Wheat Loan Messenger

Report of the Proceedings of the
Fifth Wheat Loan Library Workshop
Delhi, March 5-9, 1962

Edited by
MURARI LAL NAGAR
Director
Indian Council for Library Development
Wheat Loan Messenger

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To
MISS BEATRICE H. HOLT
Living Library Link
Between
India and U.S.A.
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FOREWORD

By Dr. John T. Reid

Chief Cultural Affairs Officer, U.S.I.S.

I welcome this opportunity to express the close interest and similarity of aim which we in the United States Information Service have with libraries in India. We have established in India ten American libraries and reading rooms, each dedicated to serve the community at large and the readers in particular wherever they are. Likewise through our various book programmes such as the India Wheat Loan Educational Exchange (Public Law 48) Programme, we have been able to assist Indian libraries in enriching their stock of American books. On the other hand, a sum of money was allocated out of the same programme for the purchase of books in India for American universities and centres of Indian studies. Thus opportunities for readers of both India and America have been enriched with source material on each country that was not previously available.

It is through the exchange of such material which is reflected in the needs and interest of scholars and students in both countries that understanding of one another's culture is immeasurably enhanced.
WORKSHOP GROUP

INTRODUCTION

This is a report of the fifth and final Wheat Loan Library Workshop held in Delhi from March 5 to 9, 1962 and is being published as the third number of the Wheat Loan Messenger which was inaugurated at Jaipur Workshop in April 1961.

The India Wheat Loan Educational Exchange Programme originated in 1951 when the U.S. Government loaned India a sum of $190,000,000 to assist her in relieving food shortage. It was stipulated in the Law that the first five million dollars of the interest would be returned to India in the form of books, scientific equipment and exchange of persons.

The Programme proved quite valuable to Indian libraries and librarianship. Although it operated in many areas such as scientific research, laboratory equipment, general education, curriculum reform, university administration, etc., the assistance to librarians proved more helpful because librarianship has not yet received its due recognition. The present report is a clear evidence of the excellent work done by the Wheat Loan Programme in the field of books, libraries and librarianship.

During the course of its operation, the Programme provided approximately $1,700,000 in U.S. dollars for the promotion of libraries and librarianship in India. Of this amount nearly $1,400,000 were allotted for the purchase of books, $160,000 for study-travel grants for 35 Indian librarians to visit U.S.A.; $40,000 to invite five American librarians to India, and $75,000 to provide Indian Government documents to selected American libraries. However, the value of the Programme cannot be measured in terms of dollars and cents. Its impact has been enormous and the energy generated by it will remain long active, because it has helped to create a strong, vigorous, self-helping Indian library profession.

Mr. Laurence J. Kipp (Baker Library, Harvard University) and his life-companion, Mrs. Cecilia Rae Kipp were invited to India in 1960 to evaluate the Programme as it involved books, libraries and librarians; and to direct four library workshops for university, college and research librarians in India. The workshops were held between December 1960 and April 1961. They provided a new experience to Indian librarians, who derived immense benefit by them.

In March 1962, the fifth and final workshop was arranged to take stock of what had been achieved during the preceding period and to establish a permanent corporate body in order to continue the work begun at the workshops.

This follow-up workshop was also aimed to create opinion in high circles in favour of the implementation of the decisions taken at the earlier workshops. Delhi being the capital of the nation, it was felt that the Workshop would attract the attention of the powers which control the purse strings. And the results achieved fulfilled the expectations.

Prominent educationists, librarians and representatives of the Governments of India and U.S.A. kindly associated themselves with the proceedings by attending the open sessions and addressing the audience. They gave their whole-hearted cooperation.

The Workshop was inaugurated by Dr. John T. Reid, Chief Cultural Affairs Officer, U.S.I.S. Other speakers included Mr. S. Das Gupta, Librarian, Delhi University Library; Dr. P. Maheshwari, Head of the Department of Botany, Delhi University; Mr. Girja Kumar, Librarian, Indian School of International Studies; Mr. S. Parthasarathy, Head, INSDOC; Miss Sara M. Dilley, Librarian, U.S.I.S.; Mr. Herbert K. Berthold, Cultural Affairs Officer, U.S.I.S.; Mr. John Charles Finzi, Director, American Libraries Book Procurement Centre of the U.S. Library of Congress, New Delhi; Mr. D. R. Kalia, Director, Delhi Public Library; and Mr. S. C. Sharma, Librarian, National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi.

During the Workshop, the Constitution of the Indian Academic Libraries Association was debated and approved, and a Board of Officers representing all parts of India was elected. In addition, a permanent body of librarians, called the Indian Council for Library Development was formed. This Council will work for the development of libraries and librarianship in India.
was also decided during the Workshop that the *Wheat Loan Messenger* would be continued in its present form until it is taken over by the Indian Academic Libraries Association. It will then be renamed and made the official journal of the Association.

Members of the Indian Council for Library Development also discussed the Indian Academic Libraries Association and problems of Indian academic libraries with Dr. C. D. Deshmukh, now the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi, Mr. A. N. Dhawan, Education Officer in-charge of the Wheat Loan Programme in the Ministry of Education and Mr. N. N. Iyengar, Deputy Secretary, University Grants Commission. These officers were greatly impressed by the work done during the five workshops and the problems being acted upon by the librarians. Mr. Dhawan suggested that proposals and plans being developed by the Indian Council for Library Development be made in writing so that official government action might be considered.

This is a true Report of the Workshop and represents the talks and discussions as they occurred. No prepared talk was read by any of the participants. Probably for the first time in the history of India the proceedings of a library meeting have been tape-recorded and made available in a printed form. The reader will find herein a true picture of what transpired in those meetings. The proceedings of the morning sessions of both Tuesday and Wednesday are especially interesting because they give the full view and feeling of the vigour, warmth, earnestness and application which pervaded all the discussions.

The editor is deeply indebted to all the participants, speakers and discussion leaders for their whole-hearted cooperation which made the Workshop a success. On behalf of the Indian library profession the editor wishes to express his profound gratefulness to the authorities of the U.S.I.S., especially Dr. John T. Reid and Mr. Herbert K. Berthold for arranging the Workshop and giving an opportunity to the present writer to present the Report in this form.
THE WORKSHOPS

Laurence and Cecilia Kipp

A workshop exploits the dynamism of a group and the strength and complexity of inter-personal relationships in the group. It is based upon a belief in the inherent right and duty of each man to express himself on problems which concern him. It rests also upon the teaching principle that learning is an active process rather than a passive acceptance of authority. It can be effective only if there is wide participation in discussions and if the participants feel that the discussions are valuable to them. The value of the workshop resides in the quality of its problem-solving.

"Workshops are for work!" We emphasized at the beginning of each workshop. They are hard work for everyone because practical problems are analyzed and because the process demands decisions arrived at by the entire group. These were the first workshops for librarians held in India and the responses to them indicate that the techniques might be useful elsewhere.

The content of the workshops was largely determined by the problems which librarians have been facing all along. The discussions were aimed at the solutions of problems in demonstration, mobilizing of resources, communication and professional growth and staff development.

We varied the discussion techniques in order to involve as many persons as possible, to lend variety to the sessions and to present the problems as realistically as possible. Several working papers were used as bases for discussions. Sessions were opened with short critiques of these papers, or by breaking into small groups to pinpoint the most important problems. Three or four members served on panels to present different aspects of a problem or to serve as "expert consultants" to a librarian. We used "cases" which described (in suitable disguise) library situations that we had observed in India—situations in which the librarian must act. How, for example, could the librarian act in the "Case of Library Salaries at Khajuraho University"? We used "role-playing" in "A Meeting of the Library Committee of Sanchi University" to dramatize the human relationships and responses of a librarian and his faculty in dealing with the problem of departmental libraries. The roles were played with both realism and humour.

The enthusiasm of the participants might best be summarized by this comment from one of them: "I feel that I was able to learn more about libraries and librarians in this country in one week than I would have done in a whole year. Separated as we librarians in this country are, our problems do not seem to us to be anybody else's concern. But by this pooling of experiences and opinions without any reserve, we saw our problems now as patterns and the whole community of librarians engaged in coping with them. I was glad that I attended the Workshop not because we met and talked heartily, but because I discovered a method and a way of improving the Librarian within me in a most congenial way."
FIRST DAY

Monday, March 5, 1962

Morning Session: Inauguration

Topic for the day: Wheat Loan Programme and its ‘Messenger’

Discussion Leader: Mr. K. S. Hingwe

U.S.I.S. Auditorium, Bahawalpur House

The inaugural session of the Workshop took place on Monday March 5, 1962 at 9 a.m. in the U.S.I.S. auditorium, Bahawalpur House, New Delhi. The inaugural address was delivered by Dr. John T. Reid, Chief Cultural Affairs Officer, U.S.I.S. India. Welcoming the participants to the Workshop, Dr. Reid said:

Ladies and Gentlemen and Fellow-Lovers of Books:

On behalf of U.S.I.S. India I take exceptional pleasure in welcoming you to our auditorium, and I think I express the hope of our Public Affairs Officer and all of us here that your sessions will be very successful indeed.

As you all know, U.S.I.S. has a particular and special interest in books. The United States Information Service by its very title is obviously interested in books from various angles. We have in India ten libraries and reading rooms and I am proud to say that at least some of those libraries and reading rooms are something in the way of models of an American Public Library, that is, they offer free and open service to all people seeking information about American life and culture. We are also interested in books as presentations although we have not been able to do as much in that line as we would like. But during the years that the Information Service has been in operation in India we have, as you know, presented considerable collections of books, particularly to university and college libraries throughout the country, and we simply wish we could do more. We have been over the years also giving some assistance to Indian publishers of translations and, more recently, have embarked on a programme of assisting publishers of university textbooks so that they can put them on the market for the Indian students at a lower price. These are a departure from our previous activities in that they are reprints of standard American textbooks, and we hope we will give the Indian student a greater opportunity to have solid, normal, standard textbooks in his hand.

From my own personal standpoint I am particularly glad to welcome you and to meet with you as much as my time permits during the next week. Books have been always, as far as I am personally concerned, a very integral part of my life. I remember as a young boy, about 12 or 13 years old, I lived at a sea-side town in the sunny State of California in the U.S. In this sea-side town the county had a branch library on the pier or wharf of the town and in the summer vacation I can think of no more beautiful days in my life than when I would go down swimming and bathing in the morning, have my lunch on the beach and then go up to the library and spend a wonderful afternoon dreaming about Odysseus and Ulysses and other Greek heroes as I read looking over the blue Pacific.

And then later when I had the privilege of going to Stanford University in California, as a freshman and as a sophomore—as a first year and second year student, I got my eyes opened really to the immensity of the world’s wonders of knowledge in a rather curious way which is directly connected with the university library. Our university library had the admirable system of displaying everyday in the Periodical Room on a great oak table all the periodicals that came into the University Library, every kind and class including the popular ones as well as the Journal of Micro-
biology and the *Statistical Journal* and all the magazines of that sort. It was my pleasure in this sunny, airy room of the university library to come everyday and spend an hour simply making my wide eyes wider to see wings of human knowledge displayed in the periodicals that came into the library. I do not pretend, nor could I pretend, that I understood nearly all of the periodicals that came in. But I did get the habit, the delightful habit of perusing periodicals in the free, open atmosphere of the library. Later on in my graduate work at the same university, we had a room for students who were pursuing graduate studies next to the stacks in the library, as many students have in your libraries here, and I think among the most pleasant of my afternoons was in the graduate studies room pursuing my research work. And, of course, since that time—and as I look back it seems a long time—I am afraid, that books and magazines—the tools that librarians handle—have been a part of my life and my mind and my heart.

That perhaps is the most important thing to remember in a gathering of this sort, which is going to be devoted largely to technical matters of libraries, that the use of the library, that the true usefulness of a library, lies not so much in the mind but in the heart. The use of a university library may seem technical and forbidding at the first sight, and it does not achieve its full flower and its full bloom unless the students of the university and the faculty of the university feel in their heart that this library is a part of their growing and part of their essential living. If it is simply a remote collection of dusty books behind locked doors, it has very little attraction either to mind or to heart, and certainly not to the heart.

So I do wish you the greatest of success in your deliberations during this conference, and I can see by your programme here that you are going to take up a number of matters which are of vital importance in university libraries in India today. I trust that you will recall that this, rather than a general get-together, is a conference for working purposes. I hope from this conference will come some very specific plans of action, and that it will be not simply a pleasant reunion although that is also extremely important too. We in the U.S.I.S. have been glad to assist you in arranging for these meetings, but it is our sincere hope that as a result of them the Joint Action Committee may
find it possible from now on to proceed as a completely autonomous and independent body. U.S.I.S. will be always glad to offer such assistance as it can, but I firmly believe, and I am sure that you share my belief, that any organization with the serious purpose that this organization has can only function properly if it functions really and essentially on its own and not sponsored by a foreign government.

I think that in ending my few remarks of welcome, I can do no better than to recall to your mind a couple of beautiful lines from Robert Leighton, an English poet of the 19th century, when he said, "With liberty and endless time to read, the library is a heaven", which is just about as fine a way of expressing this dream of beauty and love as you can find. "With liberty and endless time to read, the library is a heaven."

Please remember that the U.S.I.S., with its headquarters in this building, is at your service and cordially welcomes you to this gathering. And now it is my pleasure to introduce to you—I don't think I need introduce him to you, but rather turn over the meeting to Mr. Deshpande, who is, I understand, your Chairman of the Joint Action Committee.

Responding to the address, Mr. K. S. Deshpande, Librarian, Karnatak University Library, Dharwar and the Chairman of the Joint Action Committee of the Wheat Loan Library Workshops, said:

Dr. Reid, Friends and Colleagues:

As the Chairman of the Joint Action Committee it is my pleasure and privilege to express our gratefulness to Dr. Reid for having accepted the suggestion to hold this Workshop and for having made it possible for the members of the Joint Action Committee to meet here and to share their ideas and opinions with local librarians of Delhi. We are grateful to Dr. Reid also for having taken time off his busy schedule to be here amidst us for inaugurating this Workshop.

Dr. Reid, we deeply appreciate your interest in the library profession and your keen desire to be of assistance to us in the promotion of our beloved cause, i.e., the librarianship. We also appreciate your endeavour to build bridges of friendship between the United States of America and India. The Workshop reminds us of Miss Holt, who was the architect of the previous four workshops. We miss her very much in this Workshop.

May I also take this opportunity to say "Thank you" to Mr. Berthold, Miss Dilley and to Mr. Nagar, who all made it possible for us to come together to Delhi. It must have taken a lot of their time and energy in arranging this Workshop and we are deeply grateful to all these people. A glance at the programme of the Workshop will reveal the fact that it differs to a very great extent from the agenda of the previous workshops. This is appropriate, because it is a follow-up Workshop. Here we are concerned with taking stock of what has happened in the previous workshops and then planning out for future course of action.

The salient characteristics of this Workshop are the open general sessions in the afternoon and the special talks by eminent librarians and book-lovers of Delhi. Delhi is the abode of the cream of Indian librarianship and we are very much beholden to the speakers, who have agreed to speak to us in the afternoon and to share with us their thoughts about the immediate problems that are facing the Indian academic library world today. The presence of these veterans amidst us will, I think, lend strength to the discussions and broaden the conclusions that we will be reaching therefrom.

Before I present the Report of the Joint Action Committee, I would like to say a few words about the Wheat Loan Programme. It has played an important role in the Indian library world. It has made tremendous impact on it. The four workshops which were held at Baroda, Hyderabad, Patna and Jaipur were a fitting and fruitful finale to the work of the Wheat Loan Programme. The Workshops were a great success. They generated a lot of interest and enthusiasm among the librarians in this country. They gave them an opportunity to meet one another and provided facilities to them to discuss their problems.

The effect of these workshops has been, according to me, four-fold:

Firstly, every participant in the Workshop returned to his place of work with his confidence redoubled and his enthusiasm for the library cause greatly enhanced.

Secondly, since the number of participants was quite small, the participants got to know each other better and that paved the way for a more endearing sort of fellowship among the professional colleagues.
Thirdly, since every participant got an opportunity to air his or her views and to pose problems and often times offer solutions, the best in each was brought out and new vistas of experience were opened up to other people in the group.

Lastly, the resolutions passed at these workshops were of two kinds: The first category is in the nature of injunctions, which the participants put upon themselves. They said, "We will do this, we will do that." In the next category come the resolutions for the implementation of which we need the help and blessings of the U.G.C. and the Ministry of Education.

Ten months have rolled by since the Jaipur Workshop ended and the Joint Action Committee submitted its report to the Wheat Loan Office, the Ministry of Education and the U.G.C. It is high time that we took stock of what has been done, or what has happened during these ten months and saw what needs to be done in the future. The recommendations of the Joint Action Committee are many, but we have taken only 5 problems for discussion in the current Workshop.

We have also to find out whether the Joint Action Committee should function as an independent body, and how it could implement the recommendations already made in the different workshops. The topics that have been selected for discussion during the course of the five days are: Wheat Loan Programme and its Messenger, which will be directed by Mr. Hingwe, the leader; Union List of Serials by Mr. Mukherjee; Bibliographical Services by Mr. Lal; and Academic Libraries Association by Mr. Patnaik. I shall assist in the discussion on the "Future Course of Action". Of course, the other participants will contribute their thoughts to the discussion.

Now before Mr. Hingwe presents his problem, Mr. Nagar will play a message.

Nagar: Mr. Chairman, Dr. Reid and Friends: May I present a message from two of our great friends in U.S.A.? You will be pleased to know that the message has been especially sent by air for this occasion in order to greet the participants and say "hello" to them.

Here is the message:

Larry: This is Rae and Larry Kipp speaking to you from 2 Larchmont Avenue, Lexington, Massachusetts, where so many of you visited and where we hope so many of you will visit again. We are sitting in front of the fire and wondering how we shall begin. Perhaps it is best to begin by saying some of the things that have been happening to us in the past few months since we returned from India. Most of the things are happening to Rae, and perhaps she would better tell about them.

Rae: I have been taking care of 12 visiting librarians from abroad; five of them from India; and feeling as though some of you were back with us again. One problem that I have discovered is this: when Larry does not do the detailed work, I cannot do as much cooking, or as much entertaining at home, and this makes me feel very much lacking in hospitality. They have been all around the country, as you were, serving internship and have just completed their formal programme here in Boston at Simmons College in a seminar. We had a wonderful time. I think they enjoyed it and I certainly enjoyed having some of our Indian friends in this group. One thing we failed to do was to celebrate Divali. It was all planned and then some one in the Indian group, who was more mature, said that it was not fair to other librarians in the group to be selfish, and it was decided that we all celebrate at the end, which they did very nicely.

Larry: And it was a fine party too. One other thing that we have been busy doing is reporting—reporting to everybody who would listen to us, or who would read—what we had to say about our Indian experience. In part we tried to make the point that there were things that the Wheat Loan Office did, which ought to be continued, but in part, and mostly I suppose, we have just been telling Americans about Indians and Indians about the Americans.

Rae: I have been actually doing a little bit of talking on India, and I get little bit beyond myself in talking about economics, Five Year Plans, finance and the coming elections. I even talked to the high school a few weeks ago, and I want you to know that those students were pretty stiff questioners.

Larry: Oh yes, we are experts, except with those of you who know so much more about the subject. We reported at the annual conference of the ALA in Cleveland shortly after we returned, and then a few weeks ago, I was in Chicago for the mid-winter meeting. One thing we feel very embarrassed about is that our written report has not yet reached you, except for a couple of airmail copies which I sent off last week. Perhaps they will come to you within the next few weeks, we are told, and this will be a report, some kind of a report, scarcely
adequate on our 8 months in India. What are some of the things that you remember best about those 8 months, Rae?

Rae: Well, it's a feeling. I cannot put it in the words. It is seeing all of you, being with you, meeting your families. I love meeting your families, I could think of each one of them, when I close my eyes and think about India.

Larry: The scenes with the families are vivid. The scene which is most vivid to me is the scene, rather four different scenes, around the table at our workshops, where each individual emerged as a definite personality and each one had something to say, and each of us learned so much from the others.

Rae: What I want to know is what you are saying now. I am dying of curiosity. Have you re-examined some of the ideas that came up to us for discussion in the earlier workshops? I hope you have in the light of your experience. And I hope you have been very critical about applying these ideas.

Larry: And as a final word what do we have to say?

Rae: We want to come back! We want to spend more time in India. We are reading everyday novels, books about India, or books about Indian history, books about the economic developments in India, and we have to come back again.

Larry: Yes indeed. We must come back, and many more of you must come to visit us. We shall continue to have many ties with many of you for many years to come, and so, until we next hear from you, this is Rae and Larry Kipp saying "Good Bye."

Larry: Our very warmest wishes!

Commenting on the tape-recorded message, played to the audience, Dr. Reid said:

It will give you a great pleasure to realize that you have such fast friends in U.S.A. who remember you all so much.

Initiating the discussion on the topic, Mr. Hingwe said:

Friends:

I consider it a great privilege for having been asked to lead the discussion on the topic "The Wheat Loan and its Messenger". Mr. Deshpande has been very kind in introducing me. I would say that it speaks more of the generosity of his heart rather than the qualities he has attributed to me.

It was decided during the Wheat Loan library workshops that in order to have an exchange of ideas and to continue some of the activities of the Wheat Loan Programme, it would be advantageous to have some organ, which could communicate our thoughts. The outcome was the "Wheat Loan Messenger". Most of you must have seen the first two issues of the "Messenger". The topic with which we are concerned today is the future of the "Wheat Loan Messenger".

The next question is: whether it should continue as an organ of the present ad hoc body known as the "Joint Action Committee," or whether it should become the organ of the proposed Indian Association of Academic Libraries.

One of the objectives with which this Wheat Loan Messenger was started is to enable those of us in India, who were recipients of the Wheat Loan Study Tour Scholarships, and those of us who
have received Wheat Loan grants for our institutions to purchase American books and equipment, to know how we are all engaged and faring. I am of the opinion that the scope of this journal should not be restricted to those who have benefited under the Programme. We have to decide whether the experiences we gained could be shared with others, who were not the recipients of the awards. The next question is that of the finance. If you expect others to be benefited, it would involve additional expenditure. If it is not possible for us to get adequate finances, we should restrict the circulation of the "Messenger" only to the participants of the Programme.

The second objective with which the Wheat Loan Messenger was started was to inform our American colleagues, about our professional work and activities—those friends who played the inimitable hosts to us and made us feel homely and happy while we were strangers in a strange land. This is perfectly alright.

The next objective is to inform and be informed about what each of us is doing or contemplating to do in the field of librarianship, using the experiences we had in tackling them.

It should be the policy of the "Messenger" that not only the experiences of the Indian librarians be published in this journal, but of our American friends too, who have been in India. Also some of our other friends working in different institutions in India must be given an opportunity to study our libraries and to express their impressions about them.

The most important thing is about the finance. If you want to extend the scope you will have to increase the circulation. This will obviously need additional finances. The next problem is that of supporting and encouraging this undertaking. I am of the opinion that it should be the responsibility of all the participants of the Wheat Loan Programme. We should not look to any other source for publishing the Wheat Loan Messenger. If we can manage to get the finances through advertisement or through some source like the University Grants Commission, or subscription from all the universities, all other academic institutions, I think we shall be in a sound position to meet the expenses.

The next question is about the editorial policy. Our thanks go to Mr. Deshpande for getting through the first two issues of the "Messenger". But when we take into consideration the future of the "Messenger" we must study the issues frankly. What is our present need? What should be the scope of the Wheat Loan Messenger? What types of articles should be published in it? Whether it should just be a news bulletin, or whether we want to give some real message to our fellow librarians through it?

If you want to make it really a useful medium to communicate our views and experiences, it should be quite representative and its coverage should be fully comprehensive. It should not voice any particular methodology. It should neither be a pure research journal, nor should it be a pure news bulletin. Any type of librarian, whether he is a school librarian, or a college librarian, or a university librarian, or a public librarian, should be benefited by the material published in the Wheat Loan Messenger. It is my experience that even the university librarian can learn something from the college librarian, or a college librarian, from a school librarian, provided one has the inclination to do so. We should not, therefore, restrict the scope of the Wheat Loan Messenger.

I further want to suggest that there should be following sections in the Wheat Loan Messenger: There should be one Editorial. Then there should be one article about the problems relating to academic libraries. An article of descriptive nature should also have its share. If you want to initiate new librarians in the field, if you want to create interest in them, then there should be something of their interest also. We can thereby sustain their interest in our activities. There is also the necessity of having one article of research value, because only by research, only through research, we can bring out real progress in our profession. However, we cannot have all the articles of research value. If we start everything on an ideal plane, then the people may not be attracted and may not maintain the interest in it.

There should be one or two articles on current topics. For example, take open access, loss of books, book purchasing policies in different libraries. The university librarians and college librarians should be requested to express their views, their difficulties concerning these topics. It is of no use listening to the views of certain persons only. Everybody must be given an opportunity to express his views and difficulties. Only by corroborating these things and exchanging views, we shall be able to arrive at some conclusions. Therefore, it would be absolutely necessary to start such section as "current problems" in the Wheat Loan Messenger. Of course, there should be
notes and news, and the biographical sketches as well. An attempt to give biographical sketches will have its psychological effect. If a librarian finds that some information relating to his library and himself has appeared, naturally he will be interested in such activities as we shall be undertaking from time to time. Lastly, the reviews, comments by the readers, etc. This should be the composition of the Wheat Loan Messenger. I have put before you my views about the contents of the Wheat Loan Messenger. I shall appreciate your giving comments in this respect.

At present, as a temporary measure, Mr. Deshpande has managed to bring about first two issues, but as a permanent feature there should be a Board of Editors. It should consist of persons having vision. The responsibility of bringing out the Wheat Loan Messenger should not be vested only in one person. It should be decentralized. If there is going to be a Chief Editor, then other members of the Board should be entrusted with the duties of collecting funds, collecting the material, persuading librarians to contribute the articles and subscriptions. I think this will keep up the spirit of the Board of Editors to work vigorously and permanently. If you burden one single person for carrying all the responsibilities he won’t be able to do it. As there are limitations to one’s abilities, responsibility should be shared. We must, therefore, have a Board of Editors.

It is only by the joint cooperative action that we shall be able to bring out better results. The members of the Board of Editors must be very active persons. They should not be on the Board just for the name’s sake. Each must be allotted some specific duty and they must frequently come together to discuss policy matters. It is our experience that through correspondence we are not able to frame our policies. The members of the Editorial Board must come together occasionally, say once or twice a year. In order to enable them to come together they must choose a central place where they can conveniently gather without any financial burden on each individual.

It is my frank opinion that we must give some useful suggestions to our contributors. We must not neglect the fact that the material presented in the journal must become useful and our readers must be able to follow it. This is very important. Our contributors must be given guidance to present the material in such a manner that people will maintain the interest and will continue to read the journal.

Finally, we must decide to do something. We talk too much. We write so many articles on cataloguing, classification, library routine, reference service, etc. But we must also learn to do something else. We must cultivate the idea, we must promote the idea that we need some "Philosophy of Librarianship" in our country. That is most important and a basic thing for improving the standards of our profession. So we should attempt to cultivate the idea of tolerance and respect to all our fellow-beings, irrespective of their views. A fellow librarian may differ in respect of academic matters, but this should not affect one's personal relations. That is a very difficult, but a basic thing on which we can build the edifice of the library profession.

Finally the motto of the Wheat Loan Messenger should be less talk and more work. With these words I conclude my speech and I would now like to listen to your views in the matter.

Deshpande: Mr. Hingwe has presented his case. Some of the points that he has raised are: whether the Wheat Loan Messenger should be continued and, if so, how; should it be a newsletter or a professional journal; whether it should continue to be sponsored by the Joint Action Committee, or whether it should be the organ of the Academic Libraries Association. He has also raised issues like the Board of Editors and the contents of the journal. I would request you to participate in the discussion and offer your views. We have felt the need for a newsletter of this kind and two issues of the "Messenger" have been very well received. We feel that there is a need to continue it. We have to find the funds and the resources to continue it. Mr. Kanitkar, would you like to say something in the matter?

Kanitkar: Nothing to say in the matter.

Shenoy: The question whether it should be the organ of the Joint Action Committee does not arise, because the Joint Action Committee is not a permanent body. It is going to be dissolved sometime or other. So it should be the organ of the association which is going to be established.

Deshpande: We have made so many recommendations; we have put upon ourselves also so many injunctions in the course of the four workshops that were held. We feel that the Joint Action Committee should continue to exist on its own to implement the resolutions that have been adopted and to see that the Wheat Loan Messenger becomes very useful.
P. S. Patnaik: Sir, Mr. Hingwe has made very valuable suggestions on the future of the Wheat Loan Messenger. I think we can accept most of the suggestions. I agree with Mr. Shenoy that the "Messenger" should become the official organ of the Academic Libraries Association. Of course, that is our objective. But that will take time. Meanwhile the "Messenger" should continue.

There is no use publishing a journal unless it is a standard one. At the same time I feel we should not lay down hard and fast rules either about the scope or contents. I would suggest as our model the journal entitled the College and Research Libraries published by the Association of College and Research Libraries in the U.S.A. The journal should be devoted mainly to the problems of academic and research libraries. At the same time there should not be any bar on the publication of other types of material. The journal should also carry information about libraries and librarians in this country and also about important events in the library world both here and abroad.

Sir, the journal should be at least a quarterly publication if it is to be a live organ of the Association. It is of no use publishing it once a year or once in two years. As regards the Board of Editors, I submit we can accept the suggestions of Mr. Hingwe in toto. We should have a chief editor who will be responsible for editing and publishing the journal. The other members will help him in securing funds, advertisements, etc. Here I may tell you that we have already submit we can accept the suggestions of Mr. Hingwe in toto. We should have

If we want to publish a standard journal we need sufficient funds. Even to continue the "Messenger" in its present form we require money. Of course, this may not be difficult if the Wheat Loan grantees take a subscription for the newsletter. But for the publication of a standard journal as the organ of the Indian Academic Libraries Association, we would need more funds. Here again, if there is cooperation and goodwill among academic librarians we can push through the work. There are about hundred academic and research libraries in this country. If all these institutions take a subscription to the journal we will have a sizable amount to start with. And there is always the begging bowl with which we can go about and collect donations.

I am told it would also be possible to get some assistance from PL 48 funds for this purpose. This is but natural, because the journal is a child of the Wheat Loan Programme and the child even after it gets old can always look to the parents for some sort of assistance. I am sure, Dr. Reid, who has promised us all assistance, will help us in this regard.

M. L. Nagar: We must also consider one more aspect and that is the scope or coverage of the journal. We have named it the Wheat Loan Messenger. However, it just takes into its fold only one part of the Wheat Loan Programme as we have discussed here.

Miss Holt was very much enthusiastic about her work and so she managed to bring out one issue, and Mr. Deshpande has brought out another one.

These two issues deal only with the Libraries and Books Component of the Wheat Loan Programme. They do not deal with the scientific equipment or the other components of the Programme. As you already know the Programme was not restricted to books or libraries alone. It embraced work in laboratories, scientific research, curriculum reform, general education, astronomical research, university administration, etc. etc. We can easily expand its scope and invite all the Indian institutions and scholars who have had to do anything with the Programme to participate in the project. Thus the circle of its subscribers will get widened and we will be able to get far more cooperation and help than it has been possible so far.

Thus it is an open question whether you would like to communicate with those people in the other fields and find out whether they want to associate themselves with your project. If you want to continue it as the Wheat Loan Messenger, they must be brought in. On the other hand, if you decide that the Wheat Loan Messenger is not going to be continued as a Messenger of the total Wheat Loan Programme but only as a library journal, then its name also disappears—it becomes merely a Journal of the Academic Libraries Association. If so, then there is no problem as far as finance is concerned. It can easily have enough subscriptions, if it is of general interest, and if it has also got some research value. It can certainly get some advertisements also. There will be no problem, as Mr. Patnaik has said. There are 70 participants of the Books and Libraries Component of the Wheat Loan Programme. If these participants decide that they would subscribe to this journal, there will be enough subscriptions. As its scope is widened, there will be more subscriptions coming in. So this problem is to be decided on a wider aspect, rather than just the narrow groove of librarians.
A. Krishnan: I only wanted to find out whether you have already explored the existing journals; whether they are willing to take your contributions, because a new journal means more contributions. That is the basic thing as everybody else has said. The office-bearers are available, the founders are available, but what about the contributions? That is really the thing which is lacking in our profession. If you really had the contributions, if you had tried in the past, probably the IASLIC Bulletin or the Journal of the Indian Library Association, or the Annals of Library Science, all of these should have been willing to take up your contributions. The Annals of Library Science takes up only the research type of publications. The IASLIC Bulletin would take probably the other types also, including general discussions. Have you tried these periodicals and attempted to improve them instead of starting a new journal?

A. K. Mukherjee: I would like to comment as follows:

Now this bulletin or journal, whatever you may call it, has its own purpose to serve. Whether it should continue in its present form, or whether it should be enlarged and the publication should be taken up by a permanent body, or by the group of persons who have been publishing it, must be decided now. I don't think it is possible for any single person to do such jobs individually. It was possible to issue the first issue through the efforts of Miss Holt. It has been possible to get another issue owing to the efforts of Mr. Deshpande. Will it be possible for Mr. Deshpande to continue it and take the burden on his own shoulders for all times to come? It will not.

As far as this Joint Action Committee is concerned—of course, it is a body. It may be nebulous, but it is there. Although we are only a few, there is no bar to make it a permanent body by co-opting a few others in our profession. I think the time has come when a permanent body is established. I am not speaking of an association, a professional organization, but a permanent corporate body should be founded, out of the nucleus of this Joint Action Committee, which will take care of not only this problem of continuation of the Wheat Loan Messenger, but many other problems which our profession has been facing for a long time and which need immediate solution.

Hingwe: So our decision is that we will continue this Wheat Loan Messenger as it is, until the Academic Libraries Association is formed.

Proposing a vote of thanks, Mr. Patnaik spoke:

Mr. Chairman and Friends:

It is my pleasant duty to offer on behalf of all of us a very hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Reid, who has so kindly inaugurated this Workshop. As he himself said, Dr. Reid is a great lover of books, and we also know from the various newsletters that come out from the U.S.I.S. that Dr. Reid is not only a lover of books, but also a person very widely read and some of his write-ups are of a standard of which any literary artist can justly be proud. So, although Dr. Reid is not a librarian by profession, he has, I think, a definite place in this Workshop and its deliberations. Indeed it is very appropriate that he has inaugurated the Workshop and we are very grateful to him for that. To others of the U.S.I.S.—Dr. Berthold and our respected colleague Miss Dilley — and to the other friends, who helped us to meet here, we are very grateful.

Sir, we have discussed this morning the future of the Wheat Loan Messenger. We have also considered the Wheat Loan Programme and its impact on Indian librarianship. Before I proceed further let me tell you how deeply we, as Wheat Loan grantees, are indebted to the India Wheat Loan Educational Exchange Programme and through this Programme to the U.S. Government and its people for having given us a valuable opportunity to visit their country and to profit by the visit. I am not saying this in a formal way. This is what I feel, and I am sure my other friends also feel the same way.

The impact of the Wheat Loan Programme centres around two major aspects of Indian librarianship—the development of university and research library collections with the resultant gain to higher education and research, and the personal enrichment of Indian librarians who had gone to the States under this Programme which indirectly helped to raise their status in the academic field. Here I must also mention the Wheat Loan workshops conducted under the auspices of this Programme. Some of the results of these workshops are intangible. But there is no doubt that they have done immense service to the cause of Indian librarianship. They have created a sense of oneness among librarians, a feeling of confidence that they can solve many of their problems themselves and so on. One immediate result of these workshops—to me it is a major achievement—is the establishment
of the Academic Libraries Association. I said it is a major achievement, because I feel that through this body we can achieve several things. The workshops are over, but we still have the Joint Action Committee of these workshops. It is an active organization and we hope to make it a permanent body.

Sir, the Wheat Loan Programme is now almost over. It is unfortunate it has come to an end so early, because there is so much good work that can still be done through this Programme. It is our mistake that we did not plead for its continuance in time. What we can now do is to continue the good work of this Programme. We can do this through the Academic Libraries Association, and through the Joint Action Committee. I am sure, Dr. Reid will help us.

Sir, it is but appropriate, that, before I conclude, I should refer to Miss Beatrice H. Holt, former Cultural Affairs Officer of the Wheat Loan Programme, who has done such a fine work in the field of Indian librarianship. In the latest issue of the Wheat Loan Messenger I had the privilege to write a small note on Miss Holt and the good work she has done. Recently I had a letter from her and from this I could see how greatly she feels her absence from this country and from the activities in which she was engaged here. I think it would be some consolation to her if we continue the work she had started.

Sir, I have nothing more to say except to thank Dr. Reid once again for having inaugurated the workshop and also to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for having given me this opportunity to offer this vote of thanks.
Monday Afternoon
Open General Session
Delhi University Library

The open general session of the first day was held in the afternoon of Monday, March 5, 1962 in the spacious auditorium of the Delhi University Library. Opening the session and welcoming the participants, Mr. Deshpande said:

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As Chairman of the Joint Action Committee it is my privilege and pleasure to accord to you all a most hearty welcome. I must thank you for having accepted the invitation to attend the Workshop and taken the trouble of coming over to this hall this afternoon to listen to and participate in the deliberations.

By way of introduction, I must tell you something about these Wheat Loan workshops. With the blessings of the U.G.C., the Ministry of Education and the Wheat Loan Programme, we had four workshops last year on a zonal basis. At the end of each workshop, the Action Committee framed its Report embodying the recommendations. The Joint Action Committee met at Delhi after the Jaipur Workshop and prepared its Report. This was subsequently submitted to the U.G.C., the Ministry of Education and the India Wheat Loan Office. Since then nearly 10 months have rolled by. The present Workshop is in the nature of a follow-up workshop. This afternoon Dr. Das Gupta has kindly consented to play the host and address us. He will be speaking on "Staff Problems". We would welcome your views on this problem. Mr. Hingwe, Librarian of the Poona University Library, will later present the report of the morning session on the "Wheat Loan Programme and its Messenger", copies of which, I think, have been distributed to you. Your comments on this report in general and the "Messenger" in particular are welcome. This would be followed by a talk by Dr. Maheshwari, Head of the Botany Department in this great seat of learning. Dr. Maheshwari's talk is entitled "A Research Director Organizes his own Research Material". This would be an interesting talk by a non-librarian about the business of the Librarian. With these preliminary remarks I once again extend a warm welcome to you all and request Dr. Das Gupta to deliver his talk.

S. Das Gupta: Mr. Chairman and Friends:

First of all it is my pleasant duty as Librarian of Delhi University Library to welcome you all. We are under a special debt of gratitude to the sponsors of the Wheat Loan Programme, because as a University Library we have benefited from the Programme to an extent which is really incalculable and we have immensely profited from our visit to the United States which the Programme had made possible. I also welcome the members of the present Workshop. Last time when the workshops were held in different parts of the country, I was prevented from attending any of the sessions because I had, for a little while, gone out of the University. It gives me much pleasure to associate myself with at least one session and to be with you on this occasion as a participant.

Mr. Nagar asked me a few days ago to speak on the Immediate Problems of University Libraries. I know it is not a very cheerful subject, because the problems that we are facing are somewhat depressing. But nonetheless, there is a streak of hope in the horizon and whatever the present problems may be, we will, I am sure, find their solution in the near future. These problems are not the same in all the university libraries. But they emanate from a common background. For example, in all the universities we are facing certain changes which are due to larger enrolment, or due to the creation of new departments, or expansion of the existing ones, or due to increasing cost of materials and services; and some others, which I would leave out of consideration today, are due to the changing patterns in our methods of study and research.
The problems which emanate from larger enrolment, creation of new departments or expansion of old ones, and the increasing cost of materials and services, have their impact on questions relating to library accommodation, book stock, and library services. A few years ago these problems were very much acute than they are today; thanks to the intervention of the University Grants Commission, we have been able to make sufficient headway in tackling the problems to some extent satisfactorily. In fact, the work that the Commission has done is really remarkable. Within a short period the Commission has pulled the university libraries out of a morass into which they were sinking. At the same time, our problems are not yet resolved.

