AMERICAN LIBRARIES

SOME IMPRESSIONS

Gives a short account of the impressions of the author on his visit to U. S. A. under the India Wheat Loan Educational Exchange Programme during February 9 to July 9, 1955. Brings out some current trends and novel features employed in University Libraries, Public Libraries, Special Libraries etc. Provides a limited background of information relevant to the development of libraries and library service in India.

0 GENERAL BACKGROUND

The American libraries can overawe an Indian visitor by their large size and by their wealth. But neither size nor wealth really changes the character of basic library problems. In fact size may accentuate some problems while wealth may tend to obscure and delay the emergence of ultimately satisfactory solutions, though it also makes many interesting experiments possible. In the assessment of the real achievement of American librarianship, size is a secondary factor and wealth is only marginal. The prime factors are still the integrity, intelligence, education, training and experience which the professional librarian brings to his problems and the appreciative support the library receives from its enlightened authority or community. In both of these fields the American achievements are most impressive. Indian librarians and Indian library authorities have much to profit from them.

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1 UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

11 Structure of the University Library

The structural pattern of the University library was developed in the 19th century. It reflected the prevalent pattern of research and programmes of study. Narrow specialization led to compartmental divisions of knowledge and the departmental fragmentation of the university library was carried to an excess. The undergraduate programmes of study were likewise affected by specialization. The prevalence of numerous course-units reflected the atomized approach to knowledge and, in the library, led to the development of 'reserve book' collections of 'required reading' materials consisting of a few titles. Apart from the study rooms for reserve books, the General Library of the University consists of Seminar Rooms, mainly for the Humanities, departments for reference books, periodicals, maps, documents, rare books, photographic materials etc. and the circulation department for the main collection of books in the university library.

12 Changing Patterns of Research

A reversal of the process of fragmentation of knowledge started in the fields of technology, because applied research required a cooperative approach between the sciences. The
development of inter-disciplinary sciences, like biochemistry, and of the synthesised branches of knowledge, like geography, and the extended application of 'scientific method' to the study of psychology and the social sciences led to a wider integration of knowledge. In recent times the research areas of nuclear energy and its applications, and of the behaviourial sciences have become the meeting places of many an 'independent' discipline. The centres of area research, like the School of Japanese Studies of the University of Michigan, also represent similar developments. Integrated and cooperative research, involving several disciplines, is now a marked characteristic of academic life in the American Universities.

13 Changing Programmes of Study

At the level of course-studies extremely significant reintegration of the entire field of education is also taking place. The 'general education' movement, in its various forms, has changed universities like Chicago and Harvard. The 'liberal arts' have invaded even the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Though the tenets of 'general education' are not accepted everywhere, the text-book-centred education is definitely on the decline. A greater stress is now laid on wider reading.

14 Effects on the University Library

For the university library, with its 19th century departmental framework, it has not been easy to keep up with these changes. From the beginning the departmental libraries, owing to their growing overlapping character, wanted severally many identical books. The library met this demand by duplication and multiplication of copies. But the materials, requiring to be duplicated now, have grown far more numerous and much more expensive. Only a few universities can afford to buy, without affecting their acquisition programmes, a dozen sets of the current edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica or half a dozen sets of the Chemical abstracts or more than one file of the same set of serials. Nevertheless, some university libraries still find themselves without other practical alternatives.

15 Evolution of Divisional Organization

Some university libraries, however, have evolved a different type of organization which consolidates book-collections in allied or related fields, like the biological sciences, the social sciences, etc. Library service is developed from these new 'divisions'. In some universities, when the opportunity to have a new library building occurred, the divisional pattern was almost embodied in the building itself and the departmental library of the older variety was superseded.

16 New Variety of Departmental Library

There is also an interesting example of a new variety of departmental library where the librarian has the responsibility to organize service to eminent research scholars in the field of nuclear energy and its applications, utilizing the resources of the entire campus but without having many custodian responsibilities. This type of development is full of potentialities and perhaps it also holds the key to the future of the departmental library, particularly because its total abolition does not promise to be a satisfactory solution in every case.

17 Old Departmental Library and Research

The traditional departmental libraries have a major shortcoming. They are attached to the faculties; yet they are not everywhere able to provide research services. The librarians are generally overburdened with numerous administrative duties, devolving on them with the custodianship of steadily accumulating reading material. They are also charged with the responsibility of serving non-research students. In the larger departments they get fully engaged in services connected with circulation, ready reference and book reserves. Library assistance to research scholars, based on modern documentation techniques, has so far developed tardily in the universities, largely because of the heterogenous character of the departmental library. The way documentation service is now being developed in some universities, like Stanford, also confirms the view that such technical services need for their unimpeded development a wider base than the traditional departmental
library and may be organised with the essential tools but away from the general custodian responsibilities. The work being done in Stanford illustrates further how research assistance based on 'divisional' organization can be built on top of the traditional departmental pattern.

