well as the active interest of these countries in preservation; and, finally, the effective linkage of the Commission's International Project with the European adoption of a common bibliographic record for preserved materials that is compatible with U.S. practice. These several conditions seemed to bode well for the Commission's announced goal for the conference, namely that it would be considered to have been successful "... if it develops a framework for productive contributions to a multi-national, collaborative, European organization or consortium that serves international as well as national needs, and is capable of working with parallel groups in the United States to divide responsibilities for the preservation and exchange of preserved materials with North America." Such an ambition, the Commission also noted, need not be limited to western Europe and the United States but, indeed, should be thought of as expandable to the rest of the world.

The conference began with a review of both the U.S. and the European efforts so far to preserve the intellectual heritage. Several participants were asked to prepare papers that could be circulated in advance. Other participants had been invited to make informal comments from their personal and professional

vantage points. All of these contributions are paraphrased or summarized at appropriate points in Section II of this report, Record of the Conference.

United States and European Experience with Preservation

United States participants reported on extensive programs of reformatting³ (substitution) on a mass production scale to capture as much of the intellectual content as possible of the estimated ten million unique titles that are in danger of loss through decay of acidic paper. Though archives, audiovisual and other collections are also endangered, the Commission on Preservation and Access decided to begin with books as the most tractable part of the problem. The size of the problem, together with the time and funds available, make the task of selection essential. Not all books can be saved. Scholars are the principal users of most of the endangered material and should be involved, along with librarians, in designing the selection strategy and setting priorities. Extensive publicity and educational efforts have been successful in persuading the U.S Congress to expand on ongoing preservation program at the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and private foundation funding has helped the Commission on Preservation and Access establish scholarly committees on selection as well as to pursue a program of research and development in methods of preservation. The Commission's strategy has been to explore convertibility among media: print on paper, film and digital electronic. The huge potential of the later, as well as the current obstacles to its widespread and routine use, were explained.

³ Reformatting has been the American term for copying to a different medium. The corresponding European term "substitution" may be more felicitous.

Discussion of the U.S. experience revolved around alternative technologies, and the necessity and difficulty of making choices of what to save. While many scholars are reluctant to let anything be lost, some archivists keep only a small fraction of what they receive, and most librarians recognize that all collections are necessarily incomplete. The problem of criteria for selection is unavoidably complex and controversial.

The experience of four Western European countries reveals a great deal of variation in both the level and type of preservation activities. Some countries have well-developed programs involving collaboration among institutions; other have well-articulated national plans that are yet to be implemented; and some have just begun to study their preservation problems. Many European scholars, like their U.S. counterparts, seem to be unaware of the deterioration in library collections (or unconcerned about it). That is true of the public at large as well, and governmental bodies generally are not well informed about the problem. Still, where concerted efforts have been made to enlist public support for preservation, they have been successful.

Several countries have chosen to select materials for preservation on the basis of their relevance to the national cultural heritage. So far there has been relatively little international collaboration, although efforts are underway to develop a register of microform masters and to record the existence of preserved materials in a common bibliographic format.

Microfilm is widely used for capture and storage of book contents, but Switzerland has tested several systems for mass deacidification and Germany is building a deacidification plant. None of the countries present has had substantial experience with digital electronic methods, but there is much interest in this technology.

The extent and nature of deterioration in European libraries parallel the North American experience. The pages of pre-1800

books are in fairly good condition, while covers and bindings have been badly damaged by heavy use and poor storage conditions. Later publications have decaying acidic pages as well. The proportion of endangered material in collections varies both within and between countries. Estimates are often based on slight or unreliable evidence, but the inevitable conclusion is that the problem is enormous, structural in character, and requires both a national and an international approach. Without doubt, millions of books are endangered and millions of dollars will be required to save even a portion of Europe's cultural heritage.

Exploring Emergent Issues

The conferees recognized the importance of raising the level of awareness about decaying books among scholars, librarians, university officers, cultural ministers, publishers, private foundations, professional societies and parliaments. The weight of opinion sided with the view that scholars had to be involved in developing the strategies of selection and in assigning priorities, even though it may be difficult for scholars to agree on what is most important. Even a chaotic, conflictful debate, however, could be informative and productive. At a minimum scholars must take responsibility for developing a personal, informed interest in preservation and for "carrying the message of preservation into the chambers of power."

The conferees did not take a position on which methods of preservation were to be preferred, but there was no dissent from the view expressed that it was important not to delay preserving materials until a particular method has been proved optimal. Instead, the most flexible, dependable and economical methods should be used at once, while experiments and trials of alternatives proceed. In the end it might well turn out that different methods would be suitable for different materials. The important aspect of the choice of method is to insure the

maximum convertibility from the contemporary capture and storage method to the improved techniques expected in the future.

The conferees discussed strategies for enhancing both inter-European and transatlantic cooperation for dealing with preservation problems. Extensive exploration of alternatives for organization, membership, sponsorship and mission led to the conclusion that a European counterpart of the Commission on Preservation and Access should be formed, and that the initiative should come from the persons present at the conference.

The recommendations of the conference, approved unanimously, create an ad hoc steering committee that is responsible for initiating and supervising the process of constituting a European commission on preservation and access. The general nature of such a commission is sketched out, and the steps to be taken by the ad hoc committee are prescribed: first, to enlarge its membership by inviting some persons not present at Bellagio to join it; next, to take steps for nominating and electing members to form the board of the European commission; and finally, in concert with the board, to proceed with the formal and legal establishment of the organization.

Having approved the recommendation to establish the ad hoc committee, the European representatives then elected Pieter Drenth, Michel Jouve and Geoffrey Martin as its members with Alison de Puymege as secretariat ad interim. The ad hoc committee was encouraged to move quickly to take the first step and to complete the expansion of its membership to six persons by July, 20, 1993.

The full text of the resolution and recommendations adopted by the conferees is presented in Section III.

II. Record of the Conference

This record is a distillation of the sense of the meeting, which encompassed a variety of views as well as significant common ground. It is not a formal position of the Commission on Preservation and Access or any other organization.

The general plan of the Bellagio meeting was to begin by exploring how the various issues of preservation had manifested themselves in the United States and the several European countries. It seemed important to outline the problem of brittle books, the measures taken to estimate its size, to find or create organizations for processing material to be preserved, to raise awareness of the problem and to secure funds for these tasks. The experience of various countries with different technologies of preservation also had to be reviewed, while the critical issues of how to select the books to be saved needed to be explored. This range of discussion was necessary to provide a common ground on which it might be possible to take specific steps toward the goal of the meeting: to begin to build a European-centred effort that can effectively collaborate with scholars and libraries in the United States while still addressing preservation issues that may be unique to some of the participating European countries.

The U.S. Experience

Several conference participants gave brief reports on preservation needs and activities in the United States. These were not systematic surveys, but the observations of scholars, librarians and technical specialists who were in a position to have a good overview of the situation.