The Commission has given assistance to many university libraries to put up new buildings. A large number of new buildings have come up in the course of the last 10 years. But many of these buildings suffer from a number of defects. These defects have crept in because there has not been the requisite coordination between the administration of the Commission, the architect of the university library building, and the professional librarian. Very often the librarian has been kept out of the picture. The planning has been done solely by the architect, the specifications, standards, and the quantities have been laid down by the Commission. While it is necessary to have certain specifications and standards and to have a good architect, to leave the librarian out from planning the library has its own dangers. This explains why many of these new and important library buildings have a large number of defects and this is typical of an instance of a lack of coordinated approach. I am afraid this feature—absence of coordination—pervades several other aspects of university library development.

In the matter of developing the book stock of university libraries, or in the matter of providing the university libraries with adequate staff and extending to the librarians suitable scales of pay, the Commission has done the basic work in a manner which I would consider very thorough indeed. But while the blueprints of development are there, hardly anything has been done to implement the scheme in a coordinated manner. Take, for instance, the question of building up adequate
book collections in the university libraries. You will all recall that in the beginning the Com-
mmission gave the university libraries large amounts of money as ad hoc grants for development of
t heir book resources in one field or another—sciences or the humanities—and substantial amounts
were received by many libraries. But these grants were unaccompanied by any provision for
library staff. The result was that most libraries got completely disorganized and the money for books
was badly spent, and sometimes could not be spent at all. There were occasions when owing to
back-log of technical work the essential books were not pressed into service for months, in some
cases for years. Sometimes the books lost their value while they were thus kept waiting. This
situation was corrected at a later stage, when the Commission announced that 20 per cent of the
ad hoc grants could be used for services. So far so good. But let us see whether this remedy has
worked. I am told that in many universities the provision of allowing 20 per cent of the ad hoc
grants for services has not been really adopted. That implies again that there is some lack of
coordination. If the Commission had meant that certain sum of money should be set aside for
services, it should have made it clear to the universities that this must be done. Otherwise, the
universities do not follow this advice thinking that it was not necessary to do so, or that somebody
had influenced the Commission to make this provision, but in their own institution it was not
desirable to lose, as they put it, 20 per cent of the book grants.

In other universities, where the authorities are setting apart 20 per cent of the ad hoc grants
for services, there are other peculiar difficulties. For example, the staff that is appointed against
this provision has to be temporary. Sometimes their appointment is for six months, sometimes
for one year. It becomes very difficult to offer appointments for a period longer than one year.
If the staff is needed for a further period, then the tenure is renewed. This has created serious
difficulty, and many libraries are unable to get the staff they need, because few people are willing
to join university service on such uncertain basis, because they would prefer to take up service
somewhere else, where they can get better terms and longer tenure. The other difficulty is that
on account of shortage of trained personnel in the profession, the libraries very often do not get
any response to their announcements that certain positions are vacant. Trained librarians
are not really available on the tap and it is not generally possible to recruit staff as and when a
grant from the Commission is received. The result is that even though the Commission has
agreed that certain amount of money could be spent on services, the libraries actually find it
difficult to get men for short periods. But this situation could be tackled with better planning.
If the Commission could make known the amount of the grants it would sanction to a particular
University over a period of five years, may be not in one instalment, but in five instalments, at
least the libraries would know how many extra staff they would need and for how long they would
be able to retain them beyond six months or eight months or one year, which has been the
practice so far.

Yet this is only one aspect of the problem. The other aspect which is basically more important is
that mere provision for servicing the ad hoc grants is not enough to build up proper library services.
Even though the Commission has laid down certain principles according to which the staffing
of university libraries, and college libraries should take place, we find that most of the university
libraries, let alone the college libraries, have still not implemented the proposals already approved
in principle by the Commission. I think there might not be more than two, three or four libraries
in the whole country which have secured library staff on the basis of their work-load according to
the norms or standards fixed by the Commission's Library Advisory Committee and approved by
the Commission itself. This has created a serious situation because most libraries are functioning
with fewer people on their staff than they should. A library which is not equipped to run itself in a
normal way will not be very much helped by the ad hoc book grants which it receives, or by the
additional temporary staff that it can employ out of the 20 per cent of the funds received for books.
Here again the problem is due to lack of a coordinated approach. The blueprints are there, but
their implementation has not taken place. All over the country the university libraries are suffering,
because an essential reform has not been implemented. No doubt something ought to be done
about this. I do not know whether it would be enough for the Commission to write to all the univer-
sities, or whether it would require from the Commission certain initial financial help or whether the
Commission would be in a position to help. In any case, it is necessary that this problem should
be brought to the notice of the Commission and of the universities themselves, because this is of
such basic importance that unless it is attended to first, the money that is spent on expanding the
book collection or the money that is spent on temporary staff is not utilized properly.
There is yet another aspect in the pattern of financial help, which the Commission gives to the university libraries for the development of its book collections, which needs to be reviewed. The universities receive periodically certain ad hoc development grants for certain subjects or certain groups of subjects, such as humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. While this amount is intended to strengthen the collection of the library in those fields, no suitable provision exists in any of the university libraries to ensure that the libraries keep themselves sufficiently abreast with the currently published literature. These ad hoc grants come at different times, but the library suffers if it does not have a proper regular provision in its normal annual budget for purchase of recent or currently published literature. These ad hoc grants are better suited for acquisition of back files of periodicals and of retrospective publications, but for currently published materials and for the replacement of worn-out copies and for purchasing multiple copies of the same book these ad hoc development grants are not very suitable. Every library should have really adequate provision in its annual budget to meet these needs. But I find that almost everywhere the provision in the annual budget for books and periodicals is most inadequate. In the University of Delhi, for a long long time, the provision was for Rs. 65,000. In the last 10 years it has been about Rs. 80,000. We are hoping that in the coming year it will be raised to Rs. 1,50,000 which will be a distinct improvement. But during the period of 10 years when the provision was fixed at Rs. 80,000, a sum of Rs. 60,000 or Rs. 65,000 used to be paid towards subscription to periodicals which left barely Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 15,000 for the purchase of books. Since we have about 30 departments of study, the average annual book budget for each was extremely inadequate. The situation is similar, or even worse in some other universities. The result is that the librarians are unable to build up their book collections on proper rational lines. The attempt which is being made to improve the book collections, or strengthen them by means of ad hoc grants is being frustrated. I am told that many of the libraries instead of spending the ad hoc grants on back files of periodicals and on retrospective publications utilize them to purchase the books which are currently published. But as soon as the ad hoc grants are spent, the libraries once again fail to keep their collections up-to-date and their books stock remains always unrepresentative.

This is, therefore, an important problem which we really ought to solve. The solution, to my mind, is that the Commission should be informed of what is happening and should be impressed that a part of the ad hoc development grant, however small it may be, should be given as a recurring grant and after five years or so it should become part of the normal annual book budget. Otherwise, the present situation cannot be corrected, and even though we might be spending lakhs and lakhs of rupees on books, we would still find that the library collections remain out of date.

Now the points which I have mentioned relating to book grants and services will illustrate that though good plans may be there on paper, in implementing the plans we are not really achieving our purpose. Something more ought to be done, some other thing ought to be attended to, if we want our attempts to be more successful.

Turning specifically to the staff problem: every library, as I have said, needs more staff and every library needs better qualified and, therefore, better paid staff. The question of how many staff we should have has been indicated, and the problem of calculation has been resolved to some extent by the staff formula suggested by the Commission’s Library Advisory Committee. We have to see that the formula is applied. Regarding the provision for better qualified and better paid staff the Commission did approve certain recommendations made by its Library Advisory Committee two or three years ago. The main recommendation was that the salary scales of the library staff should be the same as the salary scales of the academic staff of the university. As far as I know, the proposal, though approved by the Commission, has not been implemented yet. (The U.G.C. has implemented the proposal in relation to Delhi University since the talk was delivered. Editor). In the case of Delhi University Library, we put up proposals sometime in 1960 for additional staff and for revision of scales of pay. In August 1960 the Commission was good enough to send a Visiting Committee to examine our requirements. The Committee recommended the sanction of the additional staff and also recommended that the academic grades of the University be extended to the professionally qualified members of the library staff. All this was done under the Second Five Year Plan. At that time the academic grades prevalent in the University were much lower than the academic grades which have been introduced since April 1961. The new grades have not been yet extended to the library. I do not know why the Commission has been vacillating in this matter. Meanwhile, two different sets of qualifications have been approved by the Commission on the basis of which the
professional personnel of libraries could be placed on the academic grades. I do not know how this happened. The set of qualifications which were applied in the case of Delhi University Library is different from the set of qualifications which has been circulated to all the libraries in the country. The second set of qualifications is a little higher in certain details. The first set of qualifications was expressed in more-general terms. I am not arguing in favour of this set or that set. But that there should have been two sets of qualifications circulated, one to one university and another to the rest of the country seems to be a little odd. Moreover, the two sets of qualifications are not only different from each other, but also different from the set which was suggested by the Library Advisory Committee of the Commission. It is difficult to understand how these changes have been made and why. Anyway, whatever may be the finally approved set of qualifications, it is obvious that in our present situation, when there are large number of librarians who have been working in the university and college libraries for several years, who do not possess the qualifications now laid down, not all of them will want that these new qualifications should be applied in the case of existing personnel, before the new salary scales could be extended to them. At the same time if we take the view that because some of the people or a large number of people do not satisfy the new set of qualifications, therefore, the new scales of pay cannot be introduced, we shall be stultifying ourselves. After all the new scales of pay are not intended to correct the past; they are intended to ensure the future. So if there is a little difficulty let us face it and let us apply the new sets of qualifications with some relaxation, taking into account the experience of the people, and extend the new scales of pay to the existing personnel not insisting on their qualifications being the same as those laid down. Unless this is done we cannot introduce the new scales of pay without creating administrative difficulties and without breaking up the morale of the existing library personnel.

I understand that the Commission has obtained from a number of college libraries and most of the university libraries the information about qualifications, designations and scales of pay of the existing personnel. On the basis of the returns received in Office of the Commission, somebody has stated that 95 per cent of the existing personnel do not fulfil the qualifications laid down, and, therefore, are not entitled to the revised scales of pay. But the same set of statistics could be handled differently to arrive at different conclusions. I have had the chance of going through the returns which were collected by the Commission and of getting them analyzed. Out of the 900 or odd college libraries who have sent their returns, nearly 400 do not have as librarians persons whom we can classify as professional staff. People who are only matriculates with or without some certificate in library science, or people who are graduates without even a certificate in library science, certainly could do not be regarded as professional staff. At some stage we must define who the professional staff is. If we take the view that the professional staff is somebody who is graduate with a diploma in library science we will find that only 40 per cent of the existing staff are professional and the rest are non-professional. So to bring these non-professional people into the picture and to ask the question whether they could be given the Reader's grade or the Professor's grade is really inviting a negative answer, and on that basis to say that since 95 per cent of the present people do not qualify, we have not yet reached a stage when we could introduce the academic grades to university libraries or college libraries, would be a wrong conclusion. Among those people, who can be regarded really as professional, quite a good many, say about 15 or 20 per cent, satisfy the qualifications laid down by the Commission. Another 30 to 40 per cent could be considered for the new scales of pay if we make certain necessary relaxation in the qualifications, taking into account, say, a period of 5 years' experience. If we take into account a period of 8 years' or 12 years' experience we will find that of the professional people a majority would be entitled to the new scales of pay. Let us recognize that the problem of inadequacy of the qualifications of the existing professional staff, relative to the new qualifications laid down by the Commission, is only a marginal problem. In a few years most of these people would be retired. What is more important for the future is the way we make new recruitments into the library, and we cannot get suitably qualified people to come into the library profession unless we make the library grades attractive enough. The academic grades of the universities have improved recently. It is possible that if we extend these grades to the library staff, we will be able to get into the university and college libraries young people with good academic and professional background. But if we do not introduce such grades, it is equally likely that the best of the present professional people will go out, particularly from the universities, to seek employment elsewhere, because the Government and the business libraries are beginning to offer better opportunities.
I do not know when the Commission will make its decision known to the country and whether the new revised grades of teachers will be extended to the library staff, but for us it is important that we make up our own mind to ask for the grades and we ourselves study this problem of extending the new scales to the existing staff, because if somebody else collected the data and arrived at certain conclusions, it may affect us adversely. We might collect the data ourselves, examine them and put up reasoned proposals to the Commission. I am not suggesting that this should be our work in this Workshop, rather it should be the work of the college and university librarians themselves, and it should be the work of our professional body—the Indian Library Association.

The other problem—and that will be the last point that I will touch upon—is that even with better grades we do not solve our immediate problem of getting the staff. The facilities for training of library personnel are still inadequate. On a rough calculation it may be said that the university and the college libraries will require about 1,000 librarians within the next few years. The Library Schools are not producing librarians at the required rate, and what is rather disturbing is that Library Schools have started growing up like mushrooms and in many of these places the standard of training is very low indeed. This is no aspersion on any particular institution, but this is bound to be the case when a training centre is started without adequate preparation. We will not be able to get the type of people we want for the university and college libraries, or for that matter other libraries in the country, if our training becomes weaker. Here again some planned and coordinated approach is necessary and once more the initiative lies with the University Grants Commission. Unless the Commission deals with the problem, it will be open to all universities to start diploma courses, or degree courses, without making suitable preparations. And this will be a source of positive harm to the profession. It is necessary that the Commission should study this question and lay down the minimum standards in every respect which universities with training centres should fulfil. The number of training centres should be for the time being limited and new centres should not be started without adequate preparation. It is also desirable that a few selected centres in the country should be helped by the Commission, financially and otherwise, to become models for adequate training centres for the region.

In conclusion, I think we should, taking into account the variety and complexity of the library problems, impress on the Commission that just as it has separate Development Officers for Humanities and for Natural Sciences, it should also have a Development Officer for Libraries. One reason why a coordinated approach to library problems has not developed, one reason why many of the blueprints of development, though approved by the Commission, have not been properly implemented, is due to the fact that the library as such has not secured sufficient importance to be treated as a special charge of one man. If it is not possible to have a Development Officer for Libraries, the Commission should have at least a Standing Committee or a panel of three librarians, to advise the Commission on all library matters. Whatever has happened wrong is not because there was not the will or the intention to do the right thing, but somehow the knowledge or the experience that is necessary was not placed before the Commission, or was not available with the Officer-in-charge at the time of taking certain decisions.

Apart from this, we ourselves should do something. A right step has been taken in establishing an Association of College and University Libraries and we should take up its work seriously, because there are far too many problems of special character which affect the university and research libraries and we do not at present really know how different libraries are facing these problems and what their special difficulties are. Between us there should be more organized exchange of ideas. As a group within the profession we should be a little more self-aware and self-conscious about ourselves. The Association is necessary not only to help the university and college librarians improve their libraries by exchange of ideas among themselves, but also to take up specific library problems, whenever they arise, and to seek their solutions with the assistance of other members of the profession or with the cooperation of influential people outside the profession.

(Continued applause)

Deshpande: Thank you Mr. Das Gupta for this masterly survey of the problems facing the university and college libraries. Now there are ten minutes to go, before I request Mr. Hingwe to take over the mike, and I would request some of you to offer your comments on what Mr. Das Gupta had to say. These may be comments, additions, or other observations.

(No response)
K. S. Hingwe: I congratulate my colleague, Mr. Das Gupta for having given us such an effective exposition of the problems relating to the university and college libraries. Some of these problems, as he has already told you, are concerned with the coordination between the University Grants Commission on one hand and the university and college libraries on the other. The first important point made by him, which I would like to refer to, is the development that has taken place in respect of university and college libraries under the recommendations of the University Grants Commission from time to time. It has, therefore, become absolutely necessary to have either a special Development Officer for Libraries, as there is one for the Humanities and Social Sciences and one for the Scientific and Technical fields. If that is not possible, there should be at least a panel of librarians to examine whether the recommendations made by the University Grants Commission have been properly implemented.

We are aware that three years back many university and college librarians met in this city and made a number of recommendations. We don’t know to what extent those recommendations have been implemented. It is our conviction that unless there is a “follow-up”, all these efforts will result in waste. I entirely agree with all the suggestions he has put forth, especially in relation to the book purchase policies, the staff, their qualifications, etc. I am going to touch upon only those that are more important. We have certainly improved in certain respects during the last few years, and I hope we shall still improve, because we are getting more personnel. If we take into consideration the situation that existed about ten or fifteen years ago, we have every reason to conclude that we have improved and we shall definitely improve.

But there is one important aspect that is frightening. It is restricted to ourselves. It has no relation to the University Grants Commission. It is perhaps most important problem relating to the university and college librarians. We are expected to give guidance to the research scholars and students. But in practice we hardly get any time to do this type of work. We are very much discouraged by this sad state of affairs. As librarians we consider it as the most important aspect of our work that we should be able to devote a portion of our time for reading the current trends in different subjects, at least to read certain books, and to glance through them. On various platforms it has been declared that the librarian is expected to do this thing, that thing, i.e. he must be able to guide the readers, research scholars etc. We are very much eager to do that. We only desire that we could get facilities to devote a portion of our day to this work.

I know certain instances when university and college librarians have made suggestions to their authorities recommending the appointment of special staff not expected to do any type of administrative work, but simply to devote their full time for reading new periodicals, or new books received in the library. When such recommendations are placed before the authorities, we are told that it is not necessary so long as the university librarian is able to give the books to the readers when they are demanded, and so long as the reader is thereby satisfied. We are very much disappointed by this attitude. But we have to try and convince our authorities to make this provision.

Another matter which Mr. Das Gupta has referred to is the recurring grants given by the U.G.C. to the universities. It should not be necessary on the part of the librarian to persuade the authorities to increase the grant from year to year. It should depend upon the ratio of the students and the faculty members. With the increase in the number of students and faculty members, the recurring grant of the library should go on increasing from year to year automatically.

The third important aspect the speaker has touched upon is our library training. I am responsible for running such a course. I am about to recommend to my University that we are not having any fruitful result by running a part-time course. It is my duty to invite the attention of the authorities concerned to the fact that through the present set-up we are not going to provide efficient librarians. It is argued in some quarters that because there is a dearth of librarians and because we want more librarians, we have no alternative but to admit any number of students to the library courses. The proper solution will be as follows:

The courses conducted by the universities should be restricted only to those who are likely to be the chief librarians or at least the assistant librarians. For the pre-professionals there should be some sort of a pre-professional training. We have seen that some librarians, who are Diploma-holders are asked to work at the counters, or are given the job of just issuing the books, or to do simple accessioning. What is the good of giving the library training and wasting one year if one is asked to do such routine work? So if we could restrict the admission to our
professional courses only to those who are deputed by some institutions, we may be able to bring out good results.

Once again I thank Mr. Das Gupta for giving us a very stimulating discourse on the immediate problems of university and college libraries in India today. It is only by our active support to the cause that we can remedy the defects.

Introducing Dr. Homer Kempfer of the U.S.A.I.D. to the audience and requesting him to speak, Mr. Deshpande said:

It is my honour and privilege to introduce to you a great American educator, who has kindly consented to address us this afternoon. He is Dr. Homer Kempfer, Deputy Chief Educational Adviser of the United States Agency for International Development. Dr. Homer is greatly interested in the development of libraries and librarianship in India and we are all very much thankful to him. May I now request Dr. Kempfer to be kind enough to address the audience?

Homer Kempfer: I am happy to be here, although I must say that my interest is primarily in the other side of the library situation. I came to India three years ago as Adult Education Adviser to the Ministry of Education and in these three years I have had considerable contacts with the libraries in this country. I personally am much interested in libraries but I find that the organization I work for has done nothing in the matter. You have had the Wheat Loan. Some of you have been benefited directly and professionally from it. Your libraries also have. But we of the new U.S.A.I.D. (the old T.C.M.) have never had any project assisting likewise. We have never given any money. We have never sent anybody to the U.S. for further observation of library practices and have never sent any librarian here to help in any way. From our standpoint we feel especially interested in the public library field, but we have done nothing. We are interested, but our interest is academic. We are not backing it up with rupees or dollars.

We are interested in helping the spread of libraries in villages and in districts throughout the country, and in the training of librarians. I don’t know when you speak of library training here at the professional level, whether you mean one year or two years, or may be more, but in the village libraries it may have to be a matter of one week or two weeks or one month or two months in the beginning.

We are also interested in library materials. Some years ago a volunteer project started up. An American came to India and saw the condition of the libraries. He went back and had his friends send their books to him to be shipped to India. I think he may not have sorted out too much out of the trash; but maybe he did; I am not sure. Anyway he began sending books over to this country. Many of them were not very well selected, and many of them were quite old and worn out, I suppose, when they got here.

A proposal I have made to the people in the Ministry of Education is that we should bring one person over, possibly under the Fulbright Exchange Programme, who would look into the system of State, District, Block and Local Libraries and see what their needs are. This person should know what resources we might have to offer. Out of that survey might emerge some kind of a systematic programme for helping in a small way. I fully realize that the books and periodicals that the United States would provide cannot be read maybe by 98 per cent of the Indian people, as they are in the wrong language. But on the other hand there is a small percentage of people who have sufficient education in English. They are very widely scattered over the country and could benefit from additional quantities of books and magazines if they were properly selected.

I am thinking of the engineer down in Central Madhya Pradesh, who asked me, "How can we get hold of magazines in engineering? We need them. We don’t have the foreign exchange. We don’t have any way of purchasing them." It occurred to me that we have many engineers in U.S.A. who, within a month after receiving an issue of a magazine, would have read what they wanted in the magazine. They would toss it over in the corner probably never to pick it up again. But if that American engineer knew that there was another engineer of the same variety in India who would like to have that magazine, he might be quite willing, after he had read it and before the magazine would be a month old to send it to some library in Madhya Pradesh so that this engineer could see it.

Such is the kind of thing that I had in mind. I think that I will still see if there is any further interest in the Ministry. If we could find out what kinds of magazines and books are needed, we
could make an appeal to our people. In some cases the professional societies themselves might have an overrun of 500 copies of issues and send them over to universities or engineering colleges in India. Maybe we could use rupees to pay the freights and distribute them within the country.

There are areas perhaps in which I hope we could work out some assistance, and I shall continue my efforts with the Ministry to see if they are sufficiently interested to make a request. It might take two or three years to get it under way.

We do have three people in India. I think they came in January from our Library of Congress. They are purchasing Indian magazines, particularly scientific journals, and, I think, are sending copies back to 10 or 12 universities and to our Library of Congress, so that we can have in America the result of your research findings, your technical as well as literary productions in at least 10 or 12 centres in our country.
Now, one other thing. I worked for two years in an institution where my most frustrating experience was the locks on the library cabinets. I hope that none of you—who have been associated in one way or another with the Wheat Loan Programme—I hope that you are not working in an institution which keeps locks on its cabinets. If you feel that they must be there, then our cultures are further apart than I wish they were. I would say such conditions call for an educational programme where a generation of people need to be taught how to use books from shelves that are not locked. Lock the building at night when the library is closed. Well, this is just my idea and I apologize for ending this short talk with my biggest frustration.

**Deshpande:** Thank you Dr. Kempfer. We are all very grateful to you for having given us such a wonderful opportunity of knowing your views on the promotion of books and libraries in India.

Now I will request Mr. S. K. Seth to give us the benefit of his talk. Mr. Seth is a resident of Delhi and has lived in U.K. and U.S.A. for a good number of years. He has just returned from abroad and we are fortunate to have him amongst us today. Mr. Seth—

S. K. Seth: This is a gathering of librarians working in academic libraries. Since I joined this profession I have been all along—even before I went abroad and worked in foreign countries—associated with public libraries. In U.S.A., I was associated with the Cleveland Public Library. In England and in America I worked in public libraries. I was particularly impressed by the procedure and techniques they have adopted, especially in America, to provide reference service. All their efforts are towards one aim, one goal, and that is to bring the books and readers closer. In that field, I think, there is a lot that the American libraries have done, and I only wish we could do at least half of that much. Well, after having spent about six or seven years abroad, I have come to the conclusion that we could do as much in this country, but it may take a while.

**Deshpande:** Thank you Mr. Seth.

We will now switch over to the second part of the programme, and I request Mr. Das Gupta to introduce Dr. Maheshwari who is amidst us now.

S. Das Gupta: Well, I have great pleasure in introducing Dr. Maheshwari to you. He is, to put it very briefly, the Head of the Department of Botany in the University of Delhi. But as I said, that was a very brief description of Dr. Maheshwari, because during the period I have known him and cherished his friendship, this aspect of him as a botanist has been really not very much known to me, because my subject is as far removed from botany as it could be. But what has impressed me is that Dr. Maheshwari is not only an eminent scholar in the field, but he is a man of very wide interests and very large sympathies. In his academic work at the University, he is one of our leading exponents of general education, and as a librarian what has impressed me most is the way Dr. Maheshwari has organized his own Library in the Botany Department, a personal library consisting of collections of periodicals from all over the world in the subject fields in which he is interested. The whole thing is so well-organized, so well-indexed that whenever I go to the Botany Department and have a look at it, it seems to me that my dream would be as a librarian to have a library for the University which is as organized as Dr. Maheshwari’s personal library is. In fact the material that he has collected, I understand, can support the research in this University for the next few more years, which is something that I cannot claim for the University Library, because everyday I find that it is not adequate to support even the currently proceeding research in the University. It is, therefore, a matter of good fortune for us that he has consented to come and give us a talk. I understand the topic of his talk is “A Research Director organizes his own Research Material”, and I am sure we will have much to learn from him. So may I, therefore, request Dr. Maheshwari to give us his talk? Dr. Maheshwari—

P. Maheshwari: Friends and Colleagues:

It is a very great pleasure for me to be here with you, a non-librarian amongst librarians! When Mr. Nagar extended his invitation to me at the instance of Mr. Das Gupta, I had mixed feelings about it, because there is hardly anything which I can tell librarians about how to organize research materials. And yet I thought that I must not decline this request, because this would at least put me in touch with the librarians of Delhi and elsewhere. Most of my work is with the librarians whom I must meet many times, and I thought this would be a fine opportunity of meeting them face to face and talking to them. So it is more from that point of view that I agreed to talk to you rather than from any impression in my mind that I can educate you about how to organize research materials.
Bernard Shaw said sometime back that reading corrupts the mind. Now this I believe to be a gross exaggeration of truth. If reading corrupts the mind, then one does not know what improves it. Well, reading in my opinion is the greatest stimulus to thinking, and a scientist must read, think, observe, evaluate and then form hypotheses and conclusions. So the first research work of the scientist must begin in the library. He must, of course, not read to believe just what comes, or take it for granted but weigh it and consider it.

Now, while it may be very good to ask a student to go to Mr. Das Gupta and find out what literature exists on a particular subject, it will waste a lot of his time. If a research director has to take care of 30 or 35 students at a time, it would be poor economy to have their time dissipated in this fashion. It is the duty of the director to tell the researcher at least some of the sources from where he could get his material. Naturally enough, the librarian could do it too, but then I think it is primarily the duty of the research director to do it himself.

The number of periodicals at present is anybody’s guess, but it may well be that it exceeds 70 thousand. You may be knowing it better, but this is the estimate that has been given recently. No one can regularly scan or read more than about 40 periodicals himself, and he must, therefore, depend upon abstracting journals. So in the first case the research director has to be keen to get these abstracting periodicals as quickly as they come in the library. Now for botany, there are a number of them like the Biological Abstracts, Plant Breeding Abstracts, Horticultural Abstracts, Berichte uber die Wissenschaftliche Biologie, and the Bibliography of Agriculture, etc. And one must
see them as quickly as possible, in fact, before anybody else gets them. The keen research director must make friends with the small clerk who looks after the research periodicals, must make friends with him and ask him what new has come. He may try to take it, if possible, to his own room.

My usual practice is that I go through the abstracting journals from cover to cover. When I find a topic in which I am interested, I note it on a small slip of paper by its number—let us say, Abstract No. 507, 1005 etc. The abstracting periodical also gives the summary and if I want the summary typed too, I put a line below the number on my slip. Thus I make a list of 40 or 50 topics and then hand it on to my typist who makes the cards for all these and he includes the summaries for those references which I have underlined. I always try especially to seek the weekly periodicals, Nature and Science. Unfortunately in most libraries they come by ordinary mail. When I was the Secretary of the National Institute of Sciences two years back, I ordered them there by air mail. Thus we get them there in three or four days after they are issued in England and in America. I try to go over there to the Library of the National Institute and then mark out those books in which I am interested, get the cards made and finally make a list and send it to Dr. Das Gupta if he could find the money to obtain those books for me.

Now with regard to the abstracting journals, although Biological Abstracts include most of the literature, there is a great time lag in preparing the abstracts, sometimes even two years, and usually not less than one year. Fortunately, however, several other countries are also producing abstracting periodicals and some catch on to some of the literature more quickly than others. For instance, Berichte uber die Wissenschaftliche Biologie would get the German literature quicker. So one must go through not just one but several abstracting journals, if one wants to get at the literature as quickly as possible. It would be a great advantage if at least some of these abstracting periodicals could be obtained by air. I am quite aware that the cost would be high, but as the number of scholars in this country and the city of Delhi is increasing, there could perhaps be some kind of cooperation whereby, let us say, the Biological Abstracts is obtained by air in one library and Plant Breeding Abstracts is obtained by air in another so that the keen student can get the references as quickly as possible.

Very often the abstract also contains the address of the person, in which case I also have a card made for the address of the author. There are, of course, various other agencies too from which the addresses could be obtained. One could look up the American Men of Science, or the Who's Who or the Membership List of various learned societies like the Linnean Society of London, or the Royal Society of London, or the American Botanical Society or the Berichte uber die Wissenschaftliche Biologie, and so on. I try to keep the membership list of all these societies with me. Not being a member of all of them, I write to some friend who is, then ask him to send me one copy of the membership list, and renew the request from time to time so that I get an up-to-date list of the members of these various societies. With the help of these I am able to get the address of almost any author in whose work I am interested.

Having gotten the abstract as well as the address of the author, I am now ready to correspond with him and request him to send me a reprint of his paper if it is not available in the University Library. I would also purchase about 300 copies of each of my publications because you cannot make demands on other people without sending them something in return. So I must send them my reprints and get their reprints from them.

As to the filing of the literature cards I have a system whereby the Ph.D. students themselves cooperate in it. I ask one or two Ph.D. students to classify the literature cards every month roughly at first into plant morphology, plant anatomy, systematic botany, genetics, physiology and so on. Having got this done, those which deal with systematic botany would be classified according to the various families, let us say, compositae or leguminosae and so on, after which the cards would be simply shifted on to their proper place and put there.

Now if I have a student and I want to give him a problem on a certain plant or a certain tribe of the family leguminosae, I don't have to send him to the library right away to hunt about it. Instead I tell him to see my card index, pick up the cards on the family leguminosae and then make list of the more recent ones of these, or those in which he is specially interested, whether dealing with a particular genus or a particular sub-tribe. I do not claim that the card index is perfect. No matter what one does, lots of references still escape his notice. But the pupil is put at one end of this plan of searching the literature and can then do his own digging until he gradually gets in touch with almost all the important literature on the subject.
It will often happen that we neither have the journals here, nor am I able to get a reference by writing to the author. Sometimes we may have something old published about 40 or 50 years back and there is no chance to get a reprint because the author may be dead. In such cases I order a microfilm. We have fortunately a very good service in the INSDOC. We make a list of such references that cannot be had either in the library or by writing to the author; we order microfilms for these and in about a month, or six weeks, or sometimes two months they arrive. If the paper is such that it is going to be used by half a dozen students, I am not satisfied with just having a microfilm, because it is rather inconvenient to read the microfilm with the microfilm reader. So I get a photostat made of it in my Department. The photostat copy is stitched or bound and properly filed along with the reprints.

To maintain a good reprint collection, there are various things that have to be taken care of. For instance, suppose I write to an author and he sends me a reprint, the first thing I do is to look up his address on the envelope: whether it is the same as the address I used, or whether it has changed. Now I also keep a card index of the addresses and I must compare the address in my card index with the address that this man is now giving in order to keep it up-to-date. Again, when sending out reprints, I number each reprint as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, etc. Every time a reprint is sent out, I put the number on the address card itself, so that I know that I don't send duplicates to the same person. Reprint nowadays cost a lot of money and there is no advantage in sending two copies of the same reprint to a person. So every reprint which is sent out must also be entered just as a reprint which comes in has also to be entered. It is desirable to put a stamp on the reprint, the date when it was received, and the name and the subject and so on so that it does not get mixed up.

For issuing the reprints our Ph.D. student comes to my room everyday at 10 o'clock and all requests for loan of these reprints are put in a tray on his table. Suppose somebody wants a few reprints, he gives the names of the authors and title and his own name. The Ph.D. student, who comes to me at 10 o'clock, brings all these slips to me. Usually I can tell him right away that I have such and such reprints in my collection, and of others I am not sure.

Another point is that although it is a good thing to allow free use of one's library, it is to be considered how free this use ought to be. Some people think that there should be no restrictions whatsoever, anybody can come and take a reprint and study it. I have, however, found from experience that people who take the reprints are often too lazy to return them and, therefore, a record must be kept for every reprint that is given out. After a week a reminder is sent for return of the reprint. If the reprint is German or French and if the man would say that he has to get it translated, then it is given to him for another week, but after 15 days a final reminder is sent to return it. If he still does not bring it or if a person is habitually late in returning reprints, no further issues are made to him. Normally such a situation does not necessarily arise, because the man is quite apologetic after such a mistake.

Sometimes the reprints come soiled and damaged in various ways. People take the reprints on the laboratory tables with their paraphernalia of chemicals; rub them against this or that; or fold them in cruel ways and so on. In such cases I ask the man concerned to get a good binding put upon the reprint. This means three or four rupees and such punishment has a salutary effect on the man. Generally the cooperation I get is very good indeed. The loss of reprints is not more than half a dozen or so per year. Sometimes I may be able to replenish the loss by requesting the authors to send duplicates, or if that is not possible I simply get a photostat. It has not been necessary to ask the man who has lost it to pay the cost of it, because very often I am not able to trace as to who lost it.

Quite often one gets duplicate reprints from the authors. Now there are two things open to me. The reprint may be returned to the author, who will certainly appreciate it, and one can win his goodwill for future. However, if it is a small reprint I usually try to give it to any scholar who may be interested in that subject in any special manner.

Well, to maintain a good personal library of books and reprints means many sacrifices of time and of money. A keen professor or a research director cannot depend entirely upon a university library. Being in that position of a Head of a Department he can borrow books from the library more easily than others. But it would be simple on his part to get books in that manner and not let others have the use of them. So any book that I think I am going to need almost constantly, I just buy. I do not think I should depend upon the library for such books. I can put marks and marginal notes on them. So anything which I want to read with care and must refer every
now and then, I always purchase for myself. And when I go abroad I always visit the antiquarians. Very often one finds things there which are not easily available. I have spent several days in 1936 in Leipzig and in 1946 in New York and other places sorting out and selecting reprints for my personal library.

Supposing one has built up a good personal library, what should one do with it on retirement. It would be quite alright to sell the reprints, but the amount obtained is rather small in comparison to their real value. In life an active professor must come across at least a few devoted pupils, who would value the possession of these both for sentimental reasons and for what the reprints contain in them. It is best to choose such people, or else to sell the reprints. The man who buys them will value them; to the man who gets them gratis, it is often just a trash. He might just throw it away and a labour of 30 or 35 years might just be wasted. So either the collection should be given to a chosen and devoted colleague keenly interested in that particular branch of the subject and who could take care of it or it can be sold. For buying science books, many sacrifices have to be made. One cannot afford to lead a luxurious life if one wants to have a library of his own. One has to sacrifice good furniture and clothes and many worldly things. But the pleasure that one can get out of books is inestimable. They are a source of great pride to one who values them.

Well, that is about all that I wished to say and I hope that I have not transgressed the bounds of modesty. When you asked me to speak about what I do as a research director, naturally I had to use the first person all the time. In my opinion no one can be a successful research director without collecting materials like this and taking good care of them so that any desired reprint can be pulled out in five minutes or two minutes or even in a single minute. If it takes two hours to get any one of them, then the material is obviously not properly organized and not serviceable. Time has to be spent everyday to keep things in order, but this little bit of time spent everyday is time gained for so many students and it is for them after all that a professor works.

Thank you very much.

(Deshpande: Thank you Dr. Maheshwari. We are all very much delighted and we believe your impressions and reflections would show us—the professional librarians—a new way of library operation.

Now I will request Mr. Kanitkar to propose a vote of thanks. Mr. Kanitkar—

Kanitkar: I am not going to impose myself upon you. It is a pleasant duty which I have to do. I move a vote of thanks to Dr. Das Gupta, who gave us a very stimulating address; to Dr. Kempfer, who gave us his own impressions what a library should do—he talked about his own organization and as to what he wanted the libraries to do; to Mr. Seth for his views on the public libraries; and to Dr. Maheshwari for his personal experiences of organizing a research library. I hope that all of you have really enjoyed these talks and you will heartily approve the vote of thanks which I move.

(Applause)
SECOND DAY

Tuesday, March 6, 1962

Morning Session

Topic for the day : Union List of Serials

Discussion Leader : Mr. A. K. Mukherjee

U.S.I.S. Auditorium, Bahawalpur House

Opening the morning session, Mr. Deshpande said:

The topic for today’s discussion is the “Union List of Serials in Indian Libraries” and the leader for the morning as well as afternoon session is our friend, Mr. Mukherjee. Mr. Mukherjee is the Librarian of Jadavpur University and has been a senior member of the profession. He has been actively associated with the IASLIC, the Indian Library Association and the Wheat Loan workshops. Before I request him to speak on this topic, I would like to call your attention to the Joint Action Committee Report wherein this item figures as the first one. The recommendation runs like this:

The participants of the workshops feel that a National Union List of Serials is very essential. As a first step to this end, they will undertake to bring out catalogues of holdings of serials in their respective libraries as early as possible and will circulate these among themselves and among other university and research libraries. They will also immediately supply lists of American periodical holdings in their libraries to the Wheat Loan Office for the compilation of a Union List of American Serials.

Now I would request Mr. Mukherjee to initiate the topic, which will be followed by group discussion.

A. K. Mukherjee: Thank you Mr. Deshpande, Colleagues:

As you already know, this is a problem which concerns all the libraries—research, special, academic as well as public. The people engaged in higher studies and research must have felt some time or other that the stock of periodicals in a particular library is not sufficient to give proper service to them. Every library has to fall back upon the resources of other libraries.

But how to do it? Since periodicals pose a problem of such magnitude, it has been found necessary to prepare union lists of serials. Such lists have been prepared in other countries, particularly in U.S.A., U.K., Australia and in some European countries. In our country, we have practically nothing of this kind. Only some efforts have been made; not comprehensive efforts, but piecemeal efforts, with many shortcomings, which actually render the lists incapable of serving the purpose that we have in mind. We want to serve all types of libraries, all types of readers and all types of research workers. It is high time that we take up seriously the project and plan properly. We should have a competent body, which will work this out, ask for necessary funds and do the job within a reasonable period.

I hope you have gone through my article. Mr. Nagar gave me some data, which I have incorporated in it. The first part of my paper brings out the magnitude of the problem. You may know that between 60,000 and 70,000 periodicals exist in sciences alone, and it is estimated that the number of periodicals available in the fields of humanities and social sciences is ten times greater. That makes something like an astronomical figure—7,00,000 of periodicals. This is a
difficult problem, but looking into the efforts of other countries, and the progress that we have made in our profession during the last few decades, and also seeing the fact that higher education and research have taken long strides in our country, we have got to do something in this regard. That is an imperative necessity and nobody would contradict it.

In Section 'B', I have said something about the current projects. Of these, the first is the revised edition of Dr. Ranganathan's *Union Catalogue of Scientific Periodicals*, which has been undertaken by INSDOC. I hope Mr. Krishnan will be able to give us a picture of this work.