18 New Concepts of Undergraduate Service

The concepts of service to the undergraduate have also profoundly changed. Nowadays a much greater emphasis is laid on free and easy contact between students and the resources of the library. Some college libraries, like the Rockford College Library, have achieved an almost complete and ideal integration between the reader and the book in an attractive atmosphere of pleasant informality and homely comfort, with a trustful reliance on self-service. At several universities the collection of reserve books have been considerably enlarged and a major part of it is freely accessible to the students. Some universities have started separate undergraduate libraries with 75,000 to 100,000 volumes, while some are also having new buildings to house them.

181 Lamont Library

The Library which has given a pioneering lead in this field is the Lamont Library of Harvard. It may be described as an institution truly symbolizing the philosophy of 'general education'. Some of the universities with new library buildings and a high proportion of undergraduate enrollment have been greatly influenced by the Lamont Library. In fact this Library has a message for university libraries all the world over.

2 PUBLIC LIBRARIES

21 Uneven Development

The public library systems in America are in different stages of development. The most developed systems are to be found in the metropolitan areas, in the bigger cities and in some of the more populated or prosperous counties. Many of the smaller cities and a large number of counties do not have adequate number of libraries. Some rural areas do not have libraries at all. On the average, the local authorities spend on public libraries about 5% of their total education budget.

22 Problems of Library Extension

The most pressing problem in the public library field is the problem of library extension. It is being dealt with in a variety of ways aiming at: (1) consolidation of local units into larger library areas; (2) centralization of library administration and decentralisation of library service in the areas so formed; and (3) seeking financial support from the States Governments. The consolidation of local units into larger library areas under unified authorities is made difficult by the structure of American local government and of the tax-system. At the local level there are several governmental units, often with numerous types of overlapping jurisdictions, independent taxing powers, and separate shares in the tax-dollar. In most of the States the laws put a limit on the general property tax, which restricts the revenues for local services, including library service. Frequently, the laws also limit the millage, or the taxation rate, for library purposes. Some ingenious ways have no doubt been found to by-pass these limitations. But the fiscal hindrances are real and deeply entrenched in American government and politics. In the circumstances library legislation has been piecemeal. In some States, however, the law has halted the trends towards fragmented development by fixing the County or the City of 5,000 population, as minimum units for library purposes.

23 State Library Agencies and Their Activities

The most significant and far-reaching development has been the emergence of governmental agencies at the State level to help the promotion of library extension. The activities of such agencies may include: (1) framing policies and planning programmes; (2) providing technical help, advice and training facilities; (3) fostering cooperation among neighbouring local units; (4) giving libraries financial help in cash or kind; (5) organizing demonstration and pilot projects; (6) undertaking wholesale publicity and public relations programmes; and (7) working for changes or improvements in the State library laws.
24 Organization of State Library Agencies

The study of the more developed county library systems and the big metropolitan systems is equally interesting. The manner in which the county and the metropolitan systems have decentralised service and reduced the load of administrative duties in the local service units, is quite remarkable. Modern communication and transport systems, modern inventions and machinery have all been utilized to make service diversified and speedy. The use of IBM Machines in the King County, Washington, for maintaining records for book movements and for providing elaborate catalogues to branch libraries, has mechanised innumerable repetitive operations and enabled the branch librarian to devote himself better to the readers' services. In the Detroit metropolitan system the same type of machinery has been used to centralise the records of charging systems, in order to relieve the branch librarian of routine operations. These and similar changes, which do not necessarily depend upon machinery, have now made it possible for the librarian not only to develop service in a variety of ways but to integrate the library with its neighbourhood.

25 Developed Public Library Systems

The set-up and the functions of the State library agencies vary widely from State to State. Their powers and the funds at their disposal are strictly limited. They are able to function successfully because of their compact organisation. In Michigan, for example, the organisation consists of a small State Library Board with the State Librarian as its executive officer. The State Librarian is assisted by a team of about 7 or 8 librarians, each of whom is an expert in a different branch of public library service and each holding charge of a different area of the State. They function together in the State Library which has been formed into a base of extension operations. Every extension area in the State is linked with it. Besides being highly compact, the organization is economical, efficient, informed and versatile.

26 Modern Service Concepts

The service concepts of the public library are no longer confined to making books available in its premises. The development of the Reader's Advisory Service, the use of non-book materials like pictures, films and records, and the development of group activities, like talks, forums, lectures and discussions, have turned the library into an active community centre. The Public Librarian is a participant in many local activities and he works in close cooperation with active local groups, such as youth organizations, women's clubs, workers' education groups, and groups of businessmen and of social workers.

