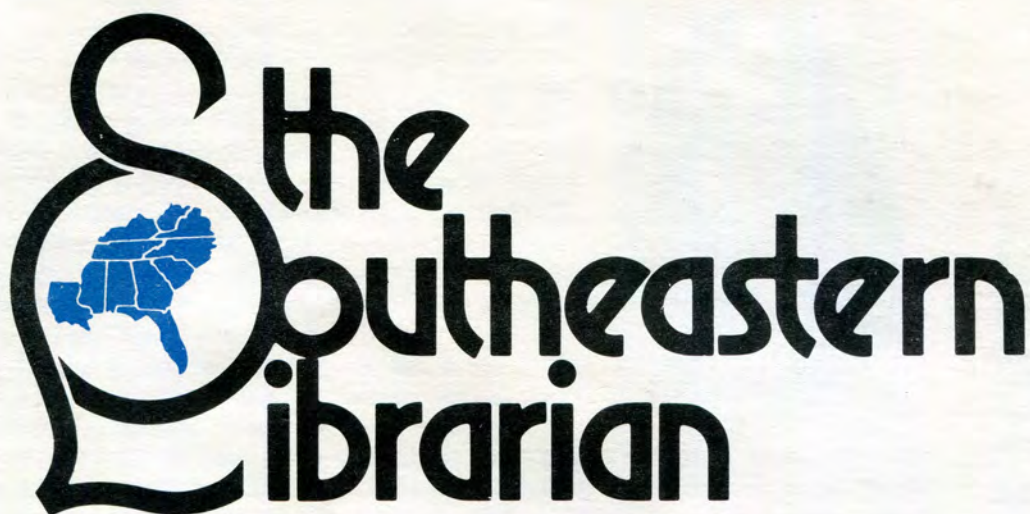


The Southeastern Librarian



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SELA BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 15-19, 1986

Marriott Hotel
Atlanta, Georgia

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The "fishing trip" I was on when the last issue went to press was a success, and I am now back at my desk playing catch up. All "vacations" exact a price!

I ran across a bit of reading material while I was away which appears to have been written by a problem librarian. (You've heard of problem patrons? Well, they have their counterparts within the profession.) The article, "Stupid Reference Questions," is in *Library Journal*, October 15, 1985. One can hope that the article was written tongue-in-cheek, but even so, it represents an attitude I have observed many times over nearly thirty years as a student, librarian and library educator.



Patrons **do** ask stupid questions, but it should be humbling for us to remember that librarians also have been known to give stupid answers. (A stupid question is one to which the patron does not know an answer the librarian believes is obvious. A stupid answer occurs when the librarian gives an answer known by the patron to be wrong.) Nearly all of us could report at least one stupid question we have been asked. I expect few of us are aware of the stupid answers we have given. An occasional patron may be so rude as to point out our error, but most will simply walk away vowing never to trust **that** librarian again and alerting their friends to do the same. Such patrons are not unlike the librarians who laugh over coffee with their colleagues about the patron who "knows nothing!"

Do you say, "I never give stupid answers! I'm always careful to be accurate." If so, you're a small miracle since studies of accuracy consistently show us to be accurate only 50-60 percent of the time. I wonder how many reference librarians these days are appearing stupid in the eyes of bright, alert, young library school students when they respond to a request for *Books Out of Print*? How many repeat the phrase we learned in library school: "There's no such thing! You only know a book is out of print if you don't find it in *Books in Print*!" Oh, how we trip ourselves up when we don't keep up to date and act arrogantly toward our patrons! It's wise to stay a little humble.

This is the last issue of *Southeastern Librarian* I will edit. Editing has been a most interesting experience and one from which I have learned a great deal. I'll now have to find a new reason to clean out my car four times a year since I will no longer transport 2,000 issues from the printer to my office to the post office. And my graduate assistants will no longer develop muscles lugging boxes and mail bags. Furthermore, our College's student organization will have to find a new fund raising project, since they will no longer paste labels and stuff mail bags! I'm sure the post office will miss our amateurish approach to their regs, too. But the printer will no longer sigh when she sees us coming with yet another issue when we've just barely finished the last.

I will follow with great interest the growth and development of the Association and the journal over the next years and will remember my three years editing as a great adventure.

— Linda Lucas

DEADLINES FOR COPY TO EDITORS:

- V. 36, No. 1 (Spring, 1986) February 1, 1986
- V. 36, No. 2 (Summer, 1986) May 1, 1986
- V. 36, No. 3 (Fall, 1986) September 1, 1986
- V.36, No. 4 (Winter, 1986) November 1, 1986

As I write, the advertisement period for applicants to fill the soon to be vacant position of editor of the *Southeastern Librarian* draws to a close. With our next issue, we will be welcoming a new editor. I want to express our thanks to Linda Lucas, as she leaves the position. Indeed she has given commendable service in bringing us back into print after the budget-dictated hiatus of the journal nearly four years ago.

The fall meetings of the State Library Associations of the region are in progress and the focus remains on programming to assure that libraries of all types are inspired and supported in their striving to actualize their potentials in this rapidly progressing information age. As your president, I feel a deep and genuine frustration that SELA financial resources and the obligations of my job combine to prevent my attending all, or even most, of the state meetings. It is important that the membership is aware of my intense interest in the health and success of each and every State association. As with all things, the strength of the whole (in this instance, SELA) depends on the strength of its parts (the State chapters).

Once again I am preparing to represent SELA at the ALA Midwinter Meetings of the Chapter Relations Committee, the Chapter Conclave and the general meeting on ALA's Strategic Long Range Planning.

We are indeed happy to have Claudia Medori in the long vacant position of Executive Secretary. She brings experience and expertise that are proving most advantageous as we move toward our first "independent" Biennial Conference in some six years — Atlanta, in October 1986.



From The President's Desk

— Rebecca T. Bingham

A Librarian's Guide to the World of Miniature Books

By Frank J. Anderson

What Is A Miniature Book?

