

CHAPTER TWO

GENERAL STUDIES

Library historiography could benefit substantially from a much broader range of interpretive monographs of both a generalized and specialized nature, although a number of general surveys have appeared that encompass the American experience but are not limited to it. Among the earliest of these is Albert Predeek's *A History of Libraries in Great Britain and North America* (1947, **2.39**). More than twenty-five years later, Elmer D. Johnson published the fourth edition of *Communication: An Introduction to the History of Writing, Printing, Books, and Libraries* (1973, **2.162**), while his *History of Libraries in the Western World* (2d ed., 1970, **2.134**) combined with Sidney L. Jackson's *Libraries and Librarianship in the West: A Brief History* (1974, **2.173**) to form a thorough general introduction. Johnson's *History of Libraries* was revised with Michael H. Harris in 1976 and, again, by Harris alone eight years later (1984, **2.333**). Meanwhile, the distilled wisdom of James Thompson appeared in *A History of the Principles of Librarianship* (1977, **2.240e**) which has a British orientation but includes a number of references to American developments especially in the closing observations.

Since systematic surveys of U. S. library history remain scarce, several editors have attempted to fill the gap with collected works, largely successful efforts that appeared, for the most part, in the 1960s and 1970s. Three excellent collections are those by John David Marshall (

interpreted the history of libraries for the years 1945 to 1970, a period he described as a "Golden Age" (1984, **2.329**); while Rosalee McReynolds contrasted the librarian's image in popular literature with the librarian's image in professional literature produced in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (1985, **2.350**).

Survey histories comprise a small body of literature produced in the 1980s; the major contributions include David Kaser's definitive study, *A Book for a Sixpence: The Circulating Library in America* (1980, **4.350**; listed in Chapter 4, "Predecessors of the Public Library"); Stephen Karetzky's perceptive *Reading Research and Librarianship: A History and Analysis* (1982, **2.310**); Kathleen Molz's well-written, *National Planning for Library Service, 1935-1975* (1984, **2.335**); and Kaser's carefully researched *Books and Libraries in Camp and Battle: The Civil War Experience* (1984, **3.399**; listed in Chapter 3, "Private Libraries and Reading Tastes"). Finally, Paul Dickson's *The Library in America: A Celebration in Words and Pictures* (1986, **2.360**), emphasizing public libraries, offers an impressive photographic record. Scholarly monographs on selected issues, particular periods, or individual institutions are considerably more plentiful than the general surveys; the former have a stronger historiographic tradition, have appeