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A Comparative Study of the National Libraries of Scandinavia with the National Libraries of the United States

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Abstract

An interest in libraries in general, as well as the cultural heritage of the Scandinavian countries, was the basis for visits to the national libraries of Sweden and Denmark.

**A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARIES OF SCANDINAVIA
WITH THE NATIONAL LIBRARIES OF THE UNITED STATES**

Elsa A. Hebbein

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INTRODUCTION

An interest in libraries in general, as well as the cultural heritage of the Scandinavian countries, was the basis for visits to the national libraries of Sweden and Denmark.

Because of graduate studies in library science, individually conducted tours with permission to take pictures of all areas was granted in both libraries.

Miss Yette Ottervik, cataloger of the Royal Library in Stockholm, was hostess for the visit on August 12, 1970.

On August 19, 1970, Miss Ida Haugsted, reference librarian at the Royal Library in Copenhagen, was the guide.

To make a comparative study with the national libraries of the United States, correspondence with Senator Harold E. Hughes of Iowa initiated a trip to Washington, D. C. from December 25 to 31, 1970.

Arrangements made by Senator Hughes' office resulted in appointments for individual tours with the privilege of taking pictures in any area.

On December 28, Miss Leila Moran, librarian in charge of Information Services, conducted a tour of the Agricultural Library in Beltsville, Maryland.

On December 29, Miss Jean Allaway and Mr. Brian Willson from the Office of the Assistant Librarian of Congress, and Mrs. Grace E. Hall and Miss Karen Miller from the Processing Department, provided guide services for the Library of Congress.

A visit to the National Medical Library, National Institute of Health Campus, Bethesda, Maryland, on December 30, was in charge of Miss Jean Armstrong.

The information compiled from the interviews and tours, as well as the slides, has attempted to provide data about the libraries which is not readily available in reference materials.

I. SCANDINAVIA

NORWAY

Norway has no national library as such, but the library of the Royal Frederick University at Oslo, the capital, serves as one in most respects.

The University at Oslo was founded in 1811 at a time when the country was still united with Denmark, and when the city's name was Kristiana. The library started with a donation of about 29,000 duplicate volumes from the Royal library in Copenhagen. The first building to be occupied by the library was a large house which had at one time been the home of a nobleman. This converted house accommodated the collections from 1851 to 1871. It then moved to the western part of the university building where it remained until the stock exceeded 250,000 books and the congestion became impossible. In 1913, the present building was built; it was extended in 1932 and again in 1938. A third extension is now under consideration.¹

The library now has a stock of well over one and three-quarter million items, and a staff of 120, including 50 librarians.²

For administrative purposes, the library is divided into a number of departments and divisions, the most important of which is the Norwegian Department. This was founded in 1882 and contains an almost complete collection of Norwegian literature, as well as foreign books which refer to the country.

¹K. C. Harrison, Libraries in Scandinavia (London: Andre Deutsch, 1961), p. 157.

²Elmer D. Johnson, History of Libraries in the Western World (2d ed.; Metuchen, New Jersey: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1970), p. 183.

The history of legal deposit in Norway began in 1815, but was cancelled in 1839 and not revived until 1882. The gaps caused by those 44 years have now been practically filled, except for some of the newspaper files. The existing law of legal deposit dates from 1939.³

Since 1956 the Norwegian Department of the library has been responsible for compiling the Bibliography of Official Publications. This includes works published by over 170 State or semi-official bodies, as well as Parliamentary documents. In addition, a national bibliography has been prepared since 1883.

The Foreign Department is important because the library is the center for inter-library loans in Norway, and it is frequently foreign literature which is in demand by the provincial libraries. Two union catalogs of foreign material are maintained, one for books and the other for periodicals.

Unlike many national libraries in Europe, the Royal Library lends books to students and the Reference and Circulation Departments are grouped together under one librarian and staff. There is an open-access reference stock of 8,000 volumes in the reading room.⁴

Research students throughout Norway may borrow books from the library so long as the books they require are not available in their local libraries. These books may be charged in person or by mail, with the reader required to pay the return postage only in the latter case.

The special collections of the library are numerous and of great interest. Special rooms have been given to Norway's Nobel prize winner, Bjorsterne Bjornson, and Henrik Ibsen, which contain works of and about them.

³Harrison, op. cit., p. 158.

⁴Ibid., p. 159.

A collection of literature of the Second World War is interesting because it contains copies of most of the illegal newspapers, posters, and other literature produced in Norway during the German occupation. Although the library lacks many of the medieval manuscripts and early printed works present in other European national libraries, its holdings in publications since 1800 are among the best in Europe.⁵

A matter of concern for some time has been the location of the library in relation to the University. While it serves as a national library, it also must serve the students. The library is at present nearly a mile away from the University, which presents problems that are being viewed with ways to implement and strengthen services among the various institute libraries, facilities, and staff.

The university libraries at Trondheim and Bergen as well as those of the colleges of agriculture, business, dentistry, and teacher training, cooperate through acquisitions, inter-library loans, and bibliographic services, to provide the best possible service. The country's library services and problems, like the other facets of life in Norway, are influenced by topography more than by anything else.

⁵Ibid., p. 160.

SWEDEN

The Royal Library (Kungliga Biblioteket) in Stockholm is the national library of Sweden. As such it has the task of collecting, preserving, and making available for use Swedish literature as completely as possible. It is the principal library in Stockholm for humanistic studies and serves as the main library of the Stockholm University faculties of arts and social sciences and as the center of Swedish bibliographical works.

