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SOME COMMENTS ON THE MACDONALD REPORT [1] AND THE PRESENT AND FUTURE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF CANADA.

Guy Sylvestre

EDITOR'S NOTE:

What follows is a talk given by the National Librarian to the Library Association of Ottawa in May, 1969. We are printing it in the Bulletin of the Atlantic Provinces Library Assocation because we feel Mr. Sylvestre's observations have a significance for libraries across Canada. They focus attention upon a report which should have far-reaching repercussions for all Canadian university and research libraries. Moreover, they underscore the changing mood within the National Library.

The National Library is clearly undergoing profound changes in attitude and administration which will have an equally profound effect on Canadian libraries. We have long needed effective leadership in the Canadian library profession. The skill and firmness the National Library has shown, to date, in seeking to assume this leadership augers well for us all.

I am grateful to you for granting me this opportunity to tell you something, not so much about the services the National Library now provides for the public and with which you are familiar; but rather about some problems we still have to solve – some by ourselves, some other in active collaboration with our colleagues – as well as about some of our plans and projects for the foreseeable future.

When I accepted your kind invitation, my intention was to discuss with you, among other subjects, clause 7 (2) of Bill C-171, which is, as you know, the new National Library Act; which clause I understand, causes some concern in some government libraries. I now find that it is not possible for me to do so, for the simple reason that this Bill is still before Parliament. It was passed by the House of Commons on March 31st last, but the Senate has not disposed of it yet. Since I will be called to appear before a Senate commttee wthin the next few days, it would be improper for me to comment in public upon the implications of a bill still under active consideration on the Hill.

What I finally decided to do this evening is to comment on those sections in the Macdonald Report which deal with the National Library. This report is already receiving much attention, as it should, and it will take its place, and an obviously important one, among those works of reference to which those who have the responsibility of planning library developments in Canada will turn in the next few years. We will henceforth refer to Macdonald, as we do to Willams, Simon, Bonn, Downs, etc. The Macdonald Report does not examine, however, the functions of libraries as such, but only inasmuch as they are supporting research, which was the main object of this study, and only as far as the federal government is concerned. Most of the Report deals wth such institutions as the National Research Council, the Canada Council and the Medical Research Council, but it examines also the role of the National Science Library and of the National Library of Canada and makes specific recommenda-

tions in respect of both. I wish to make it clear, once and for all, that my comments here will be limited strictly to those sections of the Macdonald Report which deal specifically with the present and future role of the National Library of Canada. It would be quite improper for me indeed to comment on behalf of any other government agency discussed in this Report; and I am not competent to speak on the matter.

There is, however, a major reason for my commenting without further delay on some aspects of this Report: When one considers the attention that will be paid to this study (which was sponsored by the Science Council of Canada and the Canada Council, which was conducted by a team of scholars of high reputation, and which drew upon the services of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, the Canadian Association of University Teachers, the Social Sciences Research Council of Canada and the Humanities Research Council of Canada) I cannot let go unchallenged some remarks about the National Union Catalogue, remarks whch I agree, are not unfounded but are so grossly exaggerated that they amount to being a completely unfair and unjustifed denigration of that important national service which has contributed so much to research in Canada in recent years.

I cannot either abstain from pointing out that, in their examination of the problems raised in their Report, the members of the Study Group have overlooked important aspects of these problems; and that these could have been brought to their attention, had they taken the time and the trouble to inquire. For the benefit of those who may read and study the Macdonald Report, I wish to make it known that only one member of the Study Group called on me, and only once, on July 3rd, 1968 (he was accompanied by a consultant); that he was then told, at the end of a long conversation, that I would be most happy to give him, or any of his colleagues, any information they may require in the conduct of their study; that I never heard again from him, nor from any other member of the Study Group; with the single exception of a request for the number of entries, the number of cards and the number of holdings under John Milton, which we understood was to be a sample with which the total product would be appraised.

Now, I know nothing about the way the study was conducted in other areas, and I have no informaton concerning whatever informants, if any, the members of the Study Group may have had outside the National Library. It is obvious, however, that they made wide use of previous studies in print. It is equally obvious that they made no serious effort to ascertain what is the present state of the National Library or its present policies in respect of those problems which are specifically discussed in their Report. Much more relevant information could have been theirs for the asking.

Now, I am all the more unhappy to have to take strong exception to some statements in the Report as I fully agree with most of its recommendations, which are already the stated policy of the National Library; and as I readily admit that those which are not yet a part of our present policy are worth thinking over. There is no serious disagreement between our views on the role of the National Library and those expressed in the Macdonald Report. It is unfortunate, however, that in order to arrive at their conclusions, the members of the Study Group have put statistics to a very bad use, and have failed to examine and check all the relevant facts, which led them to indulge in disparaging remarks which, in my opinion, are not fully justified. We, in the National Library, are the first to recognize the shortcomings of some of our present services, and we are making every effort to improve them. I fail to see what benefit one may expect from depicting them as much worse than they actually are.

Now, I realize full well, Madam Chairman, that this is not much of an after-dinner speech, and I am afraid that it may

be somewhat lengthy for the occasion. I hope that you will forgive me the liberty I am taking of forcing such grave remarks upon you at the end of a long day; my only excuse is the importance of the Macdonald Report and the necessity in which I find myself of avoiding the kind of over-simplification one regrets to find here and there in a study of such consequence.

I welcome the fact that the Macdonald Report stresses that "all significant research is in some measure dependent upon library resources". and adds that "for the humanist and social scientist, his dependence upon library resources is virtually continuous". The Report then refers to previous surveys and notes that "all of them emphasize the inadequacy of Canadian library resources and services". The Williams Report, however, marked a turning point in the development of university libraries and, as we all know, their book collections doubled in five years. The Downs Report considered research collections to be still inadequate in virtually all fields, however, and, last year, in its brief to the Senate Committe on Science Policy, the Canada Council remarked that "the present state of our university library collections . . . is the fundamental and most dramatic shortcoming of Canadian research institutions".

I also welcome the fact that the Macdonald Report recalls that all previous surveys "see the situation as having a national, as well as provincial and local aspects, and they all . . . identify a Federal Government responsibility"; that they all stress the need for the National Library to give leadership in library matters. The earlier reports recommended, and the more recent ones welcomed the establishment of the National Union Catalogue which, with the national bibliography, is the most important service provided by the National Library. Williams was, of course, over-optimistic when he said, in 1962, that the National Union Catalogue was "now nearly complete". The MacDonald Report is, in my opinion, equally wrong in its pessimistic appraisal of what is dispargingly referred to as a "so-called union catalogue" which, it is suggested, could more accurately be called a "National Selective Locations Searching Service". I said before, and I repeat that we are aware of the shortcomings of that catalogue and that we are taking steps in order to consolidate and fully edit more entries with a view to eventually automating its operations. This need was recognized by Treasury Board which approved my request for more staff for the National Union Catalogue, agreed to a local thaw there, and authorized to increase its staff from 29 to 37, effective April 1st, 1969. In view of the magnitude of the problems involved, a separate feasibility study of the automation potential in the National Union Catalogue is conducted along with the general automation study now underway in the National Library. There is no doubt in our minds that this catalogue should be machine-readable and we are not surprised to hear the Macdonald Report so recommend, for this is now a self-evident truth.