The second project is the one undertaken by the Indian Statistical Institute of Calcutta. Of course, that is not a union list; it is only a list of the titles of periodicals available in Calcutta libraries. But that too has served a good purpose for us in Calcutta libraries. Anything of this kind is welcome. Mr. Saha, the Chief Librarian there, has revised it and it may come out towards the end of this year.

The third list, which has already come out, and you should have a look at it, is the *Catalogue of Scientific Periodicals in Calcutta Libraries*, compiled by Mr. K. Bhattacharya. This is just a revised edition of *Kemp's Catalogue*.

I am not describing here the "Union List of American Serials" being prepared by the India Wheat Loan Office. Mr. Nagar can tell you more about it; as to how many libraries have cooperated, how many titles have already been included, etc. It is also coming out in the near future. These are the current projects. I have also mentioned a few attempts that were made in the recent past, especially by the Library of the Director General of Health Services. They issued a *Union Catalogue of Medical Periodicals in Indian Libraries*, but this was some five years back. Similarly the C.S.I.R. group, the libraries that are represented in the C.S.I.R., have a *Union Catalogue* which was published in 1955. It is now seven years old.

I wanted to say that although these attempts have given us certain research tools, they fall far short of our expectations. They are not comprehensive; neither in their subject fields nor in the regions covered. Most of these have defects. The INSDOC one is limited to the scientific periodicals, although it has an all-India coverage. The one compiled by the Indian Statistical Institute does not give the holdings; neither does it cover other libraries outside Calcutta. The third one by Mr. K. Bhattacharya suffers from the same defect. Its coverage is, of course, not restricted to scientific periodicals alone. The last one suffers from the defect that it covers only American periodicals, although it has all-India coverage. More libraries will have to cooperate to make it a really useful tool. It gives the holdings of only those institutions which have received the Wheat Loan grants.

Thus we see that all these lists suffer from various limitations. It is our duty now to plan for a Union List of Serials covering all subjects, and also as many libraries as possible throughout India. At the same time there should not be any language barrier, i.e. not only the English language journals but other language journals also should be included.

I have suggested that if you cover all the subjects, all the languages, and as many libraries in our country as possible, it will be a tremendous job. To make it a workable proposition, we could first divide it into two parts; the first part being the journals in the English and European languages; and the second part covering the periodicals in the Indian and other oriental languages. So far as the subject coverage is concerned, it is taken for granted that both these parts will cover each and every subject in the field of human knowledge.

I have given an idea of how many libraries we may have to cover. You know there are 45 university libraries, but I don't think all the universities have got good libraries, because most of the recently established universities have no libraries. I sent out a questionnaire to all the university libraries for some information. I have received about twenty replies so far. Some of these universities have stated that they do not have much of a library now to give the data I had asked for. So there may be about 30 university libraries, although I have stated that there are 45; some 250 special and research libraries; and about 500 other libraries. I am not confident that of these 500 libraries all have got sufficient holdings of periodicals. But any way the total cannot exceed the figure of 800. That seems to be quite a big number, but the holdings as such may not always be very impressive. We shall have to take as many libraries as possible. You know in our country in most of the libraries the journal holdings are not as large as they are in American, British or Continental libraries.
Now we may discuss the types of periodicals to be covered. Every bibliographical tool is based on some eclectic principle. All areas cannot be covered. Take Gregory’s List, or some other lists that are there. They have excluded certain items like yearbooks. So we will have to decide what serials to include and what to exclude, as every publication that is coming out in continuity is called a serial.

Then I come to the structure of the union list. You know there are certain lists which are absolutely alphabetical. Our list may be absolutely alphabetical, with classified index by subjects. Then there may be another index of the language of the serials. Lastly the index of the country of origin. Of course, that is only a suggestion. You may eliminate any of these indexes.

So far as the other alternative arrangement is concerned, that is classified arrangement, if you prefer that you may have it with an alphabetical index. Definitely there will be some difference of opinion in this connection but as far as I am concerned, the advantages of classified arrangement cannot be gainsaid. The classified arrangement will give the research scholar an advantage of getting an idea of the subject collocation. But there is another advantage of the alphabetical list. It is very easy to refer to and anybody, even without much knowledge of the intricacies of arrangement, can find out whether a particular periodical is available and if so where and what. So any of these arrangements may be accepted.

Now another important point: The lists of serials that have been attempted by different organizations in our country are not of uniform pattern, because the main entries there are not of identical nature. If we are going to have a union list, we must have the same pattern for each and every entry throughout the country. That is, whatever returns will come to the central organization must have a uniform entry. It must show the life history of the journal as a catalogue entry shows for a book; at the same time it must give details of the holdings that a library may have of the journal, so that the location is possible—not merely the location but the actual volumes that are available in a particular library.

So we must decide that it is necessary to have a uniform entry. Now, how can it be done? A permanent organization must be there to do the work. The compilers will have to decide about the form of entry. They may decide to work on cards. If these are made properly, then I do not think there will be any difficulty in the compilation. It can be done at the very apex. This must be settled before actually the work is started. There should be a unit card, which will give all the details that are necessary. These unit cards will be given to the primary units (libraries).

As far as the details of the entries are concerned—the headings for the entry, abbreviations, cross-references, and all other aspects—we can easily take guidance from whatever works have already been published. We have the Gregory’s List which is very helpful. The British Union Catalogue is also helpful in this regard. We may just look up these tools, finalize the details that have to be in each and every entry and have the unit card made before the work actually starts.

Then we come to the organizational aspect of the work. You know India is such a vast country, and libraries are spread all over the nation. Therefore, by merely having a powerful centralized organization, doing the work just at one point, we would be risking a rather hazardous approach. It will not be in a position to do the work properly if it has to cover such a vast area. I have suggested that the organizational set-up should be such that it would be a viable, centralized authority, with widespread cooperating units. There may be a centralized organization somewhere, say, here in Delhi. There may be certain regional centres in different regions—eastern, central, northern, southern and western. And ultimately there will be the primary units, that is the libraries. The organization will be—central organization, then the regional centres and ultimately the unit libraries.

It will be actually the work of the regional centres to get the returns from the unit libraries, because the regional centres will be in a better position to get in touch with them unless, of course, the central organization has a very big staff and is able to send out persons over to each and every unit. It is better, therefore, to have one sub-centre in each region where we have a good concentration of big libraries. One of these big libraries, say a university library, can be made into a secondary unit.

I have divided the country into five regions. It is up to you to make the decision finally. Of course, in the eastern region, Calcutta is the best place. At least there is a current list of serials and also a union list of scientific periodicals. So if Calcutta is made a regional centre for the eastern region, it will not be very difficult to take up the job and get the work done.
So far as the central sector is concerned, I have suggested Nagpur. There may be a better place than Nagpur University doing the job in the central area. So far as the northern region is concerned, Delhi or Punjab should be the centre. For the southern region I have mentioned Madras, but I have also Bangalore in mind, because Bangalore is the place where we have a very big organization in the name of the Indian Institute of Science. If the work can be taken up by them, they can very well do the work of the regional centre there. And in the western sector, it may be either Bombay or Poona. My friends, what I feel is that it is better to have the cooperation of the people who are already with us, than of those who are not here. I especially mention Poona, because our friend Mr. Hingwe has already done a good deal of work there.

As far as the finance is concerned, I have made some suggestions. Of course, “where there is a will, there is a way”. This is a big problem that gives headache, even if we had the will. But if a competent body can be set up and if it prepares a well-formulated, workable plan, I do not think there will be any difficulty in marshalling the finances that may be necessary for this purpose. You may know that for having the third edition of Gregory’s List quite a substantial amount has been granted by the Council of Library Resources in the U.S.A. We may not have any such council here, but the Government is there; the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, the Ministry of Education, the University Grants Commission, and the Indian Council of Technical Education—all are there. They have large funds. They may be able to find the way to help us. At the same time there are some international agencies; for example, the Ford Foundation. There is nothing wrong to count on them, because they are extending their hands to help Indian libraries to find their way out of certain difficulties. So if we can form a corporate body, if we can prepare sound plans in full details, I do not see why the funds should not be available.

I have estimated that 5 lakhs of rupees will be needed in three years to work out this project successfully. Of course, these financial details are a matter which I am not very much competent to finalize, but I can just make a suggestion. I have also made some recommendations regarding the personnel for the central organization as well as for regional sub-centres. The staff will not be very large. I have suggested one director-editor, two assistant directors, four technical assistants, two typist clerks and two subordinate staff. Now, their status and pay scales should be commensurate with those prevailing in the libraries of the Government of India. Similarly at the regional level, we may have one director, three technical assistants, one typist clerk and one subordinate staff.

These are the details which have got to be worked out to cover these 800 libraries for the purpose. It will be a heavy task, but if we just start at the unit libraries and if there is the regional organization to help them, we may be able to achieve our objective. I have suggested that the regional staff will be on a regular visit to these libraries, so that all the unit libraries in the region can be given the help that is necessary. Even in large libraries sometimes the periodicals are not properly stacked; sometimes they are not bound. There is not even sufficient space in many libraries to keep their holdings in proper sequence. If the return comes in for two volumes only, you may have lost notice of some good volumes which cannot be recorded. So these things may be taken into account at the regional level. I think that will go a long way in helping the library movement as well. I think I have given an idea of what I would like to have and how things may be taken into account at the regional level. I think that will go a long way in helping the library movement as well. I think I have given an idea of what I would like to have and how things may be taken into account at the regional level. I think this will go a long way in helping the library movement as well. I think I have given an idea of what I would like to have and how things may be taken into account at the regional level. I think this is an urgent problem, and if this is solved, we will advance one more step toward the goal of providing complete bibliographical services to our nation.

Dilley: How many librarians present here have prepared their own lists of periodicals? How many of you have your own holdings recorded properly?

K. S. Hingwe: It was agreed at the Baroda Workshop that every librarian would prepare his own list of serials. Therefore, as soon as I went back to Poona, I started the work. You may know that in our libraries we cannot keep one person in charge of the same work for a long time. Some time he leaves the job or goes on leave, and we have, therefore, to appoint somebody else to discharge the same duties. So it is nearly one year I have been trying to complete the work of the serials. It took so much time because the most important thing from my point of view is the reliability of the list. I am rather hesitant to publish it hurriedly. We have checked the list four times and still there are so many mistakes and irregularities. So finally I am personally going to check each and every issue and entry. The typescript is ready, but before it goes to the Press, I would like once again to go through it.
As regards the 'form' I have not decided as yet. I have found that the most suitable order is on the lines of ULRICH'S Periodicals Directory, that is subject-alphabetical. Before bringing out my final list, I will study Mr. Deshpande's List of Additions and his Catalogue. Then we will study some other catalogues as well. We are examining five or six catalogues with a view to make our Catalogue more useful. This much progress we have made in respect of Catalogue of Serials.

As regards the Union Catalogue we have compiled one in card form, which lists 80-90 thousand volumes. But there is one defect. We are not sure about the authenticity of the information, because the cooperating libraries do not have adequate staff to maintain up-to-date records. Unless we have these basic lists correct, the final product will not be reliable. I am not getting my list printed, because I am not confident about it. These are some of the problems which we are facing. There are about 15 libraries in Poona area, all college libraries, recognized and research institutes included. For instance, we have incorporated information of all the serials available in the National Chemical Laboratory; Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics; the Deccan College etc. These are the most important libraries in Poona.

Deshpande: The National Chemical Laboratory has come out with a catalogue of its serial holdings.

Hingwe: We have entries on cards indicating additions up to 1960. As soon as a new year is completed, we request these libraries to send their yearly additions and we just go on adding them in our records mentioning the volumes and the corresponding years.

Deshpande: But as you said, it has to be checked before it could be put into a book form, because entries that have been received by you are not very exact owing to the lack of trained personnel at the other end.

Hingwe: Let me tell you, it is not the case. Our University had actually assigned a special man to go to those libraries and make entries. We prepared entries and filed them; but we were informed by the participating libraries in reply to queries that they never possessed such and such journal. We referred back to them and told them that the catalogue had been prepared by a man who was specially sent for the purpose. Then we came to know that their own records were not correct. Afterwards we realized that it was necessary to check and verify the volumes physically. Only through such work we can improve.

Dilley: How many of these libraries have their volumes bound?

Hingwe: I think the actual position in Poona fortunately is good in respect of the libraries. Even before the University Library was started, there were many libraries like the Deccan College Research Institute Library, Gokhale Institute's Library, etc. Even the college libraries have got good collections of serials.

Deshpande: Patnaik! Have you started the job of compiling the list of serials in your Library?

Patnaik: We have a list of serials in our University area.

Deshpande: Is it complete? When we may expect your catalogue?

(No response)

Deshpande: Mr. Shenoy, what about your Library?

Shenoy: We have on cards as far as the University campus is concerned. We do not have for all colleges.

Deshpande: But the first step is the compilation of a list of holdings in your own particular Library.

Shenoy: Apart from our University Library, we have got some departments. That is why we have taken only the departments that are technical, i.e. sciences; but we do not have for the social sciences, nor for the humanities.

Deshpande: Are you contemplating to put it into mimeographed form?

Shenoy: No, only in the card form.

Deshpande: Now I would request Mr. Girja Kumar to contribute his thoughts on the topic.
Girja Kumar: Mr. Mukherjee has made an estimate of current output of world periodicals of the order of from 6 to 7 lakhs. It is alright as a statistical figure; it is very interesting. We will not dispute it now. Our main interest lies in the preparation of a Union catalogue of periodicals which can be useful to research scholars.

Krishnan: Union catalogue for the research scholar?

Girja Kumar: Yes. That is the fundamental idea. We must limit the coverage of the union catalogue. We are not going to include in it all kinds of peripheral periodicals that are coming out in this country.

Now the other thing I feel strongly about is that the work must be done on a cooperative basis. There is no use in attempting at this stage one comprehensive union catalogue of periodicals in all subjects and all languages available in this country; it is going to be too much work and I do not think we are equipped for it just now. So it is better for us to divide the work in stages. The INSDOC has already taken the responsibility for the union list of scientific periodical publications. I think we should take up the responsibility for the rest of the areas. I would divide this field into three areas: (1) Social Sciences; (2) Humanities and (3) Newspapers. My own feeling is that the Social Sciences and Humanities should not be placed on the same footing. They are entirely different fields; people have different interests. I also feel that the work in the field of Social Sciences is less complicated than in the field of Humanities. If you think of the Social Sciences alone and exclude the Humanities, the number of periodicals published in Indian languages to be included in the catalogue will not be of a very large order. Most of us are not familiar with work in the Indian languages. The quality of research work being done in these languages remains to be evaluated. In view of all this, it would be better to undertake the work in respect of Humanities and the Social Sciences separately and keep out the Indian language periodicals from within the purview of the Social Science Periodicals Union Catalogue.

As regards the newspapers, I would place them into a special category. For one thing, the number of newspaper files available in many libraries is very small. Actually you will find most newspaper files in the newspaper offices alone; all the same, this information is also valuable to research scholars. If we have this information, I think, we can know a great deal about the intellectual output of this country since the British took over. So I would suggest that we prepare a separate union catalogue of newspapers in Indian libraries, newspaper offices and personal collections. The inclusion of the last two categories in this particular union list is absolutely necessary. It has been the experience of many research scholars at the Indian School of International Studies that the resources of Indian libraries are inadequate in respect of the newspaper files. The absence of the union catalogue of newspapers in Indian libraries has resulted in considerable wastage of the time of research scholars in location of the files in personal collections and newspaper offices.

Apart from this, there is another related matter of much concern to us. Since the quality of paper is so bad that if care is not taken and we do not make the arrangements for reproduction on microfilm, the newspapers will be lost to us for all times to come. I paid a visit to the Hindu Office last year. They have prepared a microfilm of Hindu on an ‘ancient’ microfilming equipment. The reproduction is not good due to the deteriorating paper and the poor-quality equipment for microfilming. The job of microfilming newspapers should thus be handled very carefully.

The preparation of the Union list of newspapers is, in my view, a minor operation. It could be completed very easily and at a very little cost. It may cost about Rs. 10,000 and even the newspapers may contribute towards its completion.

To sum up, we should concentrate our attention on the newspapers, Social Sciences and Humanities, in order of priority or depending on the availability of funds. I would also suggest that whatever work is undertaken in these fields should be in continuation of the work being done by INSDOC in respect of the Physical Sciences. We should not necessarily accept everything that INSDOC is doing but, I think, it would be advisable to benefit from their experience.

The union catalogue is not merely a location tool. It is also useful, especially in this country where the resources are so limited, in giving an estimate of the research material available on a particular subject. We face this problem in our Institution particularly everyday from our one hundred research scholars. Now if somebody is to work on public administration and if the periodicals are the major source for work by him (which happens to be the fact frequently), we would be able to tell him that so much on his subject is available in this country. It would help him to make up his
mind about undertaking the project. The lack of the union catalogue creates many problems for the research scholar and the library. If you ask them now to prepare a list of periodicals and other research materials on their particular research project, they are unable to do it. Actually what they would do is to find a book or two with bibliographical references, and copy the references indiscriminately. Even the guide who supervises research may not be familiar with all the relevant research material available on the subject. The only objective criteria are the union catalogue of books and periodical publications. It is too early to talk of the union catalogue of books in Indian libraries. Research libraries cannot fill the gaps in their holdings by going through the alphabetical union catalogue. Of course, there are problems even in classification. I am prepared to admit this. There is the recurrent problem of how to classify a periodical? Take our journal *India Quarterly*. What is its focus? Is it political science, international relations or contemporary general history? Is it a social science journal? These are some of the problems which we face everyday. It is one of the difficulties which comes in a classified arrangement. The difficulties are, however, not insurmountable. Literary warrant should help us.

Now we come to the organization. There are the unbound periodicals. I think the percentage of unbound and uncatalogued periodicals is rather high in practically all the libraries. Every library has a major collection of unbound periodicals. The collection of information will thus become difficult. The amount of discrepancies is also going to be fairly high.

It is inappropriate to suggest anything about the number of people to be employed at this stage for the project. The librarians concerned are not to be depended upon entirely to prepare the list of their holdings. The individual lists of holdings should be counter-checked by the staff to be appointed especially for the purpose by the co-ordinating body. The job should be initiated by appointing a limited number of people to make a general survey of library resources of the country and to prepare a list of libraries to be included for the purpose of union catalogue. The second job is to prepare an exhaustive list of periodicals of significance on the various subjects, based on the information collected first-hand as well as through printed union catalogues of other countries and also in consultation with the scholars, I would like this union catalogue to be selective. There is no point in making it too exhaustive.

The information should also be collected with regard to the year, place and periodicity of publication of periodicals and their variations. The information thus collected should be mimeographed and the list sent to libraries, who may be asked to fill in their holdings. As soon as the completed lists are received in the Regional Office, a sample on-the-spot checking should be done by the staff appointed by the Regional Office. This way you will get information quickly. You do not have to make the librarian think for a moment whether the periodical was a volume in a series or it fell outside the scope of our subject coverage. There is also no need for him to exercise his mind about classification. He merely indicates the holdings of his Library in the List.

While there was no need to appoint a big staff in the beginning, now you can appoint as many as 20 people, ask them to collate the information and transfer the data on cards. The information should be processed as to be ready for the printer. I had the occasion to discuss this matter with Mr. Saha of the Indian Statistical Institute. He is in charge of printing and publishing at the Indian Statistical Institute. A person like him and Parthasarathy of INSDOC would be of much assistance at the printing stage of the union catalogue.

**Deshpande:** Mr. Krishnan, would you please comment on the topic now? You have done a good deal of work in revising Ranganathan's *Union Catalogue*. Your comments and views will be especially helpful to us.

**A. Krishnan:** Friends:

My work has been made easier, because the other two speakers, Mr. Mukherjee and Mr. Girja Kumar have covered much of what I wanted to say. However, I want to go in some details about the preparation of the second edition of the *Union Catalogue of Learned Periodical Publications, Vol. 1: Physical Sciences* by Dr. S. R. Ranganathan and others, 1953.

The UNESCO and the Indian Library Association had joined hands together in this venture when the Delhi University's Department of Library Science was headed by Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, who also happened to be the President of the Indian Library Association. The UNESCO provided some funds and Dr. Ranganathan provided a task force. Of course, he had his devoted colleagues.
Without them, nothing could have been achieved. However, Ranganathan was the brain behind the body of production.

It has certain special features. It offers an alternative to what is available in other countries. It is based on an idea which had not been experimented upon anywhere else. The entries are classified and an alphabetical index is provided at the end. Let us not have any prejudice about the structure of the union catalogue before using it, whether it is classified or alphabetical. Let us ask the question: which one is better for use? It really requires some experiments. You must take, say, 100 items, try to locate them in the alphabetical union catalogue and try the same in the classified union catalogue. The time consumed in both cases will indicate which one is quicker. In the absence of such an experiment, we may take INSDOC's experience as our guide. I should say that it has been a success in our use. I may add that if there is any one body in India which has made an intensive use of the Union Catalogue of Periodicals it is INSDOC. We get demands for copies of articles of the order of 10,000 per year. I don't think there is any other institution which handles such a large number of enquiries. In this process, of course, our staff has got used to the classified union catalogue of periodicals. I see that Mr. Deshpande has taken advantage of the pattern in his Catalogue of Periodicals from Dharwar. It appears that the classified catalogue idea has become more acceptable in India.

Another advantage, as Mr. Girja Kumar has already pointed out, is that we are able to find out the gaps in the collection. We are very poor in certain areas. The question arises as to how we can improve in them. In fact, our whole acquisition programme in INSDOC is dependent upon a study of the gaps in the collection. We try to find out what items are being frequently procured from abroad.

It would be appropriate to describe here the method we follow in borrowing periodical volumes. The availability of a periodical in a library is found through the union catalogues. A collection of these catalogues is available in INSDOC. If the desired title is not available in our Library, we go to the next library that is located in our campus, the Indian Agricultural Research Institute. If it is not available there either, then we go to the other Delhi libraries, then on to the other libraries in the country, and then abroad. We make a sort of spiral, centering on ourselves and then going to the next in our campus and then to the others.

The job of keeping of Union Catalogue of Learned Periodicals up-to-date has been entrusted to the INSDOC. A new edition is to be released shortly. We worked according to the following procedure in bringing up this edition.

Certain policy decisions had to be made before starting the work.

1. As I told you, the catalogue should restrict its coverage of periodical publications to the holdings of Indian libraries only. You may know that the first edition covers the whole of South Asia. We now find that there was no great benefit by covering such a large area. It is not possible to borrow periodicals even from neighbouring countries like Ceylon, Burma or Malaya. Sometimes it is easier for us to procure the copy of an article from Paris than from Colombo. The South-Asia region does not have, first of all, the photocopying resources. We don't have good communications as we ought to have: This is generally so in all underdeveloped areas. We are, therefore, convinced that a "Complete South Asia Omnisub Union Catalogue of Periodical Publications" should not be attempted.

2. The type of publications to be included should be only learned, as Mr. Girja Kumar has pointed out. No "Film India" should get a place in the catalogue.

3. We are going to include the scientific periodicals only. The original edition, was, in fact, not intended to be merely for the science area. It was intended to be for all the subjects, including humanities and social sciences. You will find, if you see a copy of the Union Catalogue, it mentions: Part I: Physical sciences. In practice, the fields of social sciences, humanities etc. were not followed up due to certain circumstances. Perhaps, a new project will complete it. We have taken up only sciences, because the INSDOC is for science documentation and its personnel and resources are all directed towards science. The mandate that has been given to us is primarily for scientific service, probably, because some priority had to be fixed up. Maybe, we will be able to get similar grants from the Government of India for other purposes, if we approach them in a proper way.

4. The Union Catalogue should be in classified form, with an alphabetical index.
5. The scheme of classification should be Colon.

6. The entry of the periodical publication should be by the earliest title, giving indication from the other possible titles. The holdings of periodical publications in libraries should be indicated by volume number, wherever possible, followed by years and the form should be similar to that of 1953 edition.

How to select the libraries to be represented? That was also a big problem before us. The libraries that were included in the 1953 edition have been included in this revised edition. As I said, it has not been exhaustive. There might have been some lapses. We maintain a register of scientific research organizations. There were other addresses in the "Scientific Institutions and Societies in India," a small publication by the Manager of Publications, Government of India. There were also the lists of libraries mentioned in other union catalogues. We have taken addresses from the *Times of India Directory* and even the telephone directories. That way we have been able to select 505 libraries. We have avoided all those libraries which are not likely to have scientific periodicals.

When the list of libraries was ready, a general circular was sent to all the libraries. 66.6 per cent of the libraries responded to our requests. (Mr. Mukherjee narrates his experience in compiling the IASLIC Directory of Libraries. The response was very poor in spite of several reminders; hardly 200 cooperated while 300 could have been easily included. Mr. Hingwe says that if the compilers rely upon their returns, there will be many defects and Krishnan admits this.)

If it were a library located in Delhi we might have verified the holdings. We cannot send our staff for collecting this information from all over India. If it is within Delhi, we may even go one step further by helping the compilation of their own local catalogue. For example, there was a case in point at one of the local libraries. It belongs to a very important organization. It has valuable resources. But volumes were just kept in bundles. This is no reflection on the librarian or the Institution. They have no help. So we sent some of our staff members, who collected the volumes from wherever they were lying. A list was compiled. The Institute was very pleased, because there was the Centenary celebration immediately following. They decided to publish the Catalogue as a special publication for that occasion.

We had to follow up with 500 reminders for getting the returns.

Some of the returns listed complete holdings. Some lists had only the supplementary information to what they had reported in 1953. Of course, these were sufficient for our purpose. Some returns mentioned the collections held in different departments. Some departments were again not covered. Sometimes, a Union catalogue of a town or group of libraries was received.

We took two old copies of the printed catalogue, cut out the entries and pasted the individual ones to the cards. Those cards formed the basis from which we started the new edition. Information contained in the new returns was either added to the old entry if there was one, or a new card was made. The work of indicating the library holdings of the periodicals is simpler in this edition, because of the reduction in the area covered. The States have been formed on language basis. They are indicated in the first array. The capital cities which are likely to have concentration of libraries, are given separate symbol in the first array. Then in the second array, representation for libraries is by the city. If there are two cities beginning with the same letter, two letters have been used for the less known city.

We have tried to analyze each entry into elements like title, holdings, library, etc. We have come to certain decisions on how to present these. The entry is made under the original title. If there is a change of title, or alternative title, these are indicated. Splitting of one title into two or more, merging of two or more into one and the sponsoring body of the journal, like the American Chemical Society, are also indicated. Regularity of the publication, continuity, parts, supplements, indexes, cumulative indexes, the languages and other special feature are all taken care of. Study of the amount of time taken for making these entries has also been made. However, costing has not been done.

The number of entries in the present edition is almost double of that in the 1953 edition, in spite of the fact that it is restricted in the area of coverage. The representation in several states has increased steeply: Kerala from 1 to 6; Gujarat from 4 to 12; M.P. from 2 to 8; and Rajasthan from
One more result is that the subject-wise breakdown indicates the increase in engineering technology periodicals. It probably reflects the advance that our country is making. The other increase is, of course, in agriculture and medicine. Some periodicals in fields like architecture, planning etc. can be classified in fine arts. We have classified them under technology and engineering.

At least 39 out of 242 libraries which could not cooperate are likely to have very good collections of periodical publications. It is one of the problems we have to face. How are we to get their returns?

The other baffling problem is the time taken by these libraries. They are willing to do it. They write to us very often that they would be doing it within the next month, but they never keep up to schedule. Some of the libraries have taken 18 months to send their returns.

I would like to point out just one or two items of a general interest. The first one is that of the sanction behind the whole scheme. I feel that this idea has been discussed for the first time in these workshops and as such it has now been taken up by the Joint Action Committee. If this is to be planned on a larger scale so as to bring the entire network of libraries in this country in due course, then I think the whole organization will have to be planned on a sound basis. There should be some permanent organization, if not a department of government, at least a broad-based institution should take up this issue. This is essential from the point of view of raising the necessary huge finances and also from the point of view of eliciting the information from the constituent units. If, as is already envisaged, the Association of Academic Libraries is to start functioning, I think that would be the best suited institution to take up this kind of work. And if we get the backing of governmental and government-aided institutions, then it will be much more facilitated. In addition to this, we should also get the assistance of bodies like the University Grants Commission. I think the support that we may get would be not only in terms of money, but also in terms of recognition.

Coming to another less important point of general interest, I would suggest that the region-wise distribution for this work may be not on the lines of groups of states as has been brought out by Mr. Mukherjee in his paper, but either on individual states themselves or more conveniently the universities. This work has been initiated by persons who are holding the positions in university libraries. I think it will be better if the universities which are the seats of learning themselves become the constituent starting points for taking up this work. They can take the initiative in the region of their jurisdiction and collect the information from all the colleges and other institutions in the area and help in compiling this tool.

K. S. Hingwe: I would like to restrict my comments to the paper only. We have to define the term "serial" because I have come across so many inconsistencies about the meaning of this term. When I was engaged in preparing my own catalogue, I came across three Catalogues: World List of Scientific Periodicals, Ulrich's Periodicals Directory and some other Union catalogue. We wanted to know what we should include under serials. Catalogues of different libraries differ, and so many titles have been included under the heading "serial". For instance, in the Ulrich's Periodicals Directory, I don't find the Annual Review of Bio-chemistry, Annual Review of Physiology, Annual Review of Micro-biology etc. But all these are listed in the Union Catalogue of Scientific Periodicals. So we must define the scope as to what is meant by serials.

Secondly, we should decide whether the list should be comprehensive, or selective. There is no use in having very idealistic approach to these matters, because we have to consider the financial resources, man-power and technical personnel at our disposal, and the utility also. Is there any propriety in preparing a union list of all the periodicals? Especially many of these periodicals are referred to only by the scholars. So if you can restrict it for the time being—it should be decided by the Committee—only to the research material it would be helpful. That is also a problem. One does not know what is research material, because even in a university library, especially in the field of social sciences, a librarian may not regard something useful, but the research scholar may need it.

I support the view of Mr. Girja Kumar and Mr. Krishnan. In compiling a union list we have to decide whether it is meant for library staff or research scholars. If it is meant only for the readers, and if you have merely alphabetical arrangement and if a research scholar wants to know what are the journals available, in say botany or chemistry, you cannot satisfy him. So, in that case, a classified arrangement with an alphabetical index will be useful.
I would suggest that we should have a classified arrangement with alphabetical index and all other features should be represented. With due respects to the editors, I must say that the Union Catalogue of Scientific Periodicals does neither save the time of the staff nor of the reader. On the other hand, compared with alphabetical arrangement, the entries are very intricate.

With regard to the suggestion made by Mr. Mukherjee that we should have two sections, one for the Western languages and another for the Indian languages, I would like to recommend that the work of preparing the part relating to the Indian languages should be left not to the geographical regions but the linguistic regions. Since there is so much divergence among the Indian languages on account of transliteration and other problems, it is better to entrust the work relating to a particular language to the area in which the language is in more use. The work relating to the Western languages may be carried out by the centre.

Krishnan: I want to add one thing about the clientele of the Union Catalogue. I have my own doubts. Is the scholar really interested in referring to a Union Catalogue? The scholar usually comes to the library to see what is available in the library on his subject. That he is able to manage with the catalogue of the library. If it is not available in the library, he is not worried about where it is available. He only wants to get it. It is for the librarian to procure it. He tells the librarian, "I want this, can you please get it?"

Under this practical situation are we producing a Union Catalogue for the scholar? The clientele for the Union Catalogue is the librarian. He has an orientation for classification. So when we decide about the method of compiling the Union Catalogue, we can take it that the clientele will not be adverse to a classified list.

Mukherjee: There is a suggestion that the work of compiling lists of the periodicals in Indian regional languages should be entrusted to the State Library Associations. Since, there are many States with their own library associations, they may find it more convenient to do the work of their own region.

Krishnan: A supplement in the Indian languages would be helpful.

Hingwe: The third important problem relates to the returns. The basic records are not correct. Our Union Catalogue should be accurate. The returns received do not correspond to actualities. There should be an agency to scrutinize these before they are incorporated in the final list.

Krishnan: In compiling the Union Catalogue, the compilers must be familiar with the various union lists available in the world. (He gives various examples of Union Catalogues produced in different countries.) These sources will form reference tools for the compilers.

Hingwe: To assist the unit libraries in sending the returns, I would recommend that the Centre prepares a master list on cards which will be sent to the libraries, and they would record their holdings on those cards. This will lessen the burden of the libraries. There will also be more reliability.

Deshpande: You are recommending the preparation of a master list by the central body and then sending that list to the libraries concerned. Isn't it? One cannot be sure that all the libraries would be having the same set of periodicals.

Hingwe: What we would do is to prepare a basic list.

Nagar: The Central Agency may prepare a list on cards. The agency can send three cards relating to each title to the participating libraries. If the library has that periodical, they can send back one card duly marked with their holdings.

Deshpande: But what about those cards for which they do not have the periodicals? And the number of such cards will be quite large.

Nagar: They will be useful for reference.

Deshpande: When you say every periodical, what would be the size of the collections?

Nagar: If they have the periodical in reference, they will return one card to the Agency. If they don't have it, they may file the cards in their own files, or they may do whatever they like. It's an authoritative information about the periodicals.

Deshpande: Mukherjee says that there are about 7 lakhs of periodicals.

Nagar: That's a mathematical figure. Let me explain the proposal. The central agency will
Union List of Serials

decide which periodicals are useful. We are not going to list at random 1,2,3,4,5. We will see which periodicals are of utmost importance and then prepare the cards.

Mukherjee: You will select down to a few thousand.

Krishnan: With regard to the scientific periodicals alone, we have listed about 11,000 in our Union Catalogue. It’s quite a large number. To give cards for all these to returning libraries—even to go through those cards will be a tremendous job. I think we should not burden the local libraries with extra work.

Nagar: Mr. Hingwe has brought out a proposal. You say, Mr. Girja Kumar has also pointed out, and everyone else has felt that the libraries do not have sufficient man-power even to report. They don’t know in many cases even how to catalogue. They do not know how to prepare the exact entries. It is to lessen their burden that we are sending them the catalogue cards. It is not to increase their burden.

Krishnan: You can get the lists from them and then check them in your centre.

(Lot of Discussion)

Hingwe: Suppose we have about 500 periodicals. If your library has only 100, we can send you only 100 cards. The other 400 titles will be an additional burden. We will prepare a list which will be sent to them. They will mark only those periodicals which they have got. We will send them the cards only for those periodicals.

Deshpande: I think first we will have to send a circular to all the libraries requesting them to send the list of periodicals they have got.

(Miss Dilley supports the view)

Girja Kumar: I don’t think it is going to be very expensive. What you have to do is to prepare a list. Suppose we include 10,000 periodicals in this list. This list will not be more than 300 mimeographed pages. You will have the name of the journal there, leave some space against it for the library to make an entry of their holdings and send you back this list. This expenditure is inevitable. If the library is limited to certain subjects, we can send slips relating to only those subjects.

The cost is not going to be too much and the saving is great.

(Mr. Deshpande requests Mr. Nagar to report on the Wheat Loan Project)

M. L. Nagar: I don’t have to say very much now. As Krishnan has already said, my preceding speakers have already discussed much and I am also worried about the time. Before we disperse at 12 o’clock, or five minutes earlier, we want to frame the issues, because we have discussed so many things and out of this discussion we must decide certain things which will be the most important contribution of this meeting. Mr. Girja Kumar, Mr. Krishnan and Mr. Hingwe, all these people, who have actually done this work, have presented their points of views, their difficulties and experiences, which are all very useful. As a Wheat Loan employee, I have done some work on a Union List of American Serials and my experience is what yours has been, because we are dealing with the same institutions, we are living in the same country, same atmosphere. So I don’t have anything new to offer except that I fully support what you have already said. My only contribution to this discussion will be that we have discussed so many things; some of them are very minute and detailed, and some are very broad or general. In order to frame the issues, we should confine ourselves to broad things. As far as the details are concerned, it is my view and Mr. Girja Kumar has very kindly suggested that we should have a committee.

When I was arranging this Workshop, we received a lot of cooperation from everyone. Mr. Girja Kumar was very much anxious to participate in today’s discussions. The original arrangement proposed that the first day would be devoted to the Union list of serials. Mr. Girja Kumar said: “I am very much interested in the topic, but I cannot come on the first day. Will you shift it to the second day?” I said: “By all means”. So he has very kindly come here and we are going to visit his Library this afternoon. His suggestion is that we should form a committee. Certainly these things cannot be discussed in two hours, especially when we have to discuss so many other things. This is a problem which is very important. It will take a lot of time. He has kindly volunteered himself that if we form a committee, he will be willing to represent his Library in that committee. So that is a very important suggestion.

Now as Mr. Mukherjee has already pointed out in his paper, we must aim at a body, a corporate
permanent body, a body which will sustain. There have been some suggestions about the Association. Associations are alright, if they are able to do this work; but the finance is a problem which the associations are unable to secure. If you have a central agency you may get enough funds. That finance can be given to the associations, but the associations by themselves will not be able to secure the desired funds. That is the experience of Dr. Ranganathan, which he has described in his Introduction. *We should get the benefit of the experience of our predecessors. He has said that to get money is very difficult. The Indian Library Association had been trying for so many years, for decades, before Ranganathan came and he was able to bring out the catalogue.

So the first problem we have to tackle is to find out the finance and for that we must have a corporate body. This morning some members of the Joint Action Committee were talking to Mr. Berthold. He told them that the U.S.I.S. was very much interested in this American Union List of Serials. As you already know, Miss Holt and the Wheat Loan Office had been trying to prepare this Union List of Serials. At the very beginning of the Wheat Loan Programme, there was a suggestion from the Ministry of Education to compile a Union catalogue of books acquired under the Wheat Loan Programme. Miss Holt said: “No, it is not possible. It will be a huge project and it would not be as useful as a Union List of Serials.” But the Ministry of Education, due to some difficulties, did not agree. So the matter was dropped. Then just as a hobby, or you may say out of her own enthusiasm, she decided to start on her own. She went around the country and met so many librarians. They were all enthusiastic about it. Then she decided: “I am going to compile a Union List of American Serials.” Of course, as representatives of the Wheat Loan Office, we could not do anything beyond an American list.

We sent a man to four different institutions in South India. The librarians there cooperated. We prepared a list. Then later on, we sent circulars to about 70 libraries. Most of them cooperated with us. About 18 or 20 have not yet sent their returns. Now you will be pleased to know that the total number of sets represented in our Union List is about 8,000. There are about 2,000 titles and 65 libraries are represented. As a Wheat Loan employee and as a representative of the Wheat Loan Programme, I am very much worried, and my officers too are worried that there must be some corporate body to take charge of this; otherwise, it will be completely wasted. Not only it will not be useful, but the amount of time, energy and money we have put in will be completely useless. We are very much concerned. This Library Workshop is called the Fifth Library Workshop, but it is the final library workshop under the Wheat Loan Programme, and before you disperse, you must be able to find out, and I am sure you are trying to find out, some agency, some kind of organization which will continue this work. If nothing else happens, we have already talked to Mr. Parthasarathy, Head of the INSDOC. He has kindly agreed to take charge of this. Of course, he is not directly interested in the periodicals which do not relate to sciences; but he has promised us that if the Wheat Loan Office could compile a list of periodicals, he would get it mimeographed so that it would be available to other libraries. We feel a special responsibility, some kind of urgency about it that the libraries which have done so much work in preparing this list should not be deprived of the work they have put in. So before the Wheat Loan Office is completely closed by the end of this June, we want that this work be taken up either by some other agency, or we are able to complete it. Some such arrangement should be made. One visitor to this Workshop said one day: “What is this? We heard that the Wheat Loan Programme was dead. You are still here! What are you doing here?” I said, “You know the lamp, the oil lamp! When it goes out, you see there is a sudden flare. This is the flare of the dying Wheat Loan. But we still have hopes that this lamp will light some other lamp and then die.” So this is a great responsibility. The Wheat Loan Library Workshop Joint Action Committee must do something, so that the work which we have brought to this point is continued.

