

MISSOURI ALUMNUS

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1970

LIBRARY SCIENCE SECTION

Professor Returns After 2 Year Leave

Professor Francis J. Flood, who was for 15 years the only full-time member of the department of library science when it was part of the College of Arts and Science, has returned to active duty after a two-year leave of absence. Flood has been studying at the University of Michigan, and has completed his PhD program except for the dissertation now in progress. He held a fellowship funded by the United States Office of Education.

He served as the president of the doctoral student's council of the School of Library Science at the University of Michigan. He also taught two courses while there: reference, and bibliography of the social sciences.

Flood is now representing the School of Library and Informational Science in the Graduate Faculty Senate. He is also the School's representative on the University committee which is making an institutional self-study in preparation for a re-accreditation examination by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

Two Publish Books

Two members of the faculty of the department of library science have books in the process of publication. Dr. Hellmut Lehmann-Haupt, professor of bibliography, an authority on history of books, has edited, translated, and written an explication of a manuscript book dealing with book illustration. The manuscript was recently found in the library of the University of Goettingen. It was used as a model by book illustrators at about the time of the invention of printing. Dr. Lehmann-Haupt's book is being published by the University of

Missouri Press. It will include a facsimile of the manuscript, using paper which will give much the same effect as the original.

Mrs. Sharon Willis, instructor in library science, in collaboration with Mrs. Margaret Brewer, education librarian, has written a book on elementary school libraries. There has been considerable increase in interest in elementary libraries, to a certain extent resulting from federal assistance. The need for training of librarians in this field has become acute. This book is designed to assist in this training effort. It will be published by Shoestring Press.

Plans Made For Library Alumni

The Library Science Graduate Students' Association on the Columbia campus has initiated action for the establishment of an alumni association for the School of Library and Informational Science. A committee met October 29 to draft the preliminary constitution and select a slate of officers. All alumni of the School will be mailed a ballot for the ratification of the constitution and election of officers.

Members of the committee are: Mrs. Sue McCollum (1968), head of circulation department, University Library, Columbia; Mrs. Nancy Doyle (1970), executive secretary of the Missouri Library Association, Columbia; Richard Parker (1968), director, Boonslick Regional Library, Sedalia; and John Mertens, president, Library Science Graduate Students' Association, Fulton.

Grant Helps Train Health Librarians

Training health sciences librarians on the Columbia campus will now be possible due to a \$99,177 grant. The grant has been awarded to Dr. Charles W. Sargent, associate professor of informational science, by the National Library of Medicine.

The grant, awarded for five years, was funded for two. It makes possible the awarding of five fellowships for each of the two years. These fellowships pay all University fees and a stipend of \$200 per month. In addition, the grant covers the cost of travel to the annual meeting of the Medical Library Association and other field trips.

Three new courses are being offered as the core of this program: health sciences librarianship and bibliography, LS 446; medical subject analysis, LS 416 and the biomedical community, LS 451. In order to broaden the students' knowledge in this area, a non-credit seminar, the history of medicine, and other similar programs will also be offered.

In addition to Sargent, Mrs. Virginia Algermissen and Dean Schmidt will be teaching in the new program. Mrs. Algermissen is a certified MEDLARS strategist and has been a medical librarian for several years. She has also worked with the University of Utah, the National Institute of Health, the University of New Mexico and the Missouri Regional Medical Program.

Schmidt, an assistant professor of medical bibliography, is the medical librarian in the School of Medicine.

Sargent, an associate professor of information science, came to the Columbia campus from the University of New

Mexico. He holds a grade three certification from the Medical Library Association and has a number of years experience as a medical librarian and information scientist.

The five fellows for this year include: Mrs. Phyllis Lansing, Fayette; Timothy Judkins, Jefferson City; Mrs. Carolyn Reid, and Mrs. Sue Raymond, both at Columbia; and Deborah Young, Cape Girardeau.

Applications for fellowships for the academic year 1971/72 should be filed by March 1 for entrance to the program in the summer session. Such applications should be directed to Sargent at the School of Library and Informational Science on the Columbia campus.

Background Of School Explained

by Dean Ralph H. Parker

When the School of Library and Informational Science was established in 1966, it had been determined that the School should be more than the traditional library school. There was recognition that librarianship was itself changing, that it would rely more and more upon ideas and techniques evolving from technological change, and that the librarian of the future would be more concerned with the theoretical transfer than he had in the past. But this recognition did not involve turning a back upon the traditional concepts for bibliographical control and service to users.

There has been evolving for the past two decades a new discipline known as information science. Its limits have not been established, so that there has been competition for owner-

ship of the term by various other disciplines. Some would deny any relationship to library science; others would equate it to automation of library processes. Still others would use information science interchangeably with computer science.