What is rather annoying here, however, is the fact that the Study Group arrived at such a conclusion by making what I consider to be a bad use of the wrong statistics. They write that the "limited coverage of the National Union Catalogue continues to shrink", and they base themselves on a comparison between the growth of the National Union Catalogue and that of the holdings of Canadian libraries as reported in the *D.B.S. Survey of Libraries.* This survey, as you know, covers public libraries, libraries in universities, colleges and other post-secondary educational institutions and in centralized schools, as well as government and special libraries; all told, some 4,300 libraries with collective holdings of some 46,000,000 volumes in 1965. Based on such comparisons, it is obvious that the decline in coverage of the National Union Catalogue is now more rapid than before and that, as time goes, it will include an increasingly smaller percentage of the total holdings of Canadian libraries. *BUT THAT IS NOT THE PROBLEM.* Any national union catalogue anywhere in the world covers a gradually decreasing portion of the total library holdings of the country.

And this is as it should be. The larger the number of libraries, the larger the duplication of volumes which need not be reported to a national union catalogue. The cost of having all libraries report to any national union catalogue would be staggering: such an operation would be unmanageable, and indeed useless. Now, the comparison as made in the Macdonald Report is even more misleading inasmuch as the number of volumes reported by D.B.S. includes serials, periodicals and government documents which, in a great many libraries, are not catalogued and not reported to the National Union Catalogue, which make the comparison even less meaningful than could appear at first sight to the layman. Holdings of periodicals in the humanities and the social sciences currently received by 179 libraries are reported in the two-volume *Union List of Periodicals* with which librarians are familiar but which is not mentioned in the Macdonald Report althought it represents millions of volumes included in the D.B.S. Survey.

Furthermore, the Macdonald Report says: "Some libraries carry out their commitments faithfully, while others – including some of the most important – report pitifully when they report at all." Well, Madam Chairman, this is simply not true. We do check their reporting periodically, and all important libraries but one do report their accessions to the National Union Catalogue. Those who do not are small special libraries, the holdings of which represent a very small percentage of the total files.

I submit that the best way to evaluate the usefulness of the National Union Catalogue is not to relate its coverage to the total library holdings of the country, but to assess its efficiency in locating titles and in communicating these locations to inquirers. In other words, the service provided by the National Union Catalogue should be judged by the quality of its performance; but there is not a word in the Macdonald Report about the nature and the extent of the service now provided by the National Library through its union catalogue for researchers from coast to coast. And I am satisfied that, in spite of its deficiencies, the National Union Catalogue does render invaluable services to research workers. Its coverage is much greater than the Macdonald Report has it, and it includes all universities libraries, all legislative libraries, all federal departmental libraries in Ottawa and most of their branches elsewhere (some 65 in all); twenty-five large public libraries, and some sixty special libraries. The number of reporting libraries increased from 203 to 306 in the past six years, and their daily input is now approximately 4,500 cards. In the last fiscal year, 1,072,172 cards were added to the National Union Catalogue, which brought the total, as of March 31st last, to some 10,000,000 cards representing more than 14,000,000 volumes. In other words, the National Union Catalogue almost doubled since 1963, and it is expected that it will double again within the next five years. Now, it would obviously be desirable to include more libraries in the Catalogue, and we do add some every year; but this must be done gradually in order to prevent it from growing out of control.

Well, what happened to service during these last six years? Did it deteriorate, as one would gather from the Macdonald Report? Statistics prove that, on the contrary, the percentage of titles located remains practically the same, whilst the number of location requests has increased from 23,149 in 1963-64 to 81,373 in 1968-69, that is from 100 a day to 373 a day (2); and the service is indeed increasingly expeditious thanks to the extension of the Telex network from 2 libraries in 1964 to 60 now. Last year, 48 per cent of all requests were received and answered by Telex, and except for a small percentage of especially difficult questions, all were answered within 24 hours. It is not unusual for us to receive such messages as this one which came from McGill last Friday: "Your searching service is positively staggering. I am constantly overwhelmed by your speed and efficiency. Many thanks for such prompt replies." As

you all know, when a title is not located in the National Union Catalogue here, we contact the National Union Catalogue in Washington via TWX and it is interestng to note that of the 1,365 location requests sent to Washington last year, 80 percent were located in American libraries, which is the same percentage as that of successful searches in Canada. Incidentally, the National Union Catalogue at the Library of Congress covers 950 libraries as compared to 306 in Ottawa; and since a great many of these 950 are Canadian libraries, the coverage of the National Union Catalogue in Ottawa is, relatively speaking, much greater than that in Washington. As a matter of fact, we do locate a great many titles in Canadian libraries at the request of American libraries when no location was found in the National Union Catalogue in Washington.

I hope that I have said enough to demonstrate that our National Union Catalogue, which is still incomplete and imperfect, does provide a useful and efficient service and facilitates and expedites research in all parts of Canada. A great deal of work remains to be done before we can proceed with plans to have it automated or printed, and we cannot be but happy to see that the Macdonald Report recommends such programmes; we would have been happier if it had recognized its present merits along with some of its weaknesses.

There are other recommendations in the Macdonald Report which would call for detailed comments, but it is not possible to do so here: I have already been long enough. However, let me add this much about two or three other important questions raised in the Report.

Firstly, we all hope that the introduction of machine-readable catalogues will bring more uniformity in cataloguing practices, but if one judges by past experience, uniformity of cataloguing rules is not for tomorrow. Many think that is is utopian to even attempt to do something about it. Be that as it may, we must aim at the largest measure of uniformity possible, and compatibility of systems is one of the problems we have under active study, and at two levels: (a) by the study team, now consisting of three librarians and two systems analysts, which is currently reviewing our policies, procedures and practices with a view to designing in the National Library an integrated information system; and (b) by the recently-established AUCC Committee on the coordination of library systems and collections, on which both the National Science Library and the National Library are represented. It would be unwise, I am afraid, to predicate the automation of the National Union Catalogue upon the highly hypothetical development and application of uniform rules in most libraries, and we will move ahead, regardless of the degree of uniformity achieved. It would appear also that the Macdonald Report failed to see the international dimensions of the problem; any effort we may make towards achieving in Canada a larger measure of uniformity in cataloguing would be affected, and in no small measure, by the degree of compatibility that will be achieved eventually among national bibliographies and other foreign catalogues stored in digital form in a central data bank. I am aware of the magnitude and complexity of the problems involved. I recognize that the recommendations of the authors of the Macdonald Report are sound; I must admit, however, that I am less optimistic than they appear to be about the feasibility of the ideal plan they propose.

Secondly, and finally, I wish to say a word about their recommendations concerning our acquisitions policy. I am pleased to be able to say that, except for one reservation which I will make in a moment, I am in full agreement with their suggestions. They say that the National Library should formulate its collecting responsibilities "in the context of the nationwide system of research libraries recommended above and after consultation with the other participants". Well, this is precisely what we have undertaken to do. The Office of Library Resources is conducting a survey of research collections so that we may all know where we could start from should we decide jointly to develop a

national cooperative plan for the coordination of collecting activities. The feasibility of such a plan is one of the major tasks of the AUCC Committe to which I referred earlier. A requisite of any such plan, if it is to be succesful at all, is a parallel rationalization of higher studies and research in Canada, and I suspect that it will be much more difficult to reach any kind of an agreement in respect of the latter than for the former. An explicit and complete acquisitions policy for the National Library presupposes that other libraries would agree as to what it is that they wish us to do for them. This, we are trying to find out. In the meantime, we are making every effort to improve our collection of Canadiana, as well as of such obvious classes as bibliographies and other works of reference and, more selectively, large sets not held in Canada.