The Royal Library has grown from the private collection of books and manuscripts brought together by the Swedish Kings. The earliest catalogs still preserved are from 1564 and 1571. Partly by extensive purchases of books abroad and partly by donations of literary spoils of war, King Gustavus Adolphus (1610-1632) and Queen Christina (1632-1654) enlarged the library which could easily bear comparison with the great libraries in other countries at that time. Gustavus Adolphus collected most of the medieval manuscripts written in Old Swedish. Some of the treasures of the library were, however, taken to Rome by Queen Christina when she left Sweden on her abdication in 1654; a great many of them subsequently found their way to the Vatican Library, where they are still kept together as the "Bibliotheca Alexandrae Reginae." For these losses the Royal Library was compensated to some extent during the reign of Charles X (1654-1660) by further war booty, mainly from Poland and Denmark, and by works acquired by purchase. In 1661 it also obtained the right of receiving deposit copies of all books printed in Sweden. In 1697, however, the library was struck by a great disaster when the Royal Palace, where the collections were housed, was destroyed by fire; about three-fourths

of the manuscripts and books were destroyed, with only 6,826 books and 283 manuscripts being saved. It was a long time before the library recovered from this disaster. During this period serious inconveniences were also caused by the inadequacy of its temporary facilities. It was not until the library moved into the new Royal Palace in 1768 that it once more had a permanent home.

Toward the end of the century considerable additions were made to the collections. When the College of Antiquities was dissolved in 1780, the Royal Library took over a great many of the valuable books and manuscripts, including the collection of early Swedish, Norwegian, and Icelandic manuscripts. In 1792 the library received as a gift King Gustavus III's private collection of about 15,000 volumes, and in 1796, King Gustavus IV's personal library of 7,500 volumes was acquired. These acquisitions proved a turning point in the history of the institution.

The nineteenth century also brought a number of important donations: in 1864, the private royal libraries of Drottinghom of 3,000 volumes and of Gripshoms of 1,600 volumes, and in 1873, the library of King Charles XV, including the books collected by King Charles XIII at Rosersberg of 30,000 volumes.

The collection of Swedish books was much enlarged about 1850 by the deposit of the Rosenadler collection from the Swedish Academy of Science, and the purchase in 1878 of the Raalamb library. In addition to these acquisitions, the appropriations for the purchase of books were gradually increased.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century the number of books was just over 30,000, but at the end of the century it was estimated to have a collection of more than 300,000.

In 1877 the library moved into a building of its own, which is still in use after various reconstructions and additions carried out in the 1920's. In 1962 a deposit library was established at Baalsta outside Stockholm, where the research libraries in the Stockholm and Uppsala regions, especially the Royal Library, keep certain categories of less-used material, as well as Swedish provincial newspapers. A regular car service reduces the inconvenience caused by the fact that part of the library stock is not immediately accessible in the main building. The present holdings of the library are estimated to be approximately 1,500,000 books.

As previously mentioned, the statutory right of receiving deposit copies of Swedish publications since the seventeenth century has taxed the storage space at the library. In Sweden the obligation to deposit rests mainly on the printer, and not on the publisher, and it is not connected with any copyright procedure. No distinction is drawn between material printed for the public and material printed for private use.

The liability of legal deposit is not confined to books, journals, and newspapers, but covers practically everything that comes from the printing presses. Thus such things as maps, annual reports of boards and auditors, posters, price lists, and pornographic materials all rank as matter subject to legal deposit. The only things exempted are such printed matter as visiting cards, address cards, labels, forms, and printed wrapping materials.

A very considerable part of the output of Swedish printed matter is not on sale in the general book trade and would therefore hardly find its way to the depository libraries if these were restricted to acquiring domestic literature only by deliveries from the publishing houses.

The importance of the Royal Library as a central research institution has increased in recent years, attributed mainly to the rapid growth of Stockholm University. In 1955 a thorough reconstruction and modernization program was begun of the reading rooms and offices. The rebuilding program was completed in 1967 and also provided underground stacks constructed at right angles to the main building.

The Royal Library is an independent government institution. The director is also State Librarian and supervises certain of the University libraries. By virtue of his office, the State Librarian is chairman of the Swedish Council for Research Libraries.

The work of the Royal Library is divided among seven main departments: manuscripts, Swedish printed books, Bibliographical Institute, foreign printed books, lending and reference, rare books, and prints and maps.

The Bibliographical Institute was established in 1953. Its main function is to compile the Swedish national bibliography and catalog Swedish books for a number of research libraries. The Institute also edits the annual Union Catalog for Foreign Literature in the university and research libraries. Recently computers were introduced in this department.

The department of Swedish printed books contains the largest collection of such books in the country. It embraces works printed or published in

Sweden and works published abroad which are in Swedish or are written by Swedes or deal with Sweden, Swedes, or Swedish conditions.

The department of foreign printed books has extensive holdings in the humanities and social sciences. For earlier periods the department also contains literature on most other branches of knowledge, as originally the Royal Library was intended to be a universal library; however, works dealing with subjects for which there are special libraries in Stockholm are as a rule not acquired at the present time. The collection encompasses many rare and unique items, most of which came from libraries of royal residences. Among the recent acquisitions in this department is the private library of Dag Hammarskjöld.

The department of manuscripts includes a large collection of medieval Swedish and foreign manuscripts, many early Norwegian and Old Icelandic manuscripts. Among the most noteworthy manuscripts in this department are the Codes Aureus Holmiensis, a beautiful English vellum manuscript from the eighth century, containing the four gospels in a Latin translation, and the Gigas Librorum, or "Devil's Bible," a large Bohemian vellum manuscript dating from the beginning of the thirteenth century. The name comes from the figure of the devil which appears on one of the illuminated pages of the manuscript.

The collection of maps and prints includes, apart from cartographical literature and maps in book form, about 40,000 separate maps and 150,000 plates.

The rare book department is responsible for a number of special collections, such as incunabula, Swedish books printed before 1700, and

those with fine bindings. It also supervises the stacks and the bindery.

The classification system most widely used in Sweden is a national one which was devised through the agency of the Swedish Library Association. It is made up of 22 main classes which are marked with a single capital letter, divisions and sub-divisions being denoted by added small letters and numerals. This system has been used since the 1920's, but in 1950 an extensive revision and expansion of the system was carried out in order to bring terminology and the placing of a number of new subjects up to date. The revised version was adopted for the centralized cataloging of Swedish publications handled since 1958 by the Bibliographical Institute, and consequently it was also introduced in the great general research libraries which avail themselves of this service. There are author and systematic catalogs, as well as an alphabetical subject catalog. These were originally in manuscript loose leaf notebooks, but all entries from 1900 to the present, as well as many of the earlier titles, have now been transferred to cards.