Defining the miniature book is a tricky task, since the books range in size from almost microscopic to those which are five inches tall. There is no international standard at this time, but there is some general agreement among contemporary miniature book publishers, collectors and dealers that for a book to be considered a miniature book it cannot exceed three inches in its largest dimension. Today a 3" x 3" book would be considered to be a large miniature, and not as desirable to collectors as one on a smaller scale. A sub-category of miniature books are those on the one-twelfth scale, which are also referred to as micro-miniature books. These are the books desired by doll house enthusiasts; where the house, furniture, and equipment are all made to the one-twelfth scale. Then there is the exception made for the books produced in the 16th century where a book as tall as five inches might be considered to be a miniature book. This relates to the fact that most 16th century books were produced in folio size, so that a book only five inches tall was diminutive by comparison.

Kalman Levitan, miniature book collector, and Chairman of the Miniature Book Society, in a search for a standard has proposed that miniature books should be divided into the following categories: 1. Macro-Mini — a book between 3" and 4" tall; 2. Mini (miniature) — a book between 1" and 3" tall; 3. Micro-Mini — a book between ½" and 1" tall; 4. Ultra-Micro-Mini — a book smaller than ¼" tall.

Using Dr. Levitan's categories the ubiquitous "Little Leather Library" books, so popular during the 1920s and 1930s, fall into the Macro-Mini class.

What To Collect

What should your library collect in the way of miniature books? Unless your library is fortunate enough to fall heir to an already existing collection it would be difficult (and expensive) to establish and build a comprehensive collection of miniature books today. Some parameters should be set, and a collection policy established. The collecting policy should relate to existing library holdings and collecting interests. You might want to collect those miniature books which were printed during a specified time span; or, those produced in a particular country, state, or region. You might want to concentrate on collecting the miniature books produced by a particular press and attempt to acquire everything by and about the press and the people involved. The St. Onge miniatures for instance. Possibilities for the focus of a collection include Shakespeare in miniature editions, Sherlock Holmes in miniature editions, ABC books, Bibles, fairy tales, Christmas books, and language dictionaries.

It would be wise to establish collecting guide lines and limits before you wind up with a hodge-podge of little books which are of importance only due to their size. Remember the publishing of miniature books has been going on since the 16th century, on an

international scale, and that the output of miniature books has increased dramatically within the past ten years.

Locating Miniature Books For Your Collection.

Acquiring miniature books can be something of a problem since by the time you learn of the existence of a book it may be out-of-print. *The National Union Catalog*, *Books in Print*, *Cumulative Book Index*, and the *Publishers Trade List Annual* are virtually useless in attempting to discover the existence of recently published miniature books. *The International Directory of Little Magazines and Small Presses* lists a few publishers of miniature books, but it is far, far away from being comprehensive. The "annual" *Private Press Books* (Private Libraries Association) is of some help, but again it is not comprehensive, and is a few years behind in its publishing schedule.

Miniature books are out of the mainstream of book publishing and they are only infrequently copyrighted, or provided with an ISBN. So the standard acquisition reference works and bibliographic tools are not very helpful. To become aware of the many miniature books which are being issued today you have to become a part of the international miniature book network.

Joining the Network

Joining the network of miniature book enthusiasts is relatively simple today since there are two recently established miniature book societies. These societies are amalgams of miniature book publishers, collectors, and book dealers. The Miniature Book Society was established over the Labor Day weekend of 1983 in Dayton, Ohio during the first Grand Conclave of miniature book people held in Tipp City, Ohio. Their 1984 Grand Conclave was held in Boston, and 1985 in Los Angeles. Contact Dr. Kalman L. Levitan for membership information.¹

The International Miniature Book Society is based in Ljubljana, Yugoslavia and was founded in 1984. The IMBS publishes a newsletter and plans to issue a membership directory. Future plans also include the establishment of an electronic mini-bibliographic data base. The inspiration behind the IMBS has been Yugoslavian publisher Dr. Martin Znidarsic, who has also organized two major exhibits of miniature books in Europe. Write to Dr. Znidarsic for information about the society and membership application forms.²

Once you get on the membership rolls of either society you will be listed in the directories and will have entered the network. Soon you will begin to receive publishers announcements, books-in-print lists, and book dealers' catalogs; and you will begin to become informed and educated about the world of miniature books.

The Periodical Literature

A journal of miniature books, currently in its ninth year of publication, is *The Microbibliophile*. The editor/publisher is librarian Robert F. Hanson, who is

also a collector and publisher of miniature books. Write to Mr. Hanson at the Opuscula Press, 9310 Forrester Drive, Bradenton, FL 34202 for subscription information and back issue availability.

The Miniature Book Society publishes *Mini Bits: Miniature Book Society Newsletter*, and the International Miniature Book Society publishes a *Newsletter of the IMBS* (YU ISSN 0352-4248.)

Retrospective journals which are no longer published include *The Newsletters of the LXIVMOS*, *Miniature Book Collector*, and *Miniature Book News*.

The Newsletters of the LXIVMOS were edited by James D. Henderson, miniature book collector and enthusiast, of Brookline, MA. Twenty-one news-letters were issued between November 1927 and November 1929. Issues ranged in size from a single sheet to 15 or more pages, and often contained illustrations. The news-letters emanated from various parts of the world with publication sponsored by bibliophiles and book dealers. The editor, James D. Henderson, who titled himself "Scrivener", lived in Brookline, MA, the ostensible headquarters of the LXIVMOS group. (LXIVMO referring, of course, to a book size; viz folio, quarto, octavo, etc.) In addition to Brookline there were editions from Perth Amboy, NJ; Mountain View, CA; Baltimore; Paris (printed and mailed by The Black Sun Press);³ Munich; Seattle; Barnard, MO; London; Vancouver, B.C.; Muncie, IN; Leipzig; Chicago, IL and Amsterdam. The disastrous stock market crash of 1929 was the first omen of the ensuing world wide depression which led to the demise of many things and included this newsletter. A facsimile reprint of the news-letters was published in 1968 at Woodstock, VT by Frank H. Teagle, Jr. (Peter Putter) of the Lilliputter Press. The reprint includes a foreword by librarian/collector/publisher Robert E. Massmann, who also compiled the index. The original publications are almost impossible to obtain, and the reprint edition is fast becoming scarce.