The one recommendation concerning acquisitions in the Macdonald Report which, in my opinion, should not be accepted without qualification is the following: "The National Library not develop a research capacity for local convenience which is not required for the national system." This appears to be a perfectly valid principle at first sight, but for the fact that the National Library Act provides that "the National Librarian shall generally manage and direct the Library in such a manner that the facilities of the Library may be made available to the Government and people of Canada". This is a provision which cannot be ignored and if the acquisitions policy of the National Library should supplement the acquisition programs of research libraries across Canada, it should equally supplement those of the other government libraries in Ottawa so as to make available to government executives and researchers publications not held by departmental libraries, especially in such fields as economics, law, political science, communications, etc. The need for a better coordination of libraries – both as regards collections and services – is no less real at the government level than it is on a national basis; and I am just as anxious to find out how best we could assist other government libraries as I am to be told more clearly and in more concrete terms, by our colleagues of other libraries, what they expect of us.

These are all multi-level problems to which multi-level solutions should be found. We must pool our resources, better coordinate our programmes and work more cooperatively than ever before to provide better services to our fellow-Canadians. I am confident than we shall not fail.

A last word, Madam, about the efficiency and usefulness of the National Library of Canada. Some time ago, we received a frantic telephone call from Malton Airport. A flight from Thailand had deposited a Thai elephant on Malton, and its final destination was the Lakeland Regional Park. "Where in hell is the Park?", our employee was asked. "We have to get the thing out of here!" Obviously, we told our inquirer, and he was happy. Well, I too had an elephant deposited with me last year, and I have no intention to send it to Lakeland Regional Park. It may not be a very big elephant, but it will grow bigger. We will need a larger crew to look after him. Those who will join us will, I hope, enjoy the ride as we do.

FOOTNOTES

(1) *The Role of the Federal Government in Support of Research in Canadian Universities*, Special Study No. 7 prepared for The Science Council of Canada and The Canadian Council, Ottawa, The Queen's Printer, 1969; 361 p.

(2)	Location requests	Titles located – %		Locations per day	Telex network
1963-64	23,149	18,001	(78%)	100	
1964-65	29,793	23,703	(77%)	125	2
1965-66	39,062	31,246	(80%)	160	18
1966-67	49,056	39,383	(80%)	205	40
1967-68	57,633	45,796	(79%)	240	50
1968-69	81,373	64,187	(80%)	373	60

PROGRESSION OU REGRESSION

Claude Potvin

Professeur au State University College, Geneseo, New York, Ralph Black a humoristiquement émis l'opinion suivante discutable quant au personnage choisi mais indiscutable quant à l'idée de renouvellement exprimée:

"J'ai toujours pensé que Fanny Hill ferait le bibliothécaire idéal. Elle connaissait certainement ses aptitudes, elle avait à coeur l'intérêt de ses clients et était réellement anxieuse d'essayer de nouvelles méthodes."[1]

Essayer de nouvelles méthodes, user de nouveaux moyens d'action, se renouveler, en un mot évoluer; voilà ce qu'on retient, voilà ce qui fait réfléchir.

Les bibliothèques publiques dont la population n'est sûrement pas encore sursaturée évoluent-elles, progressent-elles? Réussissent-elles à apporter réellement la culture à la masse? Remplissent-elles leur rôle qui ne s'assimile pas uniquement à la diffusion de la culture livresque? Le rôle d'une bibliothèque est certes plus noble: c'est de diffuser et de transmettre la culture sous toutes ses formes, c'est de développer le sens artistique, littéraire et même scientifique (culturel) et de favoriser la création ou la production artistique, littéraire et même scientifique (culturelle) des membres de la communauté.

Y contribuent-elles? J'ai plutôt l'impression que non, parce que des fantômes médiévaux hantent toujours les mezzanines des bilbiothèques et que trop de bibliothécaires ne sont que des réincarnations d'esprit médiéval. La métempsychose fait des siennes!

Apportons-nous la culture sur un plateau d'or à la population? Ne lui apportons-nous au contraire que des figues de qualité douteuse dans un sac de jute? Sommes-nous au diapason des techniques modernes de diffusion de la culture? Sommes-nous rendus à l'âge de la cybernétique, à l'âge de la nouvelle technologie?

Un bon nombre de bibliothèques publiques, pour ne pas dire toutes, me semblent dans une période de stagnation grave, donc dans une période de recul. Il y a sûrement des exceptions et c'est heureux! Elles confirment cependant l'état présent. Ce que l'on offre actuellement est trop peu et ce que l'on offrira demain sera peut-être trop tard. Il est temps d'accélérer, de trouver les budgets appropriés et surtout d'user des techniques modernes de diffusion de la culture qui sont à la portée de notre main et dont on parle si peu dans nos fameuses écoles de bibliothécaires.

Stagnation, ai-je écrit plus haut. Stagnation, parce que le livre est devenu un dieu indélogeable, parce qu'on ne jure que par et pour l'imprimé, que par et pour le livre; stagnation parce qu'on sacralise la culture livresque.

McLuhan, le sociologue canadien si universellement contesté de nos jours, prévoit la disparition irrémédiable de l'imprimé sous la forme connue actuellement dans un avenir rapproché.

"Les journaux et les livres faits en série sont choses du passé. Bientôt, comme avant Gutenberg, ils seront faits sur commande, et traiteront uniquement des choses qui nous intéressent."[2]

McLuhan irait plus loin et affirmerait que le livre va disparaître.[3]

Point n'est besoin d'adhérer à cette pensée, à cette vision du futur; il demeure néamoins que cet énoncé émeut; il est quasi-assuré que l'imprimé ne disparaîtra pas avec l'usage plus grand des ordinateurs tout comme le septième art n'est pas disparu avec la venue de la télévision. Pourtant, les glas du cinéma commercial avaient été sonnés, les funérailles avaient été annoncées! Les glas avaient été sonnés prématurément!

Le cinéma n'était même pas à l'agonie! Il n'est sorti que plus fort de la venue de la télévision. La télévision n'était donc pas cancérigène. On prévoyait même un usage plus réduit du livre; et pourtant, l'on sait que le livre se rencontre dans plus en plus de mains. L'électronique ne sera sûrement pas non plus le cancer de l'imprimé. Elle continuera à permettre un usage plus rapide, plus précis et plus moderne de l'imprimé.

Le livre pourra tout au plus changer quant à la présentation. Un peu comme les bandes magnétophoniques remplacent de plus en plus les microsillons traditionnels. La musique existe pourtant toujours.

Le livre tel que connu actuellement ne changera cependant pas avant plusieurs années, car il y a toute une économie qui se greffe autour du livre produit en série, économie qu'on ne chambarde pas du jour au lendemain. Mais advenant ou non la disparition du livre, de l'imprimé, que se dessine-t-il à l'horizon pour les bibliothèques publiques si nous n'usons que des livres comme moyen de diffusion de culture?

Serons-nous forcés de fermer les portes et de laisser les crapauds et vers de toutes sortes se reproduire en toute tranquilité et quiétude dans un labyrinthe de toiles d'araignée?