The widespread use of centralized cataloging services has also contributed toward the present degree of uniformity in the public libraries with regard to cataloging rules. The cataloging code used in the general research libraries is primarily the same as that adopted by the public libraries, and conforms in its main principles to the Anglo-American rules.

No centralized education for research librarianship is offered to the aspiring librarian. Although the theoretical and practical qualifications required have been laid down by the authorities, each research library must itself take care of its new employees, and the education for librarianship is thus acquired under the guidance of the staff of the library. In 1965 a

Royal commission was appointed to prepare a plan for the training of all kinds of librarians.

For appointment as an assistant librarian in a large research library a candidate is at present required to possess a knowledge of German, English, French, and Latin, and must have taken an advanced degree at a university. In addition, he must have done at least three months' probationary service during which he should have demonstrated his suitability for library work.

The greatly increased activity in many fields of knowledge has made it increasingly difficult to staff the smaller libraries which are engaging in research. The employees in these are so few and it is difficult for them to find time to train new recruits. As a result of recommendations made by the Association of Swedish Special Libraries to the government, the Royal Library has since 1946 arranged short annual training courses in elementary library practice, intended primarily for assistants at research libraries, and in particular specialized libraries. With the need for centralized training increasing in industrial and business libraries, a number of short courses are being planned for further training of librarians and assistants employed by industrial enterprises and in government offices and institutions concerned with technical matters. In these courses the main emphasis will be on subjects of special interest to libraries of this kind, particularly all forms of technical documentation.

With the vast amounts of material received through the depository, storage is an acute problem. Much of the material received is of minimal value but is regarded as part of the history and culture of the country. A

very limited amount of material is available on microfilm and the library has three microfilm readers at the present time which are very seldom used. The library does not have plans in the immediate future to microfilm any of its collection.

The Royal Library (Det Kongelige Bibliotek) was founded in the 1650's by King Frederik III and was then housed in the Castle of Copenhagen, but in 1673 the library was provided a building of its own which was used until 1906 when it was rebuilt to house the National Archives. From 1697 the library received the copyright deposit from the printers of everything printed within the kingdom, and on November 15, 1793, the library which had so far been accessible to the court and a few scholars only, was opened to the public. In 1906 it was moved to its present building at Christians Brugge, erected according to a plan by the architect, Hans J. Holm.

The Royal Library is the National Library of Denmark, and the main library in Copenhagen for the humanities and the social sciences. Certain branches of the humanities, e.g., art, applied art, have their libraries at the Art Institute and Art Museum, respectively. The library, which is the largest in Scandinavia, now contains 1,600,000 volumes, as well as great collections of manuscripts, maps, prints, music, and incunabula. The Library attempts to collect and preserve Danish literature as completely as possible for the research on any kind of national subjects, with such regulations as are necessary to preserve the materials.

As the Danish Department receives most of their accession of new books from the copyright depository only twice annually, borrowers may in some cases have to wait quite a long time before the Danish books are at their disposal. For this reason, borrowers of Danish literature are frequently referred to the University Library or to the public libraries.

The Library is also the Danish book museum and consequently undertakes the purchase of items concerning the development of book-craft and book history.

The Library is divided into the following departments: The Danish Department, which contains an almost complete collection of Danish literature as well as Norwegian and Schleswig-Holstein literature. The Foreign Department contains books and periodicals in the subjects covered by the library, i.e., the humanities and social sciences, Manuscript Department, Department of Maps and Prints, Music Department, Department of Judaica, Oriental Department, Department of Foreign Periodicals, and National Bibliographic Department.

Exhibitions of various kinds are held in the first floor hall during the summer and tourist season, and as a rule these displays are of some rare items in the collections.

Inter-library lending service is provided from the University Libraries at Aarhus and Copenhagen, with service usually available the following day. For the University Institutes under the faculties of theology, law, and philosophy, the Library has established a special library service. In the catalog room of the Royal Library is an alphabetical catalog of the accessions of these Institutes.

While there are no special requirements to charge books for studying in the reading room, in most cases it is necessary to produce a guarantor's card signed by a person accepted by the library in order to charge books for use outside. The patron must be 15 years of age to use the facilities, and the guarantor must be a person listed in the local telephone directory. Previous to 1970, three guarantors, all listed in the telephone directory,

were prerequisites for a card. A number of professional associations have undertaken a collective guarantee, thus enabling members to borrow on their membership cards. For students at the University of Copenhagen, the Technical University, the Royal Danish Academy of Music, the School of Librarianship, and the Danish Social High School, arrangements have been made for them to borrow upon producing their annual students' cards.

Mailing of books can normally take place only to borrowers living outside the metropolitan area. In the metropolitan area books may be delivered by van at a fee of 5 Kroner (about 75 cents).

The collection of Danish newspapers of the Royal Library has been transferred to the University Library at Fiolstraede, with the exception of Copenhagen newspapers. In the University Library is a newspaper room where all papers are available when bound. The Copenhagen newspapers, both current and bound, are only circulated to readers doing work necessitating their use. The Royal Library also has the most important foreign newspapers available through regular charging procedures.

Ordering of books and periodicals can take place by personal call, in writing, or by telephone. Telephone orders permit the books to be available when the patron arrives at the library, eliminating a waiting time of approximately one hour during normal opening hours.

Reading room hours are from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. from September to April, with a closing time of 7 p.m. during May to August. Books may be charged to the reading room only from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Patrons may charge books in any amount and with previous arrangement those books may be left at a designated desk in the reading room for use on successive days if research warrants.

The reading room is open to the public and contains about one hundred desks with a reference library of about 12,000 volumes. In a separate section can be found the latest numbers of about 700 Danish and foreign periodicals. If a reader wishes to bring books of his own for study in the reading room, these must be checked by the staff on duty. Reading room users are required to register in the visitors' book and must get a special exit pass from the staff before leaving. The perusal of material from certain special departments normally takes place on the premises of the specific department under supervision of the specialist in charge.

The loan period is usually one month, but may be extended provided no other borrower has ordered the work. In certain cases a shorter period may be stipulated at the discretion of the librarian in charge.