Thank you.
Welcoming the participants to his Library, Mr. Girja Kumar expressed his great pleasure. He then presented his views on the topic. (already reported)

A. K. Mukherjee: We discussed the problem this morning for about three hours. The number of serials is tremendous and the total may be an astronomical figure. Several lakhs of titles are current in the world today. About 5,000 new titles are coming out every year. It is a common experience of every librarian to get a specimen copy of a new journal every other day and to receive the announcements of new periodicals. The problem is there and the magnitude of the problem cannot be better emphasized than putting it into an astronomical figure. That is what I have done.

But for working purposes, we may limit the number of periodicals which we may list, as every other organization has done. Even the new revised edition of Gregory's Union List is limiting the number of titles to about 150,000. British Union Catalogue of Periodicals is limited to about 130,000 titles. As far as the selection of the titles for inclusion in the Union list is concerned, we must be clear about it. That is why it was suggested in the morning session that we prepare a list well before hand of say 70,000 or 80,000 titles which we consider important. The list could be prepared by some corporate body, it could be circulated among the librarians and an arrangement could be made so that the returns are obtained. The procedure for getting the returns also was discussed. But the final selection of the periodicals should be left to the expert committee, the committee which will work at the centre. As Mr. Kumar has already told you, there might not be much dispute as far as the science and technology are concerned, but there will be a problem as regards social sciences and humanities: What to include and what to exclude?

With regard to the pattern of arrangement of the union list, whether it should be purely alphabetical, alphabetical with classified and other indexes, or classified with alphabetical indexes—these are the three alternatives. Opinion, of course, differs. In the morning we decided to have a classified arrangement with alphabetical index. Here Mr. Kumar has made out a case for alphabetical arrangement with a classified index. So this matter also has to be decided by the experts.

With regard to the number of libraries to be covered, in my paper I have given an estimate. Of course, it will sound a little bit exaggerated. The Gregory's List contains information about 1,300 libraries. The British Union Catalogue covers about 450 libraries, I have suggested about 800 libraries for our List. One American library or a British library can equate with 15 or 20 Indian libraries. The libraries in India differ from those in the western countries as far as their stock is concerned. We should have extensive coverage and take into account as many libraries as possible—at the level of university, special and research, public, etc. If one thinks about their periodicals stock, they are almost nowhere in comparison with the British or American libraries. Some of the national laboratories have a few hundred volumes only; some have a few thousand. But their collection is of specialized nature and we cannot ignore any of these national laboratory libraries. There are about 24 libraries in this class, which are specializing in particular subject fields, and, therefore, their holdings must be noticed in this List. The number of 800 given by me is just a tentative suggestion. But the point I want to make is this: the nature of the collections in Indian libraries is
such and the stock is so poor compared to those in many other western countries, that we should take into account as many libraries as possible.

Unfortunately we don’t have a comprehensive directory of libraries in India. In the absence of a directory, it will not be possible to obtain a comprehensive list unless the work is organized on regional basis, as I have suggested. The regional centres may be asked to find out which libraries they have got to approach. They know more of the nature of collections which are available in their area. I know much more than anybody else from outside which libraries are to be covered in Calcutta region. Even in Assam and Bihar I know more, because our areas are contiguous. In each region, some organization already existing may be entrusted with the work, and they can give us an idea as to which libraries are to be included. In this way a very concrete picture may be prepared of the resources of the libraries in a particular region.

The next thing we have to decide about is the organization. Of course, some attempts have been made in this regard. Especially INSDOC is doing a lot about revising Dr. Ranganathan’s Catalogue. A revised edition is to be out by the end of this year. It covers only scientific periodicals. We feel that there must be an organization which will take up the work of compiling a Union list of serials in all the subjects and cover all the areas.

So far as the other details are concerned, we better leave it to the expert committee. The general directions given by other participants and also in my paper are that we should cover the entire region in the field of knowledge, not merely the science and technology, but also humanities.
and social sciences etc. We must see that only such journals are included which have some research value.

Lastly, about the finances. As you already know, the finances are not easily available. As an individual, if I go myself, and spend ten years collecting material and do something, nobody will take care of me. Only a corporate body, i.e. a set of people with a set purpose, objective and plans—only such a body can get finances from the government, or some other sources, national or international. No Foundation will easily give money to an individual.

So ultimately what we decided in the morning session is that the Joint Action Committee, which has been in existence since Jaipur Workshop will appoint a Special Committee on Serials that will plan the List, ask for financial assistance and take the responsibility of getting the job done.

As far as the organization is concerned, whether it should be a centralized or a decentralized one, the matter will be left to the expert committee.

Now I will read out the resolution which we passed after much discussion this morning.

"The Joint Action Committee of the Wheat Loan Library Workshops will co-opt some other librarians, who have prepared their union list of serials, for the purpose of preparing plans and their implementation for a comprehensive union list of serials."

"Co-opt other members, who have prepared their own list of serials", that is something I cannot claim for myself and for many others. It is better to say "who have worked on any project relating to the union list."

The members co-opted are: Mr. Das Gupta of Delhi University, Mr. K. S. Hingwe of Poona University, Mr. N. M. Kelkar of Central Secretariat Library, Mr. A. Krishnan of INSDOC, Mr. Girja Kumar of Indian School of International Studies, Mr. M. L. Nagar of the India Wheat Loan Office, who is the prime mover, sponsoring this Workshop and Mr. Patil of the National Fundamental Education Centre. Now these persons have been co-opted to form a Special Committee, which will secure finances to execute its plans from the University Grants Commission, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs and other sources. And lastly, the Joint Action Committee will take charge of the Union List of American Serials prepared by the Wheat Loan Office and will be responsible for its use in any way it deems proper.

Rajagopalan: When you happen to visit the National Physical Laboratory on the 9th, I invite you all to visit our Union Catalogue Project which is in action, so that you will know the practical problems: how it is organized and how we are going about the job. A suggestion was made by Mr. Girja Kumar and Mr. Mukherjee also regarding the preparation of a master list. In science alone, they say, the number of periodicals is 60,000 to 70,000. National Science Foundation has reduced it to about 29,000 recently. We are talking about the learned periodicals. To attempt such a list will itself be a task. We will never begin the union catalogue. We will be only attempting at the list. To circulate it just to incorporate the holdings of 300 or 400 libraries is something unrelated to realities and it is not called for. Actually the first thing we have to find out is which libraries are there. We don't have any directory for special libraries. The IASLIC is bringing out one. We can enlist the cooperation of library associations of various States and have a list of all the libraries that are likely to have learned periodicals.

Deshpande: Mr. Girja Kumar referred to the catalogue of theses in this country. I think the Inter-University Board of India is bringing out a list of subjects in which research is being done in this country. The Madras University Library has undertaken an important project of bringing out a Union List of Theses Deposited in the Universities of the Southern Region.

Girja Kumar: In my opinion the number of periodicals to be listed will be between 5,000 and 10,000. I am limiting my discussion only to social sciences which has a very manageable number. If we have 5,000 periodicals to be covered, one page will contain at least 30 items. So the number of mimeographed pages of the list will come to about 200. The reason why we are suggesting this is that the libraries will find it easier to report their holdings this way.

Deshpande: We take it for granted that the participating libraries would have trained men at the helm of affairs and we can rely upon the data that is submitted. Of course, for the benefit of the institution itself, it must have a catalogue of its holdings.

Girja Kumar: I don't think I agree with you. The decision as to the subjects—political science, economics, etc., what is to be included, what is to be excluded—I don't think can be left to the
individual libraries. I think it is not practicable.

**Deshpande:** This is not for the purpose of a union list of serials. I mean, it is for the libraries themselves, e.g., we brought out a catalogue of serials in our own library. It will be useful for teachers and students of my library.

**Girja Kumar:** I want that the entries are made in a proper way. I have seen many catalogues which are defective.

**Surinder Nath:** I would like to suggest that while we compile a master list, we should limit our scope only to the periodicals that are indexed in various indexing journals and also which are covered by the major documentation lists that are issued by various agencies. A research scholar first finds out about the article through these indexing periodicals and documentation lists. Then the problem comes how to find the periodicals which we cannot locate in our library. Therefore, it is necessary to limit the scope only to those periodicals which are covered by the indexing periodicals and the documentation lists.

**Faqir Chand:** The subject of the union catalogue of serials has been under consideration for a long time. In India, Dr. Ranganathan took the first step, and some time in 1953 it was completed with the assistance of so many students and other colleagues. I was also fortunate to have been one of them. The project under consideration is a very huge one. A comprehensive union catalogue in all the fields of physical and biological sciences, humanities and social sciences will be a very tremendous work. I don't think it will be possible within a period of several years. Now we are in an age where there is a good deal of scientific and technological development. If we take the fields of sciences in all subjects, the list will be very huge because we are having fundamental research institutions on very specialized subjects like Central Statistical Organization, National Buildings Organization, etc. Similarly, several new institutions are coming up in India... I personally feel that we should have the utility aspect of the union catalogue in view, when we undertake this project.

As regards the other details and procedures of how this step should be taken, of course, we have to contact almost all the libraries in India and then we can start the work. The lists are all ready in almost all the libraries which are getting journals on subscription, exchange, or gift.

One more suggestion I would want to make relates to the specialized fields like medical libraries under the Director General of Health Services. They have published their own union catalogue. It is, I think, in the third edition and it is serving a very useful purpose. The number of libraries is also increasing. The first edition contained information of about 43 libraries, but in 1956, when the second edition came out, the number of libraries grew to more than 100. So we have to take all the aspects in view. I personally feel that we should have several agencies. There should be some regional offices.

In the end I would like to state that there should be some sort of subject specialization. There are various institutions, which serve as the central bodies in particular subject fields like medicine, buildings, agriculture, etc. These bodies are doing work not only on national level but also on international level. We should first make a subject-wise union list, then we can attempt on huge projects.

**S. C. Sharma:** I perfectly agree with Mr. Mukherjee that the number of libraries to be included should be as large as possible. Once we have collected the data from various libraries, then we should give it to a committee, which will sort out the subjects and then a sub-committee or an expert committee should prepare union catalogues of serials. One committee for science, another for social sciences and the third for humanities, etc.

The purpose of the union catalogue is to locate where a certain journal is available and for that, as far as my personal experience goes, the librarians from various libraries away from Delhi are not ready to part with their journals. There should be provision for photostating or microfilming, so that they could provide such material to the people who need them. Another problem is that heavy journals wear out in transit. An additional advantage of photocopying will be that those people will have the articles permanently in their custody in the form of microfilm or photostat.

**Hingwe:** As regards the preparation of a master list my suggestion is that we should elicit the cooperation of experts to select the journals.

**Deshpande:** We are thinking of compiling a union list of serials in libraries in the country and the libraries take out the subscriptions on the recommendation of the subject specialists.
Hingwe: No, we are also getting journals as gratis, all sorts of journals which are of no use. There have been cases when I have regarded a journal as useless, whereas the subject specialist has regarded it as most useful.

Deshpande: As far as our library is concerned, we do consult the experts for the purchase of books and periodicals.

Patnaik: We all know that it is a very tremendous job to compile a union list of serials. We also know that several attempts have been made by individual libraries and institutions like INSDOC to do the work in this respect. The problem which we want this house to discuss and decide upon is whether the members of the Joint Action Committee and the Special Committee on Serials should attempt to get one Union List compiled. Do we feel the need for a national union list of serials? That is question No. 1. We would very much like to have your opinion on that.

The second point is that the India Wheat Loan Educational Exchange Programme has compiled a Union List of American Serials. We would like to know whether we can complete this as the first project and then attempt at the larger project. These are the two problems which we have discussed this morning and on which we would like to have your recommendations.

S. Parthasarathy: The Union Catalogue of Learned Periodical Publications in South Asia has been very useful. Our document procurement unit is using it to locate what is available and where. We had several requests for locating periodicals and one was even by a trunk call. When the catalogue is completed, it will be very useful. Incidentally, it will also indicate which are the areas where we have to build up our collections, because it is one of the functions of INSDOC to supplement the existing resources. It will show which are the fallow regions. There are many scientific periodicals in foreign languages which are generally not subscribed to by many libraries on account of language difficulty. But still they do contain important articles of original research. Our union catalogue lists about 900 German periodicals, about 540 in Russian, about 500 in French and another 400 in Japanese.
In addition other languages are also covered. The union catalogue also gives us an idea of what are the foreign periodicals that are not received, so that the INSDOC, as a national organization, could go in for those periodicals which are really used and supplement the existing collections. This is one of the checks.

The work of compiling a union catalogue is an arduous task which a committee consisting of members scattered throughout India cannot do. It should have an organization—an established institution. We have yet another programme, that is to keep this catalogue current. It is not just sufficient to compile the catalogue. It has to be kept current by getting periodic returns, so that the union catalogue reflects the collections properly. This is a major thing which is not often done. This thing cannot be done by a committee. It has to be done by an organization only to ensure continuity and to have adequate provision of staff and finance. They should be able to answer queries regularly of what is available, and where it could be located. In the field of social sciences, there are many more problems. In sciences many countries have compiled union catalogues and we could draw on their work. In social sciences the union catalogues have not been done as thoroughly as in science. The work of compilation is, therefore, more arduous.

Your project for bringing a union catalogue of periodicals covering all subjects needs careful consideration. One should not be over-ambitious. Since we are doing the work in scientific field, there should be no duplication. You can start on the social sciences and humanities. Then for sciences you can make use of what we have done. In case you want to have the catalogue in any other form, you can use the same material which we have collected and incorporate it in your own, so that you do not duplicate the effort of collecting the returns. I would request you to consider assigning this project to an institution, get finances, and appoint the staff. This cannot be done on a voluntary basis. I know of a number of cases where the work was taken up on a voluntary basis and the project could not go through. If the work is assigned to an institution, finances may be available easily for bringing out the publication.

Deshpande: We are fortunate to have amongst us today our distinguished colleague, Miss M. Dilley. On behalf of all of you, I will request her to give her views on the topic. Miss Dilley—

Sara M. Dilley: I would like to talk just as an American U.S.I.S. Librarian. I reveal a good many facets of ignorance; since I am not a research librarian, I am not a college or university librarian and I have never compiled a Union List of Serials. Perhaps I can speak as an American librarian and as a member of the United States Information Service, and tell you the interest that I have in the project that you have been talking about.

I might just briefly review the part that American librarians have had in overseas libraries in the past, say a little more than 16-18 years. Although I am a representative of the United States Government in a very real sense, I am also representative of the American Library Association. I am happy to say that when the overseas libraries were first started during World War II, the American Library Association was almost directly responsible for their being started in the way they were. The Association came to the help of the American Government, and so in good many countries of the world we had an opportunity to come and work with local librarians. I think we have learnt a tremendous lot.

I am sure that in 1947, when India got its independence, an American librarian could have told you exactly what to do. And now we have learnt some of your problems. We know that the things that we do are not necessarily applicable to your libraries. We have also had the experience of having many of your librarians in the United States and I think we have both benefited very much from that.

Now India has been almost unique in having a Wheat Loan Programme. Perhaps you do not know that there is another country in the world which had a Wheat Loan Programme. It is Finland. But I must say as a U.S.I.S. Librarian that the impact of Wheat Loan Programme in India has made our lot considerably easier, because so much of the library relationship with the universities has been carried on through this Programme and such a tremendous educational exchange has come about through it. I for one am exceedingly sorry to see it come to a close, because I know how much benefit you have been getting, and I also know the responsibility we are going to have to assume that we have not quite faced in the past. There has always been Miss Holt over there to take care of all of you people.

Now I might say just a few things about the problems at hand. When the libraries of research
Union List of Serials

institutions and universities, which were receiving Wheat Loan grants as designated by the U.G.C., chose their materials, so many of them made, I think, a very wise choice of filling in back files of periodicals. It was not very easy to use the funds for current periodicals, but for back files they were extremely useful, and a great many people thought that was an important way to use the money. This is one of the major reasons, I believe, that the Wheat Loan has drawn up, a tentative list, or a beginning list of the American serials in university libraries, because the holdings have increased materially under the Wheat Loan Programme.

But I would like to make a few observations about the direction of your endeavours now that the Wheat Loan is coming to a close. I do think that there has been some misconception—perhaps it has never been cleared up in the minds even of the Joint Action Committee—about who would actually do a Union list of serials. I suppose that the best thing we could say is that any committee that would be drawn up would be in the nature of a body to more or less plan for it, not to do it. It would be a planning committee which would make a kind of outline of the work to be done and then approach an institution which would do it, and would endeavour to get some funds for it.

I want to bring out some very practical suggestions, when you come to getting funds. In the first place, we have talked about the subject matter of the serial list. Since INSDOC has a science list, then I think we must by necessity forget about science. Anybody who is going to give funds is not going to give funds for duplication, I hope. I do think that you have to have a pretty practical programme in order to get funds from any organization. I do not think that you would have too much trouble getting funds from certain organizations, if you do prepare a very practical programme. I think you might also have other projects in mind, perhaps in order of priority.

Now I hesitate to say how many libraries you should have and what kind of periodicals should be listed. I will say that I am on the side of Mr. Kumar in feeling that the list of libraries should be somewhat limited. Perhaps this is because I have the experience of travelling around among a number of college libraries in this vicinity and I really do not see that they have anything to offer to the general fund of knowledge. Perhaps it could be decided on a regional basis, I do not know, because I am sure that there are libraries in some sections that are better than in other areas. But I feel that you should have a more selective list in the beginning to be expanded later on, if possible, and I also feel that the only great advantage of including a lot of these libraries would be to sell an extra copy of your book. But you also have to remember, I think, if you are having a Union list of periodicals that the only time it is useful would be when the libraries are willing to let people use them. If you have a library which is not adequately staffed, I do not think you can expect to get much cooperation from them either in making a list in the first place or in furnishing things on loan. So I would tend to go along with Mr. Kumar on the basis of making a more selective list in the very beginning.

I think the gentleman from the Central Secretariat had a very good point about listing the periodicals which are appearing in indexes, except that certainly that alone cannot be the final criterion, because I know plenty of good American periodicals which are only self-indexed.

Let me go back to the feeling the U.S.I.S has about your endeavour. We would hope, most of all, to provide a nucleus or beginning effort for other projects. I think I can speak for both U.S.I.S. and perhaps the American Library Association when I say that we would all be very much interested in your forming a really useful Academic Libraries Association, which could be charged with some of these things, not the union list of serials so much as with some of the other projects that we are interested in, for instance, the standardization of library training and that kind of thing.

So what help we are prepared to give, as far as the U.S.I.S. is concerned, I am afraid, is pretty negligible at this point, except that I think I can speak for my colleagues in India as well as for myself in saying that we would certainly extend all possible assistance in so far as we have any facility. I am sure that all four of us could be mostly of some assistance to you.

(Applause)

K.S. Deshpande: Thank you Miss Dilley! Miss Dilley has pointed out the misconception that is prevailing among some of the participants regarding the responsibility that the Committee has taken upon itself. It is not the intention of the Joint Action Committee to take over the entire work of compiling the Union List of Serials and to see it through the press. The committee, as I have said earlier, has taken over the responsibility of impressing upon the authorities concerned the need for bringing out a Union List of Serials at the earliest opportunity.
I would just read out the recommendation that the Joint Action Committee made to the University Grants Commission and other authorities in its Report. It is worded like this:

"The participants decided to impress upon the University Grants Commission and the Ministry of Education the need for setting up a suitable machinery with necessary funds to compile a Union List of Serials on an all-India basis."

It was suggested that the compilation of the Union List of American Serials on an all-India basis, which has been undertaken by the Office of the India Wheat Loan Educational Exchange Programme, should be completed first. So this addition of co-opted members would just add to our voice and strengthen our case. That is all. It is not the intention of the Joint Action Committee to take the great responsibility upon itself. Last year when we went to submit our Report to Mr. Mathai, the Secretary of the University Grants Commission, he was very much receptive and he dealt with this problem at some length. He told us that the Grants Commission would think of entrusting this responsibility to one of the universities which would work out the scheme in greater detail and ask for the necessary funds. It would then be possible for the Commission to make grants for the purpose. We will meet Mr. Iyengar, the Deputy Secretary of the U.G.C., on Friday and we would repeat our request. Thereafter, we will follow it up by a written representation.

Mr. Parthasarathy interrupts and says: Your committee can suggest the name of the university which might undertake the job and not leave it to the University Grants Commission to think of the university. They cannot make a choice, because they are in such a position. They cannot select a particular university due to the administrative reasons. If you say that such and such university should take over the work then their task would be easier. So instead of giving a blank resolution and making them think for us, we ought to say what they should do. They will readily accept our suggestion.

Thus Mr. Parthasarathy left it to the Joint Action Committee to name the university for doing the work.

Dilley: Should I bring in something a little remote? I think the job of compiling a National Union List of Serials is a tremendous problem to face—a tremendous problem. Would you think of doing the English and European languages first and then the Indian?

Deshpande: The Committee will consider this in greater detail and bring out its proposals in concrete form in the first instance.

A. K. Mukherjee: We are all thankful to Mr. Parthasarathy and Miss Dilley for raising certain points. Mr. Parthasarathy has dealt with, at some length, the practicability of this proposition, and whatever he has said is based on his own experience, gained during the compilation of the Union Catalogue. Now with regard to the first point, that it is necessary for an institution to take up the work of the compilation, I think, there will be no difference of opinion. The Joint Action Committee, or the Special Committee on the Union List of Serials will not be entrusted with the actual work of the compilation. This Committee will, however, explore the possibilities of getting funds from the authorities.

If we cannot read the minds of the authorities, at least we may give out our minds by offering concrete suggestions about what the organizational plans would be. As I have stated in my paper, the work may be done on regional basis. For instance, so far as the northern region is concerned Delhi University may be entrusted with the job. For the eastern region, I think my university (Jadavpur) can take up the responsibility. I am saying this although Calcutta University is a great grand father compared with Jadavpur University. Similarly the Poona University or the Bombay University can do this job in the western region, while in the South the Madras University or the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore or any other organization can take up this work. Now if we just decide that this is our plan, what should we aim at—a comprehensive national union list of serials or something less than that?

Then we come to the second point as suggested by Miss Dilley and by Mr. Parthasarathy. We may concentrate on the periodicals in English and other European languages. I have also stated in my paper that priority should be given to the compilation of a Union List of Serials in English and important European languages only, as 95 per cent of research in our country is still being conducted in English. So far as the Indian languages are concerned, it may be taken up later on either by this or some other organization. There are at least 14-15 major Indian languages. Many
questions will come up whether the list will be in the original script or the Roman script. Therefore, we can start with the English and other European language periodicals.

Of course, we accept the suggestion given by Mr. Parthasarathy that this body, i.e. the Joint Action Committee or the Special Committee on Serials List will be just a body to do the preliminary work—to urge upon the Government, and also different libraries of the need for such a list. In the meantime, it must secure their help and enlist their cooperation. This body can do the spade work and meet the officials of various ministries and the Grants Commission with concrete plans as suggested by Mr. Parthasarathy and others. Our definite plan will be that we want to have a Union List of Serials on all subjects, in all European languages, and that the work should be centrally controlled by some corporate body. I feel if the plan proves feasible, the U.G.C., the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs and other bodies may extend their financial help to us.

But so far as the third point raised by Mr. Parthasarathy is concerned, we admit that the Union List of Serials in science and technology is practically complete. Our efforts in having a union list should now be directed, according to him, towards the social sciences and humanities only. Whether we should accept that proposition as a policy is something to consider at this moment. I may say that we can use the material, which is now being produced by INSDOC, for the ultimate compilation of a comprehensive union list. This tool will be more up-to-date than the others prepared so far. I am sure the new union list that INSDOC has been preparing would be of much more value for being used as a basis for any future compilation. Similarly, other lists are also there, which would be of considerable value towards the final compilation of an integrated union list of all subjects.

I think Mr. Parthasarathy will agree with me that in spite of this revision of the union list of science serials, the project of a comprehensive union list of serials should neither be postponed nor be divided and taken in parts. Of course, we know that certain fields have not yet been touched. Science alone has been covered. However, if you integrate the science with the other subjects you get a comprehensive coverage. I suggest that we leave aside for the time being the science and technology and take only the humanities and social sciences. It now rests upon the Special Committee of librarians to take the initiative and create some sort of a force to activate both the authorities and all librarians, and to see that a comprehensive union list is prepared.

In the morning we decided that so far as the Union List of American Serials is concerned, these files should be made use of immediately and we can do one thing. We can ask the Government and the University Grants Commission to help us in publishing it, because the list is ready—entries are ready and they are even alphabetized. There are 16 large volumes. The final work has got to be done and it is to be printed. Now, for only this thing we can approach the authorities to give finance for publishing it. Let it be published and used by libraries as a reference tool.

This will also fulfil the wishes of the Wheat Loan Office as well as other participants in the Wheat Loan Programme. At the same time this can be used as a nucleus. We can revise the lists prepared by the INSDOC and other organizations to bring out in final form a very comprehensive union list of periodicals. For this work this Committee may not be sufficient. It will be only a sort of negotiating body, urging upon the Government and other parties who control the purse strings on the one hand and the librarians on the other, so that they may be induced to cooperate and help us in making this project successful.

Parthasarathy: I suggest that the Wheat Loan Programme should give as a last gesture funds for the completion of the Union List of American Serials.

Mr. Hingwe presents a vote of thanks.
THIRD DAY

Wednesday Morning, March 7, 1962

Topic for the day: Bibliographical Services

Discussion Leader: Mr. S. S. Lal

U.S.I.S. Auditorium, Bahawalpur House

K. S. Deshpande: Before I request Mr. Lal to open the discussion, I would like to make certain observations with regard to the Union List of Serials and the Wheat Loan Messenger.

We must try to impress upon the authorities concerned the need for compiling a union list of serials. The U.G.C. is very much interested. As I told you yesterday, Mr. Mathai assured us that the problem would be taken up and the whole job would be entrusted to one of the universities. We may indicate the name of a university, but for working out the details and other things for the project, we will have to have a committee. So we thought that we would have a preliminary meeting and then each of us will try to go through the specific problem assigned to him. Meanwhile, we will set up a local committee of the persons who have been associated with the Union List of Serials—Mr. Nagar, who has been associated with the Union List of American Serials, Mr. Girja Kumar, who has been associated with the Union List in social sciences and Mr. Krishnan who has worked with the Union List of Serials in scientific subjects, Mr. Das Gupta is there. Mr. Ketkar is there. But these three people—Krishnan, Nagar and Girja Kumar—will sit together and work out a programme in consultation with these two gentlemen. Meanwhile, all the members of the Joint Action Committee and Mr. Hingwe too will give thought to it. Let us all send our suggestions to Mr. Nagar. Nagar, Krishnan and Girja Kumar will go through the suggestions and prepare a comprehensive scheme to be submitted to the U.G.C. and the Ministry of Education. Would that be alright? We can't go on meeting indefinitely. We don't have the time.

Mr. Nagar recommends that Mr. Hingwe should be co-opted as a member of the Joint Action Committee. The suggestion is accepted. Mr. Hingwe recommends that the members from Delhi represented on the Committee for the Union List of Serials should prepare a draft proposal which should be circulated among all the members for their comments.

And with regard to the Wheat Loan Messenger, this is a personal request to you all! We have decided to raise the subscription from the participants and others. I am not worried about the monetary subscription part of it so much as about the literary contributions to the Messenger—the articles. I would request you one and all to take active part in this matter. Whatever articles are received, we will have them in the next issue of the Messenger.

Mr. Nagar recommends that the proceedings of the Fifth Library Workshop should be brought out as the third issue of the Wheat Loan Messenger and he assures full cooperation of the Wheat Loan Office.

Mr. Deshpande again requests the participants to give their contribution as early as possible.

Mr. Deshpande requests Mr. Lal to initiate the discussion.

The working paper by Mr. S. S. Lal first tries to answer the following questions:

What is bibliography?
Why we need bibliographies?
What is bibliographical service?
What services are available in other countries?

Then it continues by discussing the following topics:
1. Services Available in India

1. Current National Bibliography
The Indian National Bibliography made its first appearance in 1958 from the National Library, Calcutta. It lists books, pamphlets and official publications of the Union Government, under D.C. Numbers; Colon Classification Numbers are also provided. The titles of the publications in Indian languages are transliterated into Roman and the language symbols are given with each title. The arrangement is classified and an alphabetical index is provided. The pattern followed is that of B.N.B. Government publications appear in a separate section. A.L.A. Cataloguing Rules are followed. The cumulative system resembles B.N.B. though not so thorough.

2. Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC)
The Centre was established by the Government of India in cooperation with UNESCO in 1951 to serve as an agency for the procurement, exchange and dissemination of scientific information required by the Indian scientists engaged in research. It is operated by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and is located in the National Physical Laboratory. Publications and other services offered by the Centre are:

A. PUBLICATIONS
(i) INSDOC List of Current Scientific Literature (fortnightly)
Advance information is obtained by airmail of the tables of contents of leading scientific and technical journals of the world. Each issue gives in classified form the titles of 1,600 papers. Titles of papers which are not in English are translated into it.
(ii) Bibliography of Scientific Publications of South and South-East Asia (monthly)
The bibliography follows U.D.C. and lists titles of the scientific literature published in the entire region in the preceding month. Compiled jointly by the UNESCO Science Cooperation Offices, New Delhi and Djakarta, it is published by INSDOC.
(iii) Annals of Library Science (quarterly)
Not a bibliographical tool in itself, it is highlighted by the high standard of articles on documentation and other bibliographical problems. Primarily a journal of Library Science.

B. SERVICES
(i) Documents are procured and photocopies of articles are made available to libraries and research scholars.
(ii) Translations from six European languages into English are arranged.
(iii) Bibliographies
On required topics bibliographies are compiled and supplied.
(iv) Microfilm Copies
Scholars can have copies of articles on microfilm strips.
All the services are rendered on nominal payment.

C. UNION CATALOGUE OF SCIENTIFIC PERIODICALS
The Centre is compiling a Union catalogue of scientific periodicals available in University and Research libraries in India.

3. Union Catalogue of old MSS in Sanskrit, Prakrit, Pali, Arabic and Persian
The Union Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs has given grants to a number of institutions possessing MSS for publishing them. The University of Madras has also published a Catalogue of Sanskrit MSS.

4. Union list of American Periodicals
The Wheat Loan Office is preparing a Union list of American serials available in Indian libraries.

5. Union Catalogue of American Publications
The Wheat Loan Office is maintaining a file of all publications supplied to libraries in India under PL-48.
6. Library Catalogues
The National Library and National Archives publish from time to time catalogues of their holdings.

7. Press Registrar's Report
It is a complete list of newspapers and journals published in India. It is a state-wise list with an alphabetical index by titles.
Another tool for control of periodical literature is Indian press yearbook. It is a guide to press media of India, Ceylon, Burma and Pakistan.

8. List of Government Publications
The Manager of Publications brings out lists of Government documents from time to time. State Governments also bring out similar catalogues of their respective publications.

9. Lists of Subjects under Research
Inter-University Board of India and the National Archives bring out separate lists of subjects in which research is being done. The former covers the universities and the latter covers historical research.

10. Directory of Booksellers and Publishers
A directory came out some years back, but it is not kept up-to-date and its coverage is also not complete.

11. Directory of Libraries
Libraries in India, giving detailed information on Indian libraries is published by the Ministry of Education.

II. What Other Services Are Needed And Why?
Having surveyed the services available in other countries as well as in our own, let us see what other services are needed for India.

1. Retrospective Indian National Bibliography
I.N.B. started its publication from 1958. Though retrospective, comprehensive bibliographies are still a dream, yet the country must have it sooner or later. Sahitya Akademi's Bibliography has already covered the period from 1901-1953.

2. World Union Catalogue of India
Most of the research work on India before independence was done outside India. For the recovery and dissemination of our cultural heritage, we must compile a World Union Catalogue of Indians and it should include the following:
   (a) All works relating to India published anywhere, by anybody and in any language since the beginning of the publishing to-date; and
   (b) All works of Indian authors published anywhere, at any time, with indication of the location, so that efforts may be made to obtain their copies.

3. Union List of Periodicals
For years to come, India will not be in a position to make the foreign exchange available on an unlimited scale, and moreover each library cannot afford to buy all that it requires. So for the promotion of research, a Union list of periodicals holdings of libraries in India should be compiled in order that the required material may be made available to scholars on inter-library loan.

4. Union Catalogue of Books
A list of the holdings of the major libraries in India will not only help the research workers, but will also help conserve the much-needed foreign exchange. All the universities and research libraries are spending lavishly—thanks to the U.G.C.—on acquisition of research material. Through cooperative efforts resulting from the Union catalogue they will be in a position to follow a more judicious acquisition policy. Prestige policy will be to a certain extent replaced by reliance on inter-library loans.
5. **Newspaper and Periodical Indexing**

Nobody can calculate how much time the persons engaged in research work have to devote in searching for the material required by them. Is it not a national wastage? Cannot we do something about it? Certainly something can be done and must be done.

The foreign indexes do not give a proper coverage to our newspapers and periodicals. We must not forget that we are living in an age of cold war. Hot war may not be far away. In times of general conflagration, we cannot depend on foreign tools. So we must build our own.

6. **List of Doctoral Dissertations**

No one will deny the intrinsic value of the dissertations and no scholar would like to tread the path already covered by some other scholar. How should he know? The only way is to start an annotated annual bibliography and the past can be covered later.

It will also be of great help to the universities in the allotment of new topics for research. Side by side, a periodical list of research workers and research projects should also be published for the guidance of universities as well as for the convenience of would-be researchers.

7. **Documentation**

The pioneering efforts of the INSDOC are most praiseworthy, but the coverage needs to be extended. So immediate steps should be taken to undertake documentation in other fields as well (humanities and social sciences).

8. **Translation Services**

Translation service in the field of science is being offered by INSDOC, but other fields should also be covered.

Such service should not limit itself to translation into English from European languages, but should cover the Indian languages as well, as India is a multilingual country and the regional languages must receive all help for their enrichment.

9. **Catalogues of Documents of Central and State Governments**

As the present arrangements exist, it is not easy even for libraries to identify government documents through the series of supplements. An annual bibliography will not only promote their sale, but much time and labour on the part of the libraries will be saved.

*Guide to Official Statistics*, listing official publications is already out of date.

10. **Books from University Presses**

Teaching staff in the universities form part of the intelligentsia of the country and their works published by the universities embody the nation's intellect. But because of inadequate publicity such works do not come to the attention of all. So it is desirable that a quarterly annotated list covering the publications of the universities should be started.

11. **Dictionary of Indian National Biography**

Such a dictionary on the lines of the *Dictionary of (British) National Biography* will be a very useful national publication. It can be kept up-to-date either by supplements or by yearbooks.

12. **Book Selection Aids**

Book Selection cards like Wiley's and a regular journal like *Publishers' Weekly* or B.P.R. should be promoted. Such service will not only benefit the libraries, but will also help the Indian publishers in their sales promotion.

13. **Supply of Printed Catalogue Cards**

Most of the libraries are now having better staff in quality as well as in quantity. But how many libraries spare adequate staff for reference and readers' services? What is the reason? Not that the libraries do not realize the importance of such services, but because their staff is constantly kept busy in technical sections in coping with the new additions to their stock, because of increased book grants. The work which can be done by impersonal and even through mechanized means is done by personal means, i.e. by highly qualified, well-paid staff; whereas the work which requires personal attention is left to the care of impersonal means, i.e. the reader is left to find his way through the cross references of the catalogue or through the guides to shelves and bays. What is the result? The precious time of the reader is lost,
he is generally unable to find HIS BOOK and instead of becoming attracted to the library and instead of becoming library-minded, he comes to use the library only when he cannot help it. A patron is thus lost. Since patrons lose interest in the library and its services, they fail to appreciate the hard work put in by the library workers. The services of the staff do not receive recognition. Cannot we do something to remedy the situation? We can certainly do. How?

This can be done by leaving the cataloguing work to the care of mechanized means. For Indian publications, the J.N.B. should arrange to supply printed catalogue cards as is done by L.C. and B.N.B. For foreign publications some agency may import by air mail copies of cards for each title from B.N.B. or L.C. as the case may be. The cards may be reproduced by duplicating process after providing Colon classification numbers and be supplied to the requesting libraries. By this method, not only the backlogs in the libraries will be cleared in no time, but what is more important, qualified staff will be easily spared for giving personal service to the readers. Readers will get their books, their time will be saved, the cost of technical operation will be reduced and its quality will also improve. Let us begin the experiment and see the result.

### III. Some Suggestions

"Bibliographical publishing has always been a hazardous undertaking. The total amount of possible sales is small and the cost of production great, as compared with other types of publications. Furthermore, the publisher must be prepared to assume enormous risks for financing and carrying on a bibliographical enterprise during the necessary long period, while editorial work and printing are going on, for until the publication is finally ready for delivery, no return is possible on the investment.

"The records show that of hundreds of bibliographical ventures, most of them cooperative, not many have been financially successful. Of those mentioned in Jahr and Strohm's *Bibliography of Cooperative Cataloguing* (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1903) only a few have survived. Most of them failed for the reason that the publishing agencies did not receive an adequate return for their efforts, and not because the work was not needed or was not acceptably done.

"It is customary when a worthy venture languishes for want of support to seek endowment or the aid of organizations willing to pay the deficit. Worthwhile enterprises are often helped to success by assistance of this kind" (Wilson, New York).

It is clear from the above statement of one of the largest publishing concerns of the world that bibliographical undertaking is not an easy job. But should we be discouraged? Certainly not. We must accept the challenge and should show to the world what proper planning can achieve.

The major setback in such undertakings is that the publications take quite a long time before they are ready for delivery and are in a position to bring returns. Therefore, we should so plan that returns are possible almost simultaneously and the investments are not tied long.

If we plan Retrospective Indian National Bibliography, World Union Catalogue of Indiana, Union List of Periodicals, and Union Catalogue of Books on 5"x 3" cards, and the cards are simultaneously made available to libraries, the return can be had immediately and the capital will not be tied up, but will be kept in circulation. So the plan of "pay as you go" can be made workable provided enough number of subscribers are available. If at all there is any deficit in the beginning, the government can be approached for subsidy.

But before we embark upon such undertakings, we must have a Bibliographical Centre to take care of the work. The Centre may be a public concern, private or under some University.

List of Doctoral Dissertations can be easily done by the Inter-University Board of India, or the INSDOC may start covering all the dissertations. The work of Bibliography of government documents may be entrusted to the National Library or to some other depository centre.

The work of Dictionary of National Biography can also be started on 8"x 5" cards. All the works that are started on cards, can be put into print at a later stage and the subscribers might receive the material in book form, free of charge, as and when published.

Now a few words about the supply of Printed Catalogue Cards. A book is usually best processed technically in the country of its origin. Then why should we not depend on I.N.B. for books of Indian origin, and on L.C. for American, and B.N.B. for English books? By helping to create an
agency to arrange procurement and reproduction of such cards we save money, time, energy; can have work of better quality and bring in standardization. It is needless to go into the details of the merits, as you all know these fully. So let us decide upon the agency best suited to do it. Libraries are the greatest consumers of bibliographic tools. If the librarians agree on fundamentals and promise their active cooperation and support, dreams can become realities.

A. Krishnan: I would like to say a few words regarding INSDOC's bibliographic services for scientific research in India. Mr. Lal has done a very good job in listing the various bibliographic services in this country. I come from the National Scientific Documentation Centre which provides some such services. Therefore, I am very keenly interested in this subject.

Now the question of documentation and bibliographical services is one where we ought to have some clear demarcation of line. Of course, I agree that we should not be bogged down by words. In the past, the bibliography was something of a compilation, or some sort of a list with or without abstracts on macro-thought. I hope you all understand what is meant by macro-thought—the larger wholes of books. That has been the usual type of service: to compile lists of books on specific subjects, or prepare omnibus bibliographies.

Now with the advance of time, it has become less important. Today the periodicals have taken greater prominence than books. The current thoughts have begun to be published in periodicals. Obviously they don’t deal with any continuous thought on any particular subject from the beginning to the end. It is only a record of the current micro-thoughts which are disconnected. You can say, in order to bring these discontinued thoughts, which lie buried in so many places, an important function has to be performed by a modern librarian. One wants to have an idea of what is available on a particular subject and where can it be found. The only way to do it is to have bibliographical services, now what we call as the documentation services.