For many years librarians and scholars had noticed that the pages of some of the books in their libraries were turning brown and becoming brittle, but the magnitude of the problem and its cause were not fully appreciated until the mid-1980s. Several

assessments of the extent and seriousness of deterioration eventuated in the creation of the Commission on Preservation and Access to serve as an advocate for public and private development of a coherent national plan to save the intellectual legacy threatened by acidic paper embrittlement. The Commission's strategic approach gave a high priority to capturing the contents of three million brittle books over 20 years, through a cooperative U.S.-wide microfilming effort that was named the Brittle Books Program. This strategy of reformatting is but one component of a broadly conceived preservation plan to save published and documentary knowledge recorded in any format. The plan includes newspaper, special collections of manuscripts and archives, mass deacidification, the conservation of selected artifacts and encouragement of publishers to use acid-free paper, as well as training for preservation personnel, state and regional consultation services, professional conferences and research and development activities. The microfilming component of the plan explicitly includes in a safe place and making copies available to anyone for a fee that covers costs. This feature - wide and easy access - was an important factor in justifying federal government support of the Brittle Books Program. In 1988, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), a federal government agency, was authorized to strengthen an existing preservation program that has, each year since then, been funded at between 12 and 17 million dollars. The money provided by Congress to carry out the U.S. national preservation plan is administered through the NEH, which receives and reviews with the aid of scholars and other experts proposals from individual libraries or consortia of libraries that hold the books to be saved.

Though it was a landmark, this federal action was not the start of preservation of endangered material in the U.S. More than 20 years earlier, both university and national libraries had begun to struggle with the problem but had made little progress on an overwhelming problem because of inadequate resources. Surveys

of library collections had shown that 80 percent of the books in research collections were printed on acidic paper, and that 30 percent of the volumes were already embrittled beyond redemption by deacidification or paper strengthening processes. The magnitude of deterioration made it clear that there was neither time nor money enough to save all of the embrittled material: choices had to be made.

There is little dependable evidence on the amount of overlap among the collections of major research libraries in the U.S. The best available estimate is that approximately 80 million volumes in these libraries are embrittled, and about ten million of these are unique. The objective of the Brittle Books Program is to preserve one-third of this ten million. In order to eliminate duplication of effort at different libraries and to ensure convenient retrieval of preserved material, the program has developed a simple, standardized on-line capacity to indicate intent and commitment to film and the existence of a master copy. There is also agreement among participating libraries on technical standards for microfilm and on minimum standards for bibliographic control.

At the time the NEH program was being proposed to the Congress, preservation microfilming was being carried out as a cottage industry with a series of small shops in a few university libraries, and by a few commercial publishers. The costly standards for archival filming and the limited market for infrequently used research materials had discouraged the development of any significant preservation filming capacity in the for-profit sector.

Given the size of the task, it was necessary to move beyond the cottage industry and develop a nonprofit agency that could capitalize on the economies of scale afforded by a centralized production facility. With the aid of private foundation funds, the first such facility, MAPS The MicroAphic Preservation Service, was established in the northeast region. It rapidly grew into a

national facility as institutions realized that transporting books to a central location was more efficient than enlarging local facilities or creating new ones in every library. Furthermore, when it became apparent that substantial funds would be available on a continuing basis from the federal government, two major micropublishing companies with years of experience in high-quality microfilming established preservation filming divisions. These three facilities - two commercial, one non-profit - provide a substantial portion of the necessary capacity for the U.S. 20-year plan.

The Commission never considered microfilm to be the preferable medium for use or dissemination, but only as the most dependable, widely understood and proven technique for a holding action until superior technology could replace it. The largest part of the cost of reformatting is the selection, transportation, preparation and handling of books for copying by whatever means. These factors suggested continuing to use film for storage until alternative technologies became economically competitive and yielded a product of the least equal quality in a mass-production mode.

The Commission has sponsored a number of research and development projects to explore convertibility between paper and film on the one hand and electronic media on the other. Experiments underway or completed have demonstrated the feasibility of scanning a book directly to produce a digital electronic copy, or scanning microfilm for the same purpose. Demonstrations have also shown that the digital copy can drive a high-speed printing process that produces a facsimile of the original (paper)book, and the digital copy can also be transmitted over networks to remote users. Producing microfilm for long-lasting storage from a digital copy also seems feasible.

Digital technologies have significantly greater reliability of reproduction and ease of transmission, and they promise vast enhancement of access. Still, there are technical obstacles to overcome before a major shift from film to digital media can

occur. Briefly, there are three principal challenges: improving the quality (resolution) of the scanned electronic product currently available to the user; storing the scanned material in a form that will be accessible hundreds of years from now; and putting into place distribution systems to provide access at any distance.

One obstacle (that will disappear as technology advances) is that books can be scanned at a much higher resolution than can be reproduced on the computer screens in common use today. Even finer resolution lies ahead. Higher resolution in scanning costs a bit more but is judged as worth it, since it will ultimately enable higher quality resolutions for use. Furthermore, since the chief cost of conversion from paper to digital is the labor of handling the book, a governing axiom for preservation is to scan at the highest level possible, so that it will not be necessary to copy a book - in any medium - more than once.

Ensuring longevity poses different problems. Electronic technologies change rapidly and images stored in digital form today may not be accessible even five years from now. Rather than a property of the medium, longevity becomes a matter of keeping up with changing hardware and software through periodic "refreshing", or copying to new equipment. Longevity will depend upon institutionalizing a process of inventory management designed to insure that preserved materials are always stored in ways that current technology can retrieve.

Providing worldwide access depends on putting the necessary infrastructure in place and standardizing its usage. There is much to be learned about the best ways to store, share, index and access digital information over networks. It is essential to agree on standard ways of exchanging information over networks. The complex issues surrounding control of intellectual property and fair treatment of copyright holders as well as users need attention.

Progress is being made in all these areas, but preservation technology is still in transition, and microfilm's stable and

standardized properties, together with its convertibility to other media, recommend its continued use.

It should not be necessary to use a single medium for every function. Instead, one might, for example, choose microfilm for archival storage of little used materials, but then convert the information to electronic form for dissemination and for printed copies on demand. Alternatively, one might create microfilm electronically scanned materials because microfilm storage is cheaper, more standardized and longer-lived. For the time being, a mixed and flexible technological strategy seems optimum.

The Commission has appointed a series of scholarly advisory committees, which include some librarians and archivists, to offer guidance on selection for preservation in such fields as art history, literature, philosophy, and medieval studies, on the theory that various fields of learning may have different needs and, hence, different strategies may be appropriate. While these committees have not fully solved the selection question, the various fields have chosen different types of material as most important for preservation. The experience of these committees has been instructive: they have had to work through their resistance to the very idea of making choices, to acknowledging that not everything can be saved, and recognizing that delaying the choices would only insure a larger (and more random) loss.

The lessons that the Commission has learned from its efforts may have some relevance to the European situation: cooperation among autonomous and historically proud libraries is both essential and difficult. Long-term goals and long-term vision are necessary. The incredible force of custom and tradition can make scholars and librarians resist microfilm as a means of access and impel them to try to keep fragile books on the shelves and in circulation. These old habits persist despite mounting evidence that scholars are demanding increased access while suffering from decreased ability to travel to collection sites and space limitations are increasingly acute in libraries. The Commission's governing

strategy rests on three principles: separate the tractable from the intractable; encourage cooperation and sharing responsibility; and ensure broad access to preserved material.

Discussion of the U.S. Experience

The Brittle Books Program is an example of dealing with the tractable. It focuses on books for a variety of reasons: there was already in progress a national program to microfilm newspapers; the bibliographic records available for books make it easier to locate material for filming and to avoid redundant effort. Other media - e.g., archives, audiovisual records - present even greater difficulty in preservation technology and perhaps in selection and bibliographic control as well.