27 Structure of Public Libraries

The public libraries have developed their structure according to (1) grouping of readers by age, and (2) the special character of different materials. To the basic pattern of differentiated service to children and adults has now been added a special service to youth. The pattern based on character of materials has, however, become increasingly diversified. To the earlier materials of ordinary books, reference books and newspapers and periodicals have been added pamphlets, documents, rare books, manuscripts and archives, and several types of non-book materials, like maps, pictures, photographs, films, phonographic records, photo-and micro-facsimiles etc. Depending on the size of their collection, libraries have set up special service units for different materials. With the growth in the collection of the ordinary book materials, the larger public libraries have developed a departmental pattern of organization based on subjects, like Science, Technology, Fine Arts, History and Biography, etc. The subject departmental pattern has been replaced in some places by a 'divisional' pattern of organization which is similar to the divisional organization of university libraries. In the public library field also, the 'divisional' pattern is considered better integrated, more economical and more convenient to users.

3 LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICE

31 Administrative and Technical Set-Up

The services in the library are classified into two groups: (1) readers' services, which
include circulation, reference and departmental work; and (2) technical services, which include acquisition, ordering, cataloguing and maintenance of books. In recent times the area of the 'technical' services has been brought together under one chief administrator. This succeeds the older pattern in which the functional units could have each its own chief, directly under the head of the library. Administratively the newer pattern is better integrated; it centralises control more gradually, links related or similar operations, claims to assure a better flow of work and may also result in economy.

32 Librarian and the World of Books

The two major divisions of readers' services and 'technical' services are riveted at the top. This achieves the purpose of administration but does not in itself produce the best integrated organization for the professional librarian. The bibliographical control of the library rests at the points of contact between the library operations and the world of knowledge. The points of contact, which are also the centres of bibliographic control, are located in the operations of book-selection, classification-cataloguing and reference and bibliographical assistance to readers. For a better integration of the professional librarian with the world of knowledge and of books, these centres of control need to be imaginatively set up and effectively interlinked, which administration alone does not achieve. In the public libraries in America the professional librarian is better integrated with the book-world. Even in the big metropolitan system of Detroit, in spite of centralised administration, the branch librarian is actively participating in selecting books, classifying books according to the 'readers' interest' scheme and giving reference and bibliographical assistance to readers. This triple link with the world of knowledge and of books is not always maintained in the university or college libraries and, consequently, 'bookmanship' as an art does not grow out of the day's work. On the whole the machinery for book selection in the university libraries is more of a channel for routing faculty recommendations than a creative centre of contact between the librarian and the book world. Whenever the librarian is an active participant in book-selection, the results are more satisfactory, as in some departmental libraries of Michigan and in the university library at Stanford.

33 Acquisition Policy and Programmes

Nevertheless, most libraries have well planned acquisition policies and programmes. For quality, quantity and variety the bookstocks in American libraries are superb. The mounting cost of books and increasing storage problem have led to the development of: (1) co-operative acquisition programmes, as between some libraries in Chicago, and (2) co-operative arrangements for acquisition and storage, as between the Mid-West university libraries, or, (3) simply economical storage in separate buildings. Co-operative acquisition programmes on a nation-wide basis have led to developments like the 'Farmington Plan'. The regional bibliographic centres actively promote cooperative programmes among the libraries of the region. Many surveys of library resources of individual libraries, of libraries in a region, in special subjects, etc., are available. The union catalogues, maintained in the bibliographic centres and the Library of Congress, make practicable the cooperative use of materials, regionally or on a nation-wide basis.

34 Periodicals

The collection of periodicals and serials is equally impressive. Various mechanisms are used for checking and claiming periodicals. But no arrangement seems to be at once economical and fully efficient for claiming. Visible files are used extensively, but the USDA Library, which has about 20,000 items on its files, has changed over recently from the visible file system to a simpler card-and-tray system. Even here the procedure for periodic review of the overdues continues to be time-consuming. The system of 'check-cards', prevailing in India in some libraries, seems to be quite satisfactory though it remains to be tested whether it could carry heavy loads efficiently. At many places combined records are kept for serials and 'books in series'. But the combination is not of equals. A system of physical control works well for serials but for 'books in series' the control is bibliographical also. It should, therefore, form a part of or be linked with the control system of book selection.
35 Documents

Through enlightened government policy many libraries have become depository centres for State and Federal publications. In the past separate documents departments had been set up. But it is not clear if the handling of this type of material could not be equally advantageously done without the creation of a separate department. At least one important university library is moving away from the older practice. The bibliographical control of documents is, however, highly complex and requires special attention.

36 Microfacsimiles

Immense economy and numerous advantages have resulted from the different types of microfacsimile collections. Libraries have built up useful collections of newspapers without wasting costly space and facing expensive preservation problems. Even small college libraries now possess a complete file of the New York Times in microfilm and house it in one or two small cabinets. For current research material as much as for unobtainable retrospective materials, the effects of the various types of microfacsimile will be no less than revolutionary.

