

# WORLD LIBRARIANSHIP

A Comparative Study

RICHARD  
KRZYS

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GASTON  
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# **WORLD LIBRARIANSHIP**

**A COMPARATIVE STUDY**

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## Foreword

The enormously high speed of change in all areas of human activity, the main characteristic of our time, has had its impact on the development of librarianship by giving rise to many new elements. The most significant are the gradual acceptance of librarianship as a profession and the inevitable integration of library science as a full and equal branch of the social sciences.

Many factors have helped to accelerate these processes: the pressure of growing demands of library users, extensive progress in automation, the inspiring rivalry of a new cognate discipline—information science—the increase in international contacts, and the infusion of new research methods, borrowed and adopted from other fields of knowledge.

The present state of development of both the sciences and humanities is characterized by integration of knowledge and interdisciplinary cooperation among their researchers. These most fruitful processes have strongly influenced the field of library theory. Also due to these processes, library science has been enriched by new fields of research, among which is comparative study in librarianship.

As indicated by Drs. Richard Krzys and Gaston Litton, the principal researchers of this study, increasing of information in our profession through contacts among practitioners of various nations of the world has played the role of a catalyst by adding an international dimension to the profession and helping to raise comparative study in our profession from the level of “semiconscious” use to the level of serious scientific research that the authors have designated as world study in librarianship.

This book, yet another link in that chain of development, introduces the concept of world study in librarianship and places it over the field of international and comparative study in librarianship. Chapter 1 discusses some theoretical aspects of the new field and while introducing it, traces its development. Chapter 2 discusses the general research methodology of the field, and Chapter 3 explains the specific research design underlying this study. Then the bulk of the work presents a comparative study of the profession, including its history and interpretation as well as a juxtaposition and comparison of variants of professional practice throughout the world. The final part introduces two original concepts; they are *metalibrarianship*, a term by which Krzys and Litton identify the philosophy and theory of world librarianship, and, finally, the concept of *global librarianship*, which the principal authors define as “that phase of library develop-

ment to be characterized by decision making for the purpose of satisfying humanity's information needs rather than purely regional or national needs." The authors even go beyond that topic at the close of their book. But rather than reveal that intriguing idea here, I shall leave it for the reader to discover.

It may well happen that the concepts introduced or reinterpreted here by the main authors will meet with a controversial response from readers. Such is the present level of development of library science that we are still "searching for the truth," attempting to formulate definitions, and reach common understanding of basic concepts, processes which are indispensable—in fact, most important—in the molding of any complex human knowledge into a separate discipline.

Only experienced researchers and mature students will fully appreciate what the editors and their research associates have accomplished here. In making a first attempt at total analysis of our profession, they have achieved the research equivalent of Magellan's circumnavigating the globe. Fortunately, our collaborators have emerged with a happier fate than befell the sixteenth century Portuguese navigator and his crew!

Librarians and library educators have long hoped for a monograph that would survey our profession throughout the world, but some have considered even entertaining that hope as "to dream the impossible dream." Krzys and Litton have brought us a step closer to realizing that dream by designing *World Librarianship* as a comparative study of librarianship on the five continents written by resident researchers. Also, they have developed content for a new course in the library school curriculum—World Librarianship—and simultaneously created a new body of knowledge within library science. In doing so, Krzys and Litton have supplied the library educator's "missing link," bridging the gap between the study of librarianship per se and the research course of international and comparative study of the profession. In this regard *World Librarianship* contributes to the substantive and theoretical bases of library science as a whole.

In conclusion, the value of this book seems to be even greater. We live in a time when significant efforts are made by different countries, nations, and peoples toward better understanding of each other, in the knowledge that mutual understanding is the most important condition for maintaining peace in the world. As technology acts as a cultural eraser, librarianship serves an increasingly important role, bringing together the records of the best achievements of humanity and the individual human being, thus helping to establish better understanding among people. In this respect our profession may be considered one of the "peace-keeping tools." And, surely, world study in librarianship as a field will prove to be one of the most important parts of that tool.

Because I found *World Librarianship* a fascinating book and consider it indispensable for understanding the state of the art of our profession, I urge that it be read by my colleagues, individuals involved in library planning, and serious students of our profession throughout the world. I hope that this book will help them in their attempt not only to formulate common concepts of library science, but also to achieve better knowledge of each other, and through it to be increasingly successful in attaining the common and peaceful goals to which our profession is dedicated.

