

# University of British Columbia Library Bulletin

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## REPORT FROM THE A.L.A. CONFERENCE:

The Library's Travel Grants and Expenses Committee - on a second thought - graciously granted the usual expenses to attend the A.L.A. Conference in New York, July 8 - 12. The theme of the conference: The Library Profession.

Here are some second-hand thoughts/ideas talked about (and often kicked around):

### Faculty Status and Governance:

- a. Polarization of administration:  
Classical style: hierarchic (archaic?) organization with a chief having absolute power and delegating responsibility at his discretion. The staff consists of a Head and a lot of Joes.  
Democratic style: librarians form a faculty of their own and manage the library on a collegial basis. The staff is made up of peers.
- b. Question of administration not clearly defined; neither are questions of faculty status, union status and jurisdiction. Further pitfalls: degrees and research work undertaken by librarians. So many warning signs in the approach to the faculty question.  
Librarians are better off not being a faculty: less problems.
- c. It is not proven that the democratic system has a place in education neither is it demonstrated that democratic administration is better than the absolutistic.
- d. Before talking about faculty status librarians must clearly define their professional role as disparate from that of clericals and put this into practice. Librarians are still in the discussion stage about this point.
- e. Librarians are in a complex fix.

### The Place of the Library in the Budget:

The governor of West Virginia stated that libraries rank with education in general and with highways during budgeting and challenged all U.S. states to develop a library system similar to the interstate highway system.

### Canadians:

At the first general meeting the chairlibrarian called for foreigners to show hands as their country was named. Canada was not named. Does this mean Canadians are not foreigners in American eyes, being children of a common mother?

### Education and Libraries:

The library should be more closely integrated with the teaching assignments of the university. Mutual dependence, not equality of librarians and faculty, should