The documentation service in science has had a good tradition. Since the last century, the documentation services have been in operation. The Germans took the lead, particularly with the starting of the Chemische Zentral-blatt and later on Pharmaceutische Zentral-blatt. Those were the beginnings of the documentation in science. Now the documentation has even widened. U.K. has done a good deal of work. America has contributed far more. The Chemical Abstracts stands out very prominently in the science and Biological Abstracts could be mentioned next. In most sciences, we have very good lists, some of them with abstracts, some without abstracts.

In this country the method of thinking was not to duplicate these world-wide documentation services. You would see that first the periodicals are published in European and American countries, then they reach this country, and then they reach the research scholar. This takes a lot of time. Further, the abstracts of periodicals in those countries themselves take about six months to appear there. After that they come to this country. Even after that, the index is published after quite a long time. That means there is about two years' gap, between the time a document is published and the time it is brought to the attention of the user. We wanted to bridge this gap in time. So the INSDOC started different kind of service—a list of current scientific literature without abstracts.

We started collecting a list of periodicals which this country was subscribing and those others likely to be useful for the type of scientific research going on in this country. These formed the basis of selection of periodicals to be included in the documentation list. We also requested some scientists to give titles of periodicals in which they would be interested. We got, of course, more titles in physical sciences. This was probably because the Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre itself is located in the Physical Laboratory.

The contents of the chosen periodicals published in various countries were obtained by cooperation with the documentation centres located in them. We got the microfilms of contents pages by air. These were classified and listed. If they were in foreign languages, they were translated into English because that happens to be the working language for scientific research in our country. In publishing this list of current scientific literature it was hoped that the various research institutions in this country would subscribe to several copies and distribute them to their departments. It is so timed that the user sees the list of articles almost about the same time he sees the original periodicals themselves.

Another documentation service rendered by INSDOC is the Bibliography of Scientific Publications of South and South-East Asia. The difference between the “INSDOC List of Current Scientific
literature” and the “Bibliography” is that the latter is a comprehensive one and is meant for retrospective search of literature of South Asia and South-East Asia. The INSDOC List is not intended for retrospective search, it is only for nascent thoughts. That is why no index is published for the current literature. An index is published for the Bibliography.

Now in using this service, the scientists ask us for copies of articles, because many times they are not able to get the articles. If the originals are available in our own library or in the neighbourhood library, we procure them and supply photographic copies. If they are not available in this country, we get them from abroad—we have got contacts with various centres in the world. No doubt, this service involves delay. While doing this type of service, we get into certain problems arising out of the scarcity of certain materials. The scientists do not necessarily ask us only for those things which are listed in our bibliographies. They do ask us for various types of materials and we try to procure them as far as possible. Many of them happen to be, for instance, patents, specification of commodities, and reports of scientific research.

Now the patents are all published by various agencies in different countries. The one major country that produces this type of literature most is U.S.A. The patent specifications are the record of inventions. We may say that if one wants to have an idea of a country's tempo of industrialization, he can see it through its patent literature. In fact, I want to quote from what the great leaders of U.S.A. have said about their patents. Thomas Jefferson, the famous American President, said, "The issue of patents for new discoveries has given a spring to invention beyond my conception." Abraham Lincoln said that the patent system added the fuel of interest to the fire of genius. Franklin Roosevelt said that the American patent system had promoted countless applications of the arts and sciences to the needs and well-being of the American people. This is not just to flatter America, but to point out that the American patent system has produced such a lot of important industrial literature that we in our documentation service get so many requests for the same. We are not able to procure in this country these patents expeditiously. Of course, we always contact the Patent Office in Washington and get a copy of the patent. That takes a lot of time. Cost has to be deposited in advance with that Office. There must be some organization in this country where these patents should be available. That is my desire. May be one of the documentation centres in this country, such as INSDOC, could be made a depository of patents.

A lot of commodity specifications are published by various agencies. Even their addresses are many times not available. But their importance for production of standard goods cannot be overemphasized.

These are some of the things which we come across in rendering the documentation service. When you find that there is a gap, it should be filled. It should not be only one way. Whatever little of the above kind of documents we may be producing in this country should be sent to other countries also. Thus it would be a two-way traffic. This Indo-American cooperation would also fit into our national aims and objectives.

Girja Kumar: Mr. Krishnan has placed the discussion at such a high level that I can bring it down only by quoting either Jawaharlal Nehru or Mahatma Gandhi. Since I do not have the quotations just now, I shall request the rapporteur to leave some blank space which we can fill afterwards.

Mr. Lal has gone into great details, but I think we have to focus our attention on one or two practical problems. INSDOC is already doing a great deal of work in scientific subjects, but I am not very well acquainted with it. So I shall have a parochial approach if I try to discuss it. Therefore, I shall limit my discussion more or less to the social sciences. I think it is also in the interest of discussion today. There is no point in discussing the scientific subjects because the work is already being done and they are planning more work any way.

As you may recall, we had organized a Seminar here in 1959 under the auspices of our Institution to discuss the problems of libraries in the field of Social Sciences. One of the recommendations made at that time was the establishment of a Documentation Centre for the Social Sciences. I do not know whether the time is now ripe for that. But I think the work which we are going to do should be coordinated. It should have certain perspective; it should be related to the research which is being done in this country. Of course, we should avoid duplication. I think about 30 libraries, if I am not wrong, in this city alone are preparing their own individual documentation lists. My own impression is that a great deal of work is being duplicated. I also think that the criteria for
selection are rather vague and doubtful in several cases. Sometimes the classification is not of the highest order, but all the same every library has set apart one or two persons to do this work.

Now this is a matter for great concern to our profession. That is also a reflection on us in the sense that when these lists go to other libraries in India or abroad, the expert librarians of those libraries judge our capability by those lists. So I am feeling very much concerned about the whole thing. I do not know whether the time is ripe for us to have a Social Science Documentation Centre just now. Before the INSDOC came into being, there was a Science Cooperation Office of the UNESCO in New Delhi. Subsequently the UNESCO assisted in the establishment of the INSDOC.

Now we do not want to depend on the UNESCO. We have matured. We have the necessary funds in this country. U.G.C. is keenly interested in this matter. Some ministries also have shown their interest. I suggest that one of the recommendations this seminar should make would be to the effect that if the establishment of a documentation centre is not possible just now, at least some kind of a cooperation office should be founded, which should coordinate the work being done at various centres.

Well, that is a matter for agreement or dispute, but I would request you to keep this in mind as our goal. Now if we keep that as our goal, then the services which we should provide to our scholars should be our guide. Of course, all services which we are going to render are meant for scholars. The work should be done in such a way that there is full coordination and no duplication. All these services should be directed towards one end of having a large-scale documentation work to grow logically out of our efforts which we are in a position to make today. We should take up four or five projects, which we can undertake in a full measure or in stages, and then limit our recommendations to those projects.

Some of you were at Calcutta, where there was held a Bibliographical Seminar recently. In my view one of the important things which should be done right now is to make a survey of library resources in this country. I am sure some of you have seen the work of Mr. Hewitt, formerly of the Institute of Commonwealth Library. He has done a survey of the Commonwealth material in London, Oxford and Cambridge libraries. Now I am not saying that we must follow strictly that path. But I think it is essential for us to have a broad estimate of the resources of major libraries and private collections in various fields. Mr. Mukherjee has mentioned that they (IASLIC) have prepared a Directory. Directory is, of course, useful, but it cannot compensate for a survey which must be done by people going to the spot and collecting data. One of the most important things to be done in this country, if you want to do the bibliographical work seriously, is to know first of all what is available in our libraries and what are the bibliographic services which are being undertaken, or under way, so that when you have this information and collate it, you can plan the things in proper perspective.

Then there are many other important things. As you know, the Indian National Bibliography has a section on official government publications. It is most welcome. I would be interested if someone at one of the library schools takes up an assignment—a term paper and makes an examination of the number of official publications which are not included in the Indian National Bibliography. Well, that is a kind of a side issue, but it is an interesting thing to study. If somebody takes up the numbers of Indian National Bibliography for one year, and prepares a thesis by perusing the catalogues of State governments and gazettes—some states publish the information in gazettes—and then compares the information thus collected with the Indian National Bibliography, it should prove very useful.

Apart from the Indian National Bibliography, I think, what is important for us is to have a separate catalogue of official publications. It is absolutely necessary. For one thing, the National Library brings out the Bibliography after every three months, which is a long interval and it is also my impression that there are several works which are not included. What we need is a separate catalogue, a consolidated catalogue of official publications of the Government of India and the State Governments.

In addition to this catalogue, there should also be a distribution agency, which should be able to supply these publications. What is happening now is that the Manager of Publications publishes only a limited number of publications which are priced ones. As for the non-priced ones, which form a major part of official publications, those are not widely available. The concrete suggestion I am making is that there should be a consolidated catalogue or list of official publications, and at the same time there should be an agency for distribution of these publications, whether they are
The consensus of opinion is that we must have a Documentation Centre for Social Sciences as we have the INSDOC for Sciences.

Dilley: I would like to make a suggestion. I am a kind of public librarian. I am not representing a research library or a university library. But I would like to see something come out of this discussion, which will help all libraries. With this end in view, I am suggesting the periodical indexing or something like that. I know you people have your own special problems, but I am wondering if we should not start some more basic things. And I do think the periodical index is one which is very important. Documentation centres are all very fine and wonderful, but, I think, we should start something basic which we need and which will be useful to research libraries. I realize that you have your own interest at heart.

Krishnan: The consensus of opinion is that we must have a Documentation Centre for Social Sciences as we have the INSDOC for Sciences.

This is to be done in one centre. If you ask 45 university libraries to prepare theses catalogues they will be of different order. One agency, either the University Grants Commission or some other organization, should do it. They must have a separate staff to do it. They should be able to go to these centres once in a while, collect the data, analyze them and also keep a collection of these theses on microfilm. After all, what is the point of having only a list? And how to prepare an abstract unless you have the dissertation? So what I am submitting is this: If the University Grants Commission takes up this work, it must have a proper staff to do this kind of consolidated bibliography which is annotated, and also to try to have microfilms of theses deposited either at the National Library or some other similar centre.

(Mr. Hingwe supports Girja Kumar. It should be done by the U.G.C.)

The third thing I want to suggest is the Index of newspapers. I think there was some proposal at the Calcutta Conference about requesting a major Institute to have an index to newspapers for every year. If a proper approach is made, if an institution approaches a newspaper like the Hindu—I can think of one very good newspaper—I think they will be willing to undertake this work. If we have an Index to newspapers a great deal of spade work of a research scholar on political and economic matters will be done.

(Mr. Goil narrates his attempts to persuade some of the newspaper houses to get the indexing done, but the cost proved to be too much).

Lastly, but not the least important, is the Index to periodical articles. Many libraries are doing the work. My library is also doing it. We prepare index of about 5,000 entries every year, but I do not think I am personally satisfied, because it still leaves out several important fields like political and economic theory, international law and certain other areas. Of course, we have a scheme in our office, and if we get two additional hands, then we will have four people working in the Documentation Services. The additional staff should help us in expanding our services considerably. We are thinking of increasing our annual output to about 15,000 entries a year. I think Kanitkar is also doing some work. (Goil says that they are also doing some documentation). A suggestion may be made by this Workshop to divide the work on an all-India basis—to distribute the work among libraries on a regional basis. Otherwise, we shall be duplicating the work. The division should be based on subject basis.

Bibliographical Services:

free or priced. Otherwise, we will never get these publications. The Library of Congress has established an office here. They have appointed seven or eight people, who go round and collect these documents. They are the only people who are collecting official publications in a systematic and exhaustive way.

Then the other thing I wanted to suggest is the cumulative catalogue of thesis. This is possible and it must be done. There is the Inter-University Board, which is publishing some catalogues by fits and starts. As you may know, many of the theses never take the concrete shape of being submitted to the university. But if a cumulative catalogue of university theses can be prepared, it will give us valuable data about the research work being done in this country. Any catalogue to be published should be classified and annotated.

(Some members interrupt and say that the University Grants Commission is taking interest in such catalogues and they have sent circulars to the libraries to prepare such catalogues.)

(Mr. Deshpande recommends the compilation of a list of theses by universities. He gives an example of a student, who enquired what theses were available in the country on road transport in India.)

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Krishnan: The consensus of opinion is that we must have a Documentation Centre for Social Sciences as we have the INSDOC for Sciences.
Miss Dilley says that periodical index is tremendously useful to all libraries. Mr. Hingwe suggests that there should be a centre to do this work, rather than leaving it to individual libraries.

Mr. Goll says that even if we have a national centre, we must have local services also, because we could not stop libraries from serving their clientele. Mr. Deshpande asks Mr. Nagar to present his observations.

M. L. Nagar: Well, I am very much interested in listening rather than talking; for, if I go on talking the other people would not have the opportunity, and that will be unfair to others, because we have invited these people here just to find out their views.

Now the topic for today’s discussion is Bibliographical Services in India. Mr. Krishnan has brought out beautifully the difference between bibliography and documentation. He is a documentalist, a Documentation Officer. So his bias is toward documentation. He represents the Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre. Documentation, of course, most desirable as far as the research is concerned. We have no objection to this. But what we wanted to discuss and decide upon here this morning and this afternoon is the bibliographical service. He has referred to the micro-unit of thought and macro-unit of thought. There is a lot of emphasis now-a-days on documentation in our country too. But we just wanted to find out the opinion of the participants here, whether there are any bibliographical services as distinguished from documentation services that are essential, as essential as any other thing.

Yesterday we discussed the Union List of Serials. Physical and natural sciences always take precedence over social sciences and humanities. Similarly documentation work has taken precedence over other bibliographical work. Mr. Lal has enumerated so many services; but since he has enumerated so many, the most important things which he wanted to stress are not yet emphasized, e.g., centralized cooperative cataloguing. The periodical indexing is one of the things to be done. Some people suggested here just now that it could be entrusted to various libraries. Even so, there must be a central organization. If you take the analogy of the Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre, they have not done this kind of decentralization. They are doing all the work there. An average library, as you know very well, does not have enough resources. As Mr. Hingwe has said, it is not possible. We must be practical. It is alright to say in theory that this work can be given to that and that work can be given to this, but it is not possible; the libraries don’t have the staff. They are already over-burdened. During my work in the Library of Congress and other libraries in U.S.A, as well as in this country, I have seen that Indian books require as much attention as any other publication issued in India. We have invited Mr. Finzi this afternoon to speak on this subject. When I approached him, he said: “Well, I don’t know your problems; I am just new to this country; how could I talk about your problems?” I said, “It is alright, but you are now acquiring a large number of Indian publications in Indian languages as well as in English, and newspapers and periodicals.” They are buying all these materials in bulk. Of course, they have been struggling for the last four years to find funds. They received funds just recently. According to their calculation it is a small amount—400,000 dollars, but that means 20 lakhs of rupees. They are buying books in bulk and they are being shipped to 12 participating libraries in U.S.A. I said to Mr. Finzi: “With your acquiring Indian books in such large amount, you have begun to share our problems of bibliographical control and organization. If we find a solution, that will help you. If you find a solution to our common problems, well, we derive benefit.”

Thus we see that there are many bibliographical problems which we have been facing. It is high time that we find some solutions to them.

Goil: I think we may be able to get funds from some source and we should plan the project with retrospective effect. As an instance I would mention the Research Programme Committee of the Planning Commission. Whenever they sponsor any research programme they also provide funds. So the issue should be framed in such a way that the Workshop recommends a bibliographical survey of the resources and materials available in Indian libraries. We can also suggest an institution which will carry out those projects which we consider most essential for research and other purposes, e.g. catalogues of theses and indexing.

(Some participants suggest periodical indexing).

It is not necessary, because most of the libraries are doing their own indexing of periodicals, but the theses and other restricted documents produced by the government must be listed and analyzed.
Patnaik: Some retrospective bibliographies are being produced, or at least planned by the National Library in collaboration with the Sahitya Academy. In recent Calcutta Seminar the work of survey has been entrusted to some institutions.

(Some participants press Mr. Nagar to give the details of his scheme for the promotion of the bibliographical services in India).

M. L. Nagar: I wanted to avoid, but I think I cannot avoid now. Here is a card which my friends and I have produced. This is a card which is named Book Biorecord Card. If you see the front, this card is completely identical with the Library of Congress cards. It has complete bibliographical information, as much as you may need, or any library can give. It gives Colon number in addition to Decimal number. It has got subject headings. It is completely descriptive. It follows A.L.A. Catalogue Code. This seems to be a catalogue card, but if you see the back—on the back we have a review of the book; on the left margin you see the space for annotations like, selected by, number of copies ordered, order number, vendor, received, cost, fund charged, accessioned, accession number, circulated and withdrawn.

I had been thinking for the last two years whether it was possible for us to devise something which would help the librarian in his book selection. The ideal thing which Dr. Ranganathan has recommended for Indian libraries is to prepare a Book selection slip or Book selection card, by going through the sources like the Bookseller or Publishers' Weekly, or some other book selection aid. We felt that it is a bottleneck. It is very difficult for the librarians to prepare these book selection slips. Libraries have been receiving all kinds of book selection aids from the publishers, but the publishers advertise their books in their own way; they don't care what form of listing takes place in a library. They are interested in their own advertisement. We inquired whether it was possible to enlist the cooperation and support of the publishers and publicize their books in such a way that it would help the librarians as well.

Well, we approached some publishers and we found them willing to cooperate with us. As far as I know—you may know better—so far all the attempts which have been made for cooperative cataloguing are done by an agency other than the publisher. For example, the Library of Congress spends a lot of money. The British people have established the B.N.B. to catalogue their own books there. Now the publishers everywhere spend some money definitely for the publishing. In order to publicize a book they have to spend some extra money. We inquired whether it was possible—let us find out from the publisher whether it was possible to help him in his publicity and at the same time help the librarian in his library work! Fortunately the publishers came forward. The first publisher to cooperate with us in India was Messrs Motilal Banarsidass. He published a reprint of Stein's Rājatarāṅgini. He said, "Well, I am here to cooperate with you." So we prepared a catalogue card exactly like this and sent it out to one thousand libraries throughout the world. We have received a very encouraging response from Japan, New Zealand, U.S.A. and U.K. Librarians in all these countries have said: "It's a wonderful thing." You will readily see, for the first time in the history of book publishing, a publisher has been asked to pay for the cost of cataloguing. I would like you kindly to give me your reaction and tell us whether it is a correct statement, or just an exaggeration to say that for the first time in the history of the world book publishing, a publisher has come forward to catalogue the book before it is published.

There is a difference between pre-natal cataloguing and what I have called concurrent cataloguing. It is a new name—Centralized Cooperative Concurrent Cataloguing. As a result of an expensive experiment in "Cataloguing in Source", the Library of Congress and the American publishers have realized that it was not possible to hold the publication of the book until the cataloguing was done. We decided that let the publishers publish their books in their own way, but the moment they start sending out their circulars, well, we step in. The circular will be in the form of a catalogue card and also a leaflet.

So for Rājatarāṅgini, the book which was reprinted by Motilal Banarsidass, we had two kinds of publicity material, a folder and there is a card also, which is a library catalogue card. We sent two catalogue cards free of cost to 1,000 libraries. Librarians did not have to pay anything. If they wanted to purchase the book, well, they could send one catalogue card to their own book dealer as an order card. If they did not want to purchase it, they could at least keep the card in their files as a "wanted" material.

The response has been good. There are several other publishers, American publishers, I mean, e.g., Children's Press, Barron's Educational Series, etc. who have cooperated with us. We have
received responses from at least ten publishers, and there are many others—Indian as well as American, who are willing to cooperate with us, but the only difficulty is that so far they have not fully realized the value of this work to the librarians. They ask: “What is the reaction of the librarians?” We don’t have a full answer to this question. We have just done some experimental work. If the librarians say that this is a very useful thing, and, of course, they do not have to spend anything for that, it is possible to evolve a new system of cataloguing which will help the publisher in publicizing the book and at the same time help the librarian in cataloguing the books.

You must have seen that this catalogue card contains full bibliographical details which are available to the librarian even before the book arrives. When the book comes, it is possible to have the desired number of catalogue cards along with it. Messrs Atma Ram & Sons and some other publishers have agreed that the books can be supplied along with five catalogue cards. This is a problem which the Library of Congress, or pre-natal cataloguing, or pre-publication cataloguing has not yet solved. The Library of Congress wanted to make an experiment (cataloguing in source) only because there is a time lag between the receipt of the book and the receipt of its cards. First the book comes, and then the libraries order the cards. When they come, they have to be matched with the respective books. The separate ordering for both involves extra expenditure. So they decided to make an experiment. They did not succeed. However, if this kind of system comes into being—and L.C. is trying—it is possible for the libraries to have catalogue cards along with the books, because the publishers are willing to cooperate with us. However, the real key lies with the librarian.

Deshpande: I would like to know whether anybody has made a survey of the clientele of these cards. According to me, we have 14 languages in the country—14 languages, official languages—and books are being published in all the 14 languages. I don’t know how many of these would be purchased by the libraries concerned. As far as the books in the English language are concerned, I think that most of the books that we are purchasing now come from U.K. and U.S.A., and I don’t know how you are going to cover these foreign books in your project.

Dilley: This is all very interesting, but I don’t see any relation of this with the issue we are going to frame.

Nagar: That’s the reason why I did not want to speak anything about my plans. But my friends specifically asked me to speak.

Nagar: You may be right. Even before you brought out this point, I was thinking whether we are not going away from the subject. But this is one of the things which we should consider. Everyone feels like that. This forms part of the general subject—Bibliographical Services in India. Let me resume my talk. You want to know how it is possible—how we will cover foreign publications. The publishers will send their information to the Centre, to the Agency here, and the Centre will distribute the cards even before the books arrive. The publishers like McGraw-Hill, Macmillan and Wiley send their advertisements to various libraries in India so that this particular agency... (A participant interrupts and says)

I have been receiving many McGraw-Hill books directly from America on approval.

Nagar: Books on approval? But not many books you can get on approval. Not many publishers would send their books to you. It would be a terrible cost to them. How is it possible? If they send, then they know that you are going to buy their books whether they are good or bad!

Participant: Under the Oxford Book Plan, we receive books from many publishers. The books which are not approved are returned to them, to the publishers, who bear the cost.

Deshpande: What I am driving at is that this would involve a lot of waste of cards and energy.

Nagar: Waste for whom?

Nagar: No, no. The agency is not going to spend anything for that. The publishers will spend. We are concerned here with one aspect of Catalogue Card Distribution Service and
Cooperative Cataloguing. This is just one method of Cooperative Cataloguing; this is just one part.

Lal: I only wanted to point out another publisher, Scarecrow Press. They supply catalogue cards along with their publications. All publications published after April ’60, are being accompanied with cards.

Hingwe: Excuse me. I am getting cards from John Wiley; I am getting cards from Van Nostrand; I am getting cards from . . .

Nagar: They are not catalogue cards. Scarecrow Press is the first and the only publisher in U.S.A...

A Participant: To supply the ready-made cards?

Nagar: Yes, L.C. Cards, completely ready-made.

Hingwe: Wiley cards are also annotated.

Nagar: But they are not catalogue cards.

Goil: Let us frame the issue like this. The publisher should take up the supply of catalogue cards along with their publication.

Girja Kumar: I think we should limit our recommendations to a survey of the existing library resources and services to be undertaken by, perhaps, the Academic Libraries Association.

Lal: I think Bibliographical Centre will be better.

Hingwe: You just consider. I have framed the issue like this. “The Workshop, having discussed in detail the current trends and problems in relation to bibliographical services in India, has arrived at the conclusion that there is an urgent necessity of establishing a Documentation Centre in Humanities and Social Sciences on the lines of INSDOC and has further resolved that such agencies, as might extend financial support, may be approached by the Joint Action Committee.”

Nagar: Here we should give some emphasis on bibliographical services, as distinguished from documentation services. That is why we have kept “the bibliographical services” as the topic for the day.

Lal: I think instead of ‘Documentation Centre’, we should say ‘Bibliographical Centre’.

Krishnan: I don’t agree. We shall say “Documentation” because it is a wider term.

Nagar: But INSDOC is not touching the books in science. You are more interested in documentation. We want to serve the needs related to books!

Krishnan: Our region is a little away in the sense that we are even giving the copies of the material that is asked for. That is also a part of documentation work. So we have a wider region. Of course, there is no sharp division where the macro-thought ends and micro-thought begins. In relation to a macro-thought, you are thinking of cataloguing as a more important bibliographical service. In relation to micro-thought, we think of supplying the information first and then supplying the material also.

Nagar: Here we should give some emphasis on bibliographical services, as distinguished from documentation services. That is why we have kept “the bibliographical services” as the topic for the day.

Patnaik: There are certain first things which must be done first.

Krishnan: Mr. Nagar wants to emphasize the cataloguing.

Girja Kumar: Documentation is almost library science.

Dilley: Let us not have the word “documentation”.

Nagar: Let me repeat: Documentation is a mode of featuring in a list of entries all the recorded information in a particular subject field.

Lal: I object to this word “documentation” because this covers only one aspect. If you are going to establish a Bibliographical Centre along the lines of INSDOC, you will cover only periodical literature.

Hingwe: I will read the proposal again.
All participants suggest that the words “along the lines of INSDOC” must be eliminated. They also recommend that the resolution should read like this: “a bibliographical centre for bibliographical services.”

Patnaik: Why restrict it to humanities and social sciences?
Lal: Yes, let us make it all-comprehensive.

Deshpande: Let us recommend: As the first step towards this, I hope, the participants will agree to compile a Union catalogue in their respective libraries.

Patnaik: No, no. It is not necessary to recommend that all the libraries should compile individual lists. The Centre will do the job, prepare a comprehensive list. You do it, I do it, it is alright, but...

Nagar: Why do you want to emphasize one thing? Because if you emphasize one thing, another thing which may be as important as the first one will become secondary and of less importance.

Deshpande: Let us specify so many things! I don’t want that we should specify this thing and omit that thing. I want the participants to go into action immediately.

Patnaik: This is what I will submit. It’s not a matter for the participants to do, because this is a comprehensive business which a Bibliographical Centre alone can do. It is alright to say: “I will prepare my list and circulate it.” “You prepare your list and circulate it.” But we must say that these are the various services which we think are necessary and which a competent corporate body should do. That is why...

Nagar: Let us make a recommendation like this: “As a first step, this Joint Action Committee should find out whether a survey could be made of the existing library resources.”

Deshpande: Yes. A survey could be made.

Nagar: That can be a beginning. Then the Joint Action Committee may find out the way, some means and methods, to create the services, but survey is the first thing.

Lal: But that will be the first headache of the Centre.

Patnaik: But we can’t do it. We decide upon the establishment of a Bibliographical Centre and then we go into the question of how it should be constituted, and then that centre...

Hingwe: If the University Grants Commission or some other body selects the Centre, they will take it up. They will do the survey, because how many responsibilities we should take upon ourselves?

Goil: What is going to be the function of the Centre?

All Participants: Let us not be vague. Let us specify the services we want.

Deshpande: A Catalogue of Official Publications as Girja Kumar put it, and a Catalogue of Indiana, World Indiana...

Patnaik: A Catalogue of Books...

Deshpande: A Union Catalogue of Books as he (Patnaik) put it; a Union Catalogue of Manuscripts...

Patnaik: Yes, Manuscripts...

Dilley: Why mention all these things? The centre may not be established at all!

Deshpande: But a survey has to be conducted.

Girja Kumar: I will put it this way. Instead of enumerating all these things, we should say that a survey be conducted as a preliminary to the establishment of the centre, so that by the time the centre is established, the survey would have been done.

All Participants: Yes, yes. A survey must be done.

Girja Kumar: The survey will be a logical basis for the establishment of the centre.

Nagar: And also it will be a justification.

Some Members: Let us mention some important things.

Nagar: No, we don’t want to specify anything. We just want to make a survey. That is my suggestion. The survey of the existing resources, the needs...
Patnaik: But who is going to do the survey?
Nagar: Well, who is going to establish the centre?
Patnaik: That is exactly what I say! The establishment of a centre should precede the survey.
Nagar: But you have to have a justification even for this.
Patnaik: Let us say what are the things we expect the centre to do.
Girja Kumar: Miss Dilley has said that it is not easy to establish a centre. I agree with her that it is not easy to establish a centre, because we have to justify it by the work which we have already done. Therefore, it is better to start in a limited way and do some exploratory work and then go for larger things. But, of course, that can be done by other agencies, for example, by the Academic Libraries Association if it comes into being, or a Special Library Association, or possibly even by the Indian Library Association. You know that we had a seminar on social sciences. We recommended the establishment of a bibliographical centre. We had the support of Dr. Ranganathan and we talked to the U.G.C. people. We could not get the centre established any way, and we have not done other work either.
Deshpande: This is hypothetical. If the centre is established, then these things will be done. That is not a very happy affair.
Nagar: Let us recommend that a survey should be made.
Deshpande: Mr. Lal, would you like to say something? You are the leader of the group.
A Member: The bridegroom!
Lal: Having gone through the status of various bibliographical services, we have concluded that there should be some central agency to do the survey. Later on it was recommended that a committee or some association should take up the work of survey, so that we may be able to do some spade work for the establishment of a bibliographical centre.
Nagar: Yes, this is a very good suggestion. Let us leave it to the Academic Libraries Association. We can say that when the Academic Libraries Association comes into being, or whatever you may want to say, the Association should do the survey and make recommendations for the establishment of the centre.
Lal: I can say one thing that the Punjab Library Association will start the work soon and it may be taken over by the Academic Libraries Association.
Dilley: The Association will be the proper agency to do it. How many regional associations are going to do this? You have a Delhi Library Association.
Girja Kumar: Apart from an all-India survey, you can always have local surveys by local people.
Deshpande: As a preliminary step, could we ask the State Library Associations to conduct a survey of the region?
Girja Kumar: Too many cooks spoil the broth. Don't depend upon the State Library Associations for the regional surveys.
Lal: No, no, but the work will be taken over by the Academic Libraries Association.
Girja Kumar: It must be done by only one or two full-time persons. There is no other way of doing this.
Participants: We must enlist the support of the local people.
Krishnan: Such a survey should not be the basis of the bibliographical centre. Rather we know that these are the things which ought to be done. So we right away go and recommend that these things should be done.
Deshpande: And for that purpose a centre should be established.
Hingwe: When a centre is established, they are bound to have some sort of a survey. How can they start their work unless they know what are the needs. That is assumed. No...?
Nagar: The other friends are suggesting that the establishment of a bibliographical centre may take some time. Meanwhile...
Deshpande: Meanwhile, the Academic Libraries Association may take upon itself the responsibility of conducting a survey and making a report to the authorities concerned. But the
ultimate aim is the establishment of a bibliographical centre to take care of the whole problem.

Patnaik: But the whole problem is whether the Academic Libraries Association would be in a position to make a survey?

Nagar: With the cooperation of other librarians.

Patnaik: Survey problems have already been taken up by the Seminar held in Calcutta and I think they are conducting the survey.

Deshpande: Patnaik, but they are only recommending a survey, and not doing the survey.

Goil: They are prepared to undertake the work, while they are also going to recommend it.

Patnaik: But the question is whether the Government of India, or the U.G.C. is going to entrust the job to the Academic Libraries Association?

Nagar: No, no, it is not essential for them to entrust the job to the Academic Libraries Association. The Association will do the preliminary survey and impress upon the authorities the need of a centre for the services so that we can say that there is a need for an all-India centre to look after the work.

Mukherjee: It is absolutely necessary to make a survey . . .

Deshpande: So we put it like this: The Workshop discussed in detail the needs of the research workers and others in the field of humanities and social sciences.

Other Participants: No, no. We should not restrict our scope.

Deshpande: In order to meet the needs of the research workers, it was felt necessary that there should be a central organization, a clearing agency or a clearing body, which would take care of the needs of the research workers.

Nagar: Not the research workers alone, but others also; for the whole country.

Patnaik: The whole problem is this. The idea of a National Bibliographical Institute is not novel. UNESCO itself had suggested as long back as 1951 to the various member countries that the first step in the matter of bibliographical organization and control would be the establishment of a planning body and such a centre, and then go up to solve the various problems connected with the bibliographical organization and control. We have not done that. We have been going in slipshod way; taking up this thing and taking up that thing. It will be right for this Seminar to suggest that such a centre is necessary.

Lal: The whole recommendation of the UNESCO centres around the establishment of a National Library and a National Bibliographical Centre. We have neither of these two!

Patnaik: We have a National Library.

Nagar: What do you mean by National Library? What are the functions of the National Library? Are they performing all the functions?

Deshpande: (Interrupting) Are we over-stripping our limits and entering into the affairs of the National Library? Let us not do anything of that kind.

(A lot of hot discussion)

Hingwe: (Reporting) “The Workshop having discussed in detail the current trends and problems in relation to bibliographical services in India has arrived at the conclusion that there is an urgent need of establishing a centre for bibliographical services, and has further resolved that such agency or agencies as might extend financial or any other support ought to be approached.” That covers everything.

Dilley: This is a resolution, where you decide what somebody else should do.

Patnaik: What is it that we are going to do?

Deshpande: What are the immediate steps that we are going to take? They say that the establishment of the centre may take some time.

Goil: When you approach the agencies with the request to finance it, they are going to ask you what for is the centre being established.

Krishnan: Listing of the services is essential.

Deshpande: Our recommendations to the authorities should be self-explanatory.
Goil: Unless you say which are the things that you want to do—there is a gap there which we want to fill, or there are certain things which are not being done properly or in a helpful way—you are not going to get the financial support.

Hingwe: The purpose and functions of the proposed bibliographical centre should be as follows: To make an extensive survey of the library resources and services at the national, state and local level.

Deshpande: This survey should be conducted as a preliminary to achieve the following: Union catalogue of books

(A lot of hot discussion)

Krishnan: Union catalogue of books is not discussed very well.

Deshpande: Let us discuss it now. There is time.

Krishnan: What I would like to say is that the Union catalogue of books is not a priority at all. It should receive the last priority.

Deshpande: O.K., O.K.

Patnaik: I entirely disagree with you Mr. Krishnan. Can you quote the international standards?

Girja Kumar: Union catalogue of books is a tremendous job, and with most of our collections still uncatalogued, it is rather too much to expect . . .

Participants suggest that union catalogue of books in university libraries . . .

Nagar: I have a suggestion. We have already stated that there will be a survey, which will also find out the needs. Now, why don’t we leave the priority business to that survey?

Krishnan: My feeling is that the Union catalogue of books in itself is not a good idea.

Nagar: Well, let it be decided later on. We will decide it later when we meet again.

Hingwe: First we should take the Union List of Serials.

One member: Compilation of retrospective bibliographies of government publications.

Goil: Compilation of retrospective bibliographies of theses submitted to Indian universities; Catalogue of theses submitted on Indian topics to foreign universities.

Girja Kumar: I agree with Mr. Nagar that there is no point in detailing all these things. If you have to go and meet the authorities, you should take a note along with you.

Nagar: It is not necessary to enumerate all these things in such details, because we are not exhausting the field.

Girja Kumar: You could mention the preparation of documentation lists. When you go and meet the authorities, you will have to give the details and also the financial implications.

One member: When we go, we must have all these details.

Nagar: We are not going just now. When we go, we will be prepared. That will be decided later on.

Girja Kumar: May I suggest:

1. Union catalogue of all serials and books.
2. Documentation lists, current and retrospective with special reference to India.

Mukherjee: What about concurrent cataloguing?

Nagar: Let us call it centralized cataloguing.

Deshpande: Centralized and cooperative cataloguing on national basis.

Hingwe: We cannot have centralized cataloguing; we can have only cooperative cataloguing.

Nagar: You mean to say that you cannot have a centralized cataloguing at the national level?

Hingwe: I am sorry, No! What is cooperative cataloguing?

Dilley: Why do you just mention centralized cataloguing? You can have all centralized bibliographical services.

Hingwe: We cannot have centralized cataloguing at the national level; we can have only cooperative cataloguing. These two terms are synonymous. Will you please explain?
Nagar: Centralized cataloguing is the process when a centre catalogues for other libraries. Cooperative cataloguing also becomes a part of it, if the cooperating libraries send their cards for the printing to the centre, like the Library of the U.S. Department of Agriculture sending its cards to the Library of Congress.

Hingwe: Centralized cataloguing cannot be done at the national level. It is restricted to the central library, having the branch libraries only.

Nagar: Library of Congress cataloguing is both centralized and cooperative.

Deshpande: We will put it like this: Other centralized or cooperative bibliographical services.

(Mr. Deshpande requests Mr. Girja Kumar to give a report of the Calcutta Seminar on Bibliographical Control in India).

Girja Kumar: I must confess, I was not attending these sessions assiduously. So whatever I tell you is subject to correction, if necessary. I will try to give as many details as possible.

The Indian Library Association got some money from the Ministry of Education for the purpose of organizing a bibliographical seminar. Later on they decided to invite everybody, who had come to attend the annual session of the Indian Library Association to participate in the proceedings of the seminar. So it was not a seminar in the ordinary sense of the term. It was a jambourie. A number of people submitted their papers...

(Mr. Patnaik interrupts: We were not allowed to read the papers).

Girja Kumar: Of course! We did not get any opportunity to see many of the papers in full. We were provided with summaries of some of the papers at the last moment. For instance, I had the opportunity to see one or two papers before they were submitted and then I had also the opportunity to see the summary. I think a great deal of material which was in the papers was not there in the summary. One of the major mistakes committed was this: (I am not criticizing), unfortunately the major thing which should have been done was to have the issues framed out of these papers in line with the recommendations to be made to the Ministry of Education. These should have been put forward before us for discussion. In any case that was not done. So all of us had the vaguest conception of what we were going to discuss. There was a preliminary meeting and then it was decided to divide the participants in four groups. One was, I think, on centralization, the other was on science, the third one on social sciences, and the fourth was on organization. So all of us divided into four groups. If we did not find a particular session very interesting, we shifted to another session. So hardly any one of us had a clear picture.

I am not telling all this merely to criticize, but I am giving it a proper perspective. When the chairmen of the sub-committees themselves were not aware of what to discuss, they could not channelize the discussion properly. But in spite of all these difficulties and problems, at the end some concrete and useful suggestions came forward in the form of resolutions. One of the hot issues discussed was centralization versus decentralization. I suppose the people had the INSDOC in mind, I don't know, but it was decided that while the INSDOC was doing a useful work and they were going to expand their activities, it would be desirable at the same time to have documentation activities carried on for specialized subjects at different centres, and for that purpose the Ministry of Education should be requested to provide additional funds.

Well, one of the significant suggestions made by the Seminar in the form of a resolution was to enumerate about 13 to 14 organizations which in their view could take up the specialized work. For instance, the Institute of Public Administration was suggested for public administration and our Institute was suggested for international relations. So this was the major suggestion at the seminar, which has been sent to the Ministry of Education with a view to get funds from them, but I don't know how they are going to do this. If they are serious, probably, they will have to appoint a committee which will distribute or decide the distribution of the work. So this is a very important matter for us to keep in mind, because the Indian Library Association has already framed certain resolutions. I would also suggest that we should, if possible, get those resolutions as early as possible, because whatever may be our recommendations to the authorities, they should be in line with those of I.L.A.
Wednesday Afternoon,

Open General Session

U.S.I.S. Auditorium, Bahawalpur House

Welcoming the participants to the third day's open general session, Mr. K. S. Deshpande gave an outline of the work done by the Joint Action Committee. He then requested Mr. P. S. Patnaik to introduce the main speaker to the audience.