Natalia Tyulina  
Moscow, USSR

## Preface

Shortly following the close of World War II in 1945, librarianship progressively became an international profession as evidenced by the ever-increasing cross-national contacts among its practitioners. Today, as this process continues, librarians throughout the world are involved in multinational cooperation to achieve effective information networks, shared cataloging, and eventual universal bibliographic control. Judging from these trends, we predict a converging of the varying library practices throughout the world into a global librarianship within the next century. Despite these activities and tendencies, with the exception of the present work, no introductory textbook in librarianship is predicated throughout on the assumption that librarianship today is a world phenomenon.

It is in this spirit of ecumenism that we offer *World Librarianship* as a comparative study of librarianship on the five continents. Designed with the purpose of serving as an introductory and comparative textbook, this book offers the student, practitioner, or interested layman a comprehensive overview of the world aspects of our profession—its constituent elements, for example a description of its diverse philosophies and services. The goal of this book is to expand the readers' perception of librarianship from an activity practiced within the confines of a library to a profession serving people throughout the world.

"How," the reader may logically ask, "can two researchers presume to be sufficiently acquainted with so vast a subject as to be able to describe and interpret its worldwide significance?" Accepting the premise that no one or even two individuals could possibly possess such comprehensive knowledge, we invited highly respected researchers from around the world to write area studies describing the current status of the profession in the various regions of the world. Although not presented in this book, the area studies provided Krzys and Litton the data for their comparative study. As the reader will note, most of the specialists represented in this book live in the geographical area whose librarianship they describe. To assure the necessary degree of comparability throughout, each chapter was produced in conformity with a common outline devised by Drs. Richard Krzys and Gaston Litton. Our purpose in writing *World Librarianship* will perhaps be clearer through relating an anecdote about a great researcher of this century.

Albert Einstein, accompanied by his wife, visited Mount Palomar where the observatory's director proudly showed the couple through the huge installation. "What do you intend to do with this giant telescope?," asked Mrs. Einstein. Disarmed by the simple directness of her question, the director paused for a thought-

ful moment and improvised, "We're trying to figure out the size of the universe." "That's all?," questioned Mrs. Einstein incredulously. "My Albert does that on the back of an envelope."

We, too, may be said to be trying to determine the size of a universe—the universe of graphic records and those who work with them. To measure it we use a composite research methodology, combining elements of the area study, descriptive survey, and the comparative study. Incidentally, it was also on the back of an envelope where the dimensions of this work were first sketched, but that event figures slightly later in our story.

Since 1954, when the term "comparative librarianship" first appeared in print, writers in the broader field of world study in librarianship have generally produced area studies that have been more impressionistic than analytical; and few genuine comparative studies are to be found in the literature of librarianship. Having discovered that students of our profession for the most part are unable to produce comparative studies of genuine research value, we attribute this situation partly to inadequate training in research methodology and partly to a deficiency in our professional literature, which until the appearance of this book, had not provided an analysis of world library development. This textbook is the first attempt to supply that basic need.

The practical background for this book was gathered by Krzys and Litton through international experience. Krzys began his doctoral study in library science under the august guidance of Dr. Jesse Shera, Dean of the School of Library Science of Case Western Reserve University. As a Fulbright scholar, Krzys was able in 1960 to broaden his perspective of librarianship through international study in Colombia, South America. There he met Dr. Gaston Litton, an American librarian and library educator with approximately four decades of international experience throughout Latin America, where he has been devoted to various phases of library development.

Inspiration for this book can be traced to 1965, when Dr. Louis Shores, then Dean of the School of Library Science at Florida State University, invited Dr. Richard Krzys to join his faculty. While on a student-faculty outing, Dr. Shores in a characteristically ebullient mood suggested that Krzys teach a new subject then called "Comparative Librarianship." Pulling an envelope from his pocket, Dean Shores sketched with almost Grecian simplicity, in the small space available, an outline he proposed that his new instructor follow in development of the course. Basically, it was an area study approach, proceeding geographically continent by continent.

As a tribute to Dean Shores's insight and erudition, it should be stated for the records that his few seconds of sketching that day provided the research parameters for this study which have taken an international team of researchers several years to carry out. In retrospect, we can observe that based on our teaching experience Dr. Shores's proposed geographical approach to world librarianship has proved to be both eminently practical and pedagogically sound. Its practicality has been demonstrated on countless occasions when beginning students of world librarianship state, usually during their first session of the course, that they are "especially interested in studying librarianship in Africa, Asia, or Latin America;" its pedagogical soundness rests on the study procedure's progressing from the

familiar to the unfamiliar, in other words progressing from the geographical frame of reference in Chapters 4 and 5 to concepts involving in Chapters 6 and 7, for example "librarianship in developing nations," "countries of the third world," or "the correlations between population density and the number of libraries in given countries." As the students proceed from the familiar and simple geographical concept to the unfamiliar and more complex multidimensional concept, the instructor is convinced empirically of the inherent pedagogical soundness of Dr. Shores's proposed geographical approach to world study in librarianship.