37 Classification and Cataloguing

The Library of Congress Scheme of Classification has been adopted by most of the bigger University libraries, as it is regarded as more efficient than the Decimal Classification Scheme for organising specialised collections of book materials. But the role of classification has tended to decline and no greater use of it is generally made than for purposes of locating books on shelves. Even its utility to secure helpful shelf-arrangement has diminished. The vastness of book-collections invariably creates distance between books in related subjects and the benefits of 'open access' to the shelves have become questionable when the dead or the dormant materials are not separated from the alive and the functioning. Only through the formation of separate sequences of functional and less functional books can browsing be revitalised again. The value of classification is further obscured by the almost universal use of the dictionary catalogue and dependence on standard lists of subject headings.

37.1 Classified Catalogue

The classified catalogue of the John Crear Library, though it is not new, continues to be one of the major exceptions. At a time when the dictionary catalogue as a bibliographical tool is battling against the deadening weight of its own cross-reference structure, the efficiency of this classified catalogue of a very important library remains largely unknown. Admirable scholarly work has been done recently by Shera and Egan to indicate the basic principles and practices of the classified catalogue and to improve its role in the organisation of library materials. Since, however, the efficiency of the classified catalogue is dependent on the scheme of classification upon which it is based, the demonstration value of the John Crear Library Catalogue, which uses the Decimal Classification, may still remain inconclusive.

37.2 Dictionary Catalogue

A good deal of thoughtful study of the Dictionary Catalogue has also been made in recent times. But solid practical results are yet to come. Many institutions, including the libraries of Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, have been using a form of catalogue divided into two alphabetical sequences: (1) by author, title etc. and (2) by subjects. This has certain advantages, just as the current trends of shortened entries and simpler cataloguing have their own value. The importance of 'descriptive cataloguing' has, however, somewhat diminished. But the main threat to the usefulness of the Dictionary Catalogue which comes from within itself remains unmet.

37.3 Library of Congress Cards

A large number of libraries are making use of the Library of Congress printed catalogue cards. Some of the big University libraries are able to get the Library of Congress
cards for as much as 40% of the books annually catalogued in their libraries. This no doubt represents a substantial saving of professional staff-time. Some of the gains accruing from the centralised cataloguing and classification system are, however, lost by the Library of Congress cards not being available or being delayed. Methods of card reproduction by multilithing, mimeographing, and xerography (or dry photography) have enabled some libraries to speed up cataloguing, either by eliminating dependence on the Library of Congress cards, or by making use of the Library of Congress proof card which is available earlier to reproduce their own cards.

374 . New Indexing Methods and Machine-Search

A rapid progress is noticeable in the development of specially designed types of analytical indexing methods, which are being increasingly used in the research libraries for controlling efficient storage and quick retrieval of information. Machine-search, by punched cards magnetic tapes etc., is being extended and made more efficient by the application of analytical techniques of indexing to coding and prefil ing of information. Taube's 'uniterms' and 'dictionary of associations' and Perry's 'semantic factors' are significant ideas and in many ways similar to Ranganathan's ideas of 'facet analysis' and 'isolates'. The American developments, being limited only to depth-analysis on the 'language plane' and not related to the wider range of depth-classification on the 'idea plane', cannot have any direct effect on the organisation of materials on shelves or files, or of records in the traditional catalogues. The potentialities of machines now being used might even increase through the use of classification techniques being developed in India.

375 Readers' Interest Classification

In all the branches and in one department of the Detroit Public Library the organization of books on shelves is based on an engaging pattern of classification, derived from the basic interests of human life. Logically it involves cross-classification and, therefore, it is not Aristotelian. The ordinary schemes of bibliographical classification have one feature in common. They are analytical and they attempt to divide knowledge into mutually exclusive fragments. But a man's life is not fragmentary. For example, when people marry or set up a home or have children, the complex of their interests is as whole as life itself. To them the effect of any analytical schemes of classification, however broadbased, looks 'disorganized'. It is not less of classification that suits them better. They need a different kind of classification and more of it, with well-articulated, well-formed and well-organized details. The Detroit scheme of classification is a fine example of what the right kind of technique in its right place can achieve to liven up a mass of books in such a way that the arrangement itself communes with life. Such a classification helps the ordinary reader. It trains the librarian to see all-together the many lines of interest that pass through the nodal points of life, to assess from the use of books whether the library really has its roots in the community, and to develop concrete and humane notions of book selection and book service. Being, however, limited by its own relevant purpose, the readers' interest classification is not intended to be used to organize large collections of books for multipurpose use, for which analytical schemes of classification are better suited.

38 Circulation

The most impressive feature of the American library is the manner in which consciousness of service permeates the entire institution and controls all its activities. "Books are for use" is not a slogan but a whole-heartedly accepted social responsibility. Excepting in certain restricted categories of materials, the rules of the library permit the freest and the most generous use of books. Readers often significantly referred to as 'patrons' can borrow from the library as many books as they desire or can carry. The procedure for charging and discharging of books is generally convenient and expeditious but not always most efficient and inexpensive.