The library provides patrons with photostatic and microcard service. These may be mailed to the user for payment of mailing charges.

The use of microfilm has as yet not been widely used in the library. A very limited number of films are available, and only one microfilm reader is available for patrons.

The library has closed stacks which are not usually open to the public. The keys to the collections are the two kinds of catalogs; alphabetical catalog (books entered under authors, anonymous works, with periodicals listed under titles), and the systematic catalog (books entered under subjects). The majority of the systematic catalogs are also location indices as they indicate directly the arrangement of the books in the stacks. It is written in ledgers and kept in the catalog room. The location of a book is indicated by means of a "signature" consisting of numerals and/or letters. The catalog

apparatus is rather complicated and visitors are advised to seek assistance from the librarian in charge. An important aid to the catalogs is the printed accession catalog in which the accession of foreign literature of approximately 125 Danish libraries is registered.

The Danish Department includes Danish, Norwegian, Schleswig-Holstein, and Icelandic literature. It also includes books written by foreigners about Denmark, as well as books by Danish authors in foreign languages and by foreign authors in Danish.

The first and second collections of the department consist of books edited up to and including 1959. The third collection includes books printed from 1960 to the present. The systematic catalog is based on the Danish decimal classification and is currently being revised.

The Old Collection of the Foreign Department contains publications printed up to and including 1949. The alphabetical catalog of this collection is placed in drawers and arranged in two sequences, one including publications entered under the authors' names, and one including anonymous works and periodicals. The systematic catalog of this collection dates from the beginning of the nineteenth century and consists of handwritten ledgers with tables of contents in Latin.

In the New Collection of the Foreign Department are books printed in 1950 to the present. This catalog consists of printed cards in alphabetical arrangement in one consecutive sequence. A systematic card catalog of this collection is being prepared with a card index that is divided into forty-five main groups.

The Music Department contains an alphabetical catalog of music arranged under composers or titles, with Danish and foreign in one sequence. The systematic catalog has been divided into two sequences, a Danish and a foreign, and further divided into instruments.

The Manuscript Department has three catalogs; those collections which have always belonged to the Royal Library, those collections transferred from the University Library, and letters which are arranged under the names of the sender and the addressee. Each group has its own catalog, either handwritten or printed.

The Departments of Maps, Judaica, and Oriental collections each have special catalogs placed in their respective departments. To charge material from these departments, the librarian in charge of the catalog room will contact the respective staff member for assistance.

There are three types of forms used in charging materials. Books borrowed outside the library use a yellow form; reading room use of books and music requires a white form; and manuscripts use a green one.

The library is at the present time constructing an office building which will permit the acquisitions and cataloging departments to be in closer proximity to each other. This will release much needed stack space in the main library and collections which have been temporarily housed in nearby storage facilities will be returned to the Royal Library.

II. UNITED STATES

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

The National Agricultural Library stems from the Organic Act of 1862 which established the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The first Commissioner of Agriculture, Isaac Newton, outlined one of the primary responsibilities of the Department was to establish an agricultural library and museum in which the most valuable works would be accumulated by exchange, gift, and purchase to form a rich collection of knowledge.

The Library's objective to acquire and permanently retain at least one copy of all substantive publications in the field of agriculture has resulted in a collection which currently numbers about one and a half million volumes. Most of the holdings are in technical fields such as botany, chemistry, entomology, forestry, food and nutrition, law, water resources, and economics. All publications of the Department of Agriculture and all reports of research supported by the Department funds are included in the collection. Additionally, the Library acquires works in some fifty languages and from more than 150 countries. A collection of approximately 6,000 rare volumes has been acquired over the years as a result of the Library's general acquisition program. Most of the Library's rare books are in the field of botany and include fine specimens of lithographs, as well as a collection of the original works of Linnaeus.

The National Agricultural Library System comprises a communications system involving the United States Department of Agriculture and the Land-Grant Universities. This system aids the efforts of agricultural scientists

and educators throughout the world.

The specific purposes of the National Agricultural Library System are as follows: collect worldwide literature relating to agriculture; disseminate this information to cooperating universities; expand agricultural library services through automation; and establish liaison between the National Agricultural Library and associated public service agencies.

Three basic services are available to all libraries and agricultural science workers: extensive interlibrary loan, photocopying, and specialized reference services.

Perhaps the most important recent step in development of the system is the completion of the new building at Beltsville, Maryland. The Library is located approximately 18 miles from the Capital area. This site was selected to enable the Library to remain in the Washington metropolitan area and to maintain close liaison with the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine. Completed in 1970 at a cost of seven and one-half million dollars, the Library has nine floors of stack area with a collection of 225,000 books. Sufficient shelving has been provided for future acquisitions and projected growth.

The Library feels the need for improvement in the flow of agricultural information between nations; therefore, it is engaged in an active role in the development of an international information system for the agricultural sciences.

The Telecommunications System provides a type of message exchange to terminals located at libraries or specialized information centers. At the present time, one page of an average sized book can be transmitted in approximately six minutes.

The future plans for the telecommunications system specify each land-grant college to be connected to a regional node which would also be a land-grant college, and the regional nodes to be connected to the National Agricultural Library as well as to each other.

The Current Research Information System is a computer based information storage and retrieval system housed in the lower floor of the Library. The system became operational in 1969, and provides ready access to information regarding the research activities of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the State Agricultural Experiment Stations, and other cooperating institutions. Requests for information can be retrieved at the present time in approximately fifteen minutes.

In order to provide good service, a closed stack policy has been adopted. Special passes may be issued to Department personnel and scholars who demonstrate specific need. Requests for loan service may be filled in person, by telephone, or interoffice mail. Persons in the field may receive either the original publication or a copy of the article requested, whichever is the most inexpensive or advantageous method.

The general reading room contains general and scientific reference books, while the periodicals reading room displays current issues of approximately 400 journals and newspapers. A year's accumulation of all journal titles are displayed for browsing. No provision has been made up to the present time for microfilming of periodicals.

From 1862-1965, the dictionary catalog was used, and since 1966, the the subject catalog has been used.

Since 1966 the Library of Congress classification numbers have been used, and previous to that an agricultural call number similar to the Dewey numbers was used.