Sûrement pas, si nous pensons dès maintenant à dépasser les cadres du livre comme moyen de diffusion de la culture, si nous rendons les bibliothèques aussi attirantes et célèbres pour tous et chacun que les maisons closes d'Hambourg pour les érotomanes, si nous nous délions des concepts conservateurs, poussiéreux, mortuaires ou boueux reliés au rôle, de la bibliothèque, si nous bouleversons nos attitudes, si nous décidons de ne plus porter la même vieille cravate, la même vieille valise, la même vieille cornette, si nous troquons la soutane pour le col romain, en apportant un changement plus que démonstratif, si nous muons complètement, si nous frottons nos bois contre l'arbre; en un mot, si nous usons des techniques modernes de communication.

La réalité semble aussi nous effrayer, nous perdre. Les gens sont de plus en plus attirés par le neuf, par ce qui est dans l'vent! Offrons-leur du neuf, non pas du réchauffé! Offrons-leur ce qui est dans l'vent! Leur offrons-nous par exemple la possibilité de découvrir l'art psychédélique?

Les magasins du coin où l'on vendait autrefois le sucre et le sel à la demi-livre sont disparus et ont fait place à des centres d'achat attrayants où l'on trouve une panoplie d'articles sous le même toit: légumes, télévisions, pilules anticonceptionnelles, homard, etc. On a compris qu'il fallait progresser! Pourquoi alors ne pas offrir aux usagers de la bibliothèque tout sous le même toit? Un kaléidoscope de moyens s'offrent à nous: films, livres, bandes magnétophoniques, salles de télévision, galeries d'art, musique, ateliers de travail, etc. Pourquoi ne pas métamorphoser nos bibliothèques en spacieuses maisons de culture dont la France peut à juste titre s'enorgueillir? Pourquoi pas?

LE VISUEL

Tout ce qui favorise la culture par le sens de la vision devrait avoir une place de premier choix dans nos bibliothèques: cinéma, télévision, peintures, etc.

Le film aide sûrement à transmettre le message de la culture. Le cinéma est évidemment un médium d'information et de culture qui fascine beaucoup de citoyens: des jeunes, des citoyens âgés, des

groupes que l'on pourrait attirer à la bibliothèque en usant de ce médium.

Budget trop mince! Impossible! Oh, budget! que d'absentéismes en ton nom! Comme tu sers souvent de prétexte! Sait-on cependant qu'il n'est pas nécessaire de disposer d'un gros budget? Sait-on qu'éventuellement l'ONF pourrait prêter gratuitement un projecteur et que toujours cet organisme prête des films soit pour une somme modique, soit gratuitement? L'on pourrait au moins user de ce que notre entourage nous offre. Pourquoi même ne pas acheter moins de livres pour consacrer une certaine portion du budget au film? Les fruits en vaudraient sûrement la chandelle!

Nous n'avons pas de salles prévues à l'usage du film? Prétexte car il y a possibilité de trouver des heureux compromis. Pourquoi ne pas inviter par exemple les enfants à visionner des films documentaires ou divertissants, le samedi matin, même au risque de fermer momentanément l'accès aux rayons?

Ce qui compte, c'est la culture, phénomène vivant, s'il en est un. Un film sur les habitudes de vie du castor permettrait beaucoup plus rapidement à l'enfant de mieux connaître cet animal; même un film approprié sur l'éducation sexuelle lui apprendrait plus rapidement les choses de la vie. Ces jeunes pourraient s'asseoir par terre, ils n'y verraient aucun inconvénient et mieux, ils préfèrent pouvoir s'étendre sur le plancher que de s'asseoir disciplinement sur une chaise inconfortable. Pourquoi ne pas inviter les citoyens âgés à visionner des films? Il y aurait sûrement un ou des organismes bénévoles qui prêteraient avec joie des chaises.

Le rayonnement d'une bibliothèque régionale serait sensiblement beaucoup plus grand si l'on apportait des films aux gens des zones rurales et si le bibliobus pouvait éventuellement se métamorphoser en cinébus.

Les diapositives devraient trouver de même une place de premier choix. Ces projecteurs ne sont pas tellement dispendieux. La communauté apprécierait sûrement une soirée au cours de laquelle on projeterait des diapositives sur les merveilles hindoues ou les beautés de Florence. En use-t-on?

Faisant aussi partie de cette encyclopédie visuelle, il y a la télévision. Prévoit-on une salle de télévision pour les gens? Non, sûrement pas. La télévision est l'ennemie du livre!

Pourtant, certaines enquêtes ont démontré que les gens lisent plus depuis l'avènement de la télévision parce que leur curiosité est plus grande et leurs horizons plus larges. La télévision n'aurait-elle pas alors sa place?

Je ne doute nullement que les jeunes aimeraient être invités à regarder une émission de télévision à la suite de laquelle s'amorcerait une discussion. Ils pourraient être ensuite invités à emprunter des livres qu'on aurait exposés à leur intention.

Pourquoi même ne pas songer à un système de télévision à circuit-fermé? Et oui! Cet amas de bandes magnétoscopiques de grande valeur qui dorment dans les "magnétoscothèques" doit-il demeurer éternellement là? Si les bibliothèques étaient pourvues de télévision à circuit fermé, elles pourraient emprunter ces bandes de postes de télévision qui accepteraient sûrement de collaborer et de les prêter. Comme il serait agréable d'inviter la population à visionner une pièce de théâtre de grande valeur qu'on aurait déjà eu l'occasion de voir sur le petit écran. Les profits culturels en seraient sûrement grands. Les dépenses encourues vaudraient sans équivoque les fruits qu'on obtiendrait. Un tel système permettrait aussi de filmer certains événements locaux qui pourraient être jugés de valeur historique ou culturelle.

Pourrait s'ajouter une galerie d'art

dont on peut facilement concevoir la présence vu que la vision de peintures, sculptures, photographies, etc. développe le sens artistique.

Afin de favoriser la création artistique, les bibliothèques pourraient même prévoir un atelier de travail pour les artistes et acheter quelques-unes de leurs oeuvres au lieu d'exposer des photographies d'hommes ou de femmes politiques!

Pourrait complémenter la collection des livres d'art une série de reproductions de peintures à fins d'expositions itinérantes dans la communauté et de prêt à des particuliers.

Bref, tout ce qui frappe la rétine de l'oeil devrait avoir une place de premier choix dans les bibliothèques publiques. Malheureusement, ce n'est pas le cas. Il faut espérer que les bibliothèques futures prévoient cela et que l'on puisse trouver des compromis dans les bibliothèques présentes. Si l'on veut, l'on peut! On ne semble pas constater que l'on vit dans une civilisation de l'image.

L'AUDIO

Favoriser la culture par la vue n'est pas tout, il y a un autre sens qu'il ne faut pas oublier; il s'agit de l'ouie.

Et dans ce domaine comme dans le précédent, tout est potentiel ou embryonnaire.

Quelle part accordons-nous à la musique?

Une trop maigre part malheureusement puisqu'on la considère aussi comme une rivale sérieuse du livre, une mauvaise compagne qui peut transmettre des microbes au livre!

Nous manquons une autre fois le bâteau en réfléchissant ainsi. Nous ne sommes alors que des maniaques de la culture livresque, nous ne sommes alors que des dépositaires du livre, nous ne sommes pas diffuseurs de la culture.

Et pourtant la musique pourrait, elle aussi, attirer certaines personnes mélomanes ou non qui autrement éviteraient la bibliothèque.

Un tourne-disque, un magnétophone ne sont toutefois pas dispendieux. Les microsillons, les bandes magnétophoniques équivalent au prix d'un livre relié. Ne pourrait-on pas tirer la couverture budgétaire de leur côté?