381 Charging Systems

As a rule the university and college libraries prefer to interpolate or combine the Time
and the Book records and often maintain a separate Borrower's record. The public libraries, however, prefer to maintain only the Time and the Book records. The use of a system of serial 'transaction numbers' has made combination of the Time and the Book records easier, especially when machines are employed. The transaction number has also made it conveniently possible to centralise Issue records of all departments and branches of a large library system, as in Detroit, and has relieved the service points of all subsequent routine operations.

382 Charging Machines and Manual Methods

The quickest method of issuing books is achieved through photographic charging and many large institutions with heavy circulation work, especially among the public libraries, have introduced it. There are a number of other methods which use mechanical equipments simple or complex. Some libraries use machines like the I.B.M., some use Marginal Punched Cards and Needles, and some others simpler and less expensive equipments. But no system using machinery is wholly satisfactory from all points of view. Some of the methods depending on manual manipulations are, however, remarkably flexible and efficient, besides being simple and inexpensive. The 'tab charging-systems', using scotch tape or other tabs, have been able to operate conveniently with a single record, which gives information in one file both about the due date and the book.

391 Reference Service and Materials

All libraries, big and small, provide a reference service. In fact a library would be unworthy of its name without it. In the university libraries and in many big public libraries the Reference Department is generally most monumentally housed. The vast collection of reference materials strikes one as the most impressive display of the library's immense bibliographical resources. Equally fascinating is the manner in which reference service is rendered to the enquirers on a person-to-person basis by a courteous and qualified staff. The most frequently used materials in the reference department are, however, comparati-vely quite small and consists mainly of the current 'ready reference' tools and some information files which are maintained by the department.

3911 Meaning of 'Reference'

While reference service no doubt constitutes the keystone of library service, there is not, however, sufficient unanimity on its definition, scope and limits. The functions of a receptionist, a readers' advisor, or less frequently a research assistant, may sometimes be assembled with 'ready reference' service. It becomes difficult to disentangle the essential function from the contingent. The definition becomes more elusive when the organization of reference service is also affected by the organization-pattern of the library. As a result the function has also acquired a variety of locally restricted meanings. That reference is an all pervasive function of the library, involving its total bibliographical resources and relative to the totality of the information needs of its clientele, is a concept which is accepted but not always translated into practice. 'Reference service' tends to become the finding of answers to 'reference questions' from 'ready reference' materials. If more than this is involved the service develops into research assistance, or, in the public library, readers' advisory service.

392 Readers' Advisory Service

The vitality of the American public library is best evidenced in the readers' advisory service which is organised to help an individual to plan his reading. The planning of the service is very carefully done. It begins with an interview with the reader. Its tools consist of course-units of study and graded reading materials. The advisor helps the reader according to his needs and his ability to help himself. It is understandable that the librarians rendering this service have found it most rewarding. Often they find themselves in a position analogous to that of a teacher. In some cases, as in Cincinnati, the Readers' Advisor has begun to impart individual instruction. While the need for a service of that type may be compelling, the way it can be differently rendered is shown in Louisville, where the University and the Public Library cooperate, is not too dissimilar a situation.
to provide for organized studies with the help of instruction. The two worlds of formal education and informal self-education are big enough in themselves. The fuller and surer development is likely to be symbiotic rather than hybird.

393 Group Activities: Discussion & Group Leaders' Training

Group activities form a large part of public library service. The library's success in this field depends on the leadership of the librarian, imaginative choice of programmes, aids and materials, planning of every detail with care, and proper execution. The audio-visual aids are most varied and plentiful, but their role is definitely secondary. The central feature of most group activities is the 'discussion', the conduct of which depends on the quality of the group leader. The training of group leaders, locally in the library, is an essential part of the librarian's activities. Some interesting training techniques have been evolved, for example the 'question-answer method' used in the leaders' training for the Great Books Programme. The way successful group activities have been organised in some of the county library systems is a tribute to the ingenuity of the librarian and his training technique of group leaders. Some well-conducted local programmes have been successful enough to earn nation-wide recognition.

4 LIBRARY ECONOMY: METHODS AND STANDARDS

Job analysis, classification of positions, cost accounting, time and motion study and similar techniques, have been used in libraries. Details of routine operations are carefully prescribed in the administrative manuals. Designs and forms of records are intelligently related to operations. Professional and clerical positions are clearly demarcated at many places. Principles of personnel administration are well developed. Over-elaboration of details and excessive specialization, incidental to large scale operations, sometimes restrict the field of the individual in administration. But the role of personality has its full play in the imaginative use of knowledge and skill, in enterprise and inventiveness and within the creative regions of administration and service. Bureaucracy is pleasantly absent. Discussions, meetings and conferences, formal and informal, at all levels, keep the system of communication clear of 'red tape' and transmission of information and intelligence is smooth and rapid. Large institutions are imbued with the spirit and consciousness of service and are operated and controlled with amazing ease and flexibility. Quantitative and qualitative standards applicable to operations and services in libraries, have been evolved on the basis of a variety of measurements and comparative statistics. Assessments of administration are based on objective standards, not on claims or opinions. American standards are, however, relative to American conditions. Costs are higher, mainly because salaries are high, 6 to 8 times greater than in India, and the quality of service is superior. The efficiency of the individual can also be very high, sometimes owing to simple skills. For example, a book-mobile service over an entire county may be run by a single person, who is both its professional librarian and driver and also in charge, at the county headquarters, of all technical and clerical work connected with the mobile service. Standards may vary but the methodology of standards and scientific management are considered of basic importance in the organization and administration of library service.