The drawers on the card catalog are color coded for ease in using the two catalogs; green for the dictionary catalog, blue for the current name catalog, yellow for the subject catalog, and red for the translation file. This file contains specific articles in periodicals or chapters of books from foreign language publications which have been translated because of pertinent interest to patrons.

Films, tapes, and microfich are not at the present time among the Library's collection. Those which have been acquired by the Department are still housed in the Department of Agriculture building in Washington, D. C.

Recruitment of personnel has been greatly enhanced by the move to Beltsville. Of the 189 presently employed at the Library, one-third are professional librarians, one-third library technicians, and one-third clerical assistants.

With adequate, modern facilities, the projected plans of the Library for future services are contingent upon appropriations from Congress.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

The National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland, the world's largest research library in a single scientific and professional field, is more than just a collection of materials; it is a service-oriented institution. If the Library's services are effectively utilized, most literature requests and information needs can be satisfied.

The collection was originally established in 1836 as the Library of the Surgeon General's Office of the Army. Its basic role was to serve the needs of the military medical officers. Because of limited funds, the collection was mostly limited to material on clinical medicine and public health. With the arrival of Dr. John Shaw Billings, who was librarian from 1865 to 1895, the library was developed as a national resource. In 1922 it was named the Army Medical Library, in 1952 it was renamed Armed Forces Medical Library, and in 1956 it became part of the Public Health Service, U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

The appearance in January, 1879, of the first issue of Index Medicus, and in 1880 of Volume I of the Index-Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon General's Office, United States Army, marked the beginning of a publication program which has continued with few interruptions to the present day.

The library's collections were enlarged from the 1,800 volumes of 1865, as reported by Billings, to 50,000 volumes and 60,000 pamphlets in 1880. The program of acquisitions by purchase, by exchange, and by gift as begun by Billings has been continued to the present day and has steadily expanded both size and scope of the collection.

Following the early tradition, the Library has continued to pioneer in the rapid dissemination of information. Such library technology as photoduplication for interlibrary loans and computerized information storage and retrieval were first introduced by the National Library of Medicine. Currently, the Library is planning for the developing biomedical communication networks which may eventually employ space satellites.

The collections housed by the Library comprise nearly 1,400,000 books, journals, and other materials, including 350,000 monographs, 350,000 bound journal volumes, 315,000 theses, 172,000 pamphlets, 11,000 reels of microfilms, 67,000 portraits and illustrations, and 1,000 medical motion pictures, filmstrips, and television titles. Housed in the Library is one of the nation's largest medical history collections, with contents dating from the eleventh to the mid-nineteenth century. More than seventy languages are represented in the collection.

The History of Medicine Division acquires, catalogs, and maintains medical materials of historical importance. There are approximately 60,000 printed works in its collection, as well as manuscripts, prints, and other pictorial materials.

The Prints and Photographs Collection originated with the acquisition of a large group of portraits in 1879. The collection has since been enlarged through gifts, transfers from other government agencies, and purchase. It now comprises some 55,000 pictures of nonclinical medical interest.

The Prints and Photographs Collection encompasses all graphic media. They range in age from fifteenth century woodcuts to photographs of the latest Nobel prize winners in medicine. In size, they vary from 35mm slides to full size portraits.

There are over 30,000 individual portraits representing those who have contributed through the centuries to the health sciences and professions. There is also a great variety of group portraits showing meetings of societies, conventions, clinical groups, and informal gatherings.

All the individual portraits, and all identified medical persons in other pictures, are indexed in the portrait catalog. This catalog also includes citations to selected portraits from many books, and is constantly being enlarged by the addition of cards for portraits in journals indexed for Index Medicus. Totalling 80,000 entries, the catalog is an invaluable tool for the location of portraits in publications. To supplement this, catalogs and guides to the resources of other libraries are available for reference.

Pictures of buildings, including medical schools, societies, hospitals, and libraries also form a substantial portion of this collection. U. S. Military Hospitals including many from the Civil War and World War I are represented, as are the hospital facilities and allied services, such as transportation of wounded, nursing, and field services.

Over 6,000 of the finest prints in the collection are caricatures, many hand colored from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Photocopies and slides of pictorial material in the Library's collections will be prepared for a fee on request.

Most of the literature in the collection is available on loan through any library. Interlibrary loan requests should be submitted through a local medical library where the staff will fill out the prescribed forms.

The Library is open daily, except Sundays and national holidays. To obtain materials for use in the reading rooms, the patron is assigned a number which is used with the reader's name. A form is filled out in triplicate for each title requested. A maximum of five titles is accepted at one time with a twenty-minute delivery time.

The Library's computer-based Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System (MEDLARS) was established to achieve rapid bibliographic access to the vast store of biomedical information. It began operating in January, 1964, with the publication of the first computer-produced issue of Index Medicus, a comprehensive, subject-author index to articles from approximately 2,300 of the world's biomedical journals. The principal objective of MEDLARS is to provide references to the biomedical literature for researchers, clinicians, and other health professionals.

To provide more rapid dissemination of information, the Library has been developing a network arrangement through which MEDLARS and interlibrary loan services can be shared more efficiently by medical libraries. In the United States, the network consists of eleven MEDLARS stations and eight regional medical libraries. Although the National Library of Medicine is the heart of the network, more and more services are being provided directly by regional libraries. Users may request demand searches also through a local library. The regional library serving the Midwest Region is the John Crerar Library, Chicago, Illinois.

Foreign centers are located in Australia, England, France, Germany, Japan, Sweden, and Switzerland.

As of July, 1970, the MEDLARS magnetic tapes contained over one and one-fourth million citations to articles published since 1963. Approximately 200,000 citations are added each year, with about one-half of these articles in languages other than English. In the selection of journals for indexing, the Library is advised by a group of physicians, medical editors, and medical librarians.

There is no charge at present for the Demand Search Service at MEDLARS centers within the United States; however, users are required to complete a form appraising the bibliography received. The processing time for a demand search from the time the request is received is approximately two to three weeks.