While the need to save the intellectual content of a valuable book is clearly paramount, some scholars make strong arguments for the conservation of the actual publication, the object itself. At present this goal cannot be accomplished on any large scale, but perhaps there is a small set of objects in each discipline that can be conserved by some form of stabilization to avoid further decay. Or, perhaps a "one best remaining copy" of a particularly important work could be selected for conservation.

The idea of conserving one best remaining copy raises at least two questions: how would such choices be made? and what might induce holding libraries to contribute their arguably rarest and most precious possessions to the set? In some European countries the choice might become entangled in political issues among ministries and universities. Furthermore, some American libraries whose special collections have been relatively protected by favorable climatic conditions even now resist filming and might be unwilling to contribute a last surviving title to such a set.

Because the use of print and photograph collections is increasing substantially in many libraries, the policy of unlimited access to the originals has caused severe deterioration. Electronic

scanning of images could offer an alternative route of access: a low-resolution image is useful as a reference tool to identify those items which need to be closely examined. The image can be allowed to be "just fuzzy enough" to permit the viewer to evaluate it and decide whether to obtain a higher-resolution copy such as a photograph, or to request the original, deacidified and protectively stored, for essential scholarly use. The "fuzzy browsing" of a collection of images could be very useful to scholars.

The necessity for choice, for consciously letting go of some books and saving others, is not seen as a major problem by governmental archivists who routinely destroy material they consider of little value.

One estimate is that archivists retain only about one percent of what they receive. Scholars are probably unaware of how much is currently being lost, but many are anguished by the loss of even one book and find choice a difficult intellectual challenge. It is the view of some archivists that scholars should not be involved in selection because they cannot make the necessary choices; they are often too parochially concerned with their own discipline and, even there, have difficulty reaching consensus.

The European Experience

Conference participants from four countries of western Europe were asked to provide background papers on conditions in their homelands to stimulate broader discussion among all the countries represented. These reports were not systematic surveys, but rather the observations of scholars, librarians and archivists who were in a position to have an overview of the situation.

Germany

In Germany, about 15 to 30 percent of the books in research libraries (30 to 60 million volumes) are threatened with deterioration due to acid paper. In the last four to five years governmental committees and national associations have been paying attention to the situation and the Library Commission of the German Research Council has begun a study of preservation problems. Nonetheless, a majority of scholars, as well as the general public, are not aware of the problems of paper deterioration. Teacher, students, other users of libraries, and even librarians themselves do not always understand that collections are turning to dust.

While there is agreement on the need for book preservation among those who are aware of the problem, they recognize that not all endangered books can be saved, and that the best methods for accomplishing the purpose are not yet clear. Currently, microfilm and microfiche are most used. There are, however, great expectations for mass preservation through deacidification. A large deacidification plant that does not use fluorocarbons has been built for the German National Library at Leipzig and should be in operation by the end of 1993. If it is successful, several such plants are proposed to serve various regions of Germany. So far there has been little use of electronic technology for capturing and storing the contents of brittle books. Rapid changes in hardware and software, as well as the incompatibility of different storage systems, shorten the useful life of electronic storage to less than that of conventional books. The need for internationally connected data banks is clear and the efforts of the European Register of Microfilm Masters (EROMM) are supported by the corresponding German register (GEROMM).

Criteria for the selection of items to be preserved are still not fixed, and are controversial. Discussion about criteria for selecting books to preserve should remain open, never ending,

pluralistic, even chaotic - not unsystematic or unstructured, but productive and fruitful. Such discussion should not be limited to scholars nor even dominated by them. All interested parties should be involved but especially librarians and archivists whom scholars have reason to trust. It could be unreasonable to build collections or to preserve books exclusively according to the wishes of scholars.

The German Research Council (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) provides financial support for the preservation of newspapers, journals, yearbooks, parts of special collections, and central disciplinary libraries. On the other hand, one cannot be obtaining governmental support for large-scale programs of the sort needed. Ministerial proposals for funding preservation have so far been pitifully inadequate. The current financial situation of the German federal und provincial governments precludes any vision of a society preserving the entire intellectual heritage.

Switzerland

An important project on mass deacidification is being conducted jointly by the Swiss Federal Archives and the Swiss National Library (BAR/SLB). It is one initiative in an overall preservation plan that includes improving environmental conditions of storage, research on paper conservation and restoration of individual items of special value. The deacidification project sought a single system that would be able to accommodate large quantities of archival and library material without prior selection and would leave an adequate alkaline reserve in the paper. Needless to say, a satisfactory system would not damage the material being deacidified or be dangerous to handle. A request for proposals brought forth five processes: Wei T'o, Booksaver, Battelle, FMC/Lithco, and Akzo/DEZ.

Two systems seemed promising enough to deserve testing. Lithco (a liquid treatment) and DEZ (gas) were put through a series of tests in the fall of 1991, with rather disappointing results. The Lithco process originally employed fluorocarbons as a propellant, but had to find a substitute since those compounds had been banned by a recent Swiss law. The substituted chemical apparently was responsible for unsatisfactory results, including incomplete treatment, "intolerable damage of the material (leaching inks, staining paper)" and strong odor. The extent of such damages led to the conclusion by BAR/SLB that the Lithco system - as it had been proposed and tested - had little chance to be improved. The vapor deacidification process of DEZ also had deficiencies including insufficient homogeneity of treatment, iridescent spots and odor. Damage to the material was less severe and the chances for improvement of the DEZ process were estimated as much higher. All the tests had shown that deacidification and buffering extended the life of paper, which encouraged BAR/SLB to proceed with further evaluation.

In the spring of 1992, BAR/SLB began a cooperative test program with the U.S. Library of Congress (LC). The single test run that has been completed so far showed no significant improvement in the DEZ system. BAR/SLB are still convinced of the possibility of mass deacidification, but experience to date has shown very clearly that even the most advanced systems still need a lot of development.

Perhaps the initial ambition to test all material through one system of deacidification without prior selection is unrealistic. Nevertheless, the exploration of deacidification systems and their evaluation will continue in the hope that it can take its place in the armamentarium of preservation along with microfilm, digitization, and environmental control.

England

Oxford University recently conducted a survey of the condition of collections at its 122 libraries and archives. The data have not been fully analyzed, so only tentative conclusions can be reported. Chief among these is that the greatest amount of damage in the collections is to the bindings. More than a quarter of a million volumes (out of a total of 9.7 million) are estimated to show major structural damage - due principally to heavy use and frequent handling. There appears to have been a substantial increase in the research use of the collections in recent decades. There is also heavy structural damage in the maps collections, in prints and drawings, and especially in the manuscripts collections where unbound modern materials are very vulnerable. Rather surprising, however, is the tentative finding that brittle paper was encountered in less than five percent of a small sample of books (compared to 17 percent found in a survey of the British Library in London) and that the Oxford sample was less acidic than the London one, possibly a result of underheated storage conditions.

