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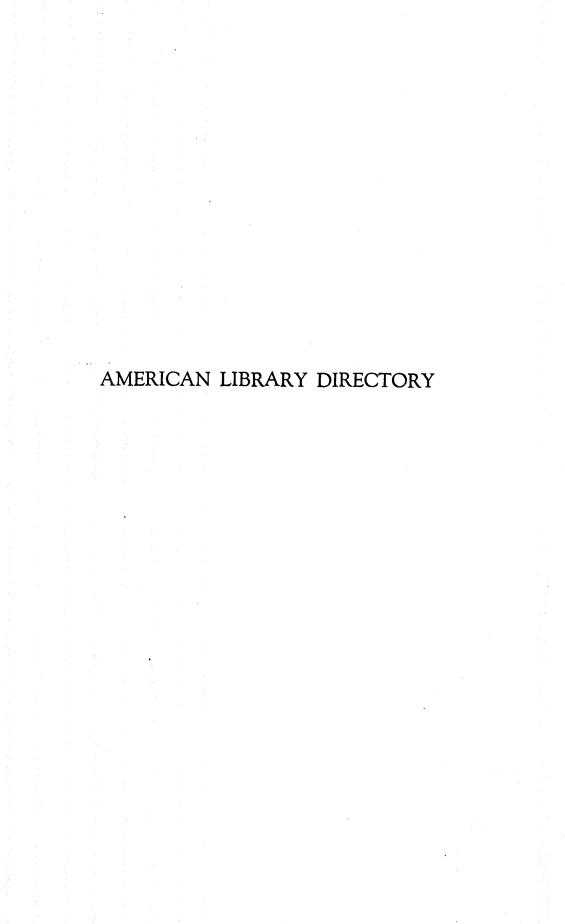
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FOREWORD

The AMERICAN LIBRARY DIRECTORY, 1923, is an effort to supply a much needed reference volume in the library field. Such a list was the principal feature of the American Library Annuals, issued in past years, the last volume in 1917-1918. The present list is more than double the length of that list, and endeavors to cover more types of libraries while omitting detailed statistics in regard to their collections.

The headquarters of the American Library Association placed its address lists unreservedly at the disposal of the editors, and equal thanks are due to its officials and to the several state commissions which have so cheerfully given help as to the entries in their respective fields.

All lists are arranged alphabetically by state, territory or province, and, under these headings, alphabetically by city or town.

The division of public libraries includes the state libraries and library commissions, which are printed at the head of each state list. County libraries are listed under the place where centered, with cross references from name of the county. In such a state as California where the county system has reached its highest development this plan of entry leads to the omission of the names of some important towns whose libraries are branches of the county system. The list includes all public libraries which serve a population of over 1,000 people. In some cases service goes beyond the town in which the library is located. The limitation to 1,000 population is arbitrary and causes the omission of some progressive libraries, but some limitation was necessary. The name of each library is intended to be that by which it is incorporated and by which it should be addressed. Librarians' names are given when the information was furnished. In cities of the larger size, the heads of departments are listed.

The section of libraries of Colleges and Normal Schools includes all institutions of higher education. In some cases, libraries of this character find their entry under the classification of Special Libraries, and to this list, also, reference should be made. Especially this is true as to the department libraries of large universities which may be scattered under various roofs and even in different cities.

For the High School list the editors are largely indebted to the work of Charlotte E. Smith, librarian of the Carter Harrison High School, Chicago, who had recently completed a survey of this field in the interests of the National Education Association and the School Libraries Department of the American Library Association. As in the section of Public Libraries, the populations of cities and towns are given as an indication of the size and importance of the schools. Legislation and other causes have brought great variations in the development of High School libraries in the different states.

The Special Library in the field of business is of recent growth and provides more difficulties for the editors than any of the other groups. In addition to using the survey made by the Special Libraries Association, under the general direction of Dorsey W. Hyde, Jr., the list has had the benefit of revisions in the large cities from associations of special librarians.

The group of Miscellaneous Libraries includes largely the charitable and correctional institutions and other collections reported from various states which could not be accurately classified under the main divisions.

It is expected that this Directory will have extensions and revisions in the future and other library material such as bibliographies or library work may be then included, as in the old Library Annuals, or made the basis of other handbooks.

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Secretary, Anna May Price, Library Extension Division, Illinois State Library, Springfield, Ill.

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