University of British Columbia Library Bulletin

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LIBRARIAN'S REPORT:

The 55th Annual Report will be received by Senate on February 24. On Thursday, February 25th at 3.30 p.m., in the School of Librarianship, Mr. Stuart-Stubbs will talk about the report, which deals with the decade 1960/70. A film about the Library, made in 1960 and featuring Mr. Neal Harlow, then University Librarian, will be shown. Interested staff members may attend.

SUBJECT CATALOGUE FILING - CHRONOLOGICAL OR ALPHABETICAL?

A recent user survey here on author vs. date arrangement showed the following results:

Subject field	Preferred filing by author	Preferred filing by date
Humanities	44.2%	32.5%
Social Sciences	36.1%	42.0%
Science	28.2%	51.3%
Overall	37.5%	40.3%
(Other or no preference	22.2%)	

The question will now be referred to the Committee on Processing Services and Catalogues.

DUPLICATES:

The Catalogue Divisions report that duplicates of odd volumes which form part of a multi-volume set or series will be incorporated as added copies (cop. 2, etc.) within an existing set. They will not give rise to the creation of a new, and very incomplete, additional set consisting of isolated volumes.

REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS:

Arrangements have now been made for a second series of Library guides. The new series will consist of brief guides focussing on subjects of current interest to students. A tentative title of Start here has been suggested. They will feature:

(1) Brevity. Maximum length will be the two sides of a page.

(2) Selectivity. Each will be aimed at a fairly specific subject and will cite only the most relevant sources, subject headings recommended, etc.

(3) Economy. Use of the Xerox 7000 will afford inexpensive reproduction. A modest initial printing will be economically sound, as reprinting will cost no extra.

(4) Availability. A standard reference card in the Subject Catalogue might be filed to indicate that such a guide is available on a given subject. Samples could also be left in loose-leaf binders at the main service points.

(5) Coordination. Duplication will hopefully be avoided by the maintenance of a list by Elsie de Bruijn of the subjects being prepared.

(6) Standard format. Worksheets will be available to guide the compilers in achieving a uniform approach.

BRANCH LIBRARY QUESTIONNAIRES:

There has been a good response to a questionnaire distributed recently to users of the MacMillan Library. In order to learn more about the extent to which students and faculty are happy with services and collections in our branch libraries, users of most other branches will also be polled during the remainder of the term. The results will be made known.

LIBRARY DELIVERY:

A second full-time truck driver is to be hired in an effort to restore delivery service to an acceptable standard.

"IMPEDIMENTS TO DEVELOPMENT OF MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS: In academic libraries, collections are recorded almost everywhere in numbers of volumes, yet the standards adopted by the librarians themselves refer to title count, which is surely a better indicator of the strength of the collection. Also, most institutions have developed no measures of library service to users. Certainly, circulation totals are poor indicators, especially in reference and research collections."

The above excerpt (complete with heading) from an article entitled Management planning in higher education... was submitted for inclusion in the Bulletin. Readers are cordially invited - or rather eagerly solicited - to offer tidbits of their choosing.

ZZ BACKLOG:

There has been a concentrated campaign over the last few weeks directed against the outstanding ten thousand volumes of old (MacMillan era) backlog material stored in Mysteria (level 1). Virtually the whole Catalogue Division has been concentrating exclusively on these books, the majority of which had not previously been searched and for which LC copy was in fact available. The collection was divided into two halves. The second half was entirely searched by Library School students who then practised their budding skills on those items requiring original cataloguing in consultation with cataloguers, each of whom acted as mentor to five students.

Although current work of the Catalogue Divisionshas inevitably been disrupted by this campaign, an overall credit balance can well be claimed. Frequent past moves of the material had resulted in chaotic shelving order little related to the ZZ acquisition number sequence on which retrieval depended. The elimination of time consumed in searching this backlog to fill requests and of the frustration experienced by students and faculty when their wants could not be satisfied should well justify any temporary inconvience. In addition, some two thousand volumes had inadvertently been dropped from the machine listing, with the resultant risk of duplicate ordering.