A coordinated microfilm project involves the British Library, the libraries of Oxford University, Cambridge University and Trinity College, Dublin, as well as the National Libraries of Scotland and Wales. The project is supported by grants from the Mellon Foundation and administered by the National Preservation Office. Microfilming began at the six depository libraries in 1989. Now any library in the U.K. and Ireland can apply for a matching grant to preserve material that is of national importance, dates from between 1830 and 1900, and is printed on paper that is brittle or at risk. Projects must meet technical specifications for film, deposit a master negative in central storage, contribute records for inclusion in the *National Register of Preservation Microforms* and make adequate provision for access for users, including loan and duplication of microfilm. Examples

of materials accepted for filming include fiction, trade journals, pamphlets, popular periodicals, folklore and city directories.

The Bodleian Library itself is concentrating on preserving collections of modern manuscripts and trade journals from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Much effort has to be expended on searching a wide variety of sources to be sure of avoiding duplicate filming of the trade journals. The manuscript collections are unique, however, and do not require searching.

Netherlands

The problem of decaying books in Dutch libraries came to national attention in 1990 through the results of a survey of a large number of Dutch collections conducted by the Advisory Council for Libraries and Archives (RABIN). It found that at least three million books in these collections are in such poor condition that they will be lost if no action is taken; some of them are already beyond rescue. Dutch libraries hold a total of about 70 million volumes, and the RABIN survey probably underestimates the proportion of threatened material. Books published before 1800 suffer from damaged covers and bindings, whereas decaying acid paper is much greater and more serious in post-1800 publications. The difficulties involved in conserving paper are paralleled by those related to preserving audiovisual media and providing access to them, especially in large corpora such as the Netherlands Film Museum, and the film and videotapes of the Netherlands Broadcasting Production Units. Furthermore, not only do the media themselves age, but the equipment needed to use them becomes antiquated as well. The condition of many of the storage areas in libraries leaves much to be desired. The inevitable conclusion is that the problem is enormous, structural in nature, and requires both national and international approaches. It is difficult to estimate the long-term cost of

preservation but approximately 100 million guilders (\$50 million) will have to be made available in the short term.

The recommendations of RABIN outline a national policy for the conservation of library material whose goal is to locate, record and conserve at least one copy of every printed or audiovisual item pertinent to the Netherlands. It would include items produced in the Kingdom itself, works produced by Dutch nationals abroad, and works of foreign origin on subjects directly relevant to the Netherlands.

Criteria for deciding what should be saved must be based on the interests of society and scholarship, and scholars must become more widely involved in the decisions. If the "80/20 rule" applies (80 percent of the requested information derives from 20 percent of the collection), it does suggest that not all information warrants heroic efforts to preserve it. In the exact and the social sciences, much of what was published in the 19th century has been incorporated in more recent publications. In the humanities, the problems are more complex. Historians tend to want to preserve everything, and for specialists in art and literature the physical form of the object can play an important role.

Selection criteria would ensure that one copy of all relevant Dutch material is preserved. The actual selection could be implemented by committees composed of librarians and archivists, technical experts, scientists and scholars. It is very important to have scholarly users involved and to use their (probably) conflicting views constructively. In addition, the plan envisions a central registry of preserved materials, central storage and restoration, mechanisms for coordinating preservation actions and subsidies for special collections.

Discussion of the European Experience

The extent of deterioration in European collections may not be quite as great as reported from surveys of U.S. libraries, but

there is considerable uncertainty about some of the results from some collection surveys because of recognizable defects in methodology. Germany and Switzerland have about the same proportion of deterioration as the U.S., while Sweden and England report lower rates. In some countries, particularly Italy and Spain, the extent of the problem has not been well assessed.

International cooperation is important. One possibility is for each country to take responsibility for conserving the publications that have appeared within its own borders. If every country would do this, the result would be an international collection of relevant national publications. But an international policy ought to be more than simply the sum of national policies. Certainly, national bodies should play a major role, but international associations of scholars must be involved.

There was general agreement that most users of libraries as well as many librarians are not aware of the extent and seriousness of book deterioration. Especially puzzling and troublesome is the unawareness (and sometimes unconcern) of scholars themselves. It is uncertain whether this condition is due to scholarly parochialism, to the changing attitudes of younger scholars toward old books and early references, or to scholars' belief that "someone will provide" for their information resource needs - libraries, for example. Even active attempts to raise scholarly awareness in the United States through the efforts of professional associations or scholarly societies have met with disappointing results. This apparent lack of concern provokes the question: If scholars are not taking active responsibility, how can we expect the general public or the government to support efforts to save knowledge? Scholars, it was pointed out, are ordinarily very narrowly focused on a sub-speciality or a specific topic and become aware of the need for preservation only when they come upon an instance of deterioration in the portion of the collection that they use.

There was not complete agreement about the necessity or desirability of involving scholars actively in the selection process. Official archives, it was said, cannot select in the way scholars might wish. Archives are "the memory of government" and record retention is made by the producers, not the scholars, according to predetermined schedules. Counter-arguments to this opinion remarked that government archives were only one kind of archive and perhaps did have special problems: but who should determine schedules of retention, even in government archives? Should not historians be given a voice in the matter? They have made useful contributions in cases where retention schedules had to be worked out without a precedent - as was true of some scientific laboratory archives. Cooperation between archivists and scholars will generally be rewarding.

Other voices stressed the importance of involving scholars in selection decisions; even if they have difficulty agreeing their advice can be useful. Scholars should take the longer historical view and alleviate concern about present trends in influencing selection. Every library is itself a result of a long series of choices, many of which reflect the idiosyncratic judgments of scholars that do not agree with those of other scholars.

In any case, it is the responsibility of scholars to develop an informed interest in the preservation of the intellectual heritage and to "carry the message of preservation into the chambers of power."

The portions of the academic community that have a broader view of university resources are the administrative heads such as rectors, presidents, chancellors, chairmen and their immediate associates - those who have responsibility for the larger environment of scholarship. Currently this stratum is oblivious to the problem, but can be alerted through professional associations and articles written especially for them.

Some optimism about raising awareness is warranted. For example, a newspaper preservation project in Sweden had strong

public support because of the wide interest in the material. Genealogists and family historians have been very supportive of archival preservation in England. Archives, it was argued, are different from library collections and may need to be approached differently. Archives contain unique, non-duplicated material in non-standard formats, have a more complex informational and demand more complex retrieval systems. Mass deacidification may be the best approach to archival preservation. Still, deacidified material still would exist in only one (and perhaps a quite fragile) copy so that its use might have to be severely limited - or else be copied in order to satisfy wider demand.

The matter of access is significant. One of the most important factors in obtaining funds for preservation from the U.S. Congress is the promise of wider availability of preserved material - the greatest use for the greatest number of people. This concept of "democratization of access" runs counter to often-cherished exclusivity of special collections whose caretakers may be so interested in having a unique possession as to endanger its survival because of inadequate resources and technology for stabilization. Even then, the usefulness of such conserved collections is compromised by the fragility of the deacidified paper.

The urgency of preservation in the face of massive, irreversible and already advanced decay of library collections is unquestioned, and debates over appropriate technology should not distract attention from the necessity to act. Collaboration among countries is a necessity, though every country should recognize its responsibility for its own heritage and should strengthen its own internal efforts first.

Exploring Emergent Issues

The reviews of European and U.S. experience with preservation brought forth both commonalities and differences and

raised issues that warranted further exploration, three in particular: the seeming lack of awareness of preservation problems on the part of library users; the appropriate role for scholars to play in preservation; and the procurement of needed resources. The discussion of these three issues developed some further common ground.

Increasing Awareness

In Europe and North America there must be a concerted effort to bring preservation problems to the attention of library users - scholars in particular, but others among the public at large who may have occasion to use books from the endangered era. The prime need is for a vivid statement of the general case for preservation - a statement that can be adapted to various national, regional, professional and popular audiences. The statement should contain examples of "shocking losses", and must make clear that concern with preservation is not just the preoccupation of librarians, archivists or a narrow group of savants. It would be particularly useful to have a film like *Slow Fires*⁴ made for European contexts and distributed by educational television.

In addition, national and pan-European groups must be organized to undertake both advocacy and education. This process should begin as soon as possible in order to exploit the sense of purpose that has coalesced during this conference. One possibility is to create a European commission on preservation and access with strong national subgroups or correspondents. Such a

⁴ *Slow Fires: On the Preservation of the Human Record* is a documentary on the deterioration of books and other scholarly materials that is threatening the libraries and archives of the world. Cooperatively funded by private and public agencies in the U.S., the film was shown extensively on public television when it was first issued in 1987. It is distributed in both U.S. and European video formats by the American Film Foundation, Santa Monica, CA.

transnational group would probably need the auspices of an existing international body to serve as its "roof" in the beginning. That choice requires further exploration.

The new preservation groups should direct their advocacy and educational activities to a variety of audiences: international cultural organizations, associations of university administrators, parliamentary commissions, ministerial offices, publishers, groups of librarians and archivists, professional societies and the general public. It is imperative that the message be put persuasively before the public at large since only widespread support will produce governmental action. As far as possible, advocacy and education should be both personal and specific, as well as reaching out through professional journals or newsletters, professional meetings, university newspapers, and especially for the public at large, the mass media: newspapers, educational television, and magazines of general culture.

Because the structure of print repositories, educational institutions and cultural ministries varies markedly from country to country, the new preservation groups will need to develop a variety of strategies. The experience and judgment of preservation experts in each country (or region) will always be needed to discover where and how to work most effectively within particular structures.

Scholars' Role

Scholars, and other library users as well, must share with librarians other custodians the difficult decisions about what is to be given priority in preservation. For the purposes of such collaboration, it is essential to break the habits that separate library users from library keepers. It will also be important to penetrate the boundaries between traditional academic disciplines and between conventional library classifications.

Scholars and other library users must also become informed advocates for the cause of preservation. Scholars can be particularly effective within educational institutions and in dealing with governmental agencies. They must do whatever can be done to inform and motivate their colleagues and students.

Procuring Resources

Since the task of preservation is so vast, more resources are needed than can probably be obtained. Hence, the question becomes: what resources can be made available and how can they be most intelligently allocated? Although funds should be sought from private donors, foundations and corporations, only governmental agencies can command resources sufficient to support large-scale and longlasting preservation programs. Non-governmental sources are more likely to support preliminary organization or narrowly focused projects than continuing operations of preservation programs. If the national or transnational groups are to be effective, there must be a reliable source of funds for staff, however small, as well as for operations.

Ensuing discussions explored these points further. The participants confirmed the primary necessity to raise scholars' and librarians' awareness of the deteriorating books problem, the need to collect "shocking case" examples of lost European materials and to prepare a pan-European "statement of the need to act." The conferees explored ways of developing a professional network of librarians, archivists and scholars, with slightly different approaches being proposed for various countries. An essential feature of such a network would be a small core of individuals - one from each country - who fully understood the problem and were willing to take responsibility. Existing professional networks could be tapped for amplifying the initial group.

Yet the need for some central focus and leadership reasserted itself frequently, and the need for funders, governments and other

organizations to have one focal point kept coming to the fore. The discussion touched upon the desirability of simultaneously establishing national organizations and linking them for common efforts. The possible usefulness of existing international organizations was extensively explored. The advantages of non-governmental sponsorship were weighed against the need for large resources and public institutional collaboration.

Gradually the discussion shifted from the concept of a professional network to an organizational structure, and there began to be mention of a hypothetical organization - a "European Commission on Preservation and Access." Since the array of suggestions for constituting such an organization included both complementary and contradictory ideas, a subcommittee of conferees - seven persons in all - was appointed to sort out the alternatives and to present a coherent plan to the plenary session.

Following the adoption of the resolution and recommendations in the next section, the participants held further discussions and elected Drenth, Jouve and Martin to form the *ad hoc* committee. Alison de Puymege agreed to act as the secretariat.

III: Resolution and Recommendations of the Conference

The following resolution and recommendations were adopted unanimously during the conference.

Resolution

The members of the Conference, having reviewed and discussed the studies undertaken by the [U.S.] Commission [on Preservation and Access] to assess the nature and extent of the threat posed to the world's accumulated knowledge by the rapid decay of acidic paper, and to test this effect and potential of the remedies available.

Affirm and endorse the work of the Commission in that behalf, and commend the sense of urgency with which the Commission is seeking to advance international means to minimize loss, and to promote more effective means of storage, conservation and preservation, to insure access in the future.

The Conference accordingly urges that a European counterpart be established, and, to that end a working group be appointed to explore the possibility of engaging support from European and international organizations.

Recommendations

- 1) The European conferees at Bellagio should select from among themselves a chair and two members of an *ad hoc* steering committee that will supervise the process of constituting a European commission should be an independent body that is endorsed by a wide range of existing cultural institutions and that is perhaps materially supported by two or three of them in the early stages of its development. In its final form, it should also include some representation from the U.S. Commission.
 - a) The steering committee should invite three other interested and influential persons, not present at Bellagio, to join it. This should be done by July 20, 1993.
 - b) The augmented steering committee of six should then canvass all participants at Bellagio for nominations to the board of the European commission. These nominations will be reviewed by the steering committee, which will then elect a board of not more than 15 members. This election should take place by October 15, 1993. Once the board has

been elected, it should meet to decide both how best to proceed with the formal and legal establishment of a European commission and how to conduct its own business in the future. The steering committee will be dissolved with that first meeting of the board.

c) While it is soliciting nominations for the board, the steering committee should draft a strong statement of the case for the work of preservation in general and of a European commission in particular.

d) It is expected that the steering committee will have some modest administrative expenses, for which it should seek financial support from the U.S. Commission on Preservation and Access.

- 2) The board should move expeditiously to establish itself as a legal entity and to appoint and secure financial support for the staff necessary to accomplish its purposes.
- 3) All of the European conferees should find ways to carry what has been accomplished at Bellagio back to their home countries and home institutions. They should involve a wide range of colleagues in the work of preservation and should take whatever steps they can to publicize and to advocate that work.

*European Research Libraries Cooperation:
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Die postmoderne Bibliothek

Seminar der LIBER Architecture Group in Paris

Vom 22. - 26. Januar 1996

ELMAR MITTLER

Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen

1. Die Zahl der Anmeldungen war so groß, daß etwa 40 Interessenten aus ganz Europa am Seminar der LIBER Architecture Group mit dem Titel "Die postmoderne Bibliothek zwischen Funktionalität und Ästhetik" nicht teilnehmen konnten. Die gerade fertig gewordenen Konferenzräumlichkeiten des Pariser Naturkundemuseums boten leider nur gut 100 Teilnehmern Platz. Den Glücklichen, die sich rechtzeitig angemeldet hatten, wurden fast ideale Bedingungen für den internationalen Erfahrungsaustausch zwischen Architekten, Verwaltungsfachleuten und Bibliothekaren geboten: die technischen Voraussetzungen für Overhead- und Dia-, aber auch Computer- und Video-Projektion waren nicht nur vorhanden, sondern funktionierten sogar; außerdem erleichterte die Chance, für Vorträge und Diskussion sich den ausgezeichneten Simultandolmetscher(innen) anzuvertrauen, die intensive Diskussion zwischen allen Beteiligten.