P. S. Patnaik: Friends and Colleagues:

It is my great pleasure and privilege to introduce to you our great benefactor Mr. Herbert K. Berthold, Cultural Affairs Officer of the U.S.I.S., who is now in charge of the Wheat Loan Programme. I think I need not introduce him to you, because he has already introduced himself to all of us so well during the past three days by participating freely in our meetings and identifying himself with our cause—the development of libraries and librarianship in India. Mr. Berthold has a great sympathy for our aspirations and it is through his active support that we are able to meet here to conduct the fifth and final Wheat Loan Library Workshop. On behalf of the Joint Action Committee and all of you I express my deep gratefulness for all the help that he has given us and we are sure he will continue to help us even after the Wheat Loan Programme is terminated.

We really miss Miss Holt, our great American library friend. But I have no hesitation in saying that Mr. Berthold has not allowed us in any way to feel the absence of that noble lady. He has spared no pains to give us maximum comfort and facilities to participate in this Workshop. I am sure he will continue to give us all the help that we have been receiving from the Wheat Loan Office. There is a saying in Telugu that "silence is half-consent". And I am sure, the silence of Mr. Berthold in response to our request for more aid may be interpreted as his consent.

May I now request Mr. Herbert K. Berthold to address the audience and give us the benefit of listening to his kind and invigorating message of goodwill and friendship. Mr. Berthold—

Herbert K. Berthold: Ladies and Gentlemen:

I hope you would not mind my retaining the seat. I believe that it would seem more informal and I would like to be informal with you all.

I hardly know what to say after the very kind introduction and certainly a great deal of what I had prepared to say has already been said. So my talk will be relatively short. I will say that I am in the unique position of having seen the beginning of the Programme and now I am seeing the end of it, the PL-48 or the India Wheat Loan Educational Exchange Programme as it is officially known. Actually during the period I left India in '56 and returned in '59, there have been several other people that have conducted the Programme, whom you all know. I really came back into the Programme just recently after Miss Holt left and it was decided to close the Office by the end of June this year (1962). I might just relate some of my impressions, as I am not a professional librarian. However, by force of position, I have seen a great deal of what has happened in the library world in India over a number of years. If these would seem unprofessional remarks, I hope that you will not take them to heart.

The Wheat Loan Programme, first of all, as you know, came out of five million dollars in a deposit account in the Treasury of the United States. This money was to be returned to India in the form of books, scientific equipment and exchange of persons for institutions of higher education in India. It does not necessarily mean university libraries, or schools; it could be any institution of
higher education, such as a science institute. The funds were expended through the University Grants Commission and the main bulk of the funds, as far as books are concerned, went actually to the universities. In the beginning we very roughly divided the program into three components: books, scientific equipment, and an exchange of persons to support both the scientific equipment and the books portion. All the money to be used in administering the program as well as in the supply of material was to come out of the total fund.

I remember when I came to India in '53 to start the Program and then in '54 and part of '55 when I toured with Mr. Chandrakant and Mr. Khalsa, I think I saw at that time as many libraries as anyone in U.S.I.S. had seen until that time, as well as numerous laboratories, and departments of science in all fields. At that time there was a wide diversity and a great variety of conditions in university and college libraries. The space, the housing, the management varied all the way from what I might have at that time termed, from a layman's viewpoint, the most modern and up-to-date, including all the practices in library science and ways and techniques that I have known in America, to others that could be only termed as backward. I would say I have not toured any libraries or universities recently, but from a very short two or three days' acquaintance with most of you now and from what I heard in your discussions, I will say that the picture must be radically if not totally different at this time.

This leads me now to make some observations from what I have heard during the last two days. I did not attend today's morning session on bibliographies and bibliographic services, but I hope to remain this afternoon for a short while and hear what was discussed this morning. On the first day, the discussion on what is called the Wheat Loan Messenger and the Academic Libraries Association, I thought, was very revealing. The Wheat Loan Messenger, of course, as was pointed out, should really reflect the total Wheat Loan Program—from my viewpoint all the work, all the people, and all the contributions that were made, and have been made out of the Wheat Loan Program under Public Law 48. However, it has been narrowly worked out as reflecting the libraries or the book aspect of this Program. Later on when the Academic Libraries Association
comes into force, this would become an organ of the Association, and possibly given another name. This is a very good thing.

With reference to my second observation, that there has been such a wide variety of library practices in the various college and university libraries, the Academic Libraries Association, from what I can see, could have a great deal to do with establishing standards, with establishing a system and criteria, that can be used to evaluate the libraries, librarianship and librarians. It could have far-reaching effect. As such I am really happy to see the firmness and the intelligence with which it is being organized.

The Union List of Serials was discussed yesterday, and I might say along with some of the others that the discussion was an eye-opener to me, especially in the experience INSDOC has had in devising and maintaining the Union list of scientific periodicals. Here again I was astonished at the many attempts that have already been made in that direction. To add one another effort is not in itself harmful. However, not to duplicate or waste time and efforts that have already been made in that direction would be really important criteria. India is moving fast. Most of the libraries have sufficient books, but they lack trained staff to handle them. To add more work to this in the very short time would not really be the most beneficial thing. I believe that the approach that was proposed yesterday afternoon towards a comprehensive union list was a very sensible one, and I believe something good will come out of that.

Now in closing I feel obliged to say a little bit about funds. I am not one that would agree with the proverb from Telugu that “No news is good news”. This is not necessarily always true. The Public Law 48, the Wheat Loan Programme, ends on June 30, and as far as I can see now, there are not going to be any funds remaining unexpended in this Programme.

Let me end by saying that what I have seen makes me proud to have been associated with the Wheat Loan Programme even in a small way. If I don’t have any other opportunity again to speak collectively to you, let me say that I wish the Academic Libraries Association the best of success. I believe that it will be an important organization in the future.

Now may I turn the afternoon proceedings over to the Chairman and other speakers.

Deshpande: We are grateful Mr. Berthold, for having taken time off your busy schedule and for giving us a stimulating account of the Wheat Loan Programme and its impact on the Indian library world. I now call upon Mr. Lal to present the Report of the morning session for discussion of this house. I would request all of you to participate and to comment on the Report and offer your views in the matter.

Lal: The working paper discusses in the beginning the origin of bibliographies, why we need bibliographies, what is a bibliographic service and what bibliographical services are available in India and other countries. Then it enumerates the bibliographical tools that we require for research in India. The first item is the Indian National Bibliography. Then come the World Union Catalogue of Indians, Union List of Periodicals, National Union Catalogue, Indexing of Newspapers and Periodicals, List of Dissertations, Documentation, Translation Service, Government Documents, Books from University Presses, Dictionary of Indian National Biography, Book Selection Aids and Supply of Printed Cards. In the end I have suggested that we undertake at least some of these services. We require a Centre. The Centre may be a government body or a private one. As a result of the discussions in the morning session, the final recommendations arrived at are as follows:

1. The Joint Action Committee of the Wheat Loan Workshops, having discussed in detail the current trends and problems relating to Bibliographical Services in India, has concluded that there is an urgent need for establishing a Centre for Bibliographical Services in India.

2. The purpose and functions of the proposed Bibliographical Centre shall be:
   - To make an extensive survey of the library services and resources at the National, State and Local levels as a preliminary to create, maintain and render the needed Bibliographical Services in India, such as
     I. National Union List of Serials;
     II. Retrospective, Comprehensive Bibliographies of Government Publications, Doctoral Dissertations and other Research Materials;
     III. Establishment of Patent Depositories in Cooperation with other countries;
Bibliographical Services

IV. Union Catalogue of Books; and
V. Other Centralized Bibliographical Services, such as Cooperative Cataloguing and Card Distribution Service.

3. The Joint Action Committee shall explore the possibilities of finding necessary funds for the purpose.

Deshpande: We discussed the problem for nearly three hours and came to the conclusion presented by Mr. Lal. So many problems cropped up; and ultimately we drafted the Resolution, which would take care of all these problems. We decided to impress upon the authorities concerned—the U.G.C. and the Ministry of Education etc.—the need for establishing a Centre, which would take care of all these services. We are pretty shortly going to call upon the officials of these agencies and informing them about this proposal. The U.G.C. seems to be very sympathetic on these matters, and I am sure they will do something about it. Mr. Goil, will you please come and tell us all that we discussed this morning, so that other participants may express their own opinions on the matter?

N. K. Goil: In the morning session divergent views were expressed regarding the centralization vs. decentralization of bibliographical services, particularly in the field of social sciences. Recently the Indian Library Association also organized a three-day seminar on “Bibliographical Control and Organization in India” at Calcutta. A good number of working papers were submitted and the summaries of these papers were circulated to all concerned. On the basis of the discussions held, many recommendations were made. These are likely to be forwarded to the Union Ministry of Education—the sponsoring body of the Seminar, for consideration and necessary action. As an author of a working paper and participant in the I.L.A. Seminar, I can say that the house there was not very much in favour of centralizing the bibliographical services. But this does not mean that this house should ditto the I.L.A. line of approach. Personally I am of the opinion that the Central Bibliographical Organization should occupy a distinguished place in the organizational set-up for bibliographical services in a country. In this country, for example, we have INS DOC to look after the bibliographical requirements in the field of sciences. Can its services be replaced? This does not mean that the individual libraries should stop catering to the local bibliographical requirements of respective institutions to which these libraries are attached. In fact many libraries in the field of social sciences are already doing this work. A few of them can be named as follows:

1. Indian Council of World Affairs Library;
2. Ministry of Labour and Employment Library;
3. Ministry of Commerce and Industry Library;
4. Delhi School of Economics Library;
5. Institute of Economic Growth Library;
6. Indian Institute of Public Administration Library;
7. Indian Statistical Institute Library; and

But in spite of this, there is a need for a Central Agency which can look after the bibliographical requirements of the country as a whole in the field of social sciences. Such an institution will be able to develop the services in a systematic way. Perhaps, there cannot be two opinions regarding such a need. The establishment of such an institution should not mean the stopping of the work which many libraries mentioned above are doing at present. The nature of bibliographical services is such that it requires attention and work at three different levels—International, National and Local.

At the international level, most of us are aware of the bibliographical work done by UNESCO, particularly in the field of social sciences. The International Committee for Social Sciences Documentation prepares the following bibliographies:

1. International Bibliography of Social and Cultural Anthropology;
2. International Bibliography of Economics;
3. A Register of Legal Documentation in the World;
4. International Bibliography of Political Science;
5. Political Science in the United States of America—a Trend Report;
6. International Reportory of Social Science Documentation Centres;
7. International Register of Current Team Research in Social Sciences; and
8. International Bibliography of Sociology.

All these international bibliographies have their usefulness in spite of much time lag. For example, the current issue—vol. 8 of the International Bibliography of Economics includes the works published in 1959. This goes to establish that a local library cannot depend for the current bibliographical references on an international agency. Therefore, there is the need for local bibliographical work and services.

At the national level, there is no agency in this country which can be depended upon for bibliographical services in the field of social sciences. Librarians have been demanding the establishment of such an agency on the pattern of INSDOC since long. However, nothing has materialized so far. Since the Research Programme Committee of Planning Commission is a coordinating and sponsoring agency for research in social sciences, it will be in the fitness of things that this body should be approached to expedite the establishment of such a centre. U.G.C. and other agencies should also cooperate with R.P.C. in fulfilling the objective.

At the local level, the libraries of different institutions will continue to do the work as they are doing at present for reasons stated above.

Therefore, whatever approach we may have, there cannot be two opinions about the need of a Central Bibliographical Clearing House to cater to the needs of the research workers in the field of social sciences. Sooner it is established, the better it will be.

T. S. Rajagopalan: I am not sure what transpired in the morning session, and so I cannot help repeating what has already been discussed or talked about. Mr. Goil mentioned the Seminar of the Indian Library Association held at Calcutta and the IASLIC Seminar held at Dhanbad where the problem of bibliographical organization was discussed in detail. At these seminars some useful recommendations were made. I do not know how far the recommendations which you have made now on the same topic are complementary or supplementary to them. However, for the benefit of those who did not attend the conferences I may mention briefly the important findings.

At the Seminar of the Indian Library Association, it was recommended that the Government of India might set up a permanent policy advisory committee comprising librarians, documentalists and the users, i.e. scientists and research workers to advise, encourage and promote documentation activities in the country. The Committee will be concerned mostly with policy matters. Secondly, it was recommended that for library and information services, a decentralized pattern based on the principle of subject specialization might be suitable. Thirdly, a coordinating body might be set up to advise the subject specializing centres and to take charge of a few responsibilities falling outside the scope of the specialized centres. About 10 or 12 services have been enumerated in this connection most of which are now being rendered by INSDOC as far as the science subjects are concerned.

Mr. Lal has mentioned a good number of bibliographical tools available for our reference. Of course, a survey like this can never be exhaustive, and so I hope I will not be misunderstood if I mention a few more items which escaped his notice.

As regards the periodicals lists, besides the Catalogue of Registrar of Newspapers of India which he has mentioned, I may say that a retrospective bibliography of Asian learned periodicals had been compiled by Dr. Ranganathan at the instance of UNESCO. It is also a valuable tool. Unfortunately it has not been published.

As regards abstracting activities, I would like to mention the recent attempts of the Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research to publish as a supplement abstracts of articles on the research work in progress in the national laboratories and under the grant-in-aid projects of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. So also the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has very recently started publishing a quarterly periodical entitled Agricultural Research, wherein the research work carried on in the different research institutions is summarized.

There is also another omission in that the Directory of Asian Reference Books compiled by Mr. Garde at the instance of UNESCO was not mentioned in Mr. Lal's paper.
As regards the Directory of Libraries, I may tell you that very shortly the IASLIC will be bringing out a Directory of Special Libraries.

Mention should also be made of the use of the Indian National Bibliography as a tool for retrospective search. As far as the science subjects are concerned, more than the books the periodical articles are frequently sought after. The Bibliography of Scientific Publications of South and South East Asia published by INSDOC is a useful tool for retrospective search. The UNESCO Science Cooperation Office, New Delhi had been compiling it from 1949 and INSDOC took it over in 1955. Thus from 1949 onwards we shall be having no difficulty in making a retrospective search of Indian scientific literature.

Earlier there had been an attempt in our country to publish the Indian Science Abstracts by the National Institute of Sciences. It came out between 1935 and 1940, but due to World War II the work could not be continued. It was one of the pioneering attempts in our country in the abstracting work. So from 1940 to 1949, for a gap of 9 years, we have no bibliographical control for our scientific documents. If something could be done to fill the gap, we may have a good bibliographical aid to our scientific documents continuously from 1935 onwards. In science subjects the demand is usually only for papers published in the preceding 15 to 20 years and so there may be no necessity to attempt now bibliographical control of older literature.

I have my own misgivings about the necessity of a Union catalogue of books. Only yesterday we discussed the several difficult problems involved in the compilation of a Union list of serials. Though INSDOC is compiling a Union catalogue of periodicals in the sciences, as far as humanities and social sciences are concerned, the matter is only at the discussion stage for a long time and one does not know how soon our country will have a Union list of periodicals in these subjects. If this is the situation as far as the serials are concerned, a Union catalogue of books appears to me now a far-fetched idea, which is not likely to be fulfilled in the near future. Further, I am not sure what is going to be achieved, considering the immense work involved in its compilation. The Union catalogue no doubt helps us in inter-library-loan, but it requires to be considered whether for this purpose alone there will be justification to have it, because of the cost, time and personnel needed for the compilation work. It appears to me not a feasible proposition. At the most we can think of Union catalogues of books on a regional or locality basis, or on some other limited basis, say reference books, less used materials, research reports and similar kinds of materials etc.

As regards the documentation of theses accepted by our universities, INSDOC is making some attempts in science subjects. Some universities are cooperating with INSDOC in depositing one copy of their theses and there are plans to publish abstracts of the doctoral theses. INSDOC can supply microfilm or photocopy of a thesis if there is any demand.

There is a mention about the Catalogues of Central and State Government publications and that there are no adequate tools for finding information about them. The Indian National Bibliography in its second part covers Government publications and this should be an adequate tool as far as Government publications are concerned.

Regarding the Academic Libraries Association, which is now formed at the initiative of the Wheat Loan participants, I may say that there are already a number of professional organizations in our country like the IASLIC, which are doing good work in bibliographical matters. They need to be strengthened. The Wheat Loan participants may well take active interest in promoting the activities of the existing organizations.

M. L. Nagar: The topic for today's discussion is bibliographical services in India. This morning also we saw that there is a lot of emphasis on documentation work and physical and biological sciences as distinguished from humanities and social sciences. Our friend Mr. Rajagopalan just said that there is no use, no utility, or let us put it different way, there is no possibility of having a National Union Catalogue. He has got doubts about its utility. I request you to give us your opinion, but as a research student I would narrate one of my experiences.

I wanted to get a rare edition of the Vikramāṇkadevacarita for my own research studies. There is not even a single institution in the whole of this country to which I could write and find out whether and where the particular edition was available. So I had to write individual letters to at least 25 libraries in India and still I could not get it. Then I wrote to the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. and in just a few months I got a xerox print of this rare edition, which is little heard in this country.
Now when I mention the Library of Congress, I am referring to its National Union Catalogue. Those of you who have visited the Library must have seen the enormous number of entries, 12 million or so, that are represented there. You are familiar with that huge bibliographical tool. Is it not desirable for us to think whether it is possible for us to have some such tool in our country? Where it could be located, how it is possible, how it could be done, is entirely a different approach. But those students too, who are working not in sciences, where the books have no interest if they are old, want such tools. There are other fields of knowledge also, besides sciences. We have got humanities; we have social sciences also. So when we discuss one aspect of the problem, it is necessary that we should also take into consideration the other types of readers in our country. We should be generous in our approach.

A. K. Mukherjee: I should in a way support Mr. Rajagopalan so far as his remarks on “Union Catalogue of Books” are concerned. It is a dream, as he has told you. It is a dream no doubt, but most of us have been dreaming all the time and we may keep on dreaming for an indefinite period; but just in addition to our dreaming, can’t we do something in this regard? I shall suggest a compromise.

I would like to impress upon you the need of at least suggesting the preparation of a “Union Catalogue of Reference Tools and Source Materials”. That would limit the scope of the work, which on the face looks impracticable and dreamer’s idealism. If it is confined to reference tools, it would be very helpful because the reference service in our country is increasing. As far as our experience goes, within the last few years the librarians have been able to do some work in this respect. The clientele are mostly satisfied with the supply of books only, but it is our common experience nowadays that even though we do not have any specific reference staff in our libraries, we have got to do a lot of reference work. We also find in certain cases that our own tools, our own resources, fail to give us the required information, thus making an expeditious reference service impossible. Thus if we just limit our objective of having an Indian Union catalogue of all books to that of having a Union catalogue of reference books only it will be more realistic.

I think I should speak of source materials also, as some of the items which Mr. Nagar has spoken about will be termed as source materials. In all the branches of the field of knowledge—in the humanities, social sciences, even in the scientific field—engineering and technology, there are certain source materials which are referred to not very often, but are required by research workers for specific purpose. So if this scope is limited, we may hope to fair better.

The authorities will call us only idealistic if we just go on giving them ideas which may seem as Utopian. I think that would not carry much weight as far as our work is concerned. We must come to certain specific and well-defined objectives which we can recommend and for which we can ask the authorities to help us financially. They can also advise us and help us in having the organization for the purpose. I would admit that the Union list of books is not practical, but the Union list of serials we must have, as a part of that work—major part of that work—that has already been done in INSDOC. So if only the remaining part, i.e. humanities and social sciences can be taken up, that will be good for all the librarians and for all the research workers in the country. It is better to recommend a project for the Union list of serials. Union catalogue of books could be a headache of a corporate body or an institution. Nobody is ready to take it up right now; at least I am not ready to take it up. If it is a list of reference materials, most of us would agree to that.

(Mr. Hingwe pleads for a Union list of important reference books which are referred to. He speaks about his Union Catalogue of Periodicals in Poona Libraries. He also narrates his experience in finding books which are needed by his research scholar. He has to write to several universities in order to get books.

(Mr. Patnaik advocates a Union catalogue of books, because as a University Librarian he has felt the need quite often. He tried at the I.L.A. seminar to raise this issue, but he could not get a proper response. He also gives his own experience of the difficulties he has been facing in locating the desired material. He further admits that it is a difficult problem, but it must be tackled like so many other problems which are being solved. If it is not possible to have a catalogue of all the books in this country, we can at least have a Union catalogue of such books which are available in university and research libraries.

(Surendar Nath suggests a proper agency to undertake the projects like the Union list of serials. He pleads for the establishment of the Central Reference Library at Delhi as soon as possible, because
Bibliographical Services

this is the agency which would undertake such projects. He hopes that this library would serve the needs of all libraries in India and abroad in locating the needed reference material.

(Mr. Goil pleads for a Union list of rare books.)

(Summarizing the discussion, Mr. Deshpande says that we must have a Union catalogue of selected titles.)

K. S. Deshpande: Friends, we have in our midst this afternoon another distinguished American friend, Mr. Finzi of the Library of Congress, who has kindly consented to address us. I will request Mr. Nagar to introduce Mr. Finzi.

M. L. Nagar: Mr. Chairman and Friends:

It is a great pleasure for me to introduce to you a great American Librarian, who is building bridges between India and the United States. Yes, a librarian building bridges! He is Mr. John Charles Finzi, who has just arrived in India. He comes from the Library of Congress, which many of you have seen, wherein many of you have worked. It is not proper for me to come in between you and the distinguished speaker, but I will just express our gratitude to him for having accepted this request. When I approached him for the talk, he said: "Well, I don't know your problems. I am just a new-comer." But I said to him: "Now you are acquiring Indian books in large quantities—enormous number of books are being acquired by the American libraries. We are facing many problems as far as the Indian books are concerned. Through God's blessings, you are representing a rich country and now you are going to share our problems. If you are able to solve these problems there, we certainly will get benefit out of it. If you are able to solve these problems here, our Indian libraries will get the benefit of it." This is the reason why the planning officers of this Workshop decided to request him to address the participants of the Workshop. I again extend a warm welcome to him and request him to give us his reactions on the problems which we are facing.

Mr. Finzi—

John Charles Finzi: First of all I wish to thank Mr. Berthold, Mr. Nagar and the other Officers of the India Wheat Loan Office for having invited me to participate in this meeting of the Fifth Library Workshop and to speak a few words to you today.

I am extremely pleased to be among you, because I have known for quite some time how much useful work has been accomplished by these various workshops, as I have had the very pleasant experience of listening to a first-hand account by Mr. and Mrs. Kipp in Washington after their return to the United States last Fall. I am particularly pleased to be able to tell you something of the work and aims of the Office of the American Libraries Book Procurement Centre which has recently been established in New Delhi by the Library of Congress. My talk will be a short one, but at the end I shall be glad to answer any questions that anyone of you may have.

As you may already know, in the summer of 1961 the United States Congress made available to the Library of Congress certain funds which the American Government had at its disposal in local currencies in India, Pakistan, and the United Arab Republic. These funds had accrued to the American Government through the sale to these countries of various agricultural commodities and could be made available to the various Government agencies for a great variety of educational purposes under the provisions of Section 104(n) of Public Law 48, "The Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954" as amended by Public Law 85-931 of 1958.

The appropriation which the Library of Congress received authorized the Library to use these foreign currencies for the collection of current library materials and for their distribution to libraries and research centres in the United States which carry out study programmes of these various areas. In accordance with this authorization, the Library of Congress has organized its own PL-480 Programme and has established two main areas of acquisition: the United Arab Republic and South Asia. It is the South Asia area which is under my direction with three American Libraries Book Procurement Centres situated in New Delhi, Karachi and Dacca. The main objective of the American Libraries Book Procurement Centre is the acquisition of current Indian periodicals and monographs and their distribution to twelve American research libraries, including the Library of Congress itself and eleven university libraries.

All our acquisitions are in twelve copies and include Government publications, periodicals and monographs, in English and in all major Indian languages and in all subject fields. These various publications are received at our Centre, they are recorded, sorted, and prepared for shipment. We transliterate authors' names and titles for ready identification by the recipient libraries, and it
is hoped that in the near future we shall also undertake the preparation of full bibliographic listing of these publications and cataloguing.

We are now only at the beginning of our undertaking, but we very strongly hope that this new project of the Library of Congress will gradually lead in the future to much useful cooperation with Indian libraries and librarians, and that the bibliographical benefits of our comprehensive acquisition of Indian publications will be shared by both American and Indian libraries.

Finally, I should like to point out that this project is an indication of the great interest taken by American universities and research centres in the culture of India and in Indian current developments. It is also an indication of the great hope we all have that the outcome of this project will be a much greater knowledge among American scholars and the public at large, of your country, your aims, and your successes.

Questions and Answers

Answering a question, Mr. Finzi added:

We are now acquiring a few hundred periodical titles. As far as the acquisition of monographs is concerned, our present policy is one of comprehensiveness and we acquire most publications in all languages, with the exception of only a few categories of books in which we are not interested and which we do not purchase, such as books written for children, translations, and unrevised reprints of older materials. Should any further degree of selection be desired by the recipient libraries, that will come at a later stage.

We started acquisition in January 1962. If the programme is continued and we receive sufficient appropriations, it will be expanded to include binding, bibliographic listing, cataloguing, and perhaps microfilming, indexing and abstracting.

At the end Mr. Finzi made it clear that the libraries to which these Indian publications are sent had already been collecting Indian materials, and they already had established programmes of Indian studies, so that they are now only continuing and expanding the incoming flow of Indian publications.

The names of the university libraries receiving Indian publications are: University of California, University of Pennsylvania, University of Wisconsin, Cornell University, University of Washington, Yale University, University of Texas, University of Hawaii, Duke University, University of Chicago and University of Minnesota. Harvard is not included in the South Asia Programme.
FOURTH DAY

Thursday, March 8, 1962

Topic for the day: Academic Libraries Association

Discussion Leader: Mr. P. S. Patnaik

Delhi Public Library

Deshpande: Friends. On behalf of the Joint Action Committee I welcome you all to this afternoon session of the fourth day of this Fifth and Final Wheat Loan Library Workshop. I see some new faces among the audience and for their benefit I may be permitted to repeat what I have been saying during the last four days.

(Mr. Deshpande gives a brief history of the Wheat Loan Library Workshops, outlines their objectives and achievements and then requests Mr. D. R. Kalia, Director, Delhi Public Library to deliver his talk.)

D. R. Kalia: Mr. Deshpande and Friends:

I have the privilege and the honour this afternoon to welcome you all to this Library on behalf of the Delhi Library Board, the staff and myself. I must congratulate the organizers of this Workshop for holding its meetings in different parts of the town. This has provided us with an opportunity to meet some of our old friends whom we had not seen for years. I assure you that we will try to make your stay with us as comfortable as possible.

When I was called upon to welcome you, I didn't know that I would be required to address you on matters of professional importance especially my work abroad as UNESCO Expert in Libraries. I have some stray thoughts which I would like to share with you.

My first assignment was in Egypt for a period of 2 years—April 1957 to March 1959. I was assigned to Arab States Fundamental Education Centre, which is now called the “Community Development Training Centre for the Arab States.” My duties included the reorganization of the Central Library, and to conduct courses for the trainees in rural library services as an integral part of the Programme for Community Development. The students came from the Arabic-speaking countries of Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. There was a serious problem of communication. Most of the students were not familiar with the English language and I knew no Arabic. Teaching had, therefore, to be done through interpreters until I was able to acquire a working knowledge in Arabic.

I returned to India in March 1959, and after a few months' stay left again for one year's assignment in Iraq in September 1959. It was quite a pleasant coincidence that on reaching there I was immediately asked to establish a new Central Library for the University of Baghdad. The University was established in 1958 by placing all the existing colleges under it. While those colleges had libraries of some sort, the University had no library. To start with I helped in the establishment of the University Library in a rented building and also advised the University authorities in the designing of the new library building on the University Campus. I also organized a training course, held a Seminar on public libraries and started a Mobile Library Service in the City of Baghdad. The Mobile Van was imported from the United States and was the first ever deployed in an Arab State. It was, of course, unfortunate that there was not a single qualified librarian in the whole of Iraq, but I was lucky in having the assistance of four persons, who had completed one year's training in the United States with the assistance of the Ford Foundation, but had not obtained any formal degree. But for their
During my stay in Iraq, I participated in the Seminar on the Development of Libraries in Arab States which was held in December 1959 and had the honour of acting as Group Leader for the Public Libraries Section. A Report on the Seminar was published in UNESCO Bulletin for Libraries in 1960.

In February 1960 I was sent to Jerusalem to advise the Government on preparing a plan for the City Public Library.

On the whole, there is a marked shortage of trained library personnel in the Arab States. There is only one Library School in Cairo and even that has not yet acquired a regional status, so that with the exception of a few all the students come from Egypt. My own estimate is that excluding Egypt, all the rest of the Arab States do not have more than 25 to 30 qualified librarians. In Egypt there may be about 100. Among the trained librarians in Arab States not more than six have had their training abroad. With this shortage of trained personnel you can well imagine the difficulties in establishing an efficient library service. The Library School of the Cairo University can certainly grow into a regional school catering to the requirements of all the Arab States for better qualified staff provided it is reorganized and full-time qualified teachers are appointed.

There is also a shortage of professional literature in Arabic. Since most of the students at the Cairo Library School are not conversant with English, they are unable to make use of the professional literature in English and have to depend largely upon their school notes. One of the libraries in Cairo has recently started publishing a library journal in Arabic entitled Alam-el-maktabat which is being subscribed fairly well. A few library manuals have also come out recently in Arabic although the total output of such literature still falls short of the needs.

Another related problem is the lack of a standard scheme of classification and cataloguing to meet the special needs of the Arabic language. In 1959 a Committee was formed to go into this problem and an adaptation of Dewey Decimal Classification was published for inviting comments.
On 1st October, 1960 I was sent to another assignment in Turkey for a period of two years to organize a Library for the Middle East Technical University in Ankara. This University was established in 1957 by the Turkish Government in collaboration with UNESCO. A new University Campus was being planned at that time and I had the opportunity to advise the authorities on planning the library building and services. It was a matter of great honour that I was asked to visit all the Turkish Universities and prepare a report on their reorganization. The report was completed by the end of November 1961 and submitted to the authorities for necessary action.

I was supposed to stay in Turkey until October 1963, but unfortunately, as you know, Mr. M. M. L. Tandon, Officiating Director at the Delhi Public Library, died in February 1961 and the Government of India decided to recall me from abroad. I had, therefore, to leave Turkey in December 1961 to resume my duties at the Delhi Public Library.

Compared to the Arab States, the library situation in Turkey seemed to be more promising in respect of training facilities and general organization of public libraries. The Ford Foundation in collaboration with the University of Ankara established a Library School in 1956. The Foundation provided until 1961 a Director and a teacher and awarded a few fellowships for training the local teaching staff in the United States. A separate Directorate of Public Libraries established over ten years ago maintains public libraries in all the important district towns. But unfortunately the university libraries are not well organized due to lack of staff and financial resources. A Library Committee with which I was associated was appointed by the Turkish Government in 1961 to report on the reorganization of all types of libraries. The Report has since been completed and submitted to the Government for consideration and necessary action.

During my work with UNESCO, I also had the opportunity of preparing a report on the Library situation in Lebanon, Jordan and Syria and also attending a Seminar in Damascus in July 1957. Later I also organized the Inaugural Conference of the Asian Federation of Library Associations at Tokyo in October 1957 and at the same time attended a Seminar on Exchange of Publications in the Indo-Pacific area. On my way back I stopped in Philippines, South Vietnam, Thailand, Burma, Pakistan and Iran to study the state of library development in these countries.

When I compare the Library situation in India with that obtaining in the countries in the Middle East and South Asia I feel that India has on the whole done remarkably well, especially in the field of university libraries. The rapid progress made by the university libraries has no doubt been largely due to the assistance rendered to them by the University Grants Commission and the Wheat Loan Fund, which has infused new life into them and enabled them to come up to modern standards. It goes to the credit of the university librarians that by and large they were able to make good use of the enormous funds placed at their disposal.

The situation in the field of public libraries though by no means dismal is however much less rosy. Our Government, preoccupied with pressing economic problems, has been unable to give sufficient thought or money to the establishment and development of public libraries. Recognizing the limited financial resources of the Government, I as a public librarian would earnestly plead that public libraries in India should get their share in future funds to be given by agencies like the Wheat Loan Programme, meant for the promotion of education, whether formal or informal. It is hardly necessary for me to point out the important role that public libraries play in a developing country like India in the spread of education. To those who imagine public libraries to be caterers of fiction, it may be news that about half of the total clientele of the Delhi Public Library consists of students seeking books for supplementary reading in non-fiction subjects. This was the finding of the UNESCO's Evaluation Report on Delhi Public Library.

Coming back to university libraries in India, one is struck by the enormous growth in their administrative apparatus and financial resources. This, I may submit, urgently calls for decentralization of authority not only to lessen the burden on the Chief Librarian but also to enable the junior staff to display greater initiative and shoulder greater responsibility.

It is gratifying that the Indian librarianship has developed its own individuality and traditions. It is, however, necessary to call attention to some of the danger signals. I, of course, refer to the parochialism and dogmatism which has possessed some of us and which is admittedly inhibiting progress. It is really unfortunate that some of our great colleagues in the profession have been unable to come out of the snail's shells of classification and cataloguing which to them have become ends rather than means. The net result of this attitude promoted in the past by some of the Library Schools has
been to subordinate the concept of readers' services to technical subtleties about classification and cataloguing. Luckily the coming of the University Grants Commission on the scene has freed the schools of library science from the shackles of prejudice and dogma which in the past bound them securely to invisible hands and has helped to restore self-confidence and freedom of judgement. We are no longer treading to parrot-like unanimity of voices and have a refreshing variety of individual opinions. The needless complexities in the technique and jargon deliberately employed to overawe the library authorities and the readers have also out-lived their utility and we are now allowed to turn to the main business of serving the readers. It has at last been realized that we librarians must keep our minds open on all techniques, which should be functional rather than dogmatic, and subject to continuous examination and re-examination as to their utility to our patrons.

There is another point I wish to stress and that is the need for becoming more sociable towards the community at large. There was perhaps a time when the instinct of self-preservation impelled us to flock together, but now that the profession has fairly established itself well we can safely come out of our clanishness and accustom ourselves to the normal give and take of social life.

Before closing I would like to say a few words about the state of professional organization in our country which, alas, is too deep for tears. I am sure we have all heard of the Indian Library Association, that august body of the chosen few which claims to speak for the library profession in India. It is, however, revealing that till recently the Indian Library Association could boast of no more than 110 members of whom more than half had not paid their subscriptions and were, therefore, denied the right to vote at the last annual elections of its office-bearers. And believe it or not, the election 'ceremony' was eventually solemnized by exactly 47 persons. This speaks eloquently for its representative character. I wish, we librarians, now that we are a fairly large tribe—I suppose there are not less than 5,000 of us at a conservative estimate, even leaving aside our unqualified colleagues in the profession—should do something to remedy this sad state of affairs.

I thank you very much for giving patient hearing to me.

Deshpande: Thank you Dr. Kalia for giving us a stimulating, frank, forthright and heart-to-heart talk about our library matters. May I now request Mr. Patnaik to tell you what we did in the morning?

P. S. Patnaik: Mr. Chairman, Dr. Kalia and Friends:

It is now my pleasant duty to place before you a review of what we did in the morning session of the Workshop. We discussed this morning the Academic Libraries Association, its constitution and other related matters. This Association, the idea to form such an association, has been there almost since the year 1958. It may be out of frustration, as Dr. Kalia has put it, that the idea took shape, but to my mind it grew up more out of the reason that the university and other academic libraries have their own special problems and we thought it would be a good idea if we formed such an association, so that librarians working in academic libraries could get together, discuss these common problems and evolve, if possible, solutions to them. This has become all the more necessary during the post-independence period when there has been a tremendous growth in the size of university libraries—from the point of view of enrolment, the extension of departments and the work-load.

This tremendous growth poses several problems for librarians. These problems naturally made some of the senior librarians like Mr. Bashiruddin and others feel that an association of this type would be most helpful in finding solutions for them. It is out of this situation that the idea grew up and was discussed at the various Wheat Loan workshops. Well, finally at the Jaipur Workshop this association was established, with Mr. Bashiruddin as its President and Mr. Deshpande as Working Secretary. During the last 10 months we have been trying to enlist the cooperation of friends working in academic libraries. This morning we have once again considered the matter and decided to form such an association. We have also adopted the Constitution for this Association. The objects of the Association, if I may be permitted to read out, are:

To foster friendly and closer relations among the academic libraries;
To provide a common forum for discussion of the problems facing the academic libraries with a view to find their solutions;
To promote research in library science;
To help improve professional efficiency;
To promote the interests of library staff, in respect of status and remuneration;
To cooperate with other organizations and institutions having similar aims and objects; and
To perform such other functions as may be provided for in the by-laws.

These are the objectives of the Association. The membership, for obvious reasons, is restricted to persons working in academic libraries. The Constitution, of course, follows the usual pattern of the other associations—a set of office-bearers, a governing council, a general body and so on. I may, in this connection, tell our distinguished colleague Mr. Kalia that we have been very wise in the selection of our office-bearers. We old people have gone to the background and put young blood in charge of the Association. I have to my left my friend and colleague Mr. Deshpande, who has been doing a tremendous job not only in the matter of the Wheat Loan workshops, but also in running the Wheat Loan Messenger all by himself, and I am sure with this young man as our Secretary we would be able to satisfy the criterion you have just now asked us to follow in forming our Association. May I also request you to look at our other office-bearers? There is Mr. Nagar, another young friend, who is our Regional Secretary for the Northern Zone; there is my friend Mr. Hingwe, equally young and energetic, our Vice-President for the Western Zone. So we have a batch of young men in charge of organizational work, and I am sure we will be able to do something and achieve the objectives which we have set before ourselves.

One of the most important objectives which we have before us is the publication of a journal of research value and high standard. Equally important is the other objective which is to undertake certain projects of bibliographical work, for example, the Union List of Serials. If this project is not taken up by any other agency, the Academic Libraries Association can take it up. There are also other bibliographical projects in which we are interested, and I am sure we will be able to take up some of these projects also.

Before I close, may I assure you, sir, that although we have formed a separate Academic Libraries Association, we are still part of you, part of the larger family of the Indian library profession. To you public librarians we are coming closer and closer these days. Due to the policy of the Government of India to promote general education at the under-graduate level, our book collections, barring text books at the under-graduate level, are almost similar to your collections. So, sir, we have a greater claim on your cooperation, for your suggestions, and other help in building up this Association.

I may also assure other friends that we have formed this body not with any spirit of rivalry to the parent body, the I.L.A. Immediately we have an occasion to do so we shall have this body affiliated to the Indian Library Association. As you have said, sir, if the limbs are strong, the body will be strong and, therefore, we sincerely believe that by forming this Association we are trying to strengthen the I.L.A. Sir, I have nothing more to say except to ask you for your suggestions if any, in regard to the work you would expect us to do through this Association, and we will be very happy to bear those points in mind and do what we can in this regard.

Thank you.

K. S. Deshpande: Before I invite suggestions from the audience, I would like to say something in connection with the formation of this Academic Libraries Association. As one associated with this idea right from the beginning, I might say that the idea originated a little before the U.G.C. Seminar which was organized in March 1959 in New Delhi. Our veteran colleague Mr. S. Bashiruddin sent round a circular to the invitees of the Seminar requesting them to give thought to the formation of this Association, so that the opportunity given by the U.G.C. to meet at Delhi could be availed of for the purpose. I need not go into the detailed history of this effort. I may only say that the intention behind starting this Association was not to start an organization rival to the Indian Library Association. Those present at the U.G.C. Seminar appointed a committee for framing the draft constitution of this Association and I happened to be one of the members of this committee. It was repeatedly pointed out at the meeting of this committee as well as in open general sessions that this organization would work in close collaboration with the I.L.A. and the possibility of having it function as a wing of the I.L.A. was also seriously explored.

Later on at the Baroda Workshop this problem was taken up for discussion and the participants of the Workshop resolved that they should first become members of the Indian Library Association in an effort to give strength to that Library Association. And this resolution was adopted unanimously by all the workshops which followed the Baroda Workshop, and at the
Jaipur Workshop, in addition to adopting this Resolution, the participants resolved to start the Indian Academic Libraries Association.