In 1969 the department of information science was created in the division, with initial energy devoted to research. Hopefully, a clearer focus upon the nature of information science will result. Largely because of financial constraints imposed upon the University, the teaching program of the department has not been implemented. Work is currently being done to develop a curriculum, and by 1971 courses will be offered.

As it is being brought into focus, the subject will draw upon many disciplines but will have its own theoretical base. A tentative definition is as follows:

Information science is the discipline that investigates the properties and behavior of information, the forces governing the flow of information, and the means of processing information for optimum accessibility and usability. It is concerned with the body of knowledge relating to the origination, collection, organization, storage, retrieval, interpretation, transmission, transformation, and utilization of information. This includes the investigation of information representations in both natural and artificial systems, the use of codes for efficient message transmission, and the study of information processing devices and techniques such as computers and their programming systems. It is an interdisciplinary science derived from and related to such fields as mathematics, logic, linguistics, psychology, computer technology, operations research, the graphic arts, communications, library science, management, and other similar fields.

Even within this definition, the boundaries could be broadly interpreted to encompass almost the entirety of social science; a more restrictive view limits concern primarily to the information transfer process, particularly as applied to individuals rather than the masses. Information transfer is essentially uni-directional, as opposed to communication which is bi-directional and high-



An informal coffee and donut reception in the Library gave students a chance to meet with their faculty and Dean Ralph Parker.

ly interactive. This emphasis delimits it from journalism on the one hand and from sociology on the other.

Information is transferred through two dimensions: space and time. Spatial transfer involves not only the human senses of sight and hearing, but also signal transmission by electrical and electronic means. Contributions from electrical engineering, physics, statistics, and various other subjects are essential to the study of this aspect.

Time transfer involves the storage of information, and its retrieval as needed. Information storage requires a receptacle to contain it; this has been traditionally the book, a collection of written or printed pages. More recently technical developments have brought into being other media such as sound recordings, motion pictures, microform reproductions of textual material, and magnetic tapes of digital data for use on computers. The term document has been applied to them as a group; and "documentation" was used at first to designate the newly emerging discipline. Within the past decade, however, it has been largely replaced by "information science."

Libraries have been the traditional institution to serve this documentation function. Library science has been primarily concerned with the management of the receptacles of information, with less concern for the theoretical process by which information was transferred from storage to the individual user

on the user's initiative. Thus library science is an applied segment of information science.

The program being developed here will be valuable in enriching the understanding of librarians of the role they can play in information transfer. It will also be useful to many other professions in a similar way: medicine, business management, publishing, etc. It will involve utilization of all the technological developments of recent years: the computer, telecommunications networks, microforms; but it will be primarily concerned with the processes by which information is transferred from the cultural memory to the user who needs it.

Graduates Employed Throughout Country

Since establishment of the School of Library and Information Science, master of arts degrees have been awarded to 87 graduates. Records in the dean's office show that 46 are employed in Missouri, but others are scattered from Massachusetts to California.

The largest concentration of graduates is at the University of Kansas, where four are on the library staff. Other libraries with more than one alumnus are the State Library in Jefferson City, Northeast Missouri State College in Kirksville, and the Daniel Boone Regional Library in Columbia.

The largest group have chosen academic libraries, but there are also significant num-

bers in public and school libraries. In addition there are others in various types of federal government libraries: the National Agricultural Library and the U.S. Department of Interior Library in Washington, the Kansas City branch of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Three are working with correctional institutions; one is employed in a research project; and one is cataloging artifacts for a museum.

Authority Donates Personal Library

Dr. William W. Biddle, noted authority on community development, is giving his personal library of books, monographs and studies in the field to the department of regional and community affairs at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

The department in the School of Social and Community Services marked the occasion with a buffet luncheon and reception October 9.

Biddle has devoted a lifetime to teaching and consulting in the field of community development. He attended Union Theological Seminary and Columbia University, New York City, where he received a doctoral degree in social and educational psychology. He has worked with numerous federal, social, religious and international agencies.

Two of his books, "The Community Development Process" and "Encouraging Community Development," were written with his wife and research assistance, Loueide. These books are considered major contributions to the field, according to a member of the R&CA department. Along with the rare and out-of-print studies in Biddle's collection, they will enrich research opportunities for students and faculty. The University of Missouri-Columbia is one of two institutions in the country offering a master's degree program in community development.

In 1967, Biddle was a visiting professor here in the department of regional and community affairs.

Now retired, he lives in Seal Beach in his native California. His son, Dr. Bruce J. Biddle, is a professor of sociology and psychology and director of the Center for Research in Social Behavior on the Columbia campus.