A caveat to researchers using these newsletters relates to the bibliographic citations, which are inconsistent and sometimes in error. These citations are not to be trusted without additional verification.

The Miniature Book Collector was a quarterly journal that was published from June 1960 (V.I, #1) through March 1962 (V.II, #4), for a total of eight issues. It was a little gem of the miniature book world, just under 4" in height and 3 3/8" wide. The publisher was world renowned miniature book publisher Achille J. St. Onge of Worcester, MA. The editor was Ruth E. Adomeit of Cleveland, one of America's pre-eminent collectors and a scholar of miniature books. The journals were set in 8 point type, and laid out in a two column format, so that much information and news could be packed into each 16 page issue. The journals were beautifully printed by Frank Teagle (a.k.a. Peter Putter) of the Lilliputter Press in Woodstock, VT. Teagle was also associated with the Elm Tree Press which established an enviable reputation for quality printing.

The geographical disparity of the journal associates caused some logistical problems. The journal came on

the scene prior to the surge of interest in collecting and studying miniature books and was unable to garner the necessary financial support for survival. *The Miniature Book Collector* was an important vehicle in sparking and fostering interest in miniature books, and today's collectors mourn the demise of the sprightly little journal. Today the journals are in the scarce-to-rare category and most sets are in the hands of private collectors.

Miniature Book News was compiled and edited by Julian Edison and published in St. Louis. It was an eight page quarterly journal in 5 1/2" x 7 1/2" format. Printed by offset lithography it contains many illustrations. The pages are crammed with information on miniature books, publishers, collectors, traders, etc. Mr. Edison is the owner of the famous Spielmann Collection of miniature books, and he often wrote about particular books and individual treasures from his collection. *Miniature Book News* was published from September 1965 (No. 1) through June 1973 (No. 32) when it was temporarily discontinued. Publication resumed again in June 1978 (No. 33) and again ceased publication in March 1983 with issue number 52. A complete file of the MBN would be a desirable asset for the scholarly study of miniature books.

The Historical Literature of Miniature Books

Most readily available is Louis W. Bondy's *Miniature Books: Their History from the Beginnings to the Present Day* (London, Sheppard Press, 1981. ISBN 0-900661-23-2) 221 pages, profusely illustrated, with many in color. This is an interesting history written by a distinguished London book dealer, who is a long-time specialist in miniature books. The back matter includes a bibliography (international in scope), a general index, and an index of publishers and printers which combines currently active presses with those of the past. A first rate survey, and a good place to start before getting involved in specialized areas of the miniature book field.

Ruth Elizabeth Adomeit's *Three Centuries of Thumb Bibles: A Checklist* (N.Y., Garland Publishing, Inc., 1980. ISBN 0-8240-9818-8) is a scholarly documentation of a particular type of miniature book. This volume is the result of thirty years of actively collecting and studying miniature books. The period covered is from 1601 to 1890, or almost 300 years. It presents books which were published in the U.S.A. and in Europe. Title pages are shown for most of the 280 entries. The 430 page volume has an index which lists printers, publishers, and places of origin.

William Loring Andrews (1837-1920) was a distinguished American businessman and bibliophile. His avocation was writing about books he owned which were outstanding for their craftsmanship and the beauty of their printing and binding. During his long lifetime he wrote and published more than thirty-five books about books. The descriptions and comments about miniature books, made by this discriminating collector, in his *Sextodecimos et Infra* (N.Y., Scribner's, 1899) are worthy of the scholar's attention. The book is available in at least ten American libraries according

to the *National Union Catalog*.

Wilbur Macey Stone (1862-1941) enjoyed collecting books and associating with other collectors. He was a member of the LXIVMOS, President of the New Jersey Collector's League, and a trustee of the Newark Museum. Money for his bibliophilic interests came from his professional work as a mechanical engineer, for which he maintained an office on Park Row in New York City. Stone developed an outstanding collection of miniature books and shared his knowledge of them through his writings, which include *The Gigantick Histories of Thomas Boreman* (Portland, Southworth Press, 1933. 41 pages, illustrated), *A Snuff-boxful of Bibles from the Author's Collection* (Newark, Carteret Book Club, 1926. 99 pages), and *The Thumb Bible of John Taylor* (Brookline, The LXIVMOS, 1928. 72 pages, illustrated.)

Don't overlook the article, "Miniature Books" by Romano Stephen Almagno, the librarian of Rome's Collegio Internazionale, which appears on pages 138-141 of Volume 18 of *The Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science* (N.Y. and Basel, Marcel Dekker, 1968-1983.)

This brief mention of a few books is merely indicative of what the researcher might find. References to the history of miniature books are rather elusive and will be found as portions of books about books, and in periodical and newspaper articles. Many of the magazine articles are of a popular nature and not entirely reliable. The researcher must proceed carefully and attend to verification of the information discovered.

Bibliographies of Miniature Books

There is no comprehensive bibliography of miniature books available and the scholar has to pore through auction catalogs, book dealers' catalogs, and the periodical literature to dredge up the information needed. Although the miniature book literature lacks bibliographic control there are several important works which are frequently cited in book dealers' catalogs and by those writing about miniature books. Gumuchian, Houghton, Luthi, Mikrobiblion, and Spielmann to be specific.

Gumuchian & Compagnie, booksellers, of Paris published *Les Livres de l'Enfance du 15th au 19th Siecle* in 1930. This was their Catalog XIII, in two volumes, with publisher's introduction in English and a preface by Paul Gavault. The edition was limited to 1,000 copies. Volume I is a listing of books, and Volume II contains illustrations. Items #4048 through #4140 of this children's book list are miniature books. The NUC lists 33 libraries as holding this title.

The Collection of Miniature Books Formed by Arthur A. Houghton, Jr. is a 1979 auction sale catalog issued from London by Christie, Manson & Woods, Ltd. This 96 page catalog has 22 plates, 3 of them in color, and lists 351 lots of scarce and rare miniature books dating from the 16th century into the 20th century. This was a very important sale which fetched high prices. It is usually cited as "Houghton".