You know of late the university and college libraries have been receiving large grants from the U.G.C., the Wheat Loan Programme and other sources. This has resulted in the swelling of their book collections and in the swelling of their problems too. So the problems that the Academic Librarians are facing are more in number and variety and they need solutions urgently. The U.G.C. Seminar, we may recall, was organized with a view to finding out solutions to some of the problems that the academic and research librarians were facing. So we thought that we should have a permanent forum to discuss these problems and get our grievances redressed at the hands of the authorities. Thus you will see that this Association has been started only with a view to supplementing, complementing and buttressing the efforts of other organizations in the field.

Now I invite suggestions from the members of the audience regarding the projects that this Association might take up.

**D. R. Kalia:** Dear Mr. Deshpande and Friends:

I have been asked to comment on the proposed formation of the Indian Academic Libraries Association. Well, I for one whole-heartedly support the proposal. Although on the face of it the idea may appear to be disruptive to the unity of the library profession, on dispassionate second thought it would be realized that there is nothing wrong in it. For one thing, it will be admitted that the academic libraries in India as elsewhere have their special problems by virtue of their special clientele and set-up. There is, therefore, no reason why they should not have a forum of their own for discussing them and hammering out solutions. The formation of the Indian Academic Libraries Association would also seem quite justified in view of the lethargy and inertia that have overtaken the Indian Library Association. However, in the interest of the professional unity I would advocate that the proposed Association may seek affiliation with the Indian Library Association. This far from detracting from its influence may in fact vitalize the sickly parent organization. I would also venture to make a few suggestions for your consideration.

I gather from the Draft Constitution you propose to adopt that the set-up of the Indian Academic Libraries Association would be unitary. This, I may submit with due deference to the authors of the Draft Constitution, would be rather unrealistic, keeping in view the vastness of the country and the diversity of language and environment. A measure of decentralization would, therefore, seem imperative. You may accordingly permit the formation of branches at the State level, each one a constituent unit of All-India Organization. The funds raised by way of subscriptions and other means may be divided between the All-India Body and the State Branches according to an agreed formula.

It may also be advisable to decentralize the work of the Association by setting up different sections to deal with various types of academic libraries such as university libraries, college libraries, school libraries, etc. This would enable the special problems of each type of academic libraries to be discussed threadbare.

Other problems to which the Association may address itself are the supply of University publications and reprinting of out-of-print periodicals which are still in demand by research workers. At present, so far as I know, there is no Central Agency from which these can be obtained. It would be a great service to scholars and libraries if the Association could establish such a Central Agency or persuade the University Grants Commission to do so.

Thank you.
FIFTH DAY

Friday, March 9, 1962

Topic for the Day: Recommendations for Action

Discussion Leader: Mr. K. S. Deshpande

National Physical Laboratory Library

K. S. Deshpande: Friends and Colleagues:

I am sure all of you are ready for the Fifth and Final day open session of the Fifth Wheat Loan Library Workshop organized by the Wheat Loan Office. I find the necessity to repeat some of the things that I have been saying for the last four days, because I see many new faces among the audience.

Before I begin, let me extend our heart-felt thanks on behalf of the Joint Action Committee to Mr. S. C. Sharma and the INSDOC for playing the host to this 5th day's open session. We are all proud of the wonderful work that the INSDOC has been doing in the field of documentation. We hope that it will be possible for the Government of India and the University Grants Commission to sponsor similar centres or branches of the INSDOC in the metropolitan cities of India. We are also making our recommendations to the Government requesting them to sponsor centres for covering the social sciences and humanities. Once again I thank Mr. Sharma and the INSDOC and congratulate them on behalf of all of you for the wonderful work they have been doing in the field.

This afternoon, Mr. Sharma will be giving us a talk. Thereafter, I will request the leaders of different discussion groups to present their reports. Then I will offer my own remarks. Once again I thank Mr. Sharma for the warm hospitality that has been extended to us. I also thank the ladies and gentlemen who have come in such good number to listen and participate in the deliberations of this afternoon session.

Thank you.

S. C. Sharma: Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all on behalf of the National Physical Laboratory—INSDOC Library. This hall has been the venue of some of the historic meetings as far as the bibliographical information goes. Here the UNESCO held its international symposium on documentation a couple of years ago, and quite recently the INSDOC arranged a symposium on scientific and technical translation. I am grateful to the India Wheat Loan Programme for providing another opportunity here of meeting and reviving social contacts with some of the stalwart personalities of the library profession.

The India Wheat Loan Programme has done excellent service to many of the academic and research libraries in the country. It has done a lot for them in the form of procuring very precious American publications and sending the librarians to the "Land of Libraries" where novel methods of service have been devised. I can well imagine how they may have been benefited by their contacts with their counterparts in the U.S.A. and the study of the methods of their working. If you go through the contents of the Wheat Loan Messenger, you will greatly appreciate the good that has been done by the Programme. I understand that the Wheat Loan Programme is coming to a close and that the library workshops that it arranged are but the last flicker of a dying out lamp. These workshops are a befitting finale to the dramatic career of a very useful project. I hope I am voicing the feelings of most of
you here that we feel much grieved at the thought that this benevolent organization will soon cease to exist.

The idea of arranging workshops in different regions of the country and various sectors of this far flung city of Delhi is quite novel. Here an institute moving to individual libraries reminds me of the proverbial mountain moving to Mohammad.

Today is the last day of the Workshop programme and we are meeting here to consider the recommendations for action on the most important topics of discussion, i.e., the Wheat Loan Messenger, Union List of Serials, Bibliographical Services and Academic Libraries Association. The problems have been thoroughly discussed by some of the veteran figures in the profession and wise conclusions already arrived at. If I venture to express my opinion on some of the subjects, I would say that the Wheat Loan Messenger, which is a very informative publication, should continue to appear, if not under its present title, under some other name. Let it be an organ of the proposed Academic Libraries Association.

Regarding the Union List of Serials, I am of the opinion that this should come in different parts according to the subjects covered; for example, science, technology, social science, humanities, etc. etc. The pattern should be the same as that of Dr. Ranganathan's Union Catalogue of Learned Periodicals. This should have both the parts, classified as well as alphabetical. I say this from my personal experience as librarian of a research library. The research worker is as much interested in the location of a journal as in obtaining a comprehensive list of periodicals dealing with the special field of his work.

As regards the bibliographical services, they are the very heart and soul of a research library, which should be well equipped with indexing and abstracting periodicals. Selection, acquisition and recording of material are the first essentials for building and organizing a good library. But the
librarian's responsibilities do not end there. He is expected to feed the research worker with the output of others in the same field. Thus he not only helps in avoiding the duplication of efforts on the part of the scientists, but accelerates the pace of advancement of knowledge. He should freely mix with his clientele and understand their problems, try to solve them with the help of numerous reference tools, which he should have at his command and with which he should be well conversant.

Thank you.

Deshpande: Now I will request Mr. Hingwe to present the findings of the Workshop Group on his topic—The Wheat Loan Programme and its Messenger. Mr. Hingwe—

K. S. Hingwe: Most of you must have seen the first two issues of the Wheat Loan Messenger. Now our object in having the first day's discussion devoted to the Wheat Loan Messenger was to consider the future of the Messenger. You have already heard that this Wheat Loan Programme will cease to exist in the near future. Naturally we are expected to consider the circumstances under which the Wheat Loan Messenger could be continued. So during the first day's deliberations, we considered the following points: whether (i) we should continue and publish the Wheat Loan Messenger under the same name; (ii) whether its scope should be restricted only to the beneficiaries of the Wheat Loan Programme or others should also get its benefit; (iii) who should meet the expenses for the Messenger; (iv) whether there should be decentralization of responsibilities; and finally (v) the contents that have to appear in the Messenger. The decisions taken at the first day's deliberations were as follows:

1. Until another body takes up the responsibility of continuing the Wheat Loan Messenger in one form or another, for the time being we should continue the Wheat Loan Messenger in the same name.

2. That apart from the recipients under the Wheat Loan Programme, anybody interested in receiving this Wheat Loan Messenger may be permitted to subscribe to it. It was decided that nearly 91 research libraries and institutions in India got aid in the form of books and travel grants under the Wheat Loan Programme. So it should be finally their responsibility to meet the expenses by securing advertisements or in any other way possible.

3. You must have gathered that the scope of the Wheat Loan Messenger was restricted to the activities carried out under the Wheat Loan Programme. Now it was decided in the first day's meeting that we should make it more representative and that we should not continue it only as a News Bulletin. We should have one article, say, of research importance, a few articles on current topics, then there should be some news, and finally it was concluded that in order to bring out the Wheat Loan Messenger in time, and to make it more effective, it would be desirable if we could have a Board of Editors with the Chief Editor and other members on the Board entrusted with specific duties. These were the recommendations which we accepted in the morning session last Monday. They were also discussed in the afternoon session on the same day and were approved by every one present.


Now I will request Mr. Mukherjee to present his Report on the Union List of Serials. Mr. Mukherjee—

A. K. Mukherjee: Thank you very much Mr. Chairman for having asked me to tell something about the Union List of Serials, the topic which we discussed during the two sessions. We have made certain proposals. I want to tell you that it is a very big job and unless it is taken up with all seriousness and in all sincerity, unless there is sufficient backing from the authorities by way of establishing a central organization or by giving it to some corporate body which would be in a position to handle this affair, it may not come into being at all. That being the case, we tried to elicit the opinion not only of the members of the Wheat Loan Workshop Joint Action Committee, but also of other librarians, and out of the deliberations we have had, we have at least formed this decision that there should be a corporate body to take up the work of a comprehensive union list of serials.

Incidentally, this morning we went to the University Grants Commission and had a discussion with Mr. N. N. Iyengar there. We told him about this problem, what we have been thinking and how the Government could help us in forming an organization, or just entrusting the work to some organization, maybe INSDOC or the National Library, or any centrally administered university,
or a university. But at the same time the magnitude of the problem was also explained to Mr. Iyengar and also the sincerity of all the librarians and their urgent need for having it. So our discussion with him was quite fruitful.

In this respect I will just point out one or two things which have taken shape out of our discussions. We have taken into consideration the existing tools that are available in our country as well as in the foreign countries. To give us an idea of the magnitude of the problem in compiling a Union List of Serials, if it is going to be a comprehensive one, we inquired whether it will include all the serials in all subject fields and in all the languages? If we have to restrict for some practical reasons to a few languages, English and European, even that would be a very tremendous job for us to tackle. Even in our country we have a union catalogue prepared some time ago, the second edition of which, with major additions as we have heard from Mr. Parthasarathy and others, is coming out from INSDOC. This is a very nice thing, and, of course, after discussion we came to the conclusion that we should avoid duplication of the work as far as possible. If something is being done, or will be definitely done by a body, we should see that it should not be done over again by another body.

I want to tell you what happened in our discussions. Some of us were of the opinion that having the returns by post is not a sure method of getting correct returns, because the persons and institutions that have taken up this work earlier have stated as their experiences that in most cases the returns were not very informative and did not give full details. That is why Dr. Ranganathan also recommended that physical examination of the holdings was necessary, but that is a tremendous job, and unless sufficient people are appointed to take up the work on that line, it cannot be done.

We very well understand the limitations of INSDOC in this regard. They were not in a position to send persons to different libraries to check up their holdings and to make corrections wherever necessary. There might be some mistakes in the returns. So in our meetings it was finally decided that if any system of work in this project is to be established, it must be established on the basis of a coordinated approach. For this some regional centres should be established and under those regional centres the holdings of Indian libraries should be properly recorded. Ultimately there will be a coordinating or central body which will compile the list. To what extent that is possible is very difficult to say at this moment; and to what extent the Government or the U.G.C. would help us is also left for guess.

But this much we can definitely recommend, because we know that it is a necessity and an urgent necessity, that every librarian should have a union list of periodicals that are available in our country. Australia has got it, although they have it in a partial sense, only scientific and learned periodicals being there in their list, just like what is being prepared by INSDOC. But they have got it complete in U.K. They have got it in America; the new edition is coming out. Whether you could have something on these lines, covering all the subjects, that will be left to the future. A committee will decide the matter, which may ultimately send its recommendations to the Government, and the Government may establish a machinery for this purpose. It is for the committee to judge and name the specific institution that will be entrusted with the job of compiling the Union List of Serials.

To go into the details of all that we have discussed, how these entries are to be had, how many libraries have got to be covered, what will be the coverage, subject coverage, what will be the area coverage is not necessary. All such things have been discussed. We hold the view that these details can better be finally discussed and decided by a special committee, which this Joint Action Committee of the four workshops has recommended to be constituted. I think it is better for me to read out once again the recommendations that we are going to forward to the Ministry of Education and to the University Grants Commission and in that way at least the preliminary work would have been done.

In addition to this, one more thing should be taken into consideration. The India Wheat Loan Office has already got material for a Union List of American Serials in Indian libraries. This is in hand and something must be done, so far as we are concerned, in bringing it out in some form or other, so that it can be made use of not only by the libraries, but also by the compilers who would be taking up this work of a comprehensive Union List in future. So for this also we are going to ask the U.G.C. and the Government to do something. The returns are there, the entries are there, and they are all arranged alphabetically. Now it is the final thing that has got to be done. All the material is to be properly collated and coordinated and then the printing or cyclostyling, whatever it is, has
Recommendations for Action

got to be done. But that also requires money, labour, staff, and unless some corporate body takes charge of this immediately it might be lost for ever. The Wheat Loan Office would be closed in June. I don't know what will happen to the list. At least the Joint Action Committee has decided not to let it go to waste and to take charge of all those volumes, make necessary recommendations in the meantime to the Government and to the other authorities and try to do something to bring it out. I am reading out the recommendations:

The Joint Action Committee of the Wheat Loan Library Workshops will co-opt some other librarians to form a special committee for the purpose of preparing plans and their implementation for a comprehensive Union List of Serials.

Now here we don't mean that this committee will compile the List. We are recommending that a central organization should take up this job, whether it is in existence or not. That is for the Government to think about and establish. So far as our discussions of today with the Officers of the Ministry of Education and the University Grants Commission are concerned, we think there is some possibility of our having some sort of an organization to do this job. They may take it up. But so far as the Joint Action Committee and the participants of these workshops are concerned, we must make it a point to forward such recommendations to the Government; otherwise immediately after we disperse, all our efforts will be lost. So this Joint Action Committee will co-opt some members. Some have already been co-opted, I shall name them: Mr. S. Das Gupta, Librarian, Delhi University Library; Mr. Hingwe (you have seen him, he has just spoken) Librarian, Poona University; Mr. Ketkar, Central Secretariat Library; Mr. Krishnan of this Institution, INSDOC, I mean; Mr. Girja Kumar, Indian School of International Studies; Mr. Nagar of the India Wheat Loan Educational Exchange Programme, and then Mr. Patil of the National Fundamental Educational Centre.

This body is just a Special Committee, appointed by the Joint Action Committee. Now this Special Committee on Serials will explore the possibility of securing finances from such agencies as the University Grants Commission, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs and other sources to execute this plan.

"The Joint Action Committee of the Wheat Loan Workshop expresses its unanimous opinion that if any project of this nature has already been undertaken, it should not be duplicated."

By this we mean that science and technology have already been taken over by INSDOC. They have been doing it and practically the fruits of their labour will be available to us in the course of a few months. As far as our scope of action is concerned that is a matter which has to be decided by the Special Committee. Lastly, "the Joint Action Committee will take charge of the Union List of American Serials already prepared by the Wheat Loan Office and will be responsible for its use in any way it deems proper."

So these are the recommendations, which I will request the house to approve of, so that we may now make the next move, that is, after we receive some intimation from the Government. This Special Committee will meet again to go into the details of the project, and with the approval of the authorities will take care of the work, or will delegate this work to any other body which will be finally entrusted with the work. Until this Special Committee takes up the responsibility regarding this matter, which is a very urgent matter of finding out ways and means for compiling a Union List of Serials, we may seek your approval to these resolutions which we want to forward to the Government with specific recommendations.

K. S. Deshpande: Now Mr. P. S. Patnaik will present the Reports of the decisions arrived at on the third and fourth days of the Workshop. Mr. Patnaik—

P. S. Patnaik: Mr. Chairman and Friends:

My friends Hingwe and Mukherjee have told you of the decisions which we took on the first two days of the Workshop. It now remains for me to place before you the decisions we took on the third and fourth days. On the third day we discussed the problem of bibliographical services, and on the fourth matters relating to the Academic Libraries Association.

As far as bibliographical services and their organization are concerned, you all know as persons using libraries and bibliographies that it is an important problem. At the same time, it is a tremendous problem, more so in a country like ours where there is a need for a lot of improvement not only in the matter of listing of literature, but also in the matter of location of literature and the
publication of various types of bibliographies. Well, it may look odd for a Joint Action Committee consisting of seven members to talk about such a problem, and as our distinguished colleague Mr. Parthasarathy said the other day, it is easily said than done. I entirely agree with him. Nonetheless we thought it would be well to discuss these problems and, if possible, suggest ways and means of tackling them.

Sir, last month there was a seminar on the same problem, conducted by the I.L.A. and sponsored by the Government of India. The other day we had the benefit of having a gist of the recommendations of that seminar from our friend Mr. Rajagopalan. There, as well as here, the problem centred around the listing of literature and the creation of the necessary tools for the location of literature, preparation of subject bibliographies, and so on. As far as the listing of literature is concerned, we know that the National Library publishes the I.N.B. which lists current literature. With regard to retrospective bibliography the National Library has projects—56 projects—to prepare bibliographies on Indian subjects both in the field of languages and literature and in the subject fields. How far these publications are comprehensive and cover all types of literature is a matter for consideration by the experts appointed to scrutinise them. We shall not go into that.

So then what we at this Workshop did was to indicate that there should be a survey of library resources in the country. I do not know whether we will be duplicating the work which the National Library has been doing. Anyway we thought that, as a desirable objective, we suggest at this meeting that there should be a survey of the existing library resources as a preliminary to the compilation of various kinds of bibliographies and union lists. Of the various union lists which we thought as important for compilation—and for immediate compilation—the most important we declared was the Union List of Serials. We discussed this topic at great length the other day and my friend Mr. Mukherjee has told you what happened that day. Let me reiterate that we do not want any duplication of effort. Since the INSDOC is compiling a Union list of scientific periodicals this work need not be repeated. What is needed is to have similar efforts made to compile a Union list in the field of Social Sciences and Humanities.

Another Union catalogue which we thought must be compiled is a Union catalogue of doctoral dissertations. Here again, I am told that the INSDOC is compiling a Union catalogue of doctoral dissertations in the scientific field. So we have got to do the other part relating to dissertations in the field of Humanities and Social Sciences. In this connection, I may tell you that most of the University libraries are trying to compile lists of doctoral dissertations submitted to the universities on their own. My friend Mr. Deshpande has compiled such a catalogue. The Madras University has a project to compile a union catalogue of doctoral dissertations available in the southern region. If the example of Madras is followed by the other regions and if there is a coordinating agency, possibly we will have a Union list of doctoral dissertations covering the entire country very soon. This is a matter, which this morning, we brought to the notice of the University Grants Commission.

The next thing we thought should be done is—of course, there was a lot of discussion on this—the Union catalogue of books. It is I who posed this problem. Yes, it is a tremendous problem; not that I do not know it. But still I felt, and felt sincerely, that when we are discussing bibliographical problems this should not be left out. I agree with my friend, Mr. Rajagopalan, that books are not as important as periodicals for the scientists these days. Nonetheless, books are important in other subject fields and, therefore, there is a need to have a location tool for books also. There was a good deal of discussion on this point and as a compromise we decided that we should have a list of rare books and books of research value. I still personally feel that it is necessary to have a union catalogue at least of books available in the university and research libraries in this country.

Other important location tools, which we thought we must have are an Index to periodical literature and an Index to newspapers. Well, we know that all these are necessary and there is no disputing the fact, but then who is to do this work. Therefore, we at this Workshop felt that there should be a centre; a bibliographical centre for the entire country which would be able to take up this job either as a coordinating body or a body which does this work itself. That should be left to the planners to decide. But we felt that there is a need to have such a bibliographical centre.

These are some of the major decisions which we took on this subject. Probably some of these ideas may sound utopian. But utopias we must have, because utopias become realities, are bound to become realities, if we only put our heads together and work them up. There are so many things which seem to be utopias. There was a time when we felt that in this vast country progress was impossible; at any rate it would take hundreds of years. If only you go to the countryside and
see the wonderful development that has taken place during the last 15 years as a result of planning and hard work you will be convinced of what remarkable changes can take place if only there is the necessary will, the power and also the support of the proper authorities.

We do expect that if we can possibly submit reasonable proposals, the powers that be will certainly help us to evolve plans of action which ere long will help us to create a situation when no research worker will face the difficulty to locate the literature, or find the literature which he needs for his work.

Yesterday, we discussed the problem of the Academic Libraries Association. Sir, this is a baby of these workshops. It is a covetable baby indeed. To my mind if the workshops have achieved nothing and if only they have achieved this objective I think the money and the time spent is worth it. Let me tell you how this proposal came up. It was first mooted by our respected colleague Mr. Bashiruddin, as early as August 1958 at the U.G.C. Seminar on Work-flow, but nothing happened. Once again, the ball was set rolling by my friends Deshpande, Hingwe, Das Gupta and Bashir-uddin. But it was left to these workshops to finalize the proposal and establish the Association. Here we are thankful to the India Wheat Loan Educational Exchange Programme, because it was due to these workshops that we could get together, exchange ideas and finally form the Association.

My friend Deshpande, our energetic Working Secretary, prepared the draft constitution of this Association. It was discussed yesterday and was finally adopted. That means we have made the namakaranam ceremony yesterday. The baby is there. The head matron is a fine lady, very able and experienced—I mean our respected colleague Mr. Das Gupta, our President. The chief nurse is young and energetic—my friend Mr. Deshpande, the General Secretary. His enthusiasm not only for this work but for any cause in the field of librarianship is known to us so well that although he says I do not want this position we are keeping him on and making him work too much. You will be pleased to know that we have roped in INSDOC as well with Mr. Krishnan holding the key position as Treasurer and we have as our founder member—I am announcing this even without consulting the gentleman concerned—Mr. Parthasarathy. This is but natural because in the last analysis, whether we are librarians, documentalists or doing an odd job at a public library counter, we are all one with the same objective—the objective of service. Therefore, we can ask for your help and assistance in our work. So here is the baby and we want to nourish it with your blessings.

Let me now tell you the scope of this Association and its objectives. The Academic Libraries Association includes libraries attached to universities, colleges and institutions of higher education and research. The aims and objects of the Association are to foster friendly and closer relations among academic libraries, to provide a common forum for discussion of the problems facing the academic libraries, to promote research in library science and to help improve the professional efficiency, to look after the academic library staff in relation to their status and remuneration, to cooperate with all organizations and institutions having similar aims and objectives and to perform such other functions as may be expedient or necessary to fulfill the objectives of the Association.

Well, it may be asked with a certain amount of genuine concern, why multiply these associations? Would it not make for dispersal of effort? Why not strengthen the existing associations and work with them? These are natural questions to ask. An answer to these questions may well be given by quoting from the circular letter of my friend, Bashiruddin, wherein he says:

It is my feeling, and I believe you share this feeling with me, that university librarians are facing new problems of planning, organization and service to readers etc., as a result of the unprecedented all-round expansion of our libraries. We are trying according to our light to evolve new methods and procedures to meet the challenge these problems are posing before us. But would it not be desirable, if we, the university librarians, meet periodically and exchange ideas on the different aspects of our calling? Such meetings, it is my impression, will contribute to improved standards and will help evolve concepts in keeping with the changing conditions. I, therefore, propose that we organize into a body and form an association of university librarians. Such a course need not be interpreted as, in any way, usurping the functions of the I.L.A. But the fact must be admitted that the I.L.A. cannot serve the end I have in view and which I have briefly stated above.

I submit that the above arguments apply with equal force on the need to have an association of academic librarians much more so these days, because the problems facing the academic librarians are multi-dimensional. Let me illustrate my point by taking my own institution as an example. When I went over to Tirupati in September 1956, there were six departments of study, the enrolment
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was 200, the book-stock was about 6,000. I had the singular distinction of being the only superior staff member in the Library with an attendant and a peon. What is the position today? We have fifteen departments of study, we have an enrolment of 1,200, the book stock is 45,000. We have a staff of 35. All this means increased work-load, problems of service, problems of organization, problems connected with other aspects of librarianship. These problems are not peculiar to my University alone, but the other universities as well are facing them. It is necessary for us to meet and share our ideas and find solutions for them. It is in this context that this Association will be helpful.

Let me assure you that we have not formed this Association with any spirit of rivalry to the I.L.A. Indeed, during the four workshops, one of the important subjects which we discussed was how to strengthen the I.L.A. I may also tell you that all the university librarians who are in this Association are members of the I.L.A. and are doing active membership drive for the I.L.A. So it is not with any idea of competition that we have done this. It is for a specific purpose and because of an immediate necessity that we have done this. We intend to affiliate this body to the I.L.A. I am told the revised constitution of the I.L.A. will provide for a wing of college and university libraries and immediately that provision is made, we shall have this body affiliated to the I.L.A.

Sir, one of the most important objectives of this Association is to publish a journal of research value and high standard. The Wheat Loan Messenger to which my friend Deshpande has referred is just a newsletter. We intend as soon as the funds are available to bring it out as the official organ of this Association. We intend also, if conditions are favourable, to take up one of the bibliographical ventures, to which I have referred to. These are some of the objectives, these are some of the hopes with which we have started. After all, as one great economist put it, "hope is the balm of energy." We have to live on hope; otherwise we can't live in this world. It is with that hope that we have established this Association and once again I request your blessings and your cooperation.

(Applause)

K. S. Deshpande: Thank you Mr. Patnaik. I don't think I have very much to say now. I would only mention that the Report of the Joint Action Committee and this paper which has already been circulated among you will give you an idea as to what we have been able to achieve during the course of these workshops.

I have one or two things to add with regard to the first item, viz., The Union List of Serials. I am told by all the participants that they are busy about the job and during the course of the next two months you might be witnessing a number of catalogues of periodicals coming from different libraries.

We have also decided to bring out catalogues of theses and dissertations deposited in our libraries and pretty soon you will be having copies of the same mailed to your libraries.

We decided in the course of these workshops to have library guides also. The Karnataka University has already sponsored a library guide; Poona University is compiling one such; and the others are also moving forth in this direction. This means that in the near future you will be having a good number of library guides to compare and to study. The objective of such guides is to introduce fresh men to the intricacies of the library organization. What we have been having all these days is just a statement of Rules and Regulations, and the very nature of these Rules and Regulations is rather baffling to the shy new reader. It is repelling rather than inviting, in the sense that these rules and regulations list down what the readers should not do or should do. But the aims of library guides are to take them into confidence, to explain to them the working of the library, the nature and set-up of the library, etc.

Then we have also decided to start orientation courses. I understand that many of the university libraries have already started doing this since the workshops were held. Poona is one among such libraries. We have also made a recommendation to the University authorities and the University Grants Commission to advise the libraries to adopt the Open Access System.

Then with regard to inter-library loans, we thought that the reduction of postage, which is unduly heavy, would promote them. We discussed this matter with Dr. C. D. Deshmukh and with the Secretary of the University Grants Commission this morning. They are very much interested in doing what they can in the matter.

As a preliminary step toward the cooperative acquisition of materials, we have decided to conduct surveys of library resources as early as possible. We would like to make records of the books...
which have ceased to interest the readers, or those of low-use nature, back files of periodicals which we may be willing to exchange with those of others, and reference works which are no longer current and, therefore, are occupying much-needed shelf space. I think this will be taken up immediately and some preliminary work will be done.

We also made recommendations regarding the creation of depository centres for Government Documents. We discussed this matter with the Ministry of Education, the University Grants Commission and Dr. Deshmukh and they see no difficulty in getting these things done early. As a first step we have suggested that the University libraries in this country, situated as they are in the different zones of the country, may be treated as depository centres. Mr. A. N. Dhawan, Education Officer in the Ministry of Education and Mr. N. N. Iyengar, Deputy Secretary of the U.G.C. assured us that they would get in touch with the Ministries concerned in the near future and make arrangements for sending copies of Government documents as gift to the university libraries.

We also made a recommendation to the effect that facilities to visit newly-built library buildings be provided to those who would be engaged in the planning of buildings of libraries in the near future. The U.G.C. is very appreciative of these suggestions.

We have also made a suggestion to the Grants Commission that they should request the universities to urge the affiliated colleges to have trained men at the helm of affairs of their libraries. As you already know, not many college libraries in India today have trained men to direct their affairs. We have also suggested the possibility of making this a condition for the affiliation. Then there was a suggestion to the Grants Commission regarding the inclusion of the university librarian on the visiting committees which are usually sent out by the University to the affiliated colleges for annual inspection.

I must say that one of our important recommendations was with regard to the continuation of the Wheat Loan Programme. I don’t know if by simply making a recommendation this Programme
could be continued, but we have suggested to the Government to explore the possibilities of exchanging library personnel between the United States and India and also for securing aid for getting the reading material—American books, films, microcards and other things. Probably this would be made possible under the aegis of other foundations or organizations.

The most important achievement of the Wheat Loan Programme has been the promotion of international goodwill and friendship. Before we visited the States, we were strangers to the U.S.A. But now we are no longer unfamiliar to America, but have left behind us a host of warm American friends. The workshops that the Wheat Loan Programme organized during the last one year have brought many of us together. I did not know many of you, nor did my colleagues know each other so well. These workshops have made it possible for us to come together and know each other better. There is, therefore, a need for such a programme being continued. We have also made a recommendation to the U.G.C. that they may explore the possibility of organizing such workshops in the different zones in the near future and the U.G.C. has been very receptive to this suggestion.

We have a message from Dr. Kothari, the Chairman of the U.G.C., and before I call upon Mr. Kanitkar to propose a vote of thanks, this message would be played.

I will conclude my remarks with a quotation from the great immortal bard of India, Rabindranath Tagore. This message has appeared on the cover page of the second issue of the Wheat Loan Messenger. It reads:

Thou hast made me known to friends whom I knew not.
Thou hast given me seats in homes not my own.
Thou hast brought the distant near and made a brother of the stranger.

The Wheat Loan Programme and the Wheat Loan Workshops have indeed made this possible. Thank you.

M. L. Nagar: Mr. Chairman, Friends and Colleagues:

As you already know, this is the fifth and final day of the Fifth and Final Workshop of the Wheat Loan Programme. Certainly it will not be possible for us to come together again under the auspices of the Wheat Loan Programme. As Mr. Sharma and others have said, this Programme has been very useful. I am an employee of the Wheat Loan Programme. Strangely enough, if I say something about the Wheat Loan Programme I will be praising myself. But still I am an Indian librarian. I was an Indian librarian before the Wheat Loan Programme came into existence. I will remain an Indian librarian even when the Wheat Loan Programme has disappeared. So if I say something about the Wheat Loan Programme it is as an Indian librarian.

Since this is a fine opportunity—this is the last meeting of this Workshop—I must say that the Wheat Loan Programme has given benefits of so many kinds to so many people. Indian librarians have gone to U.S.A. American librarians have come to India. Many scientific laboratories have received scientific equipment. Many libraries have received books. But I have received something unique from the Wheat Loan Programme, which many Indian librarians have not received. That is, to see my own country, meet my own people, talk to my own professional colleagues throughout the country. During the past five years, I have gone to almost all the big cities in India. I have met the librarians, and it was a splendid opportunity. I can tell you. When VIP’s, I meant great librarians, go to the libraries they receive VIP treatment. They are shown only the best things the librarians have. But when I went there I was just a friend, a brother to them. They expressed their hearts to me. They said: “These are our problems”; and I was also able to see some of the slums they have got!

So it has been an excellent opportunity, a great challenge for us to work together to solve some of the problems, and that is an experience which will be one of the best experiences in my life.

This is the Fifth Workshop. The Wheat Loan Programme had already organized four such workshops. Now the Workshop is a new idea, as you know, and the first four workshops were just confined to one room, because they were meant to be workshops. When I was asked to organize the Workshop in Patna, I was also asked to meet the people at the railway station. I had to put up a sign-board there: “those who want to attend the Workshop, must come to a certain place.” Everybody was surprised: “What is this Workshop?” They did not know what the Workshop was.
We proposed this Workshop in October or September, even earlier than that. Mr. Deshpande, Mr. Patnaik, Miss Holt and I met in Bangalore. We decided to have one more opportunity, before the Wheat Loan Programme was finished, to find out whether some of the recommendations made by the Wheat Loan Workshops could be implemented.

As Mr. Sharma correctly put it, the Wheat Loan Programme is finished. As I have already told some of you, one gentleman, a very great person, asked me one day: “What is this? We heard that the Wheat Loan Programme was dead and you are still here?” I said, “Yes. This is the final glow of a dying oil lamp, but it is hoped that this lamp will light some other lamp and that lamp will continue the light created by the Wheat Loan Programme.” So that is our wish. As an Indian librarian I thought let us have one more opportunity. We could have easily organized the Workshop in the same old way, but I thought: Let us make a departure—establish a new practice. We decided that the morning sessions would be workshop sessions, while the afternoon sessions would be conference sessions. I was very much doubtful about it, to tell you the truth. Our great poet and dramatist Kālidāsa has said:

Ā partitoṣad viduṣām
na śadu manye prayogaviñānam,
Balavād api śikṣitānām
ātmanyaprayayam cetaṁ.

“Until the learned critics are satisfied, I don’t believe my performance is successful. The mind of the learned, even if strong, is doubtful about itself.”

I couldn’t say these words, express just these sentiments, yesterday or day before yesterday, because the fifth day was yet to come; but today I am very happy to say that through your full cooperation this arrangement has worked so successfully! It has been a great education to me, personally, and I am very much thankful to you all.

The Joint Action Committee members, who have come all the way from their respective places, during this March, which is a most terrible month for them, and all the other people who have spared their time, energy and thinking in making this Workshop such a great success, deserve our hearty thanks. I hope the decisions we have made, especially the creation of the Indian Academic Libraries Association, are bound to be fruitful and with the cooperation of all of you, we are certain to make some progress towards the implementation of the suggestions and recommendations.

Now you may know that the afternoon sessions were meant for the general people. We wanted to learn from others and we requested some distinguished personalities to address us. On the first day Mr. Das Gupta gave us a wonderful talk for more than an hour. When I approached him with the request, he asked: “How long do you want me to talk?” I said, “Maybe twenty minutes!” He was surprised. He exclaimed: “Twenty minutes!” But when he started speaking he spoke for one hour and fifteen minutes. There was a pin-drop silence. Everyone was so attentive and listened with great attention. It was such a successful meeting. Then we had some other speakers—Mr. Finzi, from the Library of Congress came one day. He addressed us. Mr. Kalia spoke to us yesterday. He helped us a great deal. One day we had Mr. Girja Kumar, Mr. Parthasarathy and Miss Dilley. They gave us the benefit of their experience and knowledge. Today Mr. Sharma has done us a great favour.

Today we expected also Dr. Kothari. This is the excuse of my coming to this seat and telling you a few things. But when I started speaking I decided to express my gratitude to all of you. Dr. Kothari was very much anxious to come today and talk to us. He had said, “No, no, definitely I am coming. You remind me on Friday morning.” When I talked to him this morning, he said, “I am very busy, I have got an important engagement. Some people are coming and I am the Chairman of the Committee. You tell the group that I am very much interested in libraries.” As you all know very well, he has been very much interested in the libraries. He said, “The U.G.C. has been taking a great interest in the development of libraries. We have given large grants for books, building, reading rooms; and we are going to continue the same interest in libraries. Library development receives priority, top priority as far as the U.G.C. Programme is concerned. But I also want you to tell the group that the libraries”—and this is the most important thing which he asked me to tell you and tell me also—“that the libraries are not meant for librarians.” And he repeated it, “Libraries are not meant for librarians; they are meant for readers, students.
and teachers. It is alright to collect the books, catalogue them, classify them, display them, but that's not the end; the end is the service.” And he said, “In many of the libraries I have seen beautiful collections, fine reading rooms, expert library staff, but there is no service. So will you please ask the Workshop Group to find out whether we can do more service so that the ultimate objective of collecting the books is fulfilled?” He was very happy that we have organized this Workshop; he was very much unhappy too that he was unable to come. But he has asked me to convey this message to you all.

I thank you all again for having cooperated with us in such a beautiful way to make this Workshop such a grand success!

Thank you.

* * * * *

Summary and Conclusions

The foregoing constitutes the detailed proceedings of the fifth and final Wheat Loan Library Workshop held in Delhi from March 5 to 9, 1962. Four library workshops had preceded this. At each of these workshops the participants had discussed some of the “immediate problems of university and research libraries in India today.” Solutions were sought and decisions arrived at. The recommendations of the first four workshops fell into two categories. Some of them were self-injunctions which the librarians put upon themselves. These could be implemented by them without seeking any external help. However, another category of the recommendations needed the help from the agencies like the University Grants Commission and the Ministry of Education of the Government of India.

At each of these workshops an Action Committee was formed and at the last workshop a Joint Action Committee was constituted. This Committee took upon itself the task of making efforts for the implementation of those recommendations which belonged to the second category, i.e. those which could not be implemented without the blessings of the powers which controlled the purse strings.

The last Workshop ended on April 29, 1961. By February 1962 it was felt by all the members of the Joint Action Committee that a good deal of time had elapsed since the fourth Workshop was held. It was, therefore, high time that another workshop of a follow-up nature be held to take stock of what, if any, had been achieved, and how the decisions arrived at earlier could be fully implemented. It was also realized that the office of the Wheat Loan Programme would be closed on June 30, 1962. One of the most important projects undertaken by the Wheat Loan Office was the compilation of a Union List of American Serials deposited in Indian libraries. A good deal of time, money and energy of all the cooperating libraries had been already consumed. It was felt that if that much-needed research tool could not be completed and brought out into a published form the result would be a total waste. So it was felt that the Joint Action Committee should take charge of the incomplete work and seek financial help from an agency to complete it.

The participants of the first four library workshops decided to bring out a newsletter called the Wheat Loan Messenger to serve as a medium of expression for the Wheat Loan grantees. With the help of Mr. Deshpande, Chairman of the Joint Action Committee, the Wheat Loan Office had managed to bring out the first issue, while the second issue was brought out by Mr. Deshpande with his own efforts. The members of the Joint Action Committee thought that efforts should be made to see that the “Messenger” is published regularly as a library journal.

One of the most important decisions made at the Wheat Loan Library Workshops was to establish a professional association for the college and university librarians in India. But it was a decision
on paper only and very little had been achieved to implement it. Therefore, the principal members
of the Joint Action Committee decided to make one more effort to get together, discuss and adopt
the constitution and elect the office-bearers so that the Association might really start functioning.

These were the objectives which were aimed at while arranging the fifth and final workshop
which was held in Delhi from March 5 to 9, 1962. All the members of the Joint Action Committee
and also the local librarians of Delhi were invited. In order to enlist full cooperation of the latter
and to seek their whole-hearted participation, the afternoon sessions were held in different
libraries of Delhi.

The Workshop was a great success. The results achieved were fully satisfactory. One of the most
important achievements of this Workshop was to form a permanent body called the Indian Council
for Library Development out of the nucleus of the ad-hoc body formed at the Jaipur Workshop,
i.e. the Joint Action Committee of the Wheat Loan Library Workshops, and also by co-opting some
other librarians from all over India. It was decided that this Council should request the Wheat
Loan Office to hand over the incomplete files of the Union List of American Serials to the Council
and to see if funds could be provided for its completion and publication.

Another achievement of this Workshop was to discuss Mr. Deshpande's Draft Constitution
of the Academic Libraries Association and adopt it. Office-bearers of the Association were also
elected and the Association was brought into being.

One more valuable decision arrived at the Workshop was to continue the Wheat Loan Messenger
until it was taken over by the Indian Academic Libraries Association.

It was also decided at this Workshop to recommend to the authorities to establish a
Bibliographical Centre to promote bibliographical services and a national centre for documentation
in humanities and social sciences.