5 LIBRARY BUILDINGS

America in the post war period has witnessed a tremendous growth in library building activities. There are new buildings for all types and sizes of libraries. Much new thinking has come into their planning and construction. Already a considerable body of experience, gained by functioning in these buildings, is also available which in its turn will influence future developments.

51 Functional Planning

The ideas which dominate planning relate to changing patterns of education and research, to more vitalised service concepts, and to problems of library growth. Everywhere there is a pronounced shift towards providing a closer
physical proximity between the books, the readers and the library staff. In the new buildings great new opportunities have unfolded themselves (1) for better integration of the book collections in related fields, (2) for bringing within easy access of the readers an almost unlimited choice of reading materials, (3) for provision of attractively laid-out and comfortable reading areas in different parts of the library, adjoining to the different shelving areas, and (4) for functional utilisation of space for all types of materials and services with the maximum provision for flexibility, expansion and interchangeability. The building itself is dynamic. The old rigidity of fixed stacks and of monumental reading halls has been overcome.

52 Modular Construction

The most revolutionary development has been the introduction into the field of library architecture of the concept of 'modular construction'. The entire library is conceived of as made up of a number of uniform modules. Each 'module', in two dimensional terms, is a rectangular area. One of its sides is a multiple of 3', which is the standard length of a book-shelf, and the other side is a multiple of 4', which is the centre-to-centre standard distance between ranges of shelves. At the corners of the modules are four columns which carry the weight of the roof or the floor above and eliminate the need for load-bearing walls. The height of the modules from floor to ceiling is 8' to 10'. Different sizes of modules, 18' x 18', 18' x 22', 27' x 27' etc., are being used. The particular choice of the length of each side is governed by the fact that it is convenient, though not necessary, that the area of the site be a multiple of the area of the module. Permanent or immovable elements, like staircases, elevators, toilets etc., are gathered together into a central core, so that the advantages of unobstructed open space, gained through modular construction, are not frittered away. Artificial lighting and air-conditioning have also made it possible to build on the entire area of the site and to dispense with light-wells, high roofs and narrow width. The compactness of the building has appreciably shortened the lines of communication, both vertically and horizontally, though horizontal communication still retains some of its snags. Most impressive are the effective and imaginative uses which have been made of colour schemes, draperies, distinctive equipment and furniture, and lighting and acoustics. The cost of modular construction is also comparatively lower. While in some educational buildings the cost of construction may be about $30.00 per square foot, in a modular library building it has been even as low as $12.00 per square foot. In small library buildings modular construction is unnecessary because columns are dispensable.

53 New Problems in New Buildings

The new building has brought in its trail new problems and not all libraries have tackled them in the same way or equally satisfactory. One major problem is to form easily understandable book-sequences on the shelves. In places open spaces have been divided into small alcoves, which have the effect of breaking up the book-sequence into many bits and which unnecessarily create circulation of traffic round limited reading spaces. Some times the books in the same field, which are shelved for one reason or another in a different shelf-sequence, have been separated unhelpfully by distance, even when the two sequences are running very near to each other. Similarly, the movement of books on the shelves, owing to addition of new stock, tends to upset sequence arrangements. A constant control is necessary on the collection in each sequence by weeding books from the primary sequences to a storage sequence. In some libraries this method has not received sufficient attention. The quantity of books on display sometimes oversteps the limits of usefulness and display has lost some of its distinctiveness. The principle of flexibility may have been also carried to an extreme. Some buildings which have constructed two floors of fixed stack in between service floors, as in the Cincinnati Public Library, have not suffered by rigidity. The almost total dependence on artificial lighting becomes expensive, though this is a problem which may be solved by new developments in technology. The potentialities of service in the new building are still in the process of realization.
6 LIBRARY SCHOOLS

61 Library Education in the University

The full professional course at the American universities is at the graduate level and leads to a Master's degree. There are also courses at the undergraduate level, mainly for school librarians and teacher-librarians. The graduate course in Chicago is organically an offshoot of the university's 'general education' system. This allows for a better directed preparatory education leading into the professional course and gives adequate time for specialization at the higher levels. Broadly, the library schools vary among themselves according to the degree of emphasis given on the theoretical content or the practical aspects of librarianship. Whatever the difference in emphasis, the objectives of library service dominate the outlook of each school.