We believe that world study in librarianship, of which international and comparative study are components, has a definite scope and content. For the introductory course in the field, which we call World Librarianship, we specify as essential a rudimentary knowledge of librarianship, its diverse philosophies and services in all parts of the world, presented in an introductory textbook in the form of a comparative study. Combining these two elements—rudiments and comparisons—we have in collaboration with our distinguished research associates written an introductory textbook analyzing the worldwide aspects of our profession; this work may thus properly be called *World Librarianship*. Advanced courses in this field should be methodologically oriented for the purpose of producing true research studies. Beyond these offerings, specialized courses should be devoted to area study, for example African librarianship, or to aspects, like comparative library education.

*World Librarianship*, the first attempt to produce a total analysis of librarianship, will doubtless provoke discussion and controversy, if we may judge from the occasional disagreements expressed by various persons during the conception and gestation of this work. Any resultant dialog which may appear in the professional literature following the publication of *World Librarianship*, should benefit the present writers in their preparation of any revision and subsequent editions of this work which may be requested.

Usually, a preface closes with acknowledgments. So extensive is the list of the individuals who have contributed to this book that we include them in a separate Acknowledgments section. Without their assistance *World Librarianship* would probably still be some doodlings on the back of an envelope.

Richard Krzys

Gaston Litton



## Acknowledgments

The publication of *World Librarianship* represents for its principal researchers, Drs. Richard Krzys and Gaston Litton, an odyssey through the profession's most fascinating concepts. Now that our voyage is completed, our reluctance to disembark allows us time to thank our associates for the research "first" for circumnavigating world librarianship.

We owe the inspiration for this study to the late American educator and encyclopedist, Dr. Louis Shores. Although our research methodology is theoretically different from that espoused by Shores for the investigation of problems in world librarianship, we have devoted ten years of labor to this study with the hope that our result might be worthy of the book's inspirer.

A debt of gratitude is owed to our research associates for their original area studies that provided the data for our comparative study that follows. They, and the areas that they described, are as follows:

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Harry Kibirige, Africa	D. H. Borchardt, Australia, New Zealand, and Oceania
Jean-Pierre Clavel, Western Europe	
B. P. Kanevsky, Soviet Union	

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Mr. Paul Bixler	Mr. John David Marshall
Dr. Katherine Cveljo	Dr. Samuel Rothstein
Dr. Richard Gardner	Mrs. Marietta Daniels Shepard
Mr. Donald Hasrauth	Mr. Glen Sitzman
Dr. Norman Horrocks	Dr. Abbas Tashkandy
Dr. Harold Lancour	

Students and researchers from around the world have made useful comments as the numerous drafts of the manuscript were tested in the classes of Richard Krzys in the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Pittsburgh.

No one at the school was more interested in the progress of the manuscript than Mr. Grant Lee and Mrs. Gertrude Mazefsky. Fortunately we have benefitted from the assistance of two excellent typists, Mrs. Susan Gray and Mrs. Alyce Patterson.

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To all the individuals named above, and to anyone who assisted us but whose name we have inadvertently omitted, we give our sincere thanks.

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# **PHILOSOPHY AND THEORY**



## World Study in Librarianship

Richard Krzys and Gaston Litton

Librarianship during the twentieth century has experienced a growth which truly can be called phenomenal. Aiding humanity in its search for truth, which remains the basic function of librarians, has expanded from interpretation of graphic records in one isolated library to greatly expanded and highly integrated information networks, involving first municipal, then national, and now international participants. This expansion of librarianship has been paralleled by a corresponding deepening, diversification, and growth in the theory of library science, and the discipline has been enlarged during the present century by various new branches which have burgeoned from the main trunk of librarianship. Currently prominent among them is an offshoot which we identify as world study in librarianship.

### DEFINITIONS AND PURPOSES

To gain a clearer understanding of the nature of world study in librarianship requires comprehending definitions of its basic terminology. We define world librarianship as the abstraction referring to the status of the profession in all parts of the world during a specified period of time. That period may be the present or a retrospective era. As we examine that abstraction through investigating its aspects for the purpose of formulating a *metalibrarianship*, the philosophy and theory underlying the practice of librarianship throughout the world, we are engaged in world *study* in librarianship. Our description will attempt to

delineate various geographical areas of librarianship and outline the form that each aspect has taken within those areas. Our analytic statements will attempt to interpret these forms and identify variables that may interact with the aspects. We use the word "attempt" advisedly because ours represents the first endeavor to describe and analyze our profession throughout the world. It is our hope that the present work will stimulate our readers to further study and research of the topics presented here.