En plus de permettre la diffusion de la musique, ces appareils permettent une panoplie d'autres fins culturelles, tels que pièces de théâtre, contes pour enfants bien racontés, entrevues avec des littérateurs de grande valeur, des cours de langue, etc.

La musique exerce des pouvoirs magiques sur l'homme, elle est un moyen indéniable d'affiner la culture. Elle permet tellement la détente et la création d'une atmosphère de joie qu'on devrait même songer à imiter certains magasins qui ont compris son influence psychologique sur les gens et qui agrémentent l'atmosphère en déversant en sourdine de la belle musique. Pourquoi ne pas les imiter? L'atmosphère des bibliothèques serait sûrement moins froide: tout comme la musique a modifié l'attitude des consommateurs dans les magasins, pourquoi ne modifierait-elle pas positivement celle du client de la bibliothèque?

Seule la salle de référence pourrait être alors complètement isolée des bruits extérieurs; les personnes désirant le silence et faire des recherches pourraient alors être satisfaites.

Causeries sur les livres, lectures de poèmes, conférences de valeur sont d'autres activités susceptibles de développer la culture. En usons-nous? Ce n'est nullement gratuit d'affirmer que nous en faisons généralement fi.

Plusieurs facteurs semblent empêcher l'usage des moyens modernes de diffusion de la culture: absence de motivation sérieuse de l'usage de ces moyens, absence

de sensidilsation à l'utilité de ces moyens ignorance des l'usage des méthods audio, visuelles dûe à l'inconsidération quasi-totale de ces méthods dans nos écoles de bibliothécaires, refus de l'esprit à accepter que les bibliothéque doiventê tre plutôt des centres culturels que des "centrrles du livre", désir inconscient ou non de conserver des structures vieillottes dans un monde en évolution, crainte du

recyclage en retournant étudier quelque temps à l'université lorsque ce sera possible, obsession constante de garnir les rayons de livres plutôt que de songer à diminuer le budget des livres à l'avantage des films, microsillons, etc., faibles budgets accordés aux bibliothèques publiques, architecture des bibliothèques conçue uniquement pour le livre, etc.

Ces facteurs et bien d'autres stratifient, fossilisent. La plupart d'eux sont dépendants de nous: et si nous acceptons de briser ces entraves, il sera certes plus aisé d'attirer les gens à la lumière des techniques modernes. Si notre corps professionnel redécouvre alors collectivement son rôle, il sera beaucoup plus facile d'accepter d'offrir UN PEU DE TOUT à la communauté que TOUT D'UN PEU qui peut risquer de mettre en péril notre vie même.

Certaines structures changeront, ce sera alors pour le bien et la culture des communautés que nous servons et pour la raison d'être des bibliothécaires et des bibliothèques.

FOOTNOTES

1 Library journal, Dec. 15, 1967, p. 4453.

2 Mcluhan. Cité dans Sept-jours 8 juillet, 1967.

3 Picard, Gabriel. Les techniques nouvelles de la communication moderne vont bouleverser jusqu'à notre mode de penser, dans Nouvelles de l'ACBLF no 22, 31 janvier, 1968. p. 3.

BOOKS ON THE FIRST AND SECOND WORLD WARS – ONE MAN'S FOOTHOLD

Colin Clark

To men, and, very occasionally, women, the two world wars of this century continue to excite, intrigue and fascinate.

Books upon both are legion, from the massive "official histories", to facts of life on the lower-deck by a seaman-gunner. Accounts of individual campaigns, escapes, inventions, biographies, spies, hardships are so numerous that it would take half this paper in small print to list even the better known ones. Since this is impossible I can only draw your attention to some of the books that still have a place on the shelves of a library and on a reading list.

The interest in what was once known as *The Great War* is still so high that portway Reprints of Bath, England, continues to reprint the "classics" of this conflict. Books that were out of print in the 30's, are now appearing again, and – in a public library – are worn-out in less than twelve months. An example of such a reprint is *Her Privates We,* by Frederick Manning which is still heavily read, and was first published in 1930 by Putnam.

One way to start a discussion is to say which were the "best books" of the two wars. For what it is worth here is my selection. The best novel of the First War is generally acknowledged to be Erich Maria Remarque's *All Quiet on the Western Front.* This story of three privates enduring the holocaust of trench warfare is told from the German viewpoint.

For autobiography we can only state that Robert Graves' *Goodbye to All That,* and Siegfried Sassoon's *Memoirs of an Infantry Officer* and *Sherston's Progress* stand above all other reminiscences of life in the trenches on the Western Front.

For sheer fascination two novels of the second conflict stand out. The better of the two in my opinion is Herman Wouk's *The Cain Mutiny,* closely followed by Nicholas Monsarrat's *The Cruel Sea.* Outstanding contributions to the literature of land warfare were made as a result of the 1914-18 conflict, but in the Second it seems that literary eminence was taken by two accounts of sea warfare. (Incidentally I believe that *The Cruel Sea* is the first book with the exception of the Bible, to sell one million copies in hard-covers.)

One of the richer literary fields to be found in the history of war is "escape" stories. The outstanding contributions to this field are Paul Brickhill and P. R. Reid. Brickhill wrote *Escape – or Die* and *The Great Escape* (published by Evans). The Great Escape of the title is the story of the R.A.F. officers who escaped (about 60 in all) one night from an auflag in Prussia. Most were recaptured, and some disappeared, victims of the Gestapo it is feared. P. R. Reid's *Colditz Story* and *The Latter Days* (published by H & S) tells of the famous Colditz auflag where allied prisoners who had escaped and been recaptured more than once were re-interned. The book is exciting, humorous and an outstanding contribution to escape literature .The ingenuity displayed by the prisioners is scarcely believable. At the end of the war they had even constructed a glider to fly from the prison! One German commandant had the prisioners on parade, and exclaimed, "You think I know damn nothing, actually I know damn-all".

On another occasion a new infantry training manual was stolen from a Mercedes staff car. Earnest pleading from the Nazis eventually persuaded the prisioners to re-

turn it. The manual was stamped "Passed by the British Censorship Board".

Another rich vein is to be found in "spy" stories. Madeleine Duke's *Top Secret Mission* (Evans 1954) is very good, and so is James Rubeigh Minney's *Carve Her Name With Pride*. Two histories of spying activities in the 1939-1945 conflict are *The S.O.E. in France* by Michael Foot (HMSO 1966) and Edward Lookridge's *Inside S.O.E.* (Barber 1966.)

However, spying and escapes are not limited to the Second War. Two volumes very well worth reading are Evans' *I Escape* (he was taken prisoner in 1916) and Clark-Kennedy's *Edith Cavell, Pioneer and Patriot* (Faber 1965) the story of Nurse Cavell, an English nurse who was shot by the Germans in 1915 for alleged spying acivities. Evans' book is a forerunner of Eric Williams' famous *The Wooden Horse*, a story of how three prisioners escaped from a Nazi p.o.w. camp by digging a tunnel under a piece of gymnastic apparatus while other prisioners leapt over it for "exercise".

The story of great men taking great decisions begins at the top. Winston Churchill is the only man to have served in the (British) Cabinet in both World Wars. From this experience he wrote two great histories, *The World Crisis* (Scribner's 1923) and the *Second World War* (Cassel 1948.)

From the other side of the Cabinet table we have General Alan Brooke's two volumes *The Turn of the Tide* and *Triumph in the West 1943-1946* (Collins 1959). (General Brooke was Chief of the Imperial General Staff during most of the war.)

Generals have contributed their memoirs. There is Dwight D. Eisenhower's *Crusade in Europe*, General Omar Bradley's *A Soldier's Story; from Tunis to the Elbe* 1951, and of course General Montgomery's *From Alemein to the River Sangro* and *Normandy to the Baltic*.

Slightly down in military rank we have John Master's *Bugles and a Tiger* (Joseph 1956) a fascinating story of the Indian Army followed by *The Road Past Mandalay* (Harper 1961) an account of the campaign in Burma.

Accounts of individual campaigns will fill a large part of any collection of war books. Possibly the greatest of them all is Chester Wilmot's *Struggle for Europe* (Collins 1952) which for detailed accuracy is unrivalled.

Accounts of campaigns in the First World War are not as prolific, but amongst those deserving to be read are Anthony Farrar Hockley's *The Somme*, Alan Moorehead's *Gallipoli* (Hamish Hamilton 1956) (one of the best of this great author's books) General Gough's *The Fifth Army*, and Brian Gardner's biography of Allenby (Cassell 1965).

Though a man will read any well-written book on war, he, naturally enough, tends to favour books wherein his own adventures lay, so to please him here are some books divided according to air, land and sea war experiences.

One of the best books I have ever read on the air fighting of the first war is Duncan Grennell Milne's *Wind in the Wires*. Two others are Sholto Douglas's *Years of Combat* (Collins 1963), and Arch Whitehouse's *The Fledgling* (Nicholas Vane 1964).

From the latter conflict we have a lot to choose from, but though choice is difficult possibly three top the list. Paul Brickhill has written two outstanding fighting records. *The Dam-Busters*, the story of 643 Squadron who bombed the Mohne and Eder dams in 1943, and flooded a large part of the Rhur as a result, then went on to greater things, and his account of Group Captain Bader's flying career after he had lost both legs before the outbreak of war in 1939 in *Reach for the Sky*.

Air Vice-Marshall Embry in his *Miss-*

ion Accomplished recounts how, when captured in France in the early part of the latest war he killed a German guard and escaped, and later became a famous fighter pilot leader.

Land warfare is not quite so productive of high adventure it seems, but worthy of note are Corelli Barnett's *The Sword Bearers,* a critique of high allied officers of the 1914-18 war, and the same author's *The Donkeys* a study of British Army Commanders of the same period. The title of the latter comes from a remark between two senior German Army Generals." Do you not realize", said one, "that the British fight like lions?" "Yes" replied the other, "but do you not know that they are led by donkeys?"

Two other books on Great War land campaigns in which Canadians are particularly interested deal with a place-name that along with Hill 60, Bethune, Ypres, The Somme, Polygon Wood, Gheluvelt and many more have a evocation all their own — a burial ground of armies — in the English language — Vimy Ridge. This famous landmark of the Western Front was captured by Canadians in 1917. (In the second world war Canadians played a prominent part in the disastrous raid on Dieppe in 1942. An account is given in Jacques Marshal's *Dieppe* (Souvenir Press 1962).

But to return to Vimy Ridge. The two books are *The Shadow of Vimy Ridge,* by Kenneth Macksey (Willian Kimber 1965) and Herbert Fairly Wood's *Vimy* (Macdonald 1967).

Sea warfare between 1914 and 1918 did not produce any outstanding novels, but accounts of naval battles are well-written. Here are three for your reading list. Actually the first can hardly be called a battle, more of a campaign, and a campaign far away from the cold north and south latitudes. It is Peter Shankland's *The Phantom Flotilla* (Collins 1968), the story of the Naval expedition to Central Africa in 1915-1916. (C. S. Forster's novel *The African Queen* is based on this exploit.) But going far south to the cold Falkland Islands we have an account of the two battles fought in those icy latitudes in 1914, with Geoffrey Bennett's *Coronel and the Falklands* (Batsford 1962).

The only great battle between the British and German fleets took place on May 31st 1916 and is known as the Battle of Jutland. Probably no battle in history has given rise to more controversy, and it still rumbles, further salvoes being fired late last year with publication of Admiral Jellicoe's private papers. Though numerous books and articles have been published over the years the best account is contained in Arthur J. Marder's lucid *From the Dreadnought to Scapa Flow, volume 2. The War Years to the Eve of Jutland* (O.U.P.).

Turning now to the more recent world war, it should be said at the start that never in the field of human conflict, has such an event been so well documented. Only lately has the flood of books and reminiscences reduced to a trickle, and the bibliographer's task is awesome in its magnitude. So, for that mater, is the author's — such is the range of choice.

However, for a start we can scarcely better Captain Russell Grenfell's *The Bismarck Episode* published by Faber in 1948. It reads like a thriller. How the Bismarck was lost and found again, how westbound capital ships were ordered to reverse courses, the Home Fleet sailed from Scapa Flow and Force H ordered north from Gilbratar, the gradual closing of the net, it all reads with growing excitement. If the Bismarck hunt might be termed a success, a recent publication tells of the "worst convoy of the war" David Irving's *Destruction of Convoy PQ 17.* (Cassell 1946) PQ 17 sailed from Iceland to Russia in 1942. Twenty-four ships out of a total of thirty-five failed to get there, and were sunk, as a direct result of a mistake by the British Admiralty. As a detailed account of the results of this mistake, interference with the Admiral in charge, it cannot be bettered.

Of particular interest to Canadians will be Donald McIntyre's *The Battle of the Atlantic,* (Batsford 1961). Also telling the same story is Peter Gretton's *Convoy Escort Commander.*

On land warfare there is once again a vast shelf to choose from. Two of the best are by the same author, Cornelius Ryan, He has written *The Longest Day,* the story of D-Day, June 6 1944, and *The Last Battle* telling of the closing days of the war in Berlin, a real Wagnerian Gotterdamerung as Hitler and Goebbels commit suicide among the flames of the wrecked and ransacked city.

Eminent men have given us their contributions to history. Earl Alexander of Tunis depicts the war years in *The Alexander Memoirs, 1940-1945* (Cassell 1962), and an ex-Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan in *The Blast of War, 1939-45* gives his version of events.

In the air we have Marcel Jullian's *The Battle of Britain, July-September 1940* (Cape 1967) and one of the most important on the same episode, Telford Taylor's *The Breaking Wave,* the German defeat in the summer of 1940 (Weidenfeld and Nicholson 1967). An official publication is Denis Richard's 3 volume history, *The Royal Air Force 1939-45* published by H.M.S.O. Comparing directly the experience of fighter pilots on both sides there is Edward H. Sims' *The Fighter Pilots.*

At the end of a long list of reading recommendations I ask you to read yet another book, *Memoirs of a Fox-Hunting Man.* Now when it comes to fox-hunting I belong to the Oscar Wilde school of thought, "The unspeakable in pursuit of the uneatable", but despite this I have read Sassoon's book many times. This is the last of the quiet, this is England after 100 years of peace, conquest, achievement and triumph, and a very successful creation of the life of a moneyed middle-class Englishman before Flanders' fields ran red with blood and mud. The book ends with the author in a leaky tent on the South Downs training for the trench warfare to come.

There I will end too.

Good reading!

PROBLEM OF FALL-OUT FROM THE KNOWLEDGE EXPLOSION

John Miller

(Editor's note — The author of this somewhat waspish article describes himself as a "temporarily detached librarian". He is now involved with university extension work but seems to still be, emotionally at least, concerned with libraries).