* * *

WHAT THEY SAY

Some Impressions and Reflections
of the Workshop Participants

P. K. Banerjea
Vikram University

The Workshop at Baroda was the first of its kind to be conducted in India where the case method
was first introduced in library seminars. The participants were drawn from different types of libra-
ries and as such it offered a good opportunity of studying the problems from different standpoints.
The method of discussion too was also a novel one, wherein a senior member was asked to open the
discussion as the speaker of the day and then the whole group discussed the point at length. We
came back with many new ideas. Altogether the Workshop was a very great success, and the moving
spirit of this Workshop, beside the Kipps, was Miss Holt, who by her effective dynamism effected
the working to a very great extent and radiated her influence throughout. The U.G.C. should
arrange every year such seminars where librarians, teachers of library science and such other workers
may have the opportunity of coming in close contact with each other and be able to derive inspira-
tion from the work of their colleagues.
The Wheat Loan scheme proved to be a source of great help to Indian librarians. For the first time Indian librarians got some recognition in our country, and as it afforded them an opportunity to go abroad and study at first hand under the able leadership of most eminent people in librarianship in U.S.A., they derived a good experience. Indian librarianship got a tremendous fillip towards progress. Since then most of the university libraries have been reorganized and librarians too have now realized the vital role they are capable of playing in bringing about an educational revolution in the country. The Wheat Loan scheme in this way became an eye-opener to Indian librarianship and most of the participants derived inspiration from what they had seen and studied in U.S.A.

It is true that the methods of American librarians cannot be applied in toto in our country; but I am absolutely certain that the Programme influenced to a great extent the development of Indian librarianship. Those of us who are engaged in the teaching of Library Science in Indian universities have learnt to discard the insular and antiquated ways of library education and have tried our best to bring it in line with the patterns of other countries.

In this way our library teaching has also been influenced and the Wheat Loan scheme has thus played a dominant role in making the Indian librarianship a vital force in educational movement in this country.

It is a matter of regret that the scheme has now been terminated and the future generation of librarians are now deprived of the opportunity of learning things at first hand from abroad.

If some other agency or some other scheme takes its place, I am sure the momentum that has been given will also be perpetuated and thus Indian librarianship will be vitalized and in course of time it will be as advanced as it is in U.S.A. and Great Britain.

It would be better if from time to time an exchange programme is introduced in which the teachers of library science can also participate actively in such a programme and a specialized section for them may be reserved, for the institutes are now responsible for the training of the future generation of librarians and as such their responsibility in this direction is supreme.

Miss Svati Daru
S.N.D.T. Women’s University

I found the workshop way to be a beautiful combination of instruction and interest. Librarianship in our country is on the threshold of a new era of competence and an untiring desire to scale new heights is the watchword. It is most opportune, then, that this should be the time for “pooling of experiences and resources” on a common footing. I should like to emphasize in particular the effectiveness of the “Role-playing technique” employed at the Workshop, which made a participant feel the individual problem to be his own. While displaying new dimensions of common problems facing our profession, the workshop way also offers a clearer perspective for their solution. It hardly needs to be added that the continuation of such workshops would be a sure means of future growth. Indeed, whatever I learnt during the Workshop at Baroda has helped me in a better understanding and more effective discharging of my work and duties. It would always stand out as a pleasant and memorable experience for me.

K. Bala Sundara Gupta
Maharaja’s College, Mysore

Being a librarian, I consider books as real bridges across the nations to create feelings of friendship and oneness, and whatever is done to promote libraries is worthy of praise. Wheat Loan Programme is worthy of praise and an object of thankfulness of Indian librarians, as it has been an unpretentious ambassador in the world of books and librarians.

The workshops afforded a unique opportunity for the Indian librarians to meet together and discuss various library problems. There was also the stimulation from the three American librarians (Mr. Kipp, Mrs. Kipp and Miss Holt) who readily shared their experiences with us to solve problems relating to building, staff and service to readers.

Another aspect which impressed me most was the picture of American experiences of some Indian librarians who spent some time in America.
The Wheat Loan Programme did help many a library to have increased budget for books at least for a few years. On account of this, the libraries could divert their own funds to buy books published in countries other than America. American books began to flow into Indian libraries in different areas of knowledge. Some libraries bought non-book materials (Microfilm readers, etc.). Some libraries built up their collection of reference tools.

For the selection of books, the librarians were provided with extensive bibliographies and the ordering too was systematized by giving multiple order forms. All these were designed to render easy selection and quick disposal. All the assistance given was quite unobtrusive. Libraries got their requirements without being involved much in official routine.

The Programme established three extension libraries under the auspices of universities of Rajasthan, Punjab and Madras to render effective service to far-off colleges.

The workshop helped many librarians to think that problems which seemed to be peculiar to their own libraries were also the problems of other librarians. Its salutary effect was that it touched off open discussions and helped them to present their problems to their authorities effectively and fearlessly.

An interesting feature of the workshop was the discussion of real problems of libraries in disguise. Mixing of fact with fiction lent real vigour to solve them objectively. The discussions were marked by realism, humour, fervour and candour. They were all round and hardly there was anything which was not touched upon—all areas of librarianship were succinctly dealt with.

Even to this day I treasure the inspiration I derived in the Hyderabad Workshop.

C. R. Patel

S. V. Vidyapeeth

University libraries in India today are facing quite a number of problems. These libraries have received a fresh, rather unprecedented impetus after independence, and generous grants from the University Grants Commission have made rapid progress possible. Schemes which would never have otherwise seen the light of day were not only formulated but sanctioned. New buildings are coming up, equipments purchased and a generous book fund is provided. These are the signs of a transformation, a metamorphosis.

The demand for higher education has become more pressing; there is a great need for research and new methods are being tried and tested in different universities. It is against such background, where university libraries are passing through an important stage of their development, that the Workshop was held at M. S. University, Baroda, under the auspices of the India Wheat Loan Educational Exchange Programme to discuss the many and varied problems which confront these libraries in their current set-up. The problems were determined by the participants themselves.

During the discussion it was felt that some problems were really basic, the solution of which demanded urgent attention. The problems of personnel (including the training), of reference work and advisory services, and of the acquisition of research materials are really pressing at present, the adequate solution of which would go a long way in stepping up of the overall level of the service. This is a sort of challenge that must be faced. The necessary personnel is not forthcoming and the professional training that is being imparted at present leaves much to be desired. The problems of personnel is at the root of it and unless the right personnel is created other problems will not be solved.

The human element in the organization is very important; it is this element which can give service and if this is not well provided very little progress can be made. Huge buildings, millions of books and mechanical aids in themselves can achieve nothing. Not that they are unimportant, but the need for the right library personnel is the first necessity. Before anything substantial is achieved, a sound training should go into the making of it. The strengthening of the syllabus in the regions of organization, administration, and reference work is highly desirable. University libraries are the centres where the bulk of the professional training is being imparted at present and it is, therefore, natural that the problem addresses itself to these bodies which can make the necessary improvements.

Then again the need for the development of Reference and Reader’s Advisory Services is also keenly felt. Today, these services are conspicuous by their absence and unless they are developed
there cannot be an organized communication of systematized knowledge. University libraries are frequently called upon to give specialized service and the librarian and his staff must equip themselves for the task.

The acquisition of the research material is also a problem. There is no out of print and rare market which can be relied upon, with the result that the required material is difficult to locate and procure, even if it is presumed that the necessary funds are available. Even in other respects where simple book buying is concerned, lack of a decisive policy, properly organized book trade, indigenous reference tools and the inevitable shortage of the foreign exchange present a serious situation.

Then come the problem of the status of the librarian. Of course, everyone feels he should have a status and that too a well-defined one. But very little can be hoped in this direction so long as the authorities continue to remain apathetic as they are. This indicates that the effectiveness with which a well co-ordinated library programme can step up the entire educational achievement of the university is still not well appreciated.

The Workshop was really representative, and there was a surprising agreement in the views expressed, which may perhaps be due to the fact that all faced similar problems. If there was a difference, it was in degree only. Discussions were free and unfettered; they were lively too; and humour frequently acted as a welcome astringent. Such crucibles of free exchanges do sharpen the edge of reasoning, focus the problem by placing it in the correct perspective and many prejudices are rudely shaken. One can't help feeling that workshops of the type should be arranged from time to time by a suitable Indian agency so that a periodic stock-taking may be done and a way opened for continuous progress.

It cannot be denied that the workshop has done a real valuable work. Its deliberations were comprehensive and covered all the main problems of academic libraries. Thanks are due to the India Wheat Loan Educational Exchange Programme for having provided a forum for free exchange. This Programme, be it said, has been really instrumental in shaking up the lethargy and bringing about a sort of new consciousness in University librarianship in India through exchange programmes, workshops, gifts of books etc. An atmosphere where thought could flourish has been created, bringing to light fresh problems which demand urgent attention. The University libraries are in the forefront, enjoying a privileged position in the Indian library world of the day, and let it be hoped that the fourteen-point programme may be acted upon seriously so that in the words of Mr. Kipp India can really "make it" up.

K. R. Rao
Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay

I left for Baroda on 17th December 1960. I never knew what a 'workshop' meant. I was familiar with 'seminars' and 'conferences'. For this Workshop, I was not asked to submit any working paper, but was just invited to attend. Just a few days before the commencement of the Workshop, Mr. and Mrs. Kipp were on their way to Baroda. They halted for a day in Bombay. I called on them to take them to our Institute. I asked Mr. Kipp the meaning of the word 'workshop'. He replied: "Workshop is a place where we work!" I was pleased with the answer which looked so obvious. It was in Baroda that I understood its special meaning. It is no doubt true that in a Seminar as in a Workshop, the participants discuss problems and put across their points of view on a particular problem. In a Workshop, in addition to these methods, different techniques such as Case Study, Role-Playing, Group Discussions etc. are employed to give the problem a touch of realism. Harvard University is renowned for popularizing these techniques. Mr. & Mrs. Kipp of this University Library initiated these techniques to Indian librarians.

I found that the deliberations at the Workshop were of immense professional value to me. Meeting people from various parts of the country was quite stimulating and invigorating. The Workshop gave me an occasion to take active part in discussions and to establish closer contact with librarians of our region. I learnt many things. I could find solutions to problems by discussion and exchange of views. I now realize fully how different a 'Workshop' is from a Seminar or a Conference! It is indeed a place where people in groups discuss problems and 'work' cooperatively for the benefit of all. Miss Holt and Mr. & Mrs. Kipp are instrumental in bringing us together and forging friendship among persons of the same profession, but who lived as strangers.
S. Gnanamuttu  
*Madras University Extension Library, Madurai*

The Workshop of Librarians organized in Hyderabad discussed common problems of Indian librarians. One of the main objectives of the Workshop was how these problems could be solved. By mutual group discussions, by relating one's experience in solving library problems to that of another, and by going deep into some of the papers and case studies presented to us, we tried to tackle these problems. By conducting this Workshop, the Wheat Loan Educational Exchange Programme widened my horizons and increased my knowledge of books, people and their activities. It gave me depth and direction not only to initiate more readers to come to the library in pursuit of knowledge, but also to stimulate their reading habit. I feel I was able to learn quite a lot about libraries and librarians in this country in a short time.

Beerendra C. Banerjea  
*Visva Bharati University*

When I received a letter from our much loved friend and guide, Miss Beatrice H. Holt, inviting me to participate in the Workshop to be held at Patna on March 12 through March 17, 1961 under the Wheat Loan Library Project, I was naturally overjoyed and recalled my days with her, with Mr. & Mrs. Laurence J. Kipp and other colleagues connected with the Exchange Project in the United States of America in 1955. There is much behind my remembering the Programme in the States under the Wheat Loan, as it not only gave me impetus and confidence in my profession, but opened before me a new horizon and changed the shape of my career.

I recall my days when I was working as a lecturer in a college and when, at the instance of Late Dr. Prabodh Ch. Bagchi, the then Vice-Chancellor of Visva Bharati University, I changed my profession and took charge of the Post-graduate Departmental Library of the University. But, I must confess, I was still reluctant to give up the teaching profession, and, in spite of my uncertain mind, Dr. Bagchi sent me for the Diploma Course in Librarianship, and when, after completing it, I was selected as a recipient of the Wheat Loan fellowship, he urged me to accept it. And it was definitely a blessing to me.

I went to the States and came to know how much the profession of librarians means. I became a librarian out and out and took it as my mission. We were in the first batch of recipients and were there for five months, but actually stuffed ourselves with a work-load of ten months and a momentum for the whole life. The librarian’s profession in India was not viewed much above an ordinary office job and the general attitude often was that the library staff are mere caretakers of books—the storekeepers of store-houses of reading materials. Hence this profession did not look attractive and those who received higher education rather tried for other suitable positions. With the advent of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan as a doyen of librarianship and the efforts made by Madras, Baroda and Bengal, the picture gradually changed, and, after the independence of India, librarianship also received proper attention of the Ministry of Education and the University Grants Commission.

It was at this opportune moment that the scheme of Indo-American Wheat Loan Educational Exchange Fellowship was worked out by the joint efforts of U.S. Department of State and the Ministry of Education of the Government of India. Before this few librarians went to the U.S.A. and had their training. But the Wheat Loan Project came to the aid of libraries in India in general and university libraries in particular. It gave them a new life, a new hope and prestige to their profession. To me it meant more than I could think of. It not only gave me a permanent foothold in librarianship, but changed my viewpoint entirely, and I was as if born anew. It imparted a confidence in myself and I began to think highly of my profession. I was eager to do any kind of service to the reading public with whatever meagre resources available to me and even under adverse situations. I felt that I was not alone in this field of work, that I had all my brother-librarians with me and a goodwill from those beyond the boundaries of my country.

So when I got a call to join the Patna Workshop, I became eager to participate in it, to be once more with my friends and colleagues from home and abroad, and to discuss matters relating to ourselves. The libraries of India are getting their due recognition from the authorities, and we are now to assert ourselves and give expression to our united ideas. There are many things to be discussed
What They Say

amongst ourselves and to be reviewed by us. There are problems unique to a library and problems common to all libraries.

The Workshop discussion held at Patna and the conclusions arrived thereby have shown us a new way. The principal achievement of discussions which impressed me much was what we can do for ourselves and not what others might do for us. Apart from the group discussions, there were those interesting programmes of ‘case studies’ and ‘role-playing’ which seemed to me to be of immense benefit. When we discuss certain problems, say the salary scales of librarians, we take certain theories and apply them to practical situations. We consider the existing salary scales of different services, in different institutions, compare them with other similar cadres and try to fix up a uniform scale. But when we take a definite case in our hand, say ‘library salaries at Khajuraho University’, we are at once entangled in it and become face to face with the problem. Similar is the case with ‘role-playing’ where we view the problem by way of our participating into the actual situation. So the workshop with its three-fold aspect of individual statements, collective cases and actual participation helps us to review the entire library picture. The decisions arrived at by the Patna and other three workshops are the starting point of a unified and collective effort and the proposed schemes, such as of the union list of serials, cooperative acquisitions, etc., will go a long way in imparting immense benefit.

The projects under Wheat Loan Programme have come to an end. But it will be unfortunate if its results die along with it. Its impact on the individual recipients, the benefit libraries derived by it in many respects, and its total effect on Indian Librarianship have far-reaching consequences. Although the much advanced system of library work in the U.S.A. with its congenial environment and set-up cannot be compared with that of India as it exists, still they are the same in essence, and the programme thus has helped us a lot. I think we should try to maintain it in one form or other, both in spirit and content. The lessons of such a project are too dear to be forgotten and we must keep the torch burning. I have got every hope and belief that such periodic meetings can be arranged, zonally and centrally, through some agency with the support of the Government of India in the Ministry of Education. I once again remember all my colleagues of India and of U.S.A. who, I feel, are always with me in spirit.

P. C. Bose
Calcutta University

“Library Workshop”! What it really might be, I wondered when I received a cordial invitation from the great American friend of Indian librarians, Miss Beatrice H. Holt to attend a ‘Library Workshop’ to be held at Kharagpur in March 1961 under the auspices of the India Wheat Loan Educational Exchange Programme in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Government of India and the University Grants Commission. We were familiar with library seminars, symposia, and conferences; but frankly speaking I had till then no clear idea of what the library workshop would mean. I could only guess and I eagerly awaited the inauguration and holding of the Workshop, the venue of which was for some unforeseen reason shifted at the last moment from Kharagpur in West Bengal to Patna in Bihar.

The experience I gained in the Patna Workshop was, in brief, delightful, wonderful and educative. A small group of librarians—about sixteen in number from the eastern part of the country—gathered there to participate in the business of the Workshop. Some of them were old friends who did not meet for a long time, and therefore, were very happy to meet one another once again and renew the old tie of friendship; some knew one another only by name or through correspondence, but had no personal acquaintance earlier and were glad to make such acquaintance on the occasion; and the others were jubilant to meet new faces and make new friends.

The Workshop was organized and directed by Miss Beatrice H. Holt, Cultural Affairs Officer of the India Wheat Loan Programme. Mrs. Cecilia Rae Kipp and Mr. Laurence J. Kipp of the Harvard University (Baker) Library, Miss Holt had been a familiar figure in the Indian library world for a pretty long time and was liked and respected by the Indian librarians, because of her interest in and sympathy for the Indian library profession. The Kipps couple were good old friends of most of us among the participants in the Workshop, who had the privilege to enjoy their ideal hospitality in the United States. Besides them Miss Ruth Krueger, the very popular Director of Library Services, Calcutta U.S.I.S. and our friend Mr. Murari L. Nagar, Librarian, Wheat Loan Educational Ex-
change Programme were also present in the Workshop. Needless to mention that we all were extremely happy that the Workshop gave us an opportunity to meet them at Patna once again and enjoy their care and company in the Workshop to which the Patna U.S.I.S. Library splendidly played the host.

It is true that the main theme of the Workshop, namely the “Immediate Problems of University and Research Libraries in India today” and the component topics into which it was broken up for discussion were not new. All or most of them had been either discussed or seriously thought of by many of us in the past. But the workshop way of tackling them was, no doubt, novel and stimulating. The week-long programme of the workshop was quite compact, heavy and crowded in the right American way, and the practical problems of the present-day university libraries of our country were thrown to the participants in a variety of exacting but at the same time interesting ways for finding out solutions. The searching, sifting, thrashing and grinding of the problems by the participants, through threadbare discussion of all pros and cons and all nooks and corners of the problems, based on their personal experience were thorough and exhaustive. At the same time they never appeared to be dull or boring to anybody but were, on the contrary, all along lively, realistic and enjoyable. The professional communication on specific topics and problems among the participants was thus more successful than what can be achieved in big gatherings at conferences and seminars in a more rigid and formal atmosphere. So if it has not done anything else, the Workshop has at least initiated the participants to a new approach to problems and a new technique to discuss them, which is itself a great achievement.

The gathering in the Workshop being small, everybody had the opportunity to participate in the discussions and narrate his experiences. Not only that, even those who were shy and did not like to be drawn to the attention of others were, by the very technique of the workshop method, goaded to think over the problems and recount their experiences or express their views freely. The result of this wide participation was that there was in the Workshop always a common pool of experiences which was shared by all the present. Even experienced and veteran librarians often had opportunities to learn from the experiences of their comparatively younger colleagues.

To me the most striking and constructive feature of the Workshop appeared to be the determination it infused in the participants not to shirk their responsibilities, both individual and collective, by only passing pious resolutions and cleverly shifting responsibility of their implementation on others, but to come forward voluntarily to put responsibilities on their own shoulders for the development and efficient rendering of library service within their capacities. In other words, the Workshop made the participants lay the foundation-stone of self-help on which the edifice of hard, honest and sincere work was to be constructed in the libraries of our country.

When I came back from the Workshop my colleagues in my Library found me, as I was told, full of re-inforced vigour, vitality and enthusiasm. I believe the same opinion was held about other participants by their colleagues in their respective libraries. The Workshop not only provided for us a pleasant break from the monotony of routine at home, but it was also interesting, stimulating and invigorating as we were able to meet one another and freely and unreservedly exchange ideas on matters of mutual interest and then return home with more confidence in ourselves. How I wish such workshops could be organized from time to time in different parts of the country by some competent agency or agencies truly interested in the development of libraries and library service in our country!

J. Misra
Utkal University, Cuttack

Discussions in the different workshops were mostly on topics like library building, furniture and equipment, bibliographical service, union list of serials, library education, library staff, library extension service and publicity, cooperative acquisition and processing of books and serials, and other problems which the librarians are generally confronted with. Like the industrial workshops to the students of engineering and industries, the library workshops were the most essential necessity to the library workers. In fact it was the best forum for lively discussion, the best medium for mutual exchange of ideas, the best avenue to promote fellow feeling and brotherhood, sympathy and friendly spirit.

I will never forget the happy experience, the joyous company, the lively cheering discussion,
the most cordial treatment of the local university and other librarians, the hospitable reception and entertainment of U.S.I.S. library staff and above all the smiling face of Miss Holt, generating inspiration, awe and reverence from the participants. I still remember with exactitude and vividness the memory of our visits to Khuda Baksh Library, Nalanda University, Rajagriha and Pawa Puri. In a word, as one of the participants in one of these workshops, I feel myself very lucky.

Thus the workshop, the first of its kind in this country, served as a problem-solving instrument. It strengthened professional bond among the librarians of the country and helped them to solve some of their common problems. In the words of Mr. Deshpande, “the informal and friendly atmosphere encouraged even the shy and retiring type of person to cast off his purdah and to come to the limelight. It proved the way for a more enduring fellowship. The best in each was brought out and a rich pool of experience was created”.

**A. K. Mukherjee**  
**Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur**

The university libraries have received tremendous impetus to rise to their full stature from the Wheat Loan Programme. The much-needed money which came through the Programme enabled quite a large number of university and research libraries to equip themselves with latest books and back volumes of periodicals.

No less in importance was the programme of exchange of librarians. As many as 35 librarians had the privilege to undertake the journey to the United States—the “Land of Libraries”. It has to be seen to be believed what the United States has achieved in her endeavour to bring books and reading materials within easy reach of every citizen of the country. The Indian librarians who undertook the study-tour came back from the United States far richer in their outlook and experience. There is no doubt that if their widened outlook towards library organization as a whole and enriched experience in that properly utilized, Indian academic libraries will no longer trail behind similar libraries in the advanced countries of the world.

But the difficulties are still there; difficulties like lack of sufficient technical personnel, lack of space, lack of cooperation, etc. These hinder the healthy growth of the libraries. Much has been said and discussed about such difficulties that come in the way of implementing the ideas into action. It is none the less true that the disheartened librarians have to stop short in the middle being unable to surmount these obstacles.

Wheat Loan had an answer to this aspect of the problem too. Through the initiative of this Programme, four zonal library workshops were held in 1961. The main emphasis in these workshops was to discuss what the participating librarians themselves could do to improve the library service within their own organization without looking for help from outside.

Many present day problems were discussed in the workshops in an informal atmosphere.

Library workshops of this nature are very essential; wherein the librarians can meet and open their minds without restrictions, discuss among themselves about their own individual problems and get new ideas. The four zonal workshops held last year proved to be very popular and the participating librarians without any exception wished that workshops of this nature should be held at regular intervals, under the auspices of some Indian agency like the University Grants Commission.

India Wheat Loan Programme has done yeoman’s service to the academic libraries in India and it is hoped that the ball which has been set rolling will continue to be played on for years to come.

**B. Sen Gupta**  
**National Library**

What is interesting about the Wheat Loan Library Workshops is that discussions were held among small groups in an atmosphere of cordiality and cooperation. Though the agenda was largely determined by the participants themselves, the workshops were directed and piloted by Mr. Laurence Kipp, who during his short but searching preliminary study of Indian libraries and library associations grasped the fundamentals of the problems needing immediate solution. His case-study method proved immensely helpful to the participants. Besides, the small groups in the four regional workshops had a heart-to-heart discussion about the specific problems facing
Indian librarians, the focus being on the problems of university libraries in India.

In fact, many of the participants—particularly the new in the profession—were able to learn more about libraries and librarians in India in one week than they would have done in a whole year. They were convinced of the efficiency of collective thinking and pooling of experiences and opinions in an atmosphere of cordiality helped by the foreign experts like the Kipps who piloted the discussions in a business-like manner and in an objective way.

I may conclude by remarking that workshops and seminars on all aspects of Indian librarianship should be periodically held under the auspices of the Indian Library Association, which should be rejuvenated and developed along the lines of the British Library Association or the American Library Association.

S. Bashiruddin
Rajasthan University, Jaipur

Mr. & Mrs. Kipp conclude their Report on Indian Libraries and India Wheat Loan Educational Exchange Programme, quoting one of the participants in the Workshop as saying, "I feel that I was able to learn more about libraries and librarians in this country in one week than I would have done in a whole year." I would like to substitute "a whole year" with "a whole life-time", for that was the impression with which I left Jaipur at the conclusion of the Workshop held at that tourists' paradise.

It is a fact that we do not know each other's problems; we seldom have an opportunity of meeting on a common platform not only because of distances and other causes, but also because we never had an active national organization like the A.L.A. of U.S.A. or the L.A. of U.K. Firstly, the India Wheat Loan Educational Exchange Programme provided us with an opportunity of meeting in groups during our tours of the libraries in the States and, secondly, it afforded us a much-needed platform to discuss problems we face in respect of technical and service work at the library workshops, ably organized by Mr. & Mrs. Kipp, at different points in the country.

The workshops were fruitful in that for full one week we engaged ourselves in 'an attempt' to determine how the many new buildings and greatly strengthened collections can be used effectively and how such use can demonstrate the important role of the library in higher education.

An 'attempt' it was, reinforced by the cleverly and carefully thought out terms of reference, Mr. & Mrs. Kipp used to formulate for the direction of the 'attempt'. For, it must be frankly admitted that librarianship in India has yet to enter a stage of adulthood when library problems can be seen in relation to the wider and fundamental problem of higher education. True, the organizers had in mind such problems, but our mental grasp seldom extended beyond strictly routine techniques. The topics did stimulate lively discussion, but always stopped short of growing out of thinking in narrow technical grooves. True, experience gained during our tours of the great libraries in the States provided many of us with new ideas and this important gain enabled many a participant to approach problems from a new angle. But a comprehensive grasp of the philosophy that lies behind our profession was less in evidence.

We discussed the difficulties an 'ill-organized book-trade' in the country creates for us and tried to determine means of meeting bibliographical inadequacies on a cooperative basis.

More than anything else the workshop in which I participated brought to light much of the talent that lies unexplored. Furthermore, it demonstrated that, given proper lead and encouragement, our younger colleagues can give better account of themselves than their elders have done, in creating a unity of purpose in the profession. The lead the India Wheat Loan gave them was utilized not only in contributing to the furtherance of librarianship in India; it made them appreciate the need of banding themselves into a professional body. It is to the credit of the Workshop at Jaipur that the 'Association of Academic Libraries' was brought into being. Mr. & Mrs. Kipp were the first to enrol themselves as foundation members of the Association.

For the first time in the world of librarianship in India we attended library workshops. We returned home from these workshops convinced that these serve the highly useful purpose of bringing colleagues in a profession together and afford them an opportunity for fruitful exchange of views on problems we encounter in the different spheres of our duties.

The lasting impression one carried home was of the sense of dedication, understanding and keenness to contribute to the advancement of Indian Librarianship that characterized everything the
Kipps did during their strenuous tour of the country. More than their contribution to Indian Librarianship, the Kipps, unwittingly you may add, if you please, have left on the mind of everyone who came to know them an indelible mark of America's genuine desire to further the cause of higher education in our country through the libraries.

**K. S. Hingwe**  
*Poona University*

Like several others, benefited under the India Wheat Loan Programme, I had the opportunity of attending the workshops organized by the India Wheat Loan Programme. I consider myself fortunate particularly because I had the opportunity of watching the beginning and the end of the series of these workshops.

All participants had an opportunity of expressing their views on professional matters, very freely and informally. Mr. & Mrs. Kipp introduced varied and novel methods in stimulating and controlling the discussions. This was a new experience to all of us. For instance, one of us posed as an Architect, other one as the Librarian and some others as Members of the Library Committee, Chairman of the Library Committee etc. when we discussed the question of 'Library Planning'. This method created a true atmosphere for discussing real problems. Each participant in the Workshop was given an opportunity.

I could gather from the final Workshop that the U.G.C., U.S.I.S. and the Ministry of Education, Government of India, are genuinely interested in assisting any programme that would promote cooperation and efficiency in library services in India. I also had an opportunity of listening to the views of some top-ranking officials in the matter, and I am convinced that financial assistance might come forth, in one way or another, provided the participants in these workshops put up proposals for some constructive work.

After attending these workshops, I have come to the conclusion that such workshops enable the participants to study the problems in a realistic manner and to devise solutions to overcome them. There ought to be some permanent machinery, equipped with staff and adequate financial assistance, to see that the recommendations made at various workshops are implemented. How to give effect to the recommendations is the real problem. This can only be achieved by establishing strong and active professional association with various sections, which ultimately depends upon the sincerity and devotion of the professionals in the field.

**S. S. Lal**  
*Panjab University Extension Library, Ludhiana*

The impact of the Programme on Indian libraries has been tremendous. Thirty-five Indian librarians from various institutions of higher learning visited U.S.A. They went to the 'Land of Libraries' with open mind to study the working of libraries. Situations were compared, solutions to library problems were sought and new ideas were picked up. To complete their training, most of them on their return journey visited libraries on the Continent also. When they came back they were better equipped for their jobs.

On book purchase side, the libraries, which because of shortage of foreign exchange were traditionally deficient in reference and research materials of American origin, were able to acquire such materials on an unprecedented scale. The bibliographic assistance provided by the Wheat Loan Office made this task still easier as bibliographies, both trade as well as specialized, covering almost every field of knowledge, supplied by that Office, offered the selectors a very wide range of selection. The works thus acquired enriched the collections beyond imagination so much so that Indian libraries now have a nucleus of strong reference collections and are in a better position to offer reference service to the readers. Same is true of research material.

Another impact of the Wheat Loan Programme has been the establishment of three Extension Libraries, one each at Madurai, Ludhiana and Udaipur, under the Universities of Madras, Panjab and Rajasthan respectively. This is a new experiment in cooperative librarianship, and if justified by results, will prepare grounds for opening similar libraries in other towns which, because of strong concentration of students and educational institutions, are small university towns in themselves.
Unfortunately, the Programme came to a close on June 30, 1962, shattering the hopes of the librarians who had realized the benefits and had hoped for its continuation. In a period of acute shortage of foreign exchange, presently faced by India, the continuance of the Programme might have benefited the libraries even more; and benefit to libraries means benefit to higher education and scientific research, without which the pace of technological progress and industrial growth is bound to receive a setback.

In September 1960 two American Librarians, Mr. Laurence J. Kipp and Mrs. Cecilia R. Kipp came to India on an eight months' assignment as Library Consultants, to evaluate the Programme and conduct workshops. They travelled throughout the length and breadth of India, visiting the libraries which were beneficiaries under the Programme, meeting their librarians to find out their problems, and holding library workshops in various regions of India to enable the librarians find out solutions of the problems faced by them.

The workshop idea is quite new in the library field of this country. There have been seminars and conferences, wherein only a few participate actively and the others are merely passive onlookers, whereas a workshop is for work where every participant has to contribute effectively.

Hard work is expected of each as the problems have to be recognized, analyzed and solved almost with the combined efforts of all. Naturally such a process is sometimes taxing, but the results achieved are worth it. It is group dynamism at work, inter-relationship in action, and is based on the belief that each individual has not only a right but also a duty to express himself on the problems facing him and the solution of which is also as much his concern as that of others. As such the extent of active participation and the solutions found determine the success or failure of a workshop. With large unwieldy groups and lack of unanimity of purpose, it is difficult to achieve desired results.

The exchangee librarians who had visited U.S.A. had endeavoured to find solutions to their specific problems. On their return they had experimented with the new techniques and ideas. Each one was working on his own without effectively communicating with his counterparts in other libraries. It was not only desirable but essential that these librarians should meet to exchange their experiences for mutual benefit of all, and this was made possible through the series of workshops.

The unanimity in recognizing our problems and the discussions resulting in finding out practical solutions to them, achieved mainly through professional communication, are in no way a mean achievement. The participating librarians now have a clearer picture. They have come to realize that for the problems, it is not always desirable to be dependent on external agencies. Problems are theirs and they (librarians) have to solve them. Sooner they do it, better it is for them as well as for their clientele. Self-confidence born out of such conviction gives the energy and aptitude to work wonders. Just to cite one instance, almost all the university libraries had acquired reference works, but hardly any of them offered reference service, nothing to say of having a separate Reference Librarian or a Reference Section. But it is heartening to note that the participants have started giving more and more attention to the readers' services even without additional staff. In other words, realization of the fact that readers' services are a far more important than behind the scene service has persuaded them to change the priorities. Such a simple change in outlook can perhaps revolutionise the whole field of librarianship in this country.

Such workshops have academic as well as practical value, as these help to provide insight into the very roots of our problems. Hence it is desirable that such workshops are arranged periodically on zonal basis. For the purpose, India may be divided into five zones and in each zone a workshop may be arranged at least once every year. Now that we have the Indian Academic Libraries Association, the work of organization, coordination and follow-up can be entrusted to the Association. The University Grants Commission and the Ministry of Education should provide requisite finances as is being done for seminars of specialists in other fields.

A. K. Mukherjee
Jadavpur University, Jadavpur

I had the good fortune of attending three out of the five workshops sponsored by the authorities of the India Wheat Loan Educational Exchange Programme to discuss and solve some of the immediate problems of the university and research libraries in India today.

The librarians in India meet occasionally to discuss their problems—technical, administrative
or otherwise, in conferences, usually organized by the Indian Library Association or the Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres. Recently the University librarians had also another opportunity to attend a Seminar sponsored by the University Grants Commission.

Although I have some experience of participating in seminars, personally feel that these workshops had been more purposeful and yielded much useful and positive results. The number of participants being limited to 15 to 20, and the topics for discussion having been chosen on a realistic basis, it was possible for the majority of participants to project their minds on each issue and make definite recommendations. The main idea behind the workshop was to encourage each participant to search his own mind regarding each problem and to find out to what extent he could exert himself to solve it, instead of making high-sounding resolutions and leaving everything to be done by others, especially the authorities. This was a lesson in self-confidence, which we librarians perhaps lack. The posing of each problem on case-study method was a novel idea which naturally augmented our interest, as everyone of us felt—"it is my problem"—and tried to give the best in tackling it. The way the Kipps couple induced even the most shy and tight-lipped amongst us to open out and air his point of view, revealed that nobody could be a passive participant in a workshop.

A work is judged by the result achieved. In my opinion, one of the most important results obtained out of these workshops is the reorientation of the philosophy of our profession. We have been trained more or less to mind the 'book' and not the 'reader', whereas the emphasis should be reversed according to modern trends. There lies the imperative necessity of organizing a Reference Service in every type of library, of popularizing the use of "good books" of enduring value among the students, especially who are only textbook-minded, and of bringing the readers in close contact with the books through 'open access'. The workshops laid much stress on these points and most of us, I believe, have already started working on these lines. That is a positive gain.

Certain other problems, important in another context, for the solution of which moral and financial support was necessary, viz. having a Union List of Serials in Indian Libraries, better status and pay-scales for working librarians, cooperative purchasing, education for librarianship, organizing the Academic Libraries Association, etc., were also considered thoroughly. It was ultimately left to the Joint Action Committee formed by the participants at the Jaipur Workshop to meet in March last, to establish a machinery for the implementation of some of the recommendations in this regard, so that the ideas obtained through useful deliberations were not lost through inaction.

If the Union List of Serials is unlikely to be an immediate reality, we are at least having the Union List of American Serials in India, and the Indian Academic Libraries Association has already been instituted to continue the work formulated by us. The groundwork is now already there to build the superstructure carefully planned.

I must acknowledge with deep gratitude the great impetus that the India Wheat Loan Educational Exchange Programme has given us in various ways: by providing the timely and much-needed book grants and the opportunity to Indian librarians to have a direct experience of the libraries and library services in the U.S.A. The last but not the least act of commendation of this body was the workshop series sponsored and directed so efficiently. Their impact will be felt not only by the present generation of librarians, but also by others who will follow.

Laurence J. Kipp

We observed Indian libraries and held four workshops for Indian librarians at a time (1960-61) when the most obvious features of Indian librarianship were its tremendous growth in recent years and its even greater potential for growth in future years. The demand that libraries of all types play a role in the development of India had created numerous problems of growth. The most acute problem of all, it seemed to us, was that of developing the human resources necessary to successful library development. This is always a problem in any kind of growth or change, but it seemed to us particularly acute in India at this time.

The Indian Government, the universities and research institutions had focused attention and very considerable financial support upon new library buildings, larger collections and larger staff for educational institutions. These could be built upon a basis of library theory, library experience and the wisdom of many Indian librarians, for these had been thoroughly developed in India during the previous generation.
The need, then, in developing human resources was to communicate this theory and experience, to share the learned wisdom which had solved many problems in the past. The need was to communicate and to share in all parts of India and with men and women working in many different kinds of libraries and on many different levels. We soon realized that Indians were working out many means of communicating and sharing in and it was our job to introduce another method.

The workshop method was a promising means of developing librarians, because it called for each person to think through or to act through a problem and to contribute toward the solution of specific problems. The solutions would be valid and might have value, but the process was of primary importance.

The workshops were planned to provide as realistic a framework as possible toward the solving of library problems. They had to deal with problems in the form that librarians found them and solutions had to be sought within the framework in which librarians actually operated. Solutions had to be found not in prepared answers, nor easy generalizations, but in suggestions based on experience, in critical examination of each suggestion and in acceptance of a partial solution if a whole solution could not be found.

The workshops were intended to suggest ways of operating not in an ideal situation, but in an actual situation full of frustrations. They were to emphasize not what someone else could do for libraries, but what librarians—with all the limitations placed upon them—could do for libraries. They were to encourage each individual, realizing that he could make a contribution if he analyzed his own experiences clearly and honestly. They provided experience in step-by-step analysis and encouraged taking as many steps as librarians could take without the aid of higher authorities.

Perhaps results of such workshops could be measured; this we did not try. We were satisfied, however, by two intangibles: the sense of unity and the high morale which developed within each workshop. We were satisfied that the discussions added new meaning for all of us in our roles and activities as librarians. We sensed an increased pride in the goals of librarianship and renewed determination to move actively toward those goals.

Discussions covered such topics as these: the responsibilities of librarians toward library associations, the hazards and advantages of open shelf collections, faculty pressures and centralization of book collections, and encouraging development of library staff members. So much information was presented, examined and placed in perspective that everyone in the workshops had better data on which to make decisions and to act. Developing of librarians rather than developing data was the purpose of the workshops. Nevertheless, the data developed may influence Indian librarianship for many years.

The workshops were, of course, only one aspect of the programmes which had been developed by the Ministry of Education and the University Grants Commission working with the Wheat Loan Office. The largest part of the Wheat Loan funds had been spent for books, and the book programme had helped to develop the bibliographic skills of many librarians. More than thirty-five grants to librarians for study and travel in the United States had also preceded the workshops. New experiences and broadened horizons had, therefore, already stimulated many Indian librarians; and the workshops tied in closely with, benefited from and stimulated further, the earlier experiences.

An observer can see that Indian librarianship has changed, grown, become much more skillful since Indian independence was achieved. In the next few years librarianship must continue to develop very rapidly if it is to keep pace with the opportunities open to it, if it is to contribute its share to Indian educational and economic development. The workshop method may provide one way of developing on many levels active, skilled librarians who are contributing ideas as well as daily work to their libraries, their library associations and their communities,
THE PARTICIPANTS

3. S. Das Gupta, Librarian, Delhi University Library, Delhi.
4. K. S. Deshpande, Librarian, Karnataka University Library, Dharwar.
7. N. K. Goil, Librarian, Institute of Economic Growth Library, Delhi.
8. K. S. Hingwne, Librarian, Poona University Library, Poona.
9. D. R. Kalia, Director, Delhi Public Library, Delhi.
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