Karl J. Luthi's *Bucher Kleinsten Formates: Vortrag Gehalten vor der Schweizer Bibliophilen-Gesellschaft*

in Bern, den 16 Nov. 1923 (Bern, Buchdruckerei Buchler & Co., 1924) contains 46 pages, plates, portraits, and facsimiles. It is the text of a lecture, presented before the Swiss Society of Bibliophiles, which describes the miniature book collection of Vera von Rosenberg. Cited by book dealers as "Luthi."

Mikrobiblion; Das Buch von den Kleinen Buchern by Kurt Freyer and Robert W. Petri was published in Berlin by Horodisch and Marx Verlag in 1929. 254 miniature items are listed in its 176 pages. Freyer contributed an introductory chapter, and Petri supplied a bibliography of the Vera von Rosenberg collection. Cited as "Mikrobiblion."

Percy Edwin Spielmann (1881-1964) was an English chemist and government official and the author, or translator, of a number of technical books. In addition he was a noted miniature book collector. Spielmann's *Catalogue of the Library of Miniature Books; Together with some Descriptive Summaries* was published in London by Edward Arnold & co. in 1961 and was issued in a limited edition of 500 numbered copies. A trade edition was published in New York by St. Martin's in 1962. The catalogue has 289 pages and four plates, and describes 541 items in the collection. After Spielmann's death the collection was auctioned off by Sotheby's in London. Julian Edison of St. Louis, MO bought the collection. Dealers often cite "Spielmann" in their catalogs.

In addition to the above there have been several bibliographies of individual presses published, of which the following are examples. *Black Cat Press Bibliography of Miniature Books and Ephemera, 1961-1977* by the proprietor Norman W. Forgue (Chicago/Skokie, 1977) two volumes, illustrated, miniature format. *Miniature Publications of Dawson's Book Shop, A Check List* edited by E.E. Mundell (Portage and Los Angeles, 1981) 36 pages, miniature format. Describes 63 miniature books published by Dawson's Book Shop or by members of the Dawson family. *Bibliography of the Hillside Press, 1971-1980* by Eleanor Irwin (Buffalo, Hillside Press, 1980). Miniature format with 52 pages. Contains a preface by Robert E. Massmann and a biography of Frank E. Irwin.

The most fruitful book dealer catalogs, bibliographically speaking, for American researchers are those issued by Dawsons from Los Angeles, and those of the Bromers of Boston.

With the formation of the two new miniature book societies, and the availability of electronic computers, it may just be possible that contemporary miniature books might be brought under bibliographic control. It would appear that there is an opportunity here for librarians to make a Sabin-like contribution to scholarship.

Collections of Miniature Books in the USA

The major collections of miniature books in this country, and indeed abroad, are in the hands of private collectors and thus not readily available to researchers. However, with the proper approach, a qualified scholar may be able to gain access to a collection. Institutional

collections include those at the Library of Congress, the New York Public Library, the Pierpont Morgan Library, Yale University, Tulane University, the Huntington Library, the King Library at the University of Kentucky, and elsewhere. This is by no means a comprehensive indication of library holdings, just a suggestion of where to begin. There is a modest collection of miniature books and reference materials in the Sandor Textler Library of Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC.

American Miniature Book Dealers

Dawson's Book Shop at 535 North Larchmont Boulevard in Los Angeles (90004) has probably been involved with miniature books the longest of any dealer in the country. They have issued more than 130 annotated, and priced, lists which have become valuable bibliographic aids to the literature. Dawsons bought at the Houghton sale.

Bromar Booksellers, 607 Boylston Street in Boston (02116) usually include a selection of miniature books in their catalogs and they have issued several lists devoted exclusively to miniature books. The books are carefully described and usually annotated. The Bromers bought at the Houghton sale.

Other dealers include Lorson's Books and Prints in Fullerton, CA, Hurley Books in Westmoreland, NH, Justin Schiller of New York, Doris Frohnsdorff of Gaithersburg, MD, Robert L. Merriam of Conway, MA, the Victoria Book Shop in New York, and Diane Peterson, The Book Lady of Atherton, CA. *The Antiquarian Bookman's Yearbook* may supply other leads.

Miniature Book Prices

Currently active miniature book publishers in the U.S.A. offer their books at prices ranging from \$5.00 to \$75.00. Book dealers also have a wide range of prices; with an average price of around \$45.00. Then there are the out-of-print miniatures, and the rarities, with prices ranging up into the four figure mark.

Maintaining Your Collection

Due to the nature of miniature books they require special processing, protection and care. They should be cataloged to afford some information for users and a modicum of bibliographic control. Subject cards can bring all of your miniature books together in the card catalog. You obviously can't use your three inch rubber stamp to put your ownership mark on these tiny tomes. It is suggested that you have a diminutive **ex libris** label made to affix in each book and thus indicate ownership. Miniature books are special collections items, and a special cabinet or box should be made to contain these treasures so that they won't get lost among the folios and quartos. The tiny books are subject to theft, hence should be used only under the supervision of the special collections staff. Many miniature books are fragile and could be permanently damaged by rough handling. Forcing such a book open could crack the spine, or permanently alter its shape, so careful handling is in order. Miniature books make interesting exhibits, but again, care must be taken in showing them. Do not

flatten a miniature book out into an open position to exhibit it. Avoid weighting the pages open. Be careful of subjecting the book to ultra violet light rays for long periods of time. Exhibit only in locked, dust-proof cases. In short follow the guide lines for exhibiting rare books when you show your miniature books.

Reprise

Miniature books are a part of the rich history of the book world in all the ramifications of scholarship, design, printing and binding craftsmanship, publishing and distributing. They are gems of the bookmaking arts and libraries are obliged to collect and preserve these books as a part of their book heritage.

Frank J. Anderson is Librarian Emeritus of Wofford College in Spartanburg. He has been printing and publishing miniature books at his Kitemaug Press since 1965, and has a personal collection of about 500 miniature books, including more than 40 of his own productions. He has contributed articles to the *Southeastern Librarian* in the past.