At one time, large university libraries, in order to make sure they had anything, assumed they had to have everything. The assumption was based on a number of beliefs, e.g.:

1. it was theoretically possible to collect everything
2. the user was understood to be so capricious in his demands that one had to prepare for any eventuality
3. the conservationist urge of the librarian to preserve every bit of recorded knowledge somewhere.

Of these, only the last still has validity. It is now a matter of debate whether that "somewhere" should be every large and wealthy university library. When this assumption is narrowed to one subject and that one subject is an applied or pure science it becomes not a matter of debate but a self-defeating proposition. The Chemistry Librarian who takes all of the field of chemistry as his province may wind up with a massive everything in which nothing can be found.

The "all and everything" concept has less currency than it once did. It is now recognized that no university library can even have the theoretic goal of everything. The simple storing of such a mass would be an intolerable burden, while the servicing of the mass would bankrupt even the most affluent of institutions. But the dilemma remains. How does a library assure itself of an adequate collection to service the requirements of the university community? Traditionally there have been two popular solutions. The first can be termed the *adminicular riposte*. It entails discovering an established university which seems to have a similar function and then duplicating its library collection, or finding some listing of standard works which all good library collections are supposed to include and trying to purchase all titles found therein.

The *adminicular riposte* is fallacious on a number of grounds:

1. The standard lists and catalogues of similar libraries are, of necessity, out of date by the time they are available.
2. They invariably contain items which are to all intents and purposes unobtainable.
3. Lastly, the similarity in purpose between universities may be more apparent than real. It is a very difficult matter to evaluate:
   a) the composition of the student body
   b) the involvement of the faculty in research
   c) the diversity of the curriculum
   d) the effectiveness of the method of instruction used within the institution

e) availability of resources

f) intellectual climate of the institution

The second popular solution strikes one as being a text-book example of the formal logicians' *ignoratio elenchi.*

This fallacy in outline consists of asking the question "How good is this library?" and receiving the answer "This library has 24 running feet of books on podiatry." In effect one asks a question concerning quality and receives an answer dealing with quantity. This fallacy is the bread and meat of library surveyors and has made the name of a number (no pun intended) of formulators. Those librarians who opt for this solution to the dilemma of a good library invariably wind up speaking only in number of volumes.

The numbers game typifies our society better than any religion or political belief ever did. Few contemporaries would see anything askew in the following series of questions and answers:

q. "Is he a good singer?"

a. "His last record sold a million copies."

q. "Is this a good car?"

a. "This model was bought by 500,000 people last year."

q. "Is he an honest politican?"

a: "The most recent poll shows 48.9% believe he is" etc. etc.

Libraries were probably first introduced into the game in order to answer questions about the number of clay tablets posed by visiting dignitaries. Of late, in the hands of library surveyors, the game has reached the stage of an art. St. John, Spinks, Bladen, Vainstein, Bonn, Williams, Ash, and Downs are among the more recent practitioners of the art and they all have measured us quantitatively. (The endless torrent of library surveys makes it legitimate to add two Canadians to the old joke about ethnic groups stranded on an island and have it read, "The two Irishmen killed themselves fighting, the two Australians set up a dog track, the two Americans formed a Rotary Club, the two Israelis formed five political parties, and the two Canadians conducted fourteen library surveys.")

R. B. Downs in his *Resources of Canadian Academic & Research Libraries* seems to promise to break out of numerology when he states "There are various approaches to testing the strength of a library's holdings. Among them are (1) quantitative measurements (2) the checking of standard bibliographies and (3) detailed descriptions of collections".

On closer examination the last sentence should be changed to "Among them are (1) numbers, (2) numbers, (3) numbers".

Downs then states "Mere size does not guarantee a great library or even a good one. The quality and richness of the book collections are more significant . . . Nevertheless the size of the total collections has frequently been demonstrated to be an important factor in judging adequacy".

As proof of this last statement Downs submits that two recent studies have shown, "a strong correlation between the prestige of an institution and the size of its library... Another investigation published recently found a direct relationship between the number and variety of doctoral degrees awarded and the strength of the library resources in individual institutions". Both proofs seem to smack dangerously of *post hoc ergo propter hoc.*

Downs' "quantitative measurements" are a simple statement of the numbers of volumes held in certain Canadian libraries and then a comparison of these holdings with various formulae which supposedly show how many volumes a given institution needs. A comparison of a few of the schools' ratings may show the speciousness of this method of judging libraries.

Three of the formulae as used by Downs are (1) CACUL (2) ACRL (College Libraries) (3) Clapp-Jordan.

Here is how several schools rate:
SURPLUS OR DEFICIT (in volumes)

	(1) CACUL	(2) ACRL	(3) CLAPP JORDAN
A	+ 160	— 17,440	— 49,232
B	+ 24,747	— 14,517	— 9,438
C	+ 26,230	—	— 186,236
D	— 518,305	—	— 1,210,885
E	+ 59,798	—	— 721,594
F	— 19,879	—	— 13,727

Referring back to Downs' statement of the connection between prestige and the size of the library, he states "All universities which rated as "strong" or "distinguished" have libraries exceeding a million and a half volumes". Using this and the above formulae there is a Canadian institution that can point out:

1. To potential faculty members that its library is 15% too large.
2. To the board of governors and minor donors that its library is 50% too small.
3. To the provincial government and large foundations that its library is only one third the size needed to achieve strength and/or distinction.

The question of what makes a good collection is, of course, not answered by poking fun at those who try to answer it. The question can only really be answered by adding a prefatory clause and making the question read "To the user, what makes a good collection?"

The order of "user" then "collection" is deliberate. Many brain hours would have been saved if, instead of trying to divine what makes an ideal library, the effort had been expanded in describing the potential user, deciding what resources were available, and then theorizing as to the most effective way of joining the two.

In this context it should be understood that the term "potential user" is not restricted to only the members of a given university community. It refers to the following types of use.

1. Applied research conducted by members of the university community.
2. Pure research conducted by members of the university committee.
3. Instructional work conducted by members of the university community and directed to "involved" students (e.g. "majors" in a given subject).
4. "Casual" research conducted by interested "laymen" from either within or without the university community.

Several attempts have been made to describe the "typical" user. The ones this writer is most familiar with are those made of scientific workers. While there is not sufficient data to describe the typical user to the satisfaction of a sociologist there is enough on which to base certain limited conclusions.

Certain of these limited conclusions may be so painfully obvious that even stating them, much less documenting them, is tantamount to sagely observing that laboratory mice suffer a noticeable loss of motor activity after being eaten by the laboratory cat, but if they are stated once, they may not have to be stated again.

Earlier it was concluded that a science library which atempted to collect everything in its field would be working at cross purposes with itself. There are at least two bases for this conclusion. Card F. J. Overhage, director of Project Intrex at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in an article in *Science* states "No amount of optimism about the great potential of information transfer technology can obliterate the ugly fact that the channels of communications between scholars are poorly

managed and that the flow of valuable ideas is impeded by an enormous mass of trash . . . If the user finds that his university's superb new facilities deliver trash he can blame neither the engineer, nor the librarian. 'Garbage in – garbage out' is the stern rule under which their system must necessarily operate . . .