2. Grundsatzreferate kamen aus Deutschland, Frankreich und Großbritannien. Eckhard Gerber, Architekt der Göttinger Bibliothek, gab einen Überblick über die Entwicklung der

Bauformen der Bibliotheken der letzten Jahrzehnte, der in vieler Hinsicht die Baugestalten neu sehen ließ.

Anthony Quinsees Übersicht über die britischen Bibliotheken der Nach-Atkinson-Periode faszinierte mit seiner Analyse der Grenzen der modernen, vollflexiblen Bibliothek: nicht die so oft diskutierten Magazine erweisen sich als die Achillesferse des modernen Bibliotheksbaus; in den schnell wachsenden britischen Universitäten reicht die Zahl der Arbeitsplätze für Studenten nicht mehr. Vor allem aber bringt das on-line-Zeitalter neue Anforderungen an die Gebäude (Verkabelung) und das Mobiliar, die in der gegebenen Baustruktur schlecht realisierbar sind; die Tische z. B. sind für einen kombinierten Lese- und Computerarbeitsplatz viel zu klein.

Michel Melot gab in seinem fulminanten Überblicksbeitrag die geistige Klammer für das ganze Seminar. Dem bibliothekarischen Ziel, eine Einheit von Büchern und Lesern zu schaffen, stellt er moderne architektonische Entwicklungen entgegen, in denen die Disharmonie, die Diversifizierung der Benutzerdienste bis zur Unterbringung in mehreren Gebäuden zu finden sind. Sie werden durch moderne technologische Entwicklungen noch verstärkt, die z. B. eine Bibliothek ohne Leser (anders gesagt, eine Bibliothek, deren Leseräume sich bis an den Arbeitsplatz des Benutzers expandieren) oder eine automatisierte Bibliothek mit je nach Nutzung sich verändernden Standorten möglich machen. Bewahrung gegen Nutzung, Bildschirm gegen Papier, Benutzernähe und Zentralisationsbedürfnis erscheinen als Gegensätze, die es zu bewältigen gilt - in Gebäuden, die mehr sind, als ihr Inhalt, in denen man sich als Ort der Kommunikation wohl fühlen kann und die zugleich eine symbolische Funktion als Kristallisationspunkt geistiger Artikulation gewinnen.

3. Als Kontrapunkt solcher grundsätzlicher Auseinandersetzungen mit Geist und Architektur der Bibliotheken wurden zwei spezielle Themenbereiche behandelt -

die Beleuchtung und die Benutzungsmöglichkeiten für Behinderte in Bibliotheken.

Blieben die grundsätzlichen Ausführungen von Gilbert Quéré etwas hinter den Erwartungen zurück (am interessantesten die Vorstellung modernster elektronisch gesteuerter Beleuchtungssysteme, die gleichmäßige, auch hohen konservatorischen Ansprüchen gewachsenes Licht in Perfektion liefern können), so überzeugten die beiden Architekturbeiträge über die Bibliothek der Universität VIII Saint Denis (Pierre Riboulet) und die unterirdische Bibliothek für Rechtswissenschaften in Bern (Bernard Cormier, Willy Aeppli) mit sehr durchdachten Konzepten und teilweise ungewöhnlichen Lösungen. Beim Berner Beispiel wird die modische (und insgesamt sehr angenehme) indirekte Beleuchtung über die Decken z. B. auch bei den Regalen verwendet.

Louis-Pierre Grosbois konnte an den Beispielen der Cité des Sciences und der Bibliothèque Nationale de France verdeutlichen, wie sehr die Berücksichtigung der Bedürfnisse der Behinderten von vornherein notwendig ist. Seine These, daß gute Lösungen für Orientierungs- und Höhenbedürfnisse von Behinderten zugleich den Komfort für andere Benutzergruppen (z. B. Kinder) erhöhen können, ist eine außergewöhnliche Anregung, kreativ durch den Einsatz für Behinderte die Funktionalität der Bibliotheken für alle bis ins Detail hinein zu optimieren.

Daß in guter Architektur die Berücksichtigung derartiger Aspekte auch zu ästhetisch überzeugenden Lösungen führen kann, zeigt das Beispiel der finnischen Öffentlichen Bibliothek in Joensuu des Architekten Tuomo Siitonen.

4. Trotz vieler Unklarheiten wegen der derzeitigen finanziellen und administrativen Situation trugen Martine Blanc-Montmayeur und Hélène Dano-Vanneyre die Planungen zur Reorganisation der Bibliothèque Publique d'information des Centre Pompidou vor. Sie werden nicht nur eine Erneuerung des Mobiliars, sondern auch eine bessere Zuordnung der Räumlichkeit bringen. Beeindruckend, welche Massennutzung

diese Bibliothek in wenigen Jahren bewältigt hat, von der ihre Ressourcen aber auch sehr schnell aufgezehrt wurden. Dem Team aus Bibliothekaren und professionellen Beratern ist zu wünschen, daß es seine Pläne bald umsetzen kann.

Die systematische Beratung durch Fachleute ist Teil des französischen Systems, öffentliche Gebäude grundsätzlich in Architektenbewerben auszuschreiben. Das System hat großen Anteil an den beeindruckenden Leistungen neuer französischer Architektur, die auch in einem Video der Mission Interministérielle pour la Qualité des Constructions Publiques (MIQCP) deutlich wurde, das Jacques Cabanieu vorstellte. Die Diskussion - vor allem mit dem international bekannten Berater Faulkner-Brown - zeigt auch Schwächen des auch in Frankreich wegen seines Aufwandes umstrittenen Systems auf, das aber zu einer Professionalisierung der Bauausschreibung und -durchführung wesentlich beitrug. Im Bibliothekswesen hat daran die Direction de l'Information scientifique et technique et des Bibliothèques wesentlichen Anteil, die in der Person von Marie-Françoise Bisbrouck und ihrer Mitarbeiter auch die örtliche Organisation des Seminars in perfekter Weise vorbereitet und durchgeführt hat. Dem Direktor, Monsieur Dizambourg, kann man nur zu der Leistungsfähigkeit seiner Mannschaft gratulieren.

5. Eine Bibliothek für das 21. Jahrhundert hat man das neue Gebäude der Bibliothèque Nationale de France genannt, das in seinen imponierenden Dimensionen und seiner zukunftsweisenden Konzeption ein Höhepunkt des Besichtigungsprogramms war. Überzeugend konnte der Präsident, Jean Favier, darstellen, daß für den Agglomerationsraum Paris eine Bibliothek dieser Größenordnung keineswegs als überdimensioniert bezeichnet werden kann. Jedem Besucher wurde bei dem Gang durch die weiten Hallen, die sich allmählich auch mit Mobiliar und Personal füllen, klar, welche riesige Aufgabe hier die bibliothekarischen Kollegen zu bewältigen haben, um die Kombination von Technik, Gebäude, Büchern,

elektronischen Medien und Benutzern zu einem funktionierenden Organismus werden zu lassen, in dem man nicht nur am Rande des imponierenden Gartens spazieren gehen, sondern effizient arbeiten kann. Es wird Jahre harter Arbeit bedürfen - und insofern kann man schon jetzt voraussagen, daß diese Bibliothek wohl wirklich erst eine für das nächste Jahrtausend sein wird; vorher wird sie sicher nicht perfekt funktionieren.