NOTES

¹Kalman L. Levitan, Chairman. Miniature Book Society. Summer address: 3906 Valley Brook Drive, Englewood, OH 45322; Winter address: 6586 East Pointe Pines, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410.

²Dr. Martin Znidarsic. CANKARJEVA ZALOZBA. Kopitarjeva 2. YU 61000 Ljubljana. YUGOSLAVIA.

³The Black Sun Press published at least two miniature books. *The Sun* by Harry Crosby with drawings by Caresse Crosby was published in 1929 in an edition of 100 copies. It was 1" high by 3/4" wide, and printed from 3 point type. In 1930 they did a 44 copy edition of the *Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam* which was 1 3/16" by 1 1/4" in size.

One Library's Experience in Solving A Serials Problem

By Jessie T. Nicol

This article describes the method used by the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Library to partially solve the problem of inability to purchase new periodical titles because of limited funds. While this method did not solve the problem permanently, it gave temporary relief. The academic departments at UTC, unable to subscribe to new periodical titles, welcomed the opportunity wholeheartedly.

For several reasons, the library at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga has been unable to purchase new periodical titles. Factors contributing to the "freeze" include less buying power because of inflation, an astronomical rise in costs of serials and monographs, and the inadequacy of budget increases—all ailments of most libraries. The UTC administration, in an effort to preserve book budgets, has not given approval for purchases of new periodical titles but "a university if committed to serving the needs of its community; research on both graduate and undergraduate levels must be supported by adequate resources."¹ The inability to obtain current information and new publications lessens the quality of academic programs, especially in certain areas of the sciences and technology.

As all librarians know, the cost of both monographs and serials has sky-rocketed over recent years and "rather than continuing the dramatic increases in the number of serials, libraries have stabilized their serial subscriptions to preserve the remainder of their budgets"² meaning "little growth in periodical titles."³ "The expedient of shifting dollars from the serials to the book budget to avoid making difficult decisions about discontinuing periodical subscriptions was and is temporary. Sooner or later academic libraries must make these decisions about what subscriptions to place, and what subscriptions to cancel."⁴ For the previously stated reasons, "libraries should periodically and systematically review all standing orders"⁵ and periodicals. Reviewing and evaluating current titles not only aids in possible deselection but reinforces both the librarians' and faculty's awareness of titles available. How many times has an order been placed for a much needed title that is already in the library?

Although small additional monetary amounts have been granted to the UTC library, these went to the serials budget to pay for current subscriptions and standing orders. No additional funds were added to the departmental book funds. The library has thirty-eight separate department budgets, plus other special budgets. The 3321 periodical and standing order titles are credited to the academic department, including the library, that initiates the order. Serials acquisitions is part of the Acquisitions Department; cataloging of serials is part of the Cataloging Department; and serials reference is performed by the Reference Department.

When a new periodical is ordered, the originator's department book budget is reduced by the amount of

the initial subscription cost. In succeeding years, no further amounts are removed from departmental budgets to cover price increases for that title. Additional funds allocated are placed into the serials budget to maintain increased current subscription costs. Traditionally, the distribution of new and additional funds each year has been made considering new programs and degrees, certification of departments and other factors.

In Fall 1981, the library at UTC randomly sampled periodical titles to determine the percent of price increases. Although the national increase in periodical prices for 1981/82 was over eleven percent according to *Publishers Weekly* and *Bowker's Annual*, UTC's titles increased by 18.5 percent. About this same time, the demise of UTC's current subscription agency occurred. The Big Changeover to another agency, along with the enormous price increases and the administration's "freeze," created an opportune time to evaluate periodical and standing order titles.

During the so-called freeze, faculty began inquiring about a way to solve the problem, since there were newer titles they preferred over those to which the library currently subscribed. Some titles had been selected years ago by professors no longer at the university, some had changed emphasis, and some, originally received as gifts, were continued to "continue the run" and for external regional support.

With no relief in sight for acquiring additional funds, the library provided each academic department with a list of current titles assigned to that department. Each department was requested to evaluate all titles for retention or cancellation and to submit new titles for substitution equal to the dollar amount cancelled. No criteria were established by the library for retention or cancellation. This was left solely to the discretion of each department.

The academic departments responded by one hundred percent. The number of titles cancelled averaged four per department, and an average of six was requested. The highest number of titles cancelled by a single department was twenty-one and the most acquired was seventeen. Only two schools experienced a major revision of periodical title subscriptions within their departments.

To avoid cancellation of interdisciplinary titles, i.e., titles that another department might wish to continue, in the second phase of the evaluation the library coordinated deselection of all titles proposed for cancellation with all academic departments. A department might pick up a title proposed for cancellation by another. The cost for such a title would be deducted from the amount resulting from the acquiring department's cancellations. If a department cancelled no titles and wanted the library to continue a particular title proposed for cancellation by another, the acquiring department would have to cancel titles

costing an equivalent amount. This problem was rare and was solved by assigning a title to the department requesting it or splitting the cost between two departments. In only two instances did the library absorb the cost.

Titles assigned to the library which the library faculty proposed for cancellations were treated separately. Any title could be picked up by a department for continuation without charge, because the cost of the titles had already been budgeted for years. Following this second phase, again with one hundred percent response, titles to be ordered and those to be cancelled were coordinated with the beginning of a new calendar year so that there would be no partial volumes. Split year volumes were coordinated to begin and end with a new volume.

All records in the Acquisitions Department were changed to reflect these transactions. The whole process took two and one-half years and required the cooperation of the library staff, librarians, and academic professors. Professional librarians and academic professors evaluated the titles, and editing and clerical work was performed by the library staff.

The library uses a manual system, the Kardex, for serials check-in. It was decided not to look at each title in the Kardex initially, but to use lists created several years earlier and add new titles as shown by acquisitions records. Titles that had been cancelled or which had ceased publication were removed. This was a satisfactory procedure.

