

VI. SIO Library

A summary of such an important teaching and research facility as the SIO book, serial, and document collection requires a special section in this story. As of 30 June 1980, the SIO library shelved 130,700 bound volumes. About two-thirds of these were journals or periodicals, the other 33% being monographs, textbooks, encyclopedias, and other kinds of books. Additionally, there were approximately 53,00 reprints, reports, pamphlets and dissertations, 36,300 maps and charts, 450 periodicals and serials, and 8200 photomicroscopic documents (fiches, etc.). Since 1977, this collection has been housed in the new library building, which has shelving for 150,000 volumes. Probably, provisions could be made to accommodate up to 200,000 volumes. In both quality and quantity, there is no other collection of marine science literature that can compare with Scripps except possibly the combined collection of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the Marine Biology Laboratory.

Nearly 1,400,000 books and about a thousand different periodicals are available within a radius of half a mile on the UCSD campus in the Central University Library and its four branches: the Biomedical Library, the Science & Engineering Library, the Cluster Undergraduate Library, and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography Library. If a certain desired publication is not in any library on the UCSD campus (something that can be determined by telephone), computerized methods can be employed to ascertain whether it is in any other University of California library, such as Los Angeles, Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Riverside, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, or Santa Cruz. Another option is to ask the computer whether the desired publication is available in other universities or government libraries.

In 1912 when the Marine Biological Association of San Diego officially became the Scripps Institution for Biological Research of the University of California, its library collection consisted of something less than 500 volumes supplemented by a much larger number of pamphlets and reprints, 15 journal subscriptions, and the considerable library of Director Ritter. The entire collection was shelved in one room of the George H. Scripps Building, where it was cared for mainly by volunteers, staff members or students. The first of these were graduate students Myrtle Johnson and Nina Waddell in 1912-13. Dr. S. Stillman Berry came to Scripps in 1913 as the Institution's first Librarian. He was an invertebrate zoologist from Stanford University, conducting research on the taxonomy of mollusks. He received a nominal fee to manage the library collection. He left Scripps in 1918 to conduct independent research in Redlands, Calif. He died April 9, 1984 at the age of 97.

By the time the Library-Museum Building was completed in 1916, the collection had increased to approximately 5300 bound volumes plus 7000 reprints. The chief input was the gift of most of Dr. Ritter's personal library. Between 1912 and 1916, Mr. E. W. Scripps and his sister, Ellen B. Scripps, matched the amounts contributed by the University of California for the purchase of books. Lesser amounts were donated by several philanthropic citizens. Certain staff members contributed journals, reprints, pamphlets, and books.

The library collection had grown to nearly 9000 bound volumes plus about 12,000 reprints by 1925. This is when the name of the institution was changed to the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Dr. T. Wayland Vaughan was the director. His secretary, Tillie Genter, was placed in charge of the library collection. Ruth Ragan, who joined the staff as assistant secretary in 1929, gradually relieved Miss Genter of her library responsibilities. By 1935, Miss Ragan was preparing and signing library reports. She was conscientious, industrious, dependable, and loyal. Although primarily a secretary, she was in charge of the library during Dr. Sverdrup's administration. She cooperated with the Library Committee and initiated several improvements herself. However, in her zeal she worked harder at trying to protect books and periodicals from people than in increasing the usefulness of the library. She attained the rank of Librarian II in 1946 and retired in 1949.

Mr. W. Roy Holleman became the first professional librarian in the SIO Library in 1950. He was followed by Joseph Gantner in 1963 and then by William J. Goff in 1966. The latter's administration has been one of expansion and the application of more modern methods of making printed information readily available.

When I first visited the SIO Library in June 1931, the collection consisted of 12,850 bound volumes (about half of which were journals), 180 serial subscriptions, and 870 maps and charts. A good many of the serials were received from marine stations, government agencies, and other research organization in exchange for the Bulletin of the Scripps Institution for Biological Research (or Oceanography after 1924), and later the "Contributions." The Bulletin has been published continuously at irregular intervals since 1916. From then until 1926, 16 numbers were printed and distributed. The so-called Technical Series of the SIO Bulletin started in 1927 with Volume I. Volume 22 was completed in 1976.

The "Contributions of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography" is a selected collection of reprints authored by staff members, students, or visiting investigators. Presumably, Volume I consisted of 26 papers published between 1893 and 1904, the latter being the date when the Marine

Biological Association of San Diego was incorporated. Unlike Volumes 2 to 35, the original series that are now bound, catalogued, and shelved with Special Collections in the SIO Library. Volume 1 is not available. I have tried to determine the number and titles of papers published by marine station personnel up to 1904 from the bibliography and text of W. E. Ritter's detailed report on "The Marine Biological Station of San Diego -- Its History, Present Conditions, Achievements and Aims," (Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool. 9:137-248, 1912). Volume 2 contains reprints of qualifying papers for 1904 and 1905; Volume 3 contains such for 1906 and 1907. The papers for 1908 and 1909 are bound in Volumes 4 and 5 respectively. In 1910 two volumes (No. 6 and 7) were required for the contributions, but Volume 10 easily accommodated all of the contributions for 1912, 1913, and 1914. This was a transitional period following the transformation of the Marine Biological Association of San Diego into the Scripps Institution of Biological Research of the University of California. Also World War I was having adverse effects on the economy in America as well as in Europe. Interestingly, Volume 23 had contributions from three years: 1924, 1925, and 1926. This was also a period of economic depression as well as a transitional period involving changes in administration and the name of the Institution.

