

LIBRARY SCIENCE ANNUAL

VOLUME 1

1985

**Bohdan S. Wynar
Heather Cameron**

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Journals Cited

FORM OF CITATION

BL

C&RL

JAL

LJ

RBB

RQ

SLJ

SLMQ

WLB

JOURNAL TITLE

Booklist

College & Research Libraries

Journal of Academic Librarianship

Library Journal

Reference Books Bulletin

RQ

School Library Journal

School Library Media Quarterly

Wilson Library Bulletin

Introduction

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

In the last fifteen years, the library science literature has grown dramatically. For example, the number of entries in *American Reference Books Annual's* library science chapter, which has provided coverage of both reference and nonreference materials, has doubled. And, almost half of the 105 major U.S. periodical titles currently being issued have commenced publication since 1970. This significant increase is documented in some detail by Stevens (see pp. 17-28) and Bobinski (see pp. 29-41), and may be attributed, in part, to the following factors:

1. The requirement for academic librarians to publish as a condition for faculty status and tenure.
2. A new research orientation in the profession as evidenced by the vast increase in the number of librarians holding doctorates in library science. From 1973 to 1983, the yearly average of dissertations produced was over one hundred as compared to a yearly average of fourteen between 1925 and 1972 (see Schlachter, p. 181).
3. The growing specialization and the rapid rate of change in library science which have made publication imperative for sharing information.
4. The increase in the number of library science publishers in the private, profit-oriented sector and the competitiveness among these publishers to tap a lucrative market. By identifying trends in the field and gaps in the literature, and by encouraging authors to write books, these publishers have stimulated growth.

As the literature grows and the professional canon changes, it becomes more important than ever and more difficult than ever for librarians to keep up-to-date. Book reviews, which provide some idea of the scope and content of the literature and which also evaluate and compare it, are scattered in an increasingly large number of periodicals. Even so, they cover the new literature incompletely. Almost half of the library science books published in 1983-1984 were never reviewed in the national library journals. Many were reviewed only in one of the many subject-oriented or regional periodicals that have appeared in recent years. Some were not reviewed at all in the periodical press. Without convenient and timely access to all the new ideas and innovations in the field, librarians may lose a broad professional overview as librarianship becomes increasingly specialized and its knowledge base more and more compartmentalized.

In response, a comprehensive annual reviewing service for library literature was conceived. *Library Science Annual*, a companion volume to *American Reference Books Annual*, has the following broad objectives and scope:

1. To review all English-language monographs and reference books in library science published in a year, not just selected or recommended titles. Volume 1 reviews 253 titles, principally U.S., a number of Canadian, and some other imprints distributed in the United States. Volume 2 will expand this coverage to include all Canadian imprints, and some British titles not currently available in the United States. Subsequent volumes will extend coverage to English-language library science titles published worldwide.
2. To evaluate systematically all English-language library science periodicals

and indexing services. Each year, the editors of *LSA* will select titles for review. Forty-two periodicals published in the United States and Canada are reviewed in volume 1, including some of national or regional interest and some that are subject-oriented. Subsequent volumes will include reviews of databases in library science.

3. To highlight research trends in library science by providing abstracts of the most significant doctoral dissertations produced in a year. For volume 1, Gail A. Schlachter has contributed abstracts of thirty-two dissertations.
4. To report on the production and distribution of knowledge in library science through essays by prominent library educators, practitioners, and publishers. Specific areas will be emphasized in each volume. For example, volume 1 includes several essays on library science publishing. Volume 2 will feature reviewing and will report on the amount and degree of reviewing. In addition, each year, one library science publisher will be invited to contribute a profile of his/her firm; in the first volume, the Scarecrow Press is featured in an article by Eric Moon.
5. To attempt, over time, a permanent record of the intellectual activity in librarianship and to impose bibliographic control over the literature.

Certain categories of materials will not be covered in *LSA*. Those include specific periodical articles, publications of vanity presses, and certain inhouse publications which are institution-specific. For the time being, limited distribution research reports, audiovisual materials, and some continuing education "kits" produced by ALA divisions or affiliates will not be covered.

REVIEWING POLICY

The editors of *Library Science Annual* have applied the same rigorous reviewing standards that *American Reference Books Annual* is noted for. The *LSA* staff keeps an up-to-date list of well-qualified library educators and practitioners so that books may be assigned for review appropriately. This year *LSA* has used the services of over 140 librarians and scholars at libraries and universities throughout the United States and Canada; their names are listed

following this introduction. Reviews in *LSA* are signed as a matter of editorial policy.

Standard instructions for *LSA* reviewers, prepared by the editorial staff, are briefly summarized here: Reviewers should discuss the work and then provide well-documented critical comments, positive or negative. Such things as the usefulness of the given work; organization, execution, and pertinence of contents; prose style; format; availability of supplementary materials (e.g., indexes, appendixes); and similarity to other works and/or previous editions are normally discussed. Reviewers are encouraged to note intended audience and/or level, but the review need not conclude with specific recommendations for purchase.

All the materials reviewed are given full bibliographic description, and citations to other review sources are given for books.

ARRANGEMENT

LSA is arranged in four parts. Part 1 contains six essays contributed by authors well known in Canada and the United States, treating various library science publishing areas. Part 2, comprising reviews of 253 books, is arranged into thirty-one subjects, including such areas as acquisitions, cataloging, comparative and international librarianship, management, school library media centers, and special collections. Reviews of periodicals, arranged under the headings National, Subject-oriented, Regional, and Indexes, comprise part 3. The fourth and final part has abstracts of dissertations listed alphabetically by title.

AUDIENCE

We hope that all professional librarians will benefit from *Library Science Annual*. It has been created with the needs of students and researchers, practitioners and library educators in mind. We believe that publishers and other information professionals will also find much of interest. We urge librarians to contribute their suggestions for improvement, and to support our efforts to create an outstanding annual review for librarians in the United States and internationally.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In closing, we wish to express our gratitude to the many contributors without whose support this first volume of *LSA* could not have been compiled. We would also like to thank the members of our staff who were instrumental in the preparation of *LSA*: assistant editors

Hannah L. K. Robinson and Anna Grace Patterson; as well as Judy Gay Matthews, Constance Hardesty, Kay Minnis, and Peggy Auten-Fuller.

Special recognition should be given to Ruth Blackmore, who compiled the index and proofread this volume.

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Part I
ESSAYS

The Scarecrow Press

The Scarecrow Press crept quietly onto the publishing scene over three decades ago, its first book emerging in 1950 from the basement of the founder's home. That first book, appropriately, was Hessel's *History of Libraries*, translated by Reuben Peiss. It was appropriate because the founder and first president of the Press was himself a major figure in the history of libraries: Ralph R. Shaw, a brilliant, contentious dynamo of a man, "a sometimes iconoclast,"¹ and an original thinker who left his imprint on libraries, library education and theory, the profession, and publishing so indelibly that there are few, before or since, who could be said to have matched his contributions.

Shaw started Scarecrow as a hobby, but also, as was the case with many of his ventures, to prove a point. One only had to describe something as impossible to launch Shaw into action. In an *RQ* article in 1966 he said: "If there is a single thing upon which the publishing fraternity is in agreement it is that the scholarly book of limited distribution cannot be published without subsidy."² Scarecrow was his way of proving, once again, that the impossible could be accomplished.

Robert C. Binkley, in what Shaw considered a classic work, had concluded, "... under present publishing practices ... no book can be expected to get the publisher out of the red until sales have passed well beyond the 1,000 mark."³ (And this judgment was made during the depths of the Depression!) The essence of Binkley's argument was that there are certain fixed costs—editorial, composition, overhead, etc.—that do not vary with the size of the edition, and that these costs must be distributed over the total number of copies sold. If a book sells 50,000 copies, the fixed costs are spread so widely as to be negligible; if the edition sells

only 250 copies, the part of the fixed costs that must be charged against each copy becomes prohibitive.

Shaw set out to attack what he called the "villain of the piece": those fixed costs. Before his first book was published he was talking one day with his friend and colleague, author-editor Earl Schenk Miers, who had been associated with the Rutgers University Press. Describing his new venture, Shaw detailed how he intended to avoid "excessive office costs, excessive editorial costs, general trade advertising and the building up of a staff, which would then continue to have to be supported." Miers broke in, "You're talking about a scarecrow: it has no overhead, it pays no rent, it is not responsible for anybody's future clothing and shelter. It's a scarecrow."⁴ And thus was Shaw's new baby christened.

But the baby, as babies are wont to do, began to grow. It soon could no longer be accommodated in the Shaw basement, could no longer be managed by one man, even one with the capacity and energy of a Shaw. In 1956, Albert Daub, a man who had spent his whole life selling and publishing scholarly books, came on board as Shaw's partner and Scarecrow became an incorporated company. A New York office was opened to handle sales and promotion, but the editorial and production office continued to be wherever Shaw hung his hat. For the better part of 20 years Scarecrow books were edited and styled and proofread on planes and trains and in motel rooms as Shaw careened around the United States (and elsewhere), fulfilling many other roles but never leaving his baby behind. Until the late sixties he was Scarecrow's *only* editor.

The growth continued to escalate, and with it came another major addition to the

Scarecrow team. Albert Daub's son, Albert W. (known to virtually all in the library and publishing communities as Al), left IBM and quickly became Scarecrow's man for all seasons. When his father retired Al became the company's executive vice president and ever since, in that role, has managed virtually everything at Scarecrow except the editorial operation. He is responsible for sales, promotion, finances, equipment, office management—you name it—and will turn his hand when necessary to billing, shipping, the camera room, or whatever else may need a boost during an emergency. If Scarecrow has a foundation stone, Al is it.

By the late sixties Shaw was fighting a valiant but losing battle against cancer and the elder Daub was reaching an age where more peaceful pursuits beckoned. To insure Scarecrow's future they decided to sell the company and Ted Waller acquired it for the Grolier Educational Corporation in 1968. The baby could not have found a more benevolent step-parent: it has operated ever since with great freedom and independence, something that is almost unprecedented in the gruesome history of publishing mergers.

The next step was to find a successor to Shaw, and Eric Moon, longtime editor of *Library Journal* and then editorial director for R. R. Bowker, joined Scarecrow in July 1969. He served as president and editorial chief until the end of 1978, when he retired to Florida, golf, and sunshine, although continuing to serve Grolier and Scarecrow as an editorial consultant. Succeeding Moon, Wm. R. Eshelman, former editor (1968-1978) of the *Wilson Library Bulletin*, became the next president and he continues in that role. As an aside, Scarecrow in its 35-year history has gathered two unique distinctions: it is the only publishing company to have produced two presidents of the American Library Association (Shaw and Moon), and the only one to be headed by two former chief editors of national library periodicals (Moon and Eshelman).

It is probably fair to say that Scarecrow over the years has been thought of by most people as primarily a publisher of library science materials. This image is as accurate as the too common view of librarians as little old ladies in tennis shoes. Although a sizable proportion of the Scarecrow list during the Shaw years did comply with this image, there was, even then, considerable diversity in the output of the Press. As Shaw stated in the mid-sixties, "While the Press, by its nature, runs heavily to library and bibliographical tools, there are no subject limitations as long as the manuscript submitted meets the criterion of making a necessary contribution" to knowledge. "It may be a new treatment of a subject in monograph form, a work of original scholarship or a contribution to

knowledge by virtue of synthesis of what is known or available on a subject—as in the case of our bibliographic tools."⁵

Today, although library science is still an important element of the Scarecrow publishing program, it accounts for only some 19 pages of the 100-plus pages of the 1984 Scarecrow catalog; that is, somewhat less than 20 percent of the output of the Press. The significance of the library science component, however, cannot be measured in such simple numerical terms.

The most important book in Scarecrow's history, in terms of sales—its all-time best-seller—is a library science title, Carter and Bonk's *Building Library Collections*. Published early this year, the sixth edition is the most comprehensive revision ever of this standard textbook, undertaken by its new authors, Arthur Curley and Dorothy Broderick. Another major library science text from Scarecrow is *Akers' Simple Library Cataloging*, now in its seventh edition (1984), the last two editions having been written and revised by Arthur Curley and Jana Varlejs.

A major recent addition to Scarecrow's library science texts is The Library Administration series under the general editorship of ace library consultant and former library educator Lowell A. Martin. Five of the planned ten volumes in the series have been published in the past three years. Another new star in the Scarecrow firmament is Sally C. Tseng's *LC Rule Interpretations of AACR2*, consisting currently of a cumulated edition (1978-1983) and a number of update volumes. Although this acronymic title may not sound like a thriller, this looseleaf compilation of LC decisions, policies, and rule interpretations, as published in its *Cataloging Service Bulletins*, has brought ease and joy to many technical services personnel who must struggle with the complexities of *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules*.

A few other established, and continuing, stars of the library science list should be mentioned. Bill Katz's *Library Lit.—The Best of [each year]*, an annual which began in 1970, provides, in addition to some entertaining and lively writing, a mirror of the profession's major concerns over the past decade and a half. Margaret Taylor's *Basic Reference Sources*, now in its third edition with Ronald Powell as coauthor, is a long-standing tool in library science courses and in staff development and continuing education programs. And the indefatigable authors of the library conservation bible, George and Dorothy Cunha, have added a new work to their basic set, *Conservation of Library Materials* (2 vols., 1971-1972, 2d ed.). Their *Library and Archives Conservation: 1980s and Beyond*, another two-volume set published in 1983, provides an overview of developments in professional conservation in the past 15 years as well