Editing required the most library staff time. About half way through the process, the library's circulation function was placed online. Later, the online catalog became operational. With the library's computerization came word processing, but was too late for the editing task.

All faculty felt the total evaluation procedure was beneficial as a way to obtain new titles. This approach accomplished three positive benefits; 1) it provided for acquisition of new periodical titles, 2) it involved academic faculty and library faculty in joint decision-making, and, most importantly, 3) it made the academic faculty aware of and knowledgeable about titles available in the university library. This procedure worked well at UTC. It may be successful at other colleges and universities of a comparable size.

Jessie T. Nicol is Associate Professor and Head of Acquisitions at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Have been employed here more than seven years. Formerly director of a special library for American National Insurance Company in Texas. Graduated from the University of Texas Graduate School of Library and Information Science, 1975.

NOTES

¹Marlene Heroux and Carol Fleishauer, "Cancellation Decisions: Evaluating Standing Orders," *Library Resources & Technical Services* (Fall 1978): 370.

²Jo Ann Hanson, "Trends in Serials Management" *The Serials Librarian* (Summer 1984): 11.

³*Ibid.*, p. 11.

⁴Herbert S. White, "Publishers, Libraries, and Costs of Journal Subscriptions in Times of Funding Retrenchment," *Library Quarterly* (October 1976): 369.

⁵Marlene Heroux and Carol Fleishauer, 369.

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¹Upham, Lois N. "Serials Research from a Library Faculty Point of View: a paper presented to the RTSD Conference Within a Conference at the Annual ALA Meeting, Philadelphia, July 11, 1982," *The Serials Librarian*, Winter 1983, p. 57-62.

²Melin, Nancy Jean. "Serials Research from the Writer's and Editor's Point of View: a paper presented to the RTSD Conference Within a Conference at the Annual ALA Meeting, Philadelphia, July 11, 1982," *The Serials Librarian*, Winter 1983, p. 49-56.

From Desk To Blackboard: A Practitioner's Approach To Teaching Reference

By Threasa L. Wesley and Nancy Campbell

Making the transition from reference desk to classroom blackboard may not be a typical expectation in a reference librarian's career plans. There are unlimited challenges in the practice of reference work which when actively pursued, can fulfill the highest hopes for a lifetime's occupation. Nevertheless, the experience of dealing with these "practical" challenges can provide a teacher with unique viewpoints upon the content of the introductory reference course. The University of Kentucky's College of Library and Information Science offered two practicing reference librarians an opportunity to apply their unique perspective to teaching the core reference course to graduate students in its extension program. These librarians developed the course around two major concerns that had resulted from the combination of their own job experiences. Primarily, there was a commitment to providing a broad, critical overview of the enormous numbers of reference sources as a foundation for reference work in any type of library. Just as importantly, there was a desire to introduce vital user services typically considered the responsibility of a library's reference staff. The article that follows is a summary of the course designed by these librarians. The ideas presented are reported to initiate discussion of course content and methodology in reference studies, not to advocate universal application of this course outline.

I. TYPES NOT TITLES

The development of the course began with many discussions and research of published information concerning content of the reference core course.¹ This investigation indicated that many introductory courses are based upon the memorization of specific titles. Moreover, a great majority of these titles are those written for academic library collections. Leontine Carroll's comment that "the lists (of reference works) were too long, they implied endorsement of titles, they omitted titles of equal quality . . ." led to a consideration of alternate teaching methods. In order to introduce students to the large numbers of quality reference sources without presenting an impossible memorization task, it was decided to emphasize types or categories of reference materials rather than stress specific titles. The instructors believe the teaching of specific titles and their properties, e.g., *Encyclopaedia Britannica's* arrangement, number of entries, type of binding, has at best a temporary value. New, sometimes better, reference works are regularly published. Classics become outdated. In addition, a novice school librarian cannot expect to find in his/her media center those same titles typically memorized in an "Introduction to Reference." Laurel Grotzinger, in her overview of various methods of teaching reference, presents this approach as a rejection of "an appeal to a pre-specified known authority in favor of a degree of organization and generalization of information."³ The perspective

gained through actual reference work leads the instructors to believe that this preparation for reference work will have a broader application than if students memorize specifics of individual titles.

As a result, class sessions center upon the purposes of encyclopedias as compared to almanacs. The myriad uses of directories as a group of tools are discussed. In a typical session, the first block of class time is devoted to presenting a new category of sources. The purposes of materials in that category are discussed and guidelines for critically reviewing specific titles of that genre are given. This introduction is followed by brief examinations of example titles.

In-class Activities

To illustrate specific features or applications of these groups of reference materials, in-class activities supplement lectures. Because the class is physically located in a classroom in the library, incorporating these exercises is very convenient. More importantly, students are able to experience the real work environment. For the exercises, the class is divided into several small groups and each group is assigned a separate project. After a period of time for research, the class reconvenes to discuss their findings.

In a past session on encyclopedias the students compared treatments of four topics: "sex education," "nuclear energy," "communism," and "abortion." By checking entries for these controversial topics, they were able to make valuable judgements about bias and depth of coverage among the encyclopedias being compared. This exercise is only one of several activities that can help students gain firsthand experience in critically reviewing reference materials.

Many of the exercises teach several concepts simultaneously. For one session presenting periodical indexes, the discussion groups located a number of topics in several indexing services and evaluated their results. For example, one group assigned the topic "Reaganomics" searched in *Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature*, *New York Times Index* and *Public Affairs Information Service Bulletin*. Because the term "Reaganomics" had been so recently coined, the students were able to identify some common difficulties encountered in researching current subjects. It was necessary to look under a variety of headings such as "Supply-side Economics," "United States - Economic Condition," "Reagan - Economic Policies," etc. The class learned that a reference librarian must be well-versed in many subjects and be capable of determining appropriate headings. They also began to evaluate the best index for the scope or scholarly level of information required. In this particular case students also realized the indexing delay for very current topics. In this manner, three fundamental and complex concepts of reference work were presented effectively in one exercise.

Exercises such as these spark good discussions.