"Research libraries must operate within the prevailing pattern of communications among scholars and the pattern is changing before our eyes. In science and engineering, the one time supremacy of the definitive paper in the journal of a learned society has given way to a chaotic regime of preprints, conference proceedings, private reports, *ad hoc* serials, and government documents. Librarians are struggling heroically to bring some semblance of order to this confused torrent, but only the most affluent libraries can keep up the pace and even they drive their users to despair by flooding progress in their field by other means."

"Many working scientists and engineers have responded to this situation by giving up the use of libraries and keeping up with progress in their field by other means."

Saul Herner in an article entitled "Information gathering habits of workers in pure and applied science" in the journal *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* gives the results of a study conducted at Johns Hopkins University. His article is particularly useful as he correlates the results of this study with similar ones. In this paper, except for describing the mechanics of the study, we quote only those conclusions of Herner that were corroborated by other researchers.

Herner interviewed 606 workers of whom 69% were working in applied science and 31% were working in pure science. Herner defined pure science as that in which "the sole end and purpose is the creating of new knowledge". And applied science as that in which "the primary purpose is the application of existing knowledge or the creation of new knowledge for possible application to specific useful products or goals".

The author's conclusion that "the only factors significantly and definitely affecting the information gathering habits of the scientists . . . are – their present field of work, the type of scientific organization in which they work and whether they work in pure or applied science," may seem a rather narrow base on which to conclude anything, but they have great import.

Put very crudely we can say that pure scientists have a much greater dependence on scientific literature than do applied scientists; that pure (and applied) scientists vary in their dependence on scientific literature and this variation correlates with their subject discipline (e.g. workers in the field of earth science have a much greater dependence than do biologists); and that those members of the same discipline working for different types of organizations have differing information gathering habits (e.g. engineers working in an institute and those working in a university engineering faculty).

Studies have shown that applied scientists mainly use journals in their native tongue and at most two foreign languages. And that the applied scientist uses journals less than five years old to an overwhelming degree.

We can probably safely draw several conclusions:

A. The way to the "right book for the right user" lies not in the "all and everything" approach to collections development. The collection which offers its clientele all possible choices does so at the cost of speed of access and at times of accessibility itself. The library which prides itself on its ability to answer any given question, given sufficient time, must realize that time is the one luxury scientists can no longer afford. Unless some form of selectivity is applied scientists will "vote with their feet" and go elsewhere for information.

B. Traditional concepts of what constitutes a "good source of information" must be re-examined.

C. The traditional way of handling information once acquired, has, in some instances, broken down. New ways must be explored and tested.

D. The traditional view of the research worker whose only known quality is his omniverousness has to be discarded. The researcher can be "typed" with a fair degree of accuracy and his wants identified. As Herner says "The working head of the information disseminating section of a research organization must ascertain what type of personnel he is serving so that he can evaluate the types of information services they require".

E. The scientific community must heed Overhape's warning as to the inevitability of "garbage in – garbage out". We can forgive the layman who listened to an explanation of the theory of relativity and exclaimed "By this nonsense Einstein makes a living?" But we will be hard put to justify creating an expensive electronic miracle in order to give immediate access to byline-drunk von Herausgegaben's fourteenth revision of his nonsensical paper proving that rabbits rarely attack tigers. Marlow's Dr. Faustus spent his last hour on earth begging God to release him from his bargain with the devil or at least cut his sentence to 100,000 years. The scientist who, in his compact with the dark one, sells his soul if only everything he writes is published, is in danger of spending his last hour on earth begging God to make sure his article appears in Chem Abstracts at least within 100,000 years.

obvious that at least part of the traffic problem in information is caused by little used material and material of little usefulness.

The temptation on reading articles such as those of Overhape & Herner is to simply discard those little used items whose only seeming contribution to the glut of information is to impede the flow of same. The temptation is even stronger in the case of trash. Both temptations should be resisted as they are short sighted in the extreme.

The little used item is still a used item and the amount of usage should have bearing on ease of access, not on the fact of access itself.

The concept of trash, with all respect to Dr. Overhape, needs to be modified. There is trash which is characterized by sloppy thinking but is original thinking. The case of the relatively untutored scientist who predicted with great accuracy what would be the results of Project Argus still rankles the physicists of the AEC who dismissed his paper as "trash". To be sure, if most members of a given discipline dismiss something as trash it is in fact probably trash, but there are sufficient examples of the reverse being the case to warrant storing such trash. We do not view this in the poetic light of "full well many a rose blooms unseen", but see it as a rare occurence, hence such material should be stored in one place and one place only in the country. (Another class of trash is probably easier to distinguish if labelled "hash". That, in effect, is what it is. Certain scholars in all fields write a decent book sometime prior to their thirtieth birthday and then continue to write and publish the same book for the next 30 years or until death mercifully intervenes. Certain publishers latch onto government publications, change the title page and the binding and bring it out as something original (those interested in a crude example should compare the Government's income tax guide with some of the commercially produced ones). Hash can be safely discarded.)

Such a national storage area will not be readily accessible to all and the treatment of the items held there must be different from those items held "in house". The regional storage area must be able to describe a given item on demand and describe it in such a way that the researcher can accept it or reject it on the basis of the description. Whether this is done through abstracting, indexing, or meaningfully entitling is a matter partly of economics and partly of policy.

The national storage area must be an "immediate response" operation. Whether this is accomplished through electronic or mechanical or manual means is, once again, a matter of economics. In planning such areas economics should dictate the beginning stages but not the planning for the ultimate ideal. Recent experiences at the New York State Public Library showed that the telefacsimile transmission of documents was too costly ($62.10 per item). Thus such facilities should not be among the initial installations of a storage area but the area must be structured so that such facilities can be second or third generation installations with a minimum of adjustment.

The Farmington Plan (established in the U. S. in 1948) was set up to assure that at least one copy of every book having some research value would be held in an American library. It is probably reasonable to say that the obverse side of the coin reads "There are some books of research value of which only one copy needs to be in the U. S." This concept should hold for Canada.

Communications among libraries have improved to the extent that the holdings of one library need not be an unknown land to the users of a different library. Thus the mechanics of such a programme are at hand.

A reappraisal of the policy of university libraries in purchasing little used material if it leads to a programme such as recommended can materially aid in reducing some of the unnecessary pressures mentioned earlier.

Arrangements should be made to have the national storage area provide some feedback on the amount of circulation of putative little used items. If an item is available only in one place in Canada and there is a waiting list for the item then requesters should be informed that the item should be considered for purchase by the institution.

The feedback should work both ways: if a university knows of an item which probably should be available in Canada but which does not fall within its own collection sphere it should recommend this item to the storage area library.

This article has talked mainly of the problem of the additions now being made to the mass of available literature and has touched only briefly on the problem of the mass itself. It is time to turn to this problem.

The great university libraries have always shown great reluctance when faced with the necessity of discarding anything. It therefore seems to behoove the not so great to be even more reluctant, else how will they move into the sunshine of greatness?

There are a number of reasons why this reluctance should be overcome. Firstly, the assumption that the only way to duplicate, for example, Yale's Sterling Memorial Library, is to emulate it, is a false one. Yale's collection is unique and will remain so (if this were not so there are libraries attached to state universities in two oil producing U. S. states that would have long since equalled it) and Yale's sometime goal of all and everything in certain fields was a particular response to a particular set of circumstances .If Canadian libraries feel the need to emulate, it should be the philosophy of Yale's collection policy, not the crude imitation of what is, in appearance only, Yale's broad cast net.