Although the file dates back to 1963, experience has shown that most MEDLARS users are satisfied with a search of the more recent section of the file. The Library, therefore, began limiting routine searches of the file to a period of $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ years.

The success of the retrieval system is dependent upon the user. The computer acts only as a matching device. It matches the index terms that have been assigned to articles in the file of citations against the combination of index terms that have been used to translate the request. For this reason it is very important to be familiar with the controlled vocabulary used. MEDLARS search centers conduct orientation programs for groups of health science practitioners and librarians interested in becoming more familiar with MEDLARS. Slide illustrated presentations of varying lengths are also offered at various medical, dental, and library schools.

Recently, an abridged MEDLARS center was activated in Santa Monica, California. This provides access to 100 English language clinical journals.

The Library was completed in 1962, with three stock levels, two floors for public use, and one acre of shelf space. The 450 employees include leaders in all the health science professions, with the board of directors including five doctors. The budget for the fiscal year 1970 was twenty-one million dollars.

The Library envisions a continuing program in strengthening information services to support the national health effort. The plans are not only to provide current information, but to individualize that information to the user in as rapid a manner as possible. Plans for the future are to a great extent at the discretion of Congressional appropriations.

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Early in 1800 the bill that launched the Library of Congress came to the desk of President John Adams for his signature. The government was just getting ready to move to its new home in Washington, D. C., and the bill provided among other things a provision for the purchase of books deemed necessary for the use of Congress and arranging suitable housing for them with an appropriation of five thousand dollars. The books were ordered from England, and arrived in eleven hair trunks and a case for maps.

The second act of Congress in 1802 set aside a large room in the north wing of the Capitol for housing the books; restricted borrowing privileges to the President, Vice President, and the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives; and authorized the President to appoint a librarian. Year by year the book collection was extended, chiefly to meet the immediate reference needs of Congress. The Library thus served in a limited manner with obscurity for a dozen years.

Then came the War of 1812, the burning of the Capitol in 1814, and the reduction of the books of the Library to heaps of charred paper.

From his retirement in Monticello, Thomas Jefferson offered his personal collection of books--accumulated over 50 years to the extent of six thousand volumes--to become the nucleus of a new Library of Congress, the collection to be purchased at a price Congress itself should determine. After considerable debate, the offer was accepted and the sum of \$23,950 was appropriated for the purchase of the 6,487 books.

With the arrival of the ten wagonloads of books on that spring morning in 1815 to Blodget's Hotel where Congress was assembling temporarily, the

character and nature of the Library of Congress changed. The first collection, lost in the fire, had been legalistic, limited, utilitarian. Jefferson's collection embraced all knowledge.

The Library of Congress has become our national library: a repository of culture and a storehouse of knowledge, serving not only Congress but the public both directly and indirectly. Its services to the Congress of the United States, to other government agencies, and to the state, municipal, research, and other libraries of every state are national services of which citizens are often unaware, but they are reflected in the work of the agencies and organizations serving the public.

Today the Library of Congress houses its collection in a complex of buildings. Its major structure, across from the Capitol, was first opened on November 1, 1897. Just behind that is the Annex, modern and severe, completed in 1939. Plans have been formulated for a third structure--the James Madison Memorial Building--to make room for the products of today's and tomorrow's explosions of knowledge.

The Library is open to the public every day of the year except Christmas Day and the Fourth of July. Admission is free, and no introduction or credentials is required. The purpose of the Library is the widest possible use of its collections consistent with their preservation and with the primary obligations to Congressional and other governmental service.

Admission to the reading rooms is permitted to all persons over high school age who wish to read. In cases of exceptional need, high school students are permitted in the reading rooms upon presentation of a letter from their principal or when accompanied by an adult.

In direct services to individual members of the public, the Library's 17 reading rooms are open to scholars for research, and its exhibition halls are open to tourists who wish to see some of the nation's historic treasures. Musical and literary programs sponsored through gift funds, and special exhibitions of rare books, manuscripts, maps, music, photographs, and fine prints provide the general public an insight into the cultural heritage represented in the Library's collections.

In addition to acquiring and organizing for use all the reference materials needed by the Congress for its work in legislating and in representing the people of the country, the Library conducts research on legislative issues for Members and Committees of Congress. To keep Congress up-to-date with the interest of a growing country of active Americans, library materials in all fields of knowledge and many languages have been collected from around the globe for more than a century and a half. Congress has traditionally shared these resources for research with the public whom it represents and with the Judicial and Executive Branches of the Federal Government; and the cataloging and bibliographic data which the library produces in organizing and describing these resources for use has been made available to other libraries since 1901, when Congress authorized distribution service for the Library's printed catalog cards. Besides providing a variety of reference and bibliographic services to other government agencies and their libraries, the Library of Congress now serves as a cataloging and bibliographic center for libraries of all types throughout the country. Its cataloging data are available in book catalogs as well as on cards, and current data for books in English are now produced on magnetic tapes for libraries using computers.

In addition to producing cataloging information about its own broad collections, it produces national union catalogs and other guides to the library resources of the nation.

The Library's services are extended not only to libraries serving other communities but also to individuals through these specific services: photoduplicating materials in the collection at minimal fees; preparing traveling exhibits of original materials in the collections; publishing for sale exhibit catalogs describing unusual library materials, bibliographic guides and checklists in fields of knowledge ranging from law and poetry to science and technology, catalogs of copyright entries, catalog cards for specific subject areas, and lectures sponsored through gift funds; recording the Library's literary and musical programs for broadcast to the public by educational stations; and providing bibliographic and reference information in cases where individuals have exhausted the library resources of their own region.

The registration of copyrights has been for almost a hundred years a function of the Library of Congress. Over the years the collections have been enriched by acquisitions of copies of works deposited for copyright registration. Not every book, sheet of music, photograph, art print, film, or tape registered for copyright goes into the collection, but the Copyright Office does transfer the bulk of the current materials to the Processing Department for accession as the various divisions desire.

Registrations for copyrighting have been increasing annually and now run to about 300,000 items per year. The office has nineteen different application forms to serve the varying needs of people wishing the protection.

A fee of \$7.00 and two copies of the item must accompany the form. One copy is retained by the Library for at least five years, the other copy may be sent to the exchange and gift division for use in barter or exchange with other countries.