Students contribute useful comments and seem genuinely interested in participating. Most significantly, this "self-discovery" process enables students to comprehend the information more effectively than the traditional lecture method. The students' clear understanding of the reference materials discussed is evident in many of their test results. Essay answers are not simply verbatim lecture notes. The information has obviously been contemplated, digested and their own conclusions are expressed.

Collection Development Project

Through a combination of lecture and in-class activities, the students become thoroughly familiar with the various ways information is organized and learn to evaluate specific titles in each category of tools. As a culmination of this coursework, each student is required to prepare a reference collection development project for a library of his/her choice. This term project was designed to demonstrate mastery of the course content and to serve as a juxtaposition to actual reference work.

The project consists of two sections. The first part is a detailed description of a particular type of library, its users and their information needs. The focus is on the environment and the impact that setting has upon reference services, e.g., a high school library with Spanish-speaking students. The second half of the project is a listing of the "core reference collection" for that library. Students must limit their selections to no more than thirty sources and are asked to include only those titles essential for their users' needs. Titles other than those studied in class are expected to be considered. A brief justification is given for each title, taking into consideration such factors as coverage, cost and the library's relationship to other collections.

Overall, the students have done an excellent job of formulating their library settings and selecting core collections. Persuasive and thoughtful justifications for the titles chosen have been the norm. The types of libraries chosen range from school media centers to rural public libraries to a research collection associated with an archaeological excavation site in Greece. The diversity of libraries depicted and the overall quality of projects have confirmed that the course conveys a broad introduction to reference materials and have helped to justify the emphasis on categories of sources rather than upon specific titles.

II. REFERENCE SERVICES

Another major decision concerning the structure of the course dealt with the many related services often provided via a library's reference department. The introduction of such services that act as vital complements to general reference desk assistance is a natural component of a course presenting a broad definition of reference work.

Bibliographic instruction is among the first complementary topics to be presented. Despite the fact that instruction programs are becoming an integral part of reference work in all types of libraries, few library schools offer a course dealing exclusively with instruction.⁴ As an alternative approach, an

introduction to library instruction can be incorporated into the core reference course. The instructors of this course ask students to devise instructional presentations for assigned audiences during one in-class exercise period. A variety of audiences and subjects are selected to induce discussion of the goals and diversity of instruction programs in libraries. An example of such an exercise was an excellent ten-minute lecture with printed handouts on a complex, scholarly reference guide. Another discussion group working with a public library audience designed an eye-catching brochure for a general encyclopedia promoting it as "everyman's encyclopedia." Their work elicited a lively discussion of the promotional or marketing work involved in many library instruction programs, only one of the important concepts in library instruction this exercise conveys. Each student is not expected to have the ability to direct a full instructional program after this brief experience; however, students do leave this class session with ideas and questions and even some budding confidence in their instructional capabilities.

The purpose of introducing these services is not to inundate students with additional material, but to provide a sampling of significant reference activities. For example, to initiate discussion of interlibrary loan service, the class reads and discusses case studies dealing with networking concerns. One particular case poses a difficult question, and the class is unable to reach a unanimous conclusion. Nor can they remember several weeks later the technical details of the OCLC ILL subsystem class demonstration. However, the objective is establishing a foundation, a primary preparation, for providing this important library service in the future.

All of the services are integrated into the course outline, not only as a foundation for those students planning reference careers, but also to provide a general understanding of total reference operations to students concentrating in other areas of library work. As an example, despite the fact that a basic understanding of computer-assisted reference service would be of significant value to future library administrators, collection development librarians, and library publicity directors, these students are not likely to enroll in advanced reference courses. Therefore, a substantial introduction to online searching is given in this core course. Topics such as Boolean logic, the variety of databases available and some major issues to be considered in offering online reference service are discussed. The introductory reference course may indeed be the only opportunity to present these services.

III. CONCLUSION

In summary, this course is designed as a basic framework for reference work. From a practicing librarian's viewpoint, it is necessary to develop a basic reference course that offers conceptual guidelines centered on a "types not titles" philosophy for using reference materials. At the same time, the course maintains a delicate balance between this conceptual model and the practical activities associated with reference work.

Final grades and class evaluations indicate that students complete the course with an ability to utilize the broad range of reference resources available. They are learning the basic types of tools and their uses. Additionally, they have some practical experiences with the services generally associated with reference department operations. As students continue their library science program, taking more specialized bibliography courses or classes on online information retrieval, they will build on this framework, filling in details and developing better competencies for reference service. Moreover, when students make their transition from classroom to reference department, they will find this foundation invaluable in consulting unfamiliar sources in their own collections, in critically evaluating new materials, and in providing a full range of services.

Ms. Wesley and Ms. Campbell are assistant professors at Northern Kentucky University. Ms. Campbell is the Head of Reference and Ms. Wesley is the Coordinator of Instructional Services for Steely Library at the University.

NOTES

¹Samuel Rothstein, "The Making of a Reference Librarian," *Library Trends* 31 (Winter, 1983): 375-399; and Mary Jo Lynch and George W. Whitbeck, "Work Experience in a General Reference Course — More on 'Theory vs. Practice,'" *Journal of Education for Librarianship* 15 (Spring, 1975): 271-80.

²Leontine Carroll, "Down With the Lists," *RQ* 6 (Fall, 1966): 29-31.

³Laurel Grotzinger, "One Road Through the Wood," *Journal of Education for Librarianship* 9 (Summer, 1968): 24-25.

⁴Lisa Howorth and Donald Kenney, "Education for Bibliographic Instruction: a Syllabi Project," *College and Research Libraries News* 44 (November, 1983): 379-80.

In this report, thirty-three schools responded with information about courses in bibliographic instruction. The 37th edition of the *American Library Directory* lists 336 library schools and training courses.

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SELA CHRONICLE REGIONAL NEWS

ALABAMA

The Network of Alabama Academic Libraries has been appropriated \$900,000 to enable member libraries to share and expand resources.

FLORIDA

Phoebe Phillips has been appointed Associate University Librarian for Cataloging at Florida State University in Tallahassee.

GEORGIA

Christine Burroughs has retired as Assistant Director for Public Services at the University of Georgia in Athens after 25 years of service.