The term "Contributions of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography" was applied retroactively to the collection of reprints in 1937. Volumes No. 34 and 35 were completed in 1937. At that time, WPA assistance was used for typing new headings, preparing tables of contents, and binding the Contributions for Volumes 2 to 35. A "New Series of Contributions" was commenced in 1938. Volume 1 of the New Series contained 40 papers, including 7 authored by C.E. ZoBell, 5 by H. U. Sverdrup, 4 by W. E. Allen, and 3 each by W. R. Coe and F. B. Sumner. Only two copies of Volume 1 were prepared for library use, but in subsequent years 200 or more copies were prepared mainly for exchange purposes. Several copies of Volumes 2, 3, and 4 for 1939, 1940, and 1941 respectively, were saved for nations at war or for those to whom shipments were curtailed by the War. The number has been gradually increased until 900 copies of the Contributions were prepared in 1980. Volume 50 prepared in 1980 consisted of three parts having a total of 3745 pages. Of these pages, 59 consisted of author indices and titles of papers, 93 pages were reprints dealing with the atmosphere, biology, 1049 pages, chemistry, 483 pages, engineering, 48 pages, geology, 1106 pages, physics, 505 pages, space, 25 pages, and miscellaneous, 377 pages.

When Dr. Sverdrup assumed the directorship of the Institution in 1936, the library had 14,600 bound volumes, 18,000 reprints, 1100 maps and charts, and 330 serial subscriptions. At the time of his retirement in 1948, the number of bound volumes had been increased to 23,400. There were about

20,000 reprints, 6000 maps and charts, and nearly 500 serial subscriptions.

The reprint collection, for which I have been giving data hereinabove, should not be confused with the Contributions of the Scripps Institution. Whereas the latter consisted of reprints based on research by SIO personnel, the so-called "reprint collection" consisted of reprints from many parts of the world. Most of the papers were printed in the English language and the subject matter has been predominately various aspects of marine biology with far fewer reprints dealing with chemistry and the physical sciences. For the first few decades, the incoming reprints were filed and catalogued in chronological order. The system simplified filing, but it left much to be desired for research or information retrieval purposes. There were sporadic attempts dating from 1904 to have the acting librarian prepare an author index, but it was usually months or sometimes a year or more in arrears owing to the multiplicity of the duties of library personnel. The author index was updated by WPA personnel in the mid-1930's and a subject index of reprints was started.

In the days of penny post cards, staff members and students were encouraged to request reprints directly from authors for personal use as well as for the SIO collection. During the administration of both Dr. Vaughan and Dr. Sverdrup, either Tillie Genter or later the library and storehouse supplied stamped and printed post cards for requesting reprints. Except briefly in 1917, when the postage on post cards was doubled for a few months, stamped post cards for domestic delivery cost only 1¢ until 1952. The rates for Air Mail or overseas delivery were appreciably higher. Then from 1952 until 1955, the cost of so-called "penny post cards" increased from 1¢ to 2¢ each and the basic rate for a 1-ounce First Class letter increased from 2¢ to 3¢. Postage rates continued to increase until at present (1980) postage for a post card is 10¢ for domestic delivery and 15¢ for overseas delivery by Air Mail wherever available. An "Aerogramme" cost 21¢. In the meantime, the cost of reprints increased from 1¢ per printed page from 1904 to 1924 up to from 15 to 50¢ per page in 1980.

Managing the reprint collection by the "open shelf" system required more attention of trained library personnel as the number of students, staff members, and visitors increased from year to year. There was almost intolerable misuse and abuse of the collection resulting in the losses or misplacement of reprints. With the addition of more and more crucial books and journals after 1950, there was less and less reliance on an active open reprint collection. In 1965, the library stopped accepting reprints. At that time, the reprint collection containing 21,029 reprints was transferred to Special Collections.

Shortly after taking charge as director of the Institution in 1936, Dr. Sverdrup requested Ruth Ragan to supervise the rearrangement of bound books in the library assisted by WPA helpers. Irrespective of library call numbers, all literature dealing with meteorology and physical oceanography was transferred to shelves apart from the predominantly biologic literature. This resulted in considerable confusion and whispered comments by all concerned. Dr. Sverdrup explained that the new and somewhat unorthodox arrangement of books made it much easier for him to find what he wanted. When asked in confidence what he thought of the new arrangement, Fred Faulkner characterized it as being "more profane than profound." Fred, a WPA employee who happened to be completely deaf, was well trained in library science. As assistant to the Director, I was called into Dr. Sverdrup's office several times for confidential talks concerning the shelving of books. Eventually without any confrontations or loss of face, an open staff discussion of the cataloging and shelving of books led to the adoption of Library of Congress cards. Up until this time the Dewey Decimal System had been used.