Another national service affecting individuals is the program to provide Braille and talking books to blind and physically handicapped readers in the United States. Books are selected by the Division and are then transcribed and recorded both by professional organizations and volunteer Braillists and tapists, who are trained by staff members. The material is distributed through a system of 48 regional libraries throughout the nation. The Division serves some 200,00 readers, but it has been estimated there are between one and two million eligible persons who are not using the services. A basic goal is to reach this potential readership and to provide readers with the books they want to read in media they can best utilize.

The Card Division receives more than 50,000 orders a day for printed cards from over 25,000 subscribers. With 63 million cards sold during 1969, even a stock of 125 million cards was not adequate for effective service, and the manual operation required considerable time and manpower.

A plan was developed to automate the functions of the Card Division in two phases. Phase I processes order slips from subscribers and creates a magnetic tape containing the order information from each subscriber; Phase II uses the order information and a machine store to print the cards. The order slips are compared against a tape file of cards not in stock. Sequenced order slips for cards in stock are filled by manually drawing and placing cards behind each order slip which is sorted by LC card number.

Phase II of the system will carry the automatic process a step further by printing the cards on demand. A general purpose computer and photocomposition device have been selected which will ultimately provide shipping service of cards the same day the order is received. Present indications are that within a ten-year period there will be no cards in stock, and only will be printed on demand.

An information system as complex as that of the Library may never be completely automated; however, studies have been carried out over the past several years to utilize available knowledge in implementing computer services. The conclusions of the studies indicate that automation of cataloging, searching, indexing, and document retrieval is technically and economically feasible. New techniques within the framework of a logical plan, such as those required to process bibliographic information and to support and integrated on-going functions will be implemented as deemed feasible.

The Library's comprehensive holdings, with an emphasis on Americana, contains more than 61 million items. On June 30, 1970, they totaled more than 15,258,327 books and pamphlets on every subject in a multitude of languages; more than 125,000 bound newspaper volumes and thousands of single issues of newspapers and periodicals from all over the world; 29,936,000 manuscripts relating to American history and civilization; 3,315,000 maps and views, including such rare Americana as L'Enfant's map of Washington; 3,335,000 items of music from classical to modern; 3,136,000 photographic negatives, prints, and slides; more than 285,000 phonographic discs, tapes, and wires containing all kinds of music, as well as speeches and poetry; 176,000 prints and drawings; 121,000 motion picture reels, in addition to paper prints of the

earliest motion pictures; 647,000 reels and strips of microfilm, of which more than 213,000 contain newspapers; more than 1,194,000 Braille volumes, 2,212,000 containers of talking books on records, and 65,000 books on magnetic tape; and many other items, such as broadsides, posters, photostats, and various microforms. The reference section contains approximately 26,000 books and is the only collection that is weeded.

The Librarian of Congress is appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. Librarians and many language, area, and subject specialists are among the staff of 3,848. The staff is composed of individuals holding Master's and Doctor's degrees in every field other than library science. From fifteen to twenty percent of the staff is clerical help.

Funds obligated by the Library in 1970 were \$62,284,248, of which \$47,268,880 were from Congressional appropriations; \$11,048,522 were transferred from other government agencies, and \$3,966,846 were from gifts and other sources. In two operations, the Library produces income which is returned to the U. S. Treasury; net receipts for copyright services were \$1,956,441, and net receipts from sales of printed catalog cards and technical publications were \$6,942,720.

The Library of Congress is perhaps the greatest reference library in the world. The true user of the Library comes with a question, and most often a question that cannot be answered so fully anywhere else. Those who come in person have the total resources of a vast storehouse to draw on.

And so it is that the Library of Congress, in its 165 years of existence, has become our national library, a storehouse of treasure, a

continuing service to all branches of government and to the public; a living symbol of our cultural and intellectual heritage, as well as a symbol of our search for truth and knowledge.

CONCLUSION

The United States, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden are among those nations which encourage the establishment of libraries free from government control of book stacks and free of fees.

These nations are among the few in which there is a strong belief that people should be allowed to read any books based on fact and honest opinion whether they agree with the prevailing opinions or not.

The development of all libraries in Europe has been slow in comparison with that of the United States. For many centuries a tradition existed in most of Europe that libraries were primarily for scholars. The United States, on the other hand, was founded on the belief that all men should be given an equal opportunity to utilize the resources available.

In all fairness, it should be remembered that the United States has made great progress in the development of all of its libraries since the beginning of this century. During much of this period, most of Europe has been engaged in wars which were fought on European soil. During World War II, Norway and Denmark were occupied by the Nazis. Sweden was on a war footing, although it succeeded in maintaining its neutrality. The growth and development of national libraries have reflected these events.

Their rapidly growing collections have attempted to provide the almost impossible goal of completeness, at least of the publications within their own countries. To them has been delegated the task of preserving and extending the cultural heritage of their respective countries. They have a

certain degree of permanency and economic security although their budgets are not always generous and are at the discretion of their governments. Their success and survival have influenced to a great extent the history of all libraries from those in the small towns to those on the university level.

The Scandinavian countries have national libraries which compare favorably with those of the United States. They work collectively with the university libraries and each other in an attempt to provide bibliographic controls, interlibrary lending of collections and staff, plans for the most efficient use of automation in the future, and in general, improved librarianship.

The Scandinavian Library Congress first held in Denmark in 1926, was a highly successful experiment which has continued every three or four years, with meetings rotated among the three countries. These meetings include representatives from all types of libraries to express ideas, and discuss present and future plans and problems.

The success of this group led to the Anglo-Scandinavian Conferences which began in 1953 and have been since arranged at intervals. Through this group, study tours have been arranged for visiting librarians from all over the world.

Staff exchanges also take place regularly between the Scandinavian countries. Only language and work permit difficulties have prevented worldwide exchanges. Their textbooks on librarianship are also a cooperative venture, with contributions by experts from all three countries.

Their collections have been preserved poorly or well depending on the time and the place. The problems are the same as found elsewhere; space,

organization, staff, and funds to cope with the deluge of material available today. The protection of rare materials in the collections is not as well administered in Scandinavia. The temperature and humidity variances in those countries are minimal and possibly less damage occurs; however, little has been done in this area.

