U. B. C. LIBRARY NEWS

No. 1 August 1968 Vancouver, B.C.

This newsletter will appear frequently as an information service for faculty and other people outside the Library. It will contain news items about current developments in the Library System which we feel will be of interest or concern to the larger community.

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THE SENATE LIBRARY COMMITTEE:

This is a standing committee of the Senate, charged with the role of 1) advising and assisting the Librarian in formulating policy, allocating book funds, developing library services, and keeping informed of developments in the larger academic community; and, 2) reporting regularly to Senate on matters of policy under discussion by the committee.

There are presently twelve members on the SLC, under the chairmanship of Dr.I.McTaggart Cowan; their names are, C. Belshaw (Anthropology/Sociology), M. Bloom (Physics), N.Divinsky (Mathematics), B. Dunell (Chemistry), W. Gibson (Medicine), W. Holland (Asian Studies), S. Rothstein (Library School), D. Smiley (Political Science), M. Steinberg (English), B. Stuart-Stubbs (Library) and S. Zbarsky (Medicine). In addition, there is a vacant position to be filled by a representative from the Student Council.

The Committee will be meeting at 4:00 p.m. in the Librarian's Office on the following dates until the end of June 1969: September 16, November 15, February 10, April 14, June 2nd.

Among the topics to be discussed at these meetings will be: New library buildings (needs and priorities), relationship of reading rooms to the Library and their effects on budget, philosophy of book fund allocation, loan regulations, costs of service to undergraduates, dissemination of information to faculty, representation of librarians on faculties and committees, and liaison between the Library and the Bookstore and Publications Centre.

If any faculty members have matters which they would like to put before the Senate Library Committee, they are urged to contact the most appropriate member of the Committee and discuss their ideas with him.

BUDGET for Books and Magazines:

A period of recession is limiting the ability of the Library to respond to all the demands made of it, particularly in respect to the purchase of out-of-print books, periodical files and collections. About $865,000 is available for 1968/69. Expenditures in recent years were: 1965/66 - $1,613,000; 1966/67 - 1,515,000; 1967/68 - $983,000.

DOWNS REPORT:

The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada has published a survey by Dr. R. B. Downs entitled Resources of Canadian Academic and Research Libraries. The three hundred page report covers all aspects of libraries, and makes a number of recommendations. A limited number of copies are available for distribution. Please address requests to B. Stuart-Stubbs, The Library.

BOOK Processing:

During the years of affluence, acquisitions outstripped the Library's capacity to process them. Encouraging progress has been made in the past year in keeping up with

Accessions. In 1967/68 171,478 volumes were processed, compared with 103,640 in 1966/67 and 79,984 in 1965/66. In controlled storage are about 56,000 volumes; these are all listed in the Main Catalogue under the Author's Name only. The Library's collection now totals around 1,100,000 volumes. (About half of our requirement, according to the Downs Survey.)

THE MAIN CARD Catalogue:

In mid-May of this year a major reorganization was completed involving the public catalogue. The result is that the catalogue now consists of three parts: An Author-Title File, a Subject File, and a Classed Location File.

The alphabetically arranged Author-Title File (identified by white labels) contains also added entries, such as editors, translators, compilors, joint authors, series, etc. The Subject File (identified by red labels) is also alphabetically arranged and includes all the standard subject headings, plus personal names used as subjects. The headings are all printed on plastic-encased guide cards which make the file very easy to use.

The Classed Location File (identified by yellow labels) is arranged in call number order and includes: 1) all material one copy of which is in a location other than the main stacks, the Fine Arts Division, or a location indicated on the catalogue cards themselves, such as Juvenile Collection, Law, Asian Studies or Special Collections; and 2) holdings of currently received serials and set-in-progress.

COMPUTERS at Work:

In recent weeks another stage in the automation of the Serials records was reached. The result is a daily listing of receipts, cumulated weekly. In combination with the basic list published last fall, these lists provide reasonably complete and up to date information at every Library service desk. Our use of the term "reasonably complete" requires a few words of explanation. Those who use the annual cumulation, the next issue of which is to appear in September, must remember that this listing is still only a visible by-product of the current drive to put all the Library's serial records onto magnetic tape - it is not an end in itself. At this stage the emphasis is on the collecting of data about the titles themselves; we are not yet able to maintain current information on the holdings. Not until the project is in its final stage will there be the facility to maintain a truly up-to-date inventory.

Meanwhile it is still necessary to use this annual cumulation in conjunction with the Location File at the Main Card Catalogue to get a complete picture of the Library's serial holdings.

NEW LIBRARY Division:

The division of Information and Orientation will come into existence this fall, under the direction of Mr. Luther F. Chew. This division will fill the need for intensive instruction of students in research methods, particularly in respect to libraries, and will employ audio-visual techniques combined with lectures, tours, and published guides. Mr. Chew was Librarian of the Audio-Visual Centre, Washington State College from 1966 to the present. The division will be located in the Main Concourse of the Main Library, next to the Union Catalogue. The Humanities Division will join the Social Sciences Division in the north wing, thus consolidating specialized reference services.

RECLASSIFICATION of Reference Books:

The UBC Library is extremely fortunate in that its first Librarian had the foresight to adopt the then new Library of Congress (LC) system of classification. Many college

and university libraries across Canada and the United States are now bogged down in expensive reclassification projects forced upon them by the belated discovery that the simpler Dewey Decimal System no longer served their complex academic needs.

There is one feature of Dewey, however, which is most attractive to scholars, and which LC lacks. In Dewey, bibliographies are subarranged according to the whole classification so that, for example, all science bibliographies stand together in their subdivision of mathematics, physics, chemistry, etc. Traditionally LC has arranged bibliographies alphabetically by topic, intermixing sciences, social sciences and humanities. Scholars and librarians have found this to be an unsatisfactory arrangement. Therefore all new bibliographies now going into the UBC collection receive, rather than the traditional Z 1000 to Z 7000 number, the LC subject number for the bibliography prefixed by the letter Z. The most used bibliographies in the Social Science, Humanities and Science Reference Divisions are also being reclassified into this new system. Thus the bibliography sections of the Reference Divisions will soon be seen to recapitulate the entire classification. This process is nearing completion in the Social Science and Humanities Divisions and is just getting under way in Science.