62 Development of Library Education

The number of courses offered by the schools is large and varied, while opportunities to specialise in any field are plentiful. Since the days of Melvil Dewey, the curriculum in Library Science has steadily developed from training in a limited number of simple skills to specialising in a number of professional fields. The number of specialities, however, tended to become too many and began to divide librarians artificially. In recent times a considerable overhauling, reorganization and integration have taken place. The situation is still somewhat fluid. The re-accreditation of the schools into different types has not yet been completed. But the trends of development are fairly clear. Library education today is much less a training in simple skills. It is now an interpretative and unifying instrument for integrated use of library materials, tools and techniques in order to attain the objectives of service. Library Science has become a sociological discipline. Because the library is an institution in the field of mass communication of ideas and information, such a development is quite natural.

63 Current Trends

Yet the process of integration remains partial and incomplete. The idea of the 'use' of materials being more dominant, the idea of the 'organisation' of materials often receives less attention. The problems of re-designing the traditional tools and techniques have not been rigorously pursued. Some new and significant developments are, however, taking place. The teaching of 'subject bibliographies' is being related to the respective fields of research. That a research problem is itself many-faceted and involves a simultaneous approach from several sides is being recognised in the teaching of bibliography and training of the librarian. Similarly, the methods of 'content analysis', being developed now, represent in themselves a multi-dimensional approach towards evaluation of literature and reading materials in relation to their use. Out of these studies clearer indications towards a revaluation of the organisation of the older tools and techniques may also become available. The Graduate Library School of Chicago, where these new developments are most in evidence, continues to hold its prominent place in the field of library education.

64 In-Service Training and Other Educational Facilities

In addition to extensive educational facilities in the universities, there are also facilities for in-service training in many major institutions, especially among the public libraries. The period of probation is often organised and utilised for training new personnel, according to the requirements of the particular library. In some places probation may be as long as two years and may involve a thorough on-the-job training. Some libraries also send information to the library schools on the performance of their students, so that such an exchange of information may be used to effect further improvement in the nature and quality of library education. The library schools, the library associations, the State library authorities and other agencies, continuously provide additional educational facilities at various levels, for special purposes and needs, through refresher courses, seminars, institutes, workshops, etc. The senior members of the profession or specialists in different library areas have their own meetings and conferences to study current developments and problems. All this helps to improve and widen the horizon of the librarian's intellectual outlook. The vigour and versatility of the
library profession in America is as much due to the system and facilities of library education as to any other contributory factor.

7 SOME SUGGESTIONS

In relation to the development of libraries and library service in India, American experience becomes pertinent and gains in significance when Indian requirements are clearly formulated.

71 University Libraries

It is expected that the university libraries of India, which have already reached a certain stage of development, will be more rapidly expanded hereafter. Now is the appropriate time to examine in what directions the developments of the past have proceeded and to frame a policy of development for the future.

711 Study of the Structure of University Libraries Needed for Planned Development

American Universities clearly show that the older structure of departmental libraries, with a weakened General Library, is a costlier set up and unsuited to the development of research services. The emergence of integrated research and the emphasis on 'general education' also require a different library structure. The 'divisional' pattern of organisation, which has been recently developed, is better suited to modern requirements. It provides a wider base for the development of research services, efficiently and economically. The departmental libraries with custodian responsibilities, have led to a tremendous amount of duplication of material and are now also hindering the integrated growth of research facilities. The trends in India resemble the older trends in America. It is a matter of sufficient importance to examine if the structure of university libraries in India is flexible enough and suited to co-ordinated and integrated developments, both in the field of research and curricular studies.

712 Cooperative Programmes of Acquisition: Union Catalogue

In order to build up book-stocks systematically, the university libraries need to formulate their acquisition programmes sufficiently carefully, in relation to available materials and needs of research and study. Since it is not economical for every library to obtain every type of material, the neighbouring universities should be able to evolve cooperative acquisition programmes and specialise in different areas. The economies involved would depend partially on the extent duplication of advanced research is avoided by the universities. To make cooperation effective, the instrument of the 'union catalogue' of books, of the participating libraries, will be needed. In course of time the union catalogue can become the nucleus of regional bibliographical centres.

713 Improvement of Periodicals Collections

To improve research facilities, the periodicals collections of university libraries require to be increased manifold. Here too there is room for cooperative programmes, particularly in the holdings of back-volumes.

714 Development of Depository Centres in University Libraries for Government Documents

The collection of government documents is generally poor in the university libraries, which is a growing handicap. Early steps are necessary to establish in these libraries a comprehensive depository collection of Union and State Government documents. The costs to the governments will be negligible. But the benefits to students and scholars all over the country will be immeasurable.

715 Development of Micro-facsimile Collection of Books and Newspapers

The collections of microfilms and microprint materials have become urgently necessary to cover large gaps in the book collections, where retrospective material is unobtainable or costly. The libraries are also unable to maintain and preserve files of newspapers, which are increasingly becoming source-materials for a large number of research projects. It is far
more economical to keep these irreplaceable records in micro-facsimiles.