6. Eines der nobelsten Bibliotheksgebäude in Paris ist die neue Bibliothek des Institut Pasteur, bei der die technisch komplizierte Bauaufgabe, die Bibliothek über großen Veranstaltungsräumen unterzubringen, perfekt gelöst wurde. Die geschmackvolle Inneneinrichtung bedenkt mit großer Sorgfalt jedes Detail (von der Lampe bis zum Regal). Um so verblüffender ist es, daß bei den CD-ROM-Anlagen und sonstigen Computerarbeitsplätzen die Strippen scheinbar lieblos in der Gegend herumhängen. Es fehlt noch an funktional und ästhetisch gleichermaßen befriedigenden gestalterischen Lösungen der Designer für den modernen Medienarbeitsplatz unserer Bibliotheken.

Eine überzeugende Lösung für die Beleuchtung des kombinierten Computer-/Bucharbeitsplatzes dagegen findet sich in der neuen geisteswissenschaftliche Bibliothek der Université Libre in Brüssel (Jean-Pierre Devroey, Philippe van Halteren), die auch in ihrer übrigen Gestaltung ein Glanzstück unter den Bibliotheken aus jüngerer Zeit darstellt. In Augenhöhe sind die Fenster durch ein breites (auch nach außen architektonisch hervorgehobenes) Band durchbrochen, das einen Blendschutz gegen das Sonnenlicht bildet. An seiner Innenseite befindet sich eine indirekte Beleuchtung, die auch in den Abendstunden dafür sorgt, daß unangenehme Spiegelungen im Bildschirm unterbleiben und trotzdem gutes Leselicht gegeben ist.

7. Mit dem Gebäude der Estnischen Nationalbibliothek in Tallinn konnte Ivi Eenmaa ein ungewöhnliches Gebäude noch aus sowjetischer Zeit vorstellen, das zu einem nationalen Kristallisationspunkt geworden ist.

Überzeugend ist auch die Architektur der neuen Königlichen Bibliothek in Kopenhagen in ihrer kraftvollen Handschrift. (Karl Krarup, Steen Bille Larsen, Charlotte Rohde, Bjarne Hammer). Die gekonnte Computersimulation, die in einem Video gezeigt wurde, war derartig anschaulich, daß viele Teilnehmer das Gefühl haben dürften, diese Bibliothek schon einmal betreten zu haben - lange, bevor sie fertig ist.

Modernes ökologisches Bauen steht bei der neuen Bibliothek der Universität in Warschau (Ewa Kobierska-Maciuszko, Anna Chmura) auf dem Programm. Die am Rande des Botanischen Gartens angesiedelte Bibliothek wird ein begrüntes Dach haben.

8. Wie man aus einer über die Jahrzehnte hin völlig "verbauten Bude" ein modernen Ansprüchen an Geschäftsgang und intensiver Benutzung gerecht werdendes Gebäude machen kann, zeigten Bernard Naylor und Robert Chambers am Beispiel der Hartley-Bibliothek der Universität Southampton. Eher negative Beispiele modernen Bauens stellte Altmeister Harry Faulkner-Brown in den optisch beeindruckenden jüngsten Bibliotheksbauten des weltbekannten Architekten Norman Foster vor.

Auch die Übersicht über neuere Bibliotheksbauten in der Schweiz, in der Alois Schacher auch mittelgroße Um- und Ergänzungsbauten vorstellte, machten deutlich, wie oft akustische und organisatorische Bedürfnisse der Bibliothekare und der Benutzer bei Bibliotheksbauten unberücksichtigt bleiben.

9. Sieht man demgegenüber den riesigen Nachholbedarf an Bibliotheksbauten, der in den östlichen und südlichen Ländern Europas besteht (für Ungarn gab Márta Viragos einen Eindruck davon), betrachtet man die Zahl der Aus- und Umbauten in Frankreich (hier wurde eine beeindruckende Dokumentation von Marie-Françoise Bisbrouck mit den Tagungsunterlagen verteilt), Großbritannien und den nordischen Ländern und die Entwicklung in den östlichen deutschen Bundesländern, so wird deutlich, daß allem Gerede vom Ende der Bibliotheken zum Hohn

Bibliotheksbau ein Trend der nächsten Jahre ist. Der große Andrang zum Seminar entspricht einem gewachsenen Bedürfnis nach dem Austausch von Erfahrungen und Ideen. Die LIBER Architecture Group will darauf mit der Einrichtung einer Diskussionsliste im INTERNET und Seminaren in kürzeren Abständen reagieren. Die Ergebnisse dieses Pariser Seminars werden in einem Sonderheft dieser Zeitschrift in den nächsten Monaten publiziert.

10. Ergänzend zum Vortragsprogramm schloß sich noch die Besichtigungsmöglichkeit für weitere bedeutende Bibliotheksgebäude der französischen Hauptstadt an, die auch eine Art Kapitale des Bibliotheksbaus bildet: von der Bibliothèque Mazarine reichte das Spektrum über die Bibliothèque Sainte Geneviève bis zur supermodernen "schiefen" Bibliothek des "Pôle universitaire Léonard de Vinci" (Paris la Défense). Die beeindruckende Fähigkeit der französischen Architekten, in jedem Jahrhundert Prototypen des Bibliotheksbaus zu schaffen, wurde damit unterstrichen. Die Anregungen, die dieses Seminar brachte, werden sich sicher in zukünftigen Bauten niederschlagen.

Auch als Chairman der LIBER Architecture Group möchte ich Marie-Françoise Bisbrouck und ihrer Crew für die Ausrichtung dieses erfolgreichen Seminars besonders danken, an dessen kleinem Festabend im Pariser Kirmesmuseum auf ganz verblüffende Weise mit alten Karussells demonstriert wurde, daß es rund geht mit dem Bibliotheksbau in Paris.

Book Review

Zeitschriften in deutschen Bibliotheken: Bestand, Erwerbung, Erschließung, Benutzung. Herausgegeben von der Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin unter der Leitung von Hartmut Walravens. München, New Providence, London, Paris: Saur, 1995 (Bibliothekspaxis; 35). viii, 371 pp. ISBN 3-598-21166-X. DM 128,00.

Serials, to use a collective term for various types such as academic or popular journals, newspapers, CD-ROMs, monograph series items etc., have become one of the most important factors in library management. They present numerous problems for acquisition, cataloguing, storing, readers' service. Some of these problems turn out to be insurmountable: it may suffice to refer to the vicious circle of journal prices. More and more libraries are being forced to cancel journal subscriptions on a wide range that is indeed frightening. Which, in turn, contributes to yet another increase in prices which libraries have to face still capable of subscribing. Serials are the decisive factor in budgeting. On average, serials attract about 75% of the acquisition budget in German libraries, and this rate is likely to increase in the near future, leaving ever less money for monographs, textbooks and other types of library stock. As for other countries, the situation may be quite similar.