Thomas W. Chandler has retired as Librarian at Oglethorpe University after 24 years of service.

Valentine Dobbs has been named Director of the library at North Georgia College.

James M. Kyed is now the Assistant Director for Public Services at Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

LOUISIANA

Kathie Bordelon, Archivist and Special Collections Librarian at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, has been awarded the A. Otis Hebert Scholarship by the Society of Southwest Archivists.

Chris Thomas has retired as executive director of the Louisiana Library Association after 18 years of service.

Lou Thomas, Library Director of the Baton Rouge *State-Times* and *Morning Advocate* newspapers, received the Joseph F. Kwopil Memorial Award from the Special Libraries Association.

Danny P. Wallace, Assistant Professor at the School of Library and Information Science at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, has been awarded the Doctoral Students' Dissertation Competition Special Research Award by the Association for Library and Information Science Education.

C. Daniel Wilson, Jr. has been named Chief Librarian of the New Orleans Public Library.

NORTH CAROLINA

Carroll M. Harrell and B. Annette Privette of the Department of Library Science at East Carolina University in Greenville have been awarded grants to study leisure reading habits of grade school students by the North Carolina Association of School Librarians.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Patricia Cooper has been appointed Director of the Harvin Clarendon County Library.

James B. Johnson, Jr. has been appointed Deputy Director for Library Development at the South Carolina State Library in Columbia.

John H. Landrum has been named Deputy Director for Library Services at the South Carolina State Library in Columbia.

Margie Richardson has been named the Coordinator of Information Services at the Richland County Public Library in Columbia.

Valeria H. Staley has retired from the Whittaker Library at South Carolina State College in Orangeburg after 27 years of service.

Carmen S. Thomasson has retired from the Whittaker Library at South Carolina State College in Orangeburg after 22 years of service.

Robert V. Williams, Associate Professor at the College of Library and Information Science, University of South Carolina in Columbia has received a \$10,000 grant from the South Carolina Committee for the Humanities, the South Carolina State Library, and the South Carolina Library Association.

VIRGINIA

The Chrysler Museum in Norfolk has broken ground on a new \$10 million facility.

NECROLOGY

Hallie Beachem Brooks died on October 10, 1985. She had served Atlanta University, Atlanta, GA as a librarian and faculty member for 47 years.

Virginia McDonald Wilkins died in March 1985. She had been a librarian of the Acadia Parish Library in Louisiana for 31 years until her retirement in 1976.



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JANUARY 18 - 23: American Library Association, Midwinter Meeting, Chicago.

FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 1: Georgia Library/Media Department's Annual Mid-Winter Conference, Savannah.

FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 1: Workshop on Public Access in Library Catalogs, Tallahassee, FL. Contact: Dr. Doris Clack, School of Library and Information Studies, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 232306-2048.

MARCH 19 - 21: Louisiana Library Association Annual Conference, Shreveport.

APRIL 2 - 5: Public Library Association, second national conference, St. Louis.

APRIL 5: Colloquium; "Black Books for Every Child", Durham, NC. Contact: Duncan Smith, EC Coordinator, School of Library and Information Science, North Carolina Central University, Durham, NC 27702.

APRIL 9 - 12: Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), Fourth National Conference, Baltimore.

APRIL 9 - 11: Alabama Library Association, Annual Conference, Montgomery.

APRIL 11: Output Measures for Libraries, Knoxville, TN. Contact: Kathy Crosslin, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-4330.

APRIL 16 - 18: Tennessee Library Association, Annual Conference, Knoxville.

APRIL 29 - MAY 3: Florida Library Association, Annual Conference, Tampa.

MAY 16: U.S. Government Publications for Non-Depository Libraries, Knoxville, TN. Contact: Kathy Crosslin, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-4330.

JUNE 28 - JULY 3: American Library Association, New York.

OCTOBER 1 - 3: Kentucky Library Association, Louisville.

OCTOBER 15 - 19: Southeastern Library Association, biennial conference, Atlanta.

OCTOBER 29 - 31: Mississippi Library Association, Annual Conference, Jackson.

OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 2: South Carolina Library Association, Annual Conference, Columbia.

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APRIL 1 - 3: Louisiana Library Association, Annual Conference, Alexandria.

APRIL 1 - 4: Alabama Library Association, Annual Conference, Huntsville.

JUNE 26 - JULY 2: American Library Association, San Francisco.

OCTOBER 14 - 17: South Carolina Library Association, Annual Conference, Greenville.

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OCTOBER 29 - NOVEMBER 1: Georgia Library Association, Biennial Conference, Columbia.

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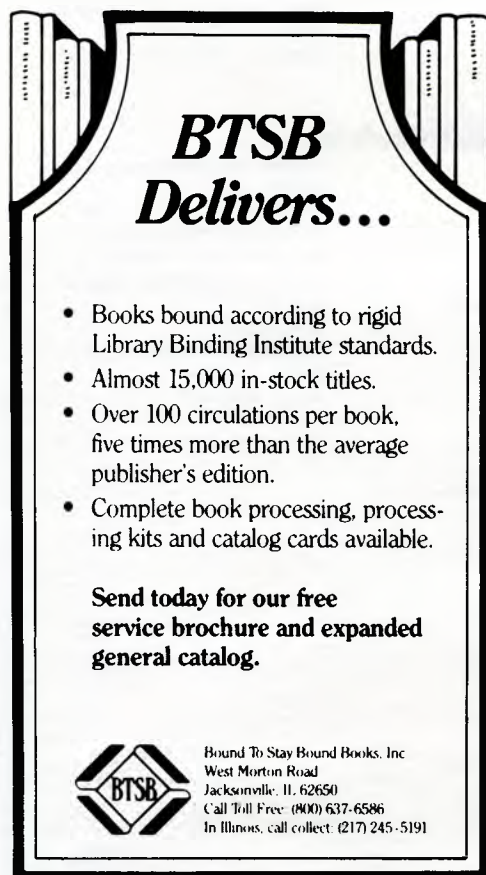
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