### 716 Development of Photographic Reproduction Facilities

Facilities for photographic and micro-photographic reproduction should be available in the university libraries, as they are of daily importance in the development of service to research scholars. Large scale reproduction of materials would require larger plants and facilities for photographic reproduction of newspapers, books, etc., should be organised centrally for the universities and other academic and research institutions in the country.

### 717 Development of Services and Techniques

In the matter of library services the inadequacies of Indian libraries are due mainly to the lack of necessary provision for qualified staff. (1) Reference service is poorly developed and research assistance is almost wholly absent. These services, by which libraries are valued elsewhere, need to be developed with proper budgetary provisions and suitable training facilities. Research assistance, including bibliographical and documentation services, is most economically organised on a 'divisional' basis, covering the whole area of knowledge through a limited number of divisions, like (i) physical sciences, (ii) biological sciences, (iii) humanities and (iv) social sciences. (2) 'Open access' and a physical set up suitable to integration of readers and books, are most important for developing the use of books. These facilities should be created in the university libraries, wherever they are not available. (3) The techniques developed in India in the field of cataloguing, classification and documentation require a more careful study, as they have many superior qualities. (4) The issue methods and circulation records, generally prevalent in India, are archaic. The 'accession register', which is maintained with considerable ritual in Indian libraries, is elsewhere as dead as the dodo.

### 72 Library Standards

Library administration elsewhere has become fairly standardised. Cost calculations with regard to materials and operations are easily obtained. So far no organised attempt, excepting one by Dr. Ranganathan, has been made in India to formulate these standards. Recently, universities have received substantial non-recurring grants but without any provision for the services or the materials required in selecting, ordering, classifying, cataloguing, etc. Whatever organisation tenuously exists in the university libraries, collapses under the weight of these benefactions. A formulation of library standards, suited to Indian conditions and requirements of technical services in the universities, is urgently needed.

### 73 Functional Buildings

In the field of library buildings India has much to learn from America. For larger buildings, modular construction is economical and allows for maximum flexibility and growth. But the height of the modules and the width of the building have to be adjusted to our climatic conditions and technology. Instead of the prevalent height of 8' to 10' in America, the height of the module in India should be at least 16' in the service areas, in order to avoid dependence on artificial lighting. Such variations of modular construction have been made with ease, as in the Lamont Library. Wherever possible the university library buildings should be air-conditioned, as it is a worthwhile investment with quick returns. Even in the field of small library buildings, the latest developments in America are not only simple and severely economical but functionally most efficient. What, however, needs to be avoided is some of the older type of American library architecture, which seems to have recently made its way into this country.

### 74 Improvement of Library Education Facilities

Library education is America's strongest point. Indian facilities and training methods resemble, by and large, what used to prevail in America in the 1880's. The social and the
The intellectual content of the curriculum is extremely limited. Dr. S. R. Ranganathan had turned library education into an intellectual discipline and lifted it above the level of simple skills, just as he has made other fundamental contributions in many significant fields of librarianship. The standard set by him in library education is not maintainable unless minimum provisions are made to develop the library schools of the country. The lines of development are clear enough. (1) The schools require the services of adequately qualified full time teachers. (2) As the schools do not attract good students, because the profession does not offer attractive prospects, it is necessary, as a first step towards securing better recruitment into the profession to institute All-India Scholarships at some of the selected library schools. (3) The curriculum of the library schools requires to be recast and its social and intellectual content to be improved. (4) As in some universities of America, the training in the elementary skills should be given in a three month 'vestibule course', leading into the basic professional course at the post graduate level of one academic year. Without this change, the standard of the one year course will not improve. (5) There are many reasons to consider changing the Diploma of the universities into a Bachelor's Degree.

75 Public Library Development

751 Instrument for Library Extension

The State agency for library extension in America is a remarkable instrument, compact, efficient, economical and easily adaptable to Indian conditions. The work of public library extension can become a wasteful enterprise for want of a suitable organization and base of operations at the State level, from where the extension schemes at the district levels can be helped, with technical knowledge of organization and service, and developed according to approved standards. The organization, functions and activities of the State Library agencies in America can be studied for many practical and fruitful ideas.

752 Public Library Service Techniques

The development of service in the public library is dependent on a few important techniques. The American techniques are of wider significance. (a) Reference service and Readers' Advisory service are basic to the development of book-service. They help to integrate the library with its neighbourhood in accordance with the needs and interests of the community. (b) In the area of group activities the development of discussion techniques and training techniques of group leaders from among librarians are the most essential elements for the development of social education programmes of public libraries. With these techniques alone the use of audio-visual or even book materials can become effective. (c) A more imaginative use of book arrangements on shelves, on the lines of the Readers' Interest classification scheme, is a simple technique of improving service in a big way.