Closed stacks are more frequent than open ones in all countries, although general reading collections on open shelves are becoming more common. Scandinavian arrangement within the stacks is usually by accession number or size, a system which aids in keeping stacks closed, but is useful in crowded conditions and in storage of collections.

A major problem in Scandinavian libraries is the low salaries available for professional librarians and the consequent scarcity of competent personnel. By American standards, most libraries are understaffed.

To locate a book in any of the Scandinavian libraries calls for assistance from a staff member. The specialized collections are often poorly cataloged and virtually unknown and unavailable to a prospective researcher. In classification, a variety of individual systems is used, but in recent years an attempt has been made to use the Universal Decimal Classification.

Catalogs are usually divided with an alphabetical author catalog supplemented by a subject catalog. Alphabetical subject indexes to the classed catalog are sometimes found, but completely alphabetical subject catalogs, or combined author-subject-title catalogs seldom.

The use of microfilming and automation is not as well developed in the Scandinavian countries; however, the future looks better as new additions

and buildings are being planned, library training institutions are providing more and better-trained personnel, and budgets are being increased.

Aside from the physical problems in the future, the library has a tremendous task to perform in human relations, whether on the local, national, or international level. Mutual understanding of different peoples and their cultures, conflicts at home, and tolerance of people and their problems is one way to promote peace. To this end, books and libraries can play an important role to fight ignorance and intolerance instead of each other.

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SLIDE SERIES

SWEDEN

Slide Number

- 1 The Swedish Royal Library of Stockholm first occupied this building in 1877.
- 2 The lobby area where patrons are required to register and check all parcels before being permitted access to the reading rooms.
- 3 The main reading room.
- 4 One of the small study rooms for students and University personnel.
- 5 Books are collected by a clerk, deposited in the basket of this scooter type tricycle, and when all requests are filled they are returned to the charging desk.
- 6 The reading room for current periodicals. The majority are Swedish, with a few foreign language publications.
- 7 The bound periodicals stack area with code numbers indicating title and date.
- 8 The Electrolux movable bins for microfilm storage.

DENMARK

- 9 The Danish Royal Library founded in Copenhagen in the 1650's.
- 10 Cataloging section.
- 11 One of the reading rooms.
- 12 The main reading room showing the four balcony stack areas.
- 13 Stack area.
- 14 Stack area. Red holders contain the charging slip indicating the name and address of the charger, plus the due date.
- 15 The almost inaccessible attic area where theses from the Danish Universities are stored.

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AGRICULTURE

Slide Number

- 16 The National Library of Agriculture, completed in 1970 at a cost of seven and a half million dollars, is located in Beltsville, Maryland, eighteen miles from the Capital area.
- 17 The lobby on the main floor showing the charging desk.
- 18 The first floor reading room. When requesting material, the patron is assigned a number. When the material is available at the charging desk, the lighted number on the panel indicates the material is available.
- 19 The periodicals reading room displays current issues of approximately 400 journals and newspapers relating to the area of agriculture. A year's accumulation of all journal titles are available for browsing.
- 20 Lounge areas are adjacent to the general reference section and reading rooms.
- 21 Reference services include telephones at the card catalogs to provide immediate answers to the library's holdings.
- 22 The telecommunications system includes specialized information service whereby one page of an average sized book can be transmitted by telephone in approximately six minutes.
- 23 There are nine floors of stack area with a collection of about one and a half million items, including 225,000 books, plus all the Department of Agriculture publications and reports.
- 24 To maintain the integrity of the collection and provide consistent good service, a closed stack policy has been adopted. The pneumatic tube and conveyor belt provide service in approximately 15 minutes.
- 25 Sufficient area has been provided for expansion of stack and service areas. The interlibrary loan area is being expanded on this floor.

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

Slide Number

- 26 The National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Maryland. Built in 1962, it contains two floors for public use, and three stack levels containing one acre of shelf space.
- 27 Card catalog adjacent to the lobby area. Office space is provided in the balcony area above. Bronze bust is of Dr. John Shaw Billings who became director in 1863.
- 28 Reading room in the History of Medicine Division. Housed here is one of the nation's largest medical history collections with contents dating from the 11th to the mid-19th century.
- 29 The reading room.
- 30 The videotape viewing area adjacent to the reading room.
- 31 A mobile camera of the photoduplication service. Materials are duplicated without being removed from the stack area.
- 32 Computer room of MEDLARS. It became operational in January, 1964, with publication of the first issue of Index Medicus, a comprehensive, subject-author index to titles from approximately 2,300 of the world's biomedical journals.
- 33 Information transmitted to tapes for use in MEDLARS.
- 34 Computer console of MEDLARS.
- 35 Procedure for preparation and retrieval of MEDLARS.

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Slide Number

- 36 The Library of Congress, created by an act of Congress in 1800, is a complex of buildings across from the capitol, and was first opened on November 1, 1897.
- 37 The Main Building is an impressive structure in ornate Italian Renaissance style. Mosaic work is predominate throughout.
- 38 The lobby of the Main Building contains permanent exhibits from the rare book collections.
- 39 The Main Reading Room, one of 17 open to scholars for research, was first opened November 1, 1897.
- 40 Of the 61 million items in the collection, over 16 million are books which are housed on 325 miles of shelving. The closed stack areas are taxed beyond capacity.
- 41 The descriptive cataloging division. Approximately 200,000 items in 125 different languages, represented by 20 distinct alphabets are classified each year.
- 42 A file of all books currently being processed in the library. Indicates location of book at present time.
- 43 The prints and photographs department includes over four million prints, negatives, slides, discs, tapes, and motion picture reels. The library furnishes photocopies of any of the collection for a minimum fee.
- 44 The serials department, in addition to receiving all serial publications, serves as the center for information on retention, treatment, assigning, routing, and processing all serials in 43 different languages.
- 45 Over six million library-related materials are acquired per year by purchase from over 2,500 dealers all over the world and by exchange agreement with over 22,000 institutions throughout the world.