In spite of all their importance for library management and library use, there has been no study comprehensive of all aspects of serials in German libraries. Which is not that surprising. This may be due to the fact that in German libraries serials never enjoyed the prominent administrative status known from Anglo-American libraries. A relatively small range of German articles

has been devoted to the subject, and, needless to say, there has never been a German journal such as *Serials Librarian*.

The present book meets precisely the demand of a comprehensive survey. It contains 20 contributions plus an important bibliography of post-war literature on journals in German libraries.

As the editor explains, it were the editors' of *Serials Librarian* who suggested a survey of this kind. The articles may be considered pre-prints because they are to be published again in *Serials Librarian*. The present book, however, was conceived some years ago, at the time of the German re-unification. It was to be seen against a background of several problems arising from the necessity of getting together two countries and indeed two quite different library systems. The publication of the book was planned already in 1993. Yet there were some delays in finishing some contributions, and a number of contributors did not submit their papers at all. So new contributors had to be found. When the book was eventually published in the autumn of 1995, it contained papers that were completed already in 1993 as well as in 1995. In terms of up-to-dateness, then, some divergence among the papers is inevitable.

The scope of the contributions, however, is indeed wide. They include introductory surveys of serials processing in academic as well as, if to a less extent, public libraries, giving due attention to aspects such as selection of titles, descriptive cataloguing and subject indexing, and access and use. The emphasis is, quite in spite of the general title of the book, certainly on academic or research libraries; just one author writes from a decidedly public library perspective. This is confirmed by three contributions that may be seen as kind of case studies, for they are devoted to the management of serials in the Bavarian State Library, the three university libraries in Hamburg, and to the collection of East European serials in the Technische Informationsbibliothek Hannover. These case studies are quite welcome, because they

put the introductory, generalizing, handbook-type articles into the practice of individual libraries.

Having in mind that the present book may be intended not only for German readers, librarians from abroad will find those articles particularly interesting which concentrate, on a nation-wide level, on facets of serials management. Although they repeat the issues of acquisition, cataloguing, and access, it is most rewarding to have some aspects explained in full detail that are key issues to the German academic library system. First of all, the decentralised, resource sharing acquisition plan of the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*, that grew out of financial constraints after World War I, and has proved to be the only way of providing literature supply to meet the demand of a rapidly growing and highly specialised information market. Second, of course, the various attempts at providing nation-wide cataloguing of serials which is all the more necessary if the national library system is pointedly decentralised, as it has traditionally been in Germany. Although we have got used to the online *Zeitschriftendatenbank*, the most comprehensive database of serials in Germany (and Europe), it is good to be reminded of the roots of serials cataloguing in this country. Third, but not least, the foreign reader will find useful information on the development of the inter-library loan system in Germany. Again, the historical perspective is very welcome, although one may have wished this particular contribution (completed in 1993) to have been updated before publication, in order to reflect latest plans and developments in electronic document order and supply in German academic libraries.

The book is not limited to the traditional academic journal in paper form, though. Contributions on the management of specialised forms of serials such as microforms and CD-ROMs indicate that their part is becoming more and more important in libraries. And it is good to have an article on newspapers in

libraries and the problems they present for library management in terms of storage, preservation, and access.

A survey of serials management in libraries would not be complete without an article on the role of one of the libraries' important partners, the subscription agents. Swets are being allotted some 20 pages to present their merits in this field. Although Swets' merits are by no means to be disputed, one may have expected a more unbiased article on the role of subscriptions agents. It would have been very interesting if this contribution had been contrasted by an article that focused critically on the pricing policies and the services of several subscriptions agents. What is certainly needed, then, is a kind of market study, a sort of buyer's guide, for the variety of serials.

In spite of this deficiency and the fact that a few contributions represent 1993 state-of-the-art, the book is welcome for its wealth of information. This also goes for the two articles devoted to the library practice in the former German Democratic Republic. Focusing on acquisitions and exchange of journals from the "nicht-sozialistisches Wirtschaftsgebiet" (not-socialist economic area), the authors recall the ways and means of getting hold of Western publications in a situation characterized by economic constraints and political suspicion.

Summing up, just one critical remark on the book must be made. At DM 128, it is heavily priced. Acquisition budgets being what they are at the moment, this price may prevent the book from finding its way to the libraries.

HEINER SCHNELLING (GIESSEN)

*European Research Libraries Cooperation:
The LIBER Quarterly, 6 (1996), 232-235.*

**LIBER Silver Jubilee Annual Conference,
Malta 1996
21 May - 25 May 1996**

The Electronic Library at Work

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

Tuesday, 21 May	14.00	Pre-Conference Demonstration: OPAC-Network in Europe (ONE-Project)
	19.00	Welcome and Introduction: Peter Serracino Inglott, Rector of the University, and Michael Falzon, Minister for Education
		Keynote Speech: Guido de Marco, Minister of Foreign Affairs: Malta and the Mediterranean

**Wednesday, 22 May 9.00 Session I: Developing Collections in
the Electronic Era**

Claire Vayssade, Bibliothèque Nationale,
Paris: The Legal Deposit of Electronic
Collections

Trix Bakker, Royal Library, The Hague:
The Electronic Library at Work in the
Netherlands, and the Implications for
Collection Development

Wilfried Enderle, Göttingen University
Library: Shared Digital Collection
Development: the First Steps to the Virtual
Library

Jan Smits, Royal Library, The Hague, and
Susan Vejlsgaard, Royal Library, Copen-
hagen: Digital 'Metadata' Standards for
Communication and Preservation

**14.00 Session II: New Approaches to Access
for Electronic Libraries**

Colin MacLaren, Aberdeen University
Library: The Role of a University
Library in a Community Setting

Ivan Boserup, Royal Library, Copenhagen:
The Cultural Network of Denmark: a New
Approach to Access, Collections and
Services

N.N.: Developments in OPACs

Jan Braeckmann, Leuven University Library:
Integration of Library Services and Library
Information in a Campus-Wide Information
System

Thursday, 23 May 9.00 Session III: Digitization: Preservation Support or Impending Disaster?

John Mackenzie Owen, The Netherlands:
Preservation of Digital Material
for Libraries and Archives: Policy
Issues and Cost Assessment

Carol Mandel, Columbia University, New
York: Enduring Access to Digital
Information: Understanding the Challenge

Daniel Renoult, Bibliothèque Nationale,
Paris: Digitization and Preservation

Denise Lievesley, ERSC Data Archive, UK:
Maintenance and Preservation of
Large Databases

14.00 Professional Division Meetings

16.30 Annual General Assembly

Friday, 24 May 9.00 Session IV: New Skills for Electronic Libraries

Erland Kolding Nielsen, Royal Library,
Copenhagen: Strategic Planning
for a Digital Library

S. Sybrandy, Groningen University Library:
Training Needs for the Electronic Library

Jacqueline Sanson, Bibliothèque Nationale,
Paris: Mobility: Forced Job Changes

Jane Core, University of Abertay, Dundee:
Educational Development for Higher
Education Library Staff (EDULIB)

14.00 Session V: Libraries in Malta

Joseph Grima, Chairman of the Library
Association: The Local Situation

Paul Xuereb, Librarian, University of Malta
Library: The Mediterranean Situation

15.00 Tour of the University of Malta
Library

16.00 Tour of the National Library of Malta

Saturday, 25 May Day Excursion to the Island of Gozo

For further information please contact:

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