As the next step of the process initiated here, researchers may want to investigate further some of the relationships suggested within this book; for example, the hypothesis linking legislation and bibliographic control, to be discussed in a later chapter, may be investigated through appropriate research methodology, such as comparative method, or quantitative methods when statistical correlations are deemed desirable.

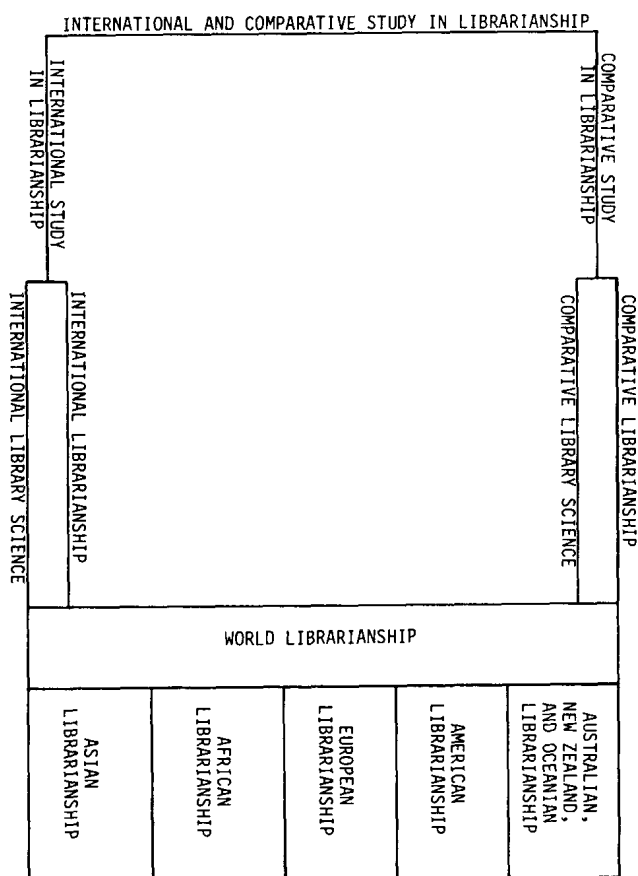


Figure 1.1. Relationship of world study in librarianship to its cognate fields.



What is the distinction between traditional library science research and world study in librarianship? Admittedly, world study of our profession is a branch of library science research; however, world study in librarianship has as its end the formulation of theoretical knowledge that underlies librarianship and transcends present-day library science by exploring the possibility of developing entirely new areas of the discipline, the lack of which presently limits our effectiveness as practitioners in our service to mankind; however, we can make further distinctions between the two fields.

Traditional library science research may investigate, for example, the reference service at a particular agency in order to analyze the service at that agency; whereas, an investigation of reference service for the purposes of formulating hypotheses, theories, and laws that will explain, predict, and control the phenomenon of reference throughout the world falls within the discipline of world study in librarianship. We may conclude then that library science research per se concerns understanding a particular aspect of librarianship within a specified agency or a circumscribed situation; world study in librarianship addresses certain aspects of librarianship or all of librarianship in their diverse forms and broadest context, that is, the various forms that an aspect, or the entire profession, may assume throughout the world. The relationship among world study in librarianship and its cognate fields may be visualized in Figure 1.1.

## ORIGIN OF WORLD STUDY IN LIBRARIANSHIP

How and when did world study in librarianship develop? The explanation which one accepts depends upon one's view of the development of librarianship. On the one hand, if the reader believes that the profession began at a particular time, when its practitioners performed certain unique bibliothecal functions, he most likely fixes the beginning of world study in librarianship with the appearance of the first work in the field to include the international element or to employ comparative research methodology. However, if the reader views librarianship as a professional activity with a long evolutionary development, he is likely to accept a similar explanation for the development of each of the field's subdivisions.

Because we espouse the evolutionary development of librarianship, we submit that, considered epistemologically, world study in librarianship has evolved through six distinct phases and will experience at least three additional phases. They are (1) the application of the comparative principle to librarianship, (2) the borrowing of library practices or concepts, (3) the appearance of a comparative attitude in a treatise on librarianship, (4) the publication of a monograph comparing aspects of librarianship, (5) the search for an identity, (6) the publication of a manual outlining the research methodology of international and comparative study in librarianship, (7) the appearance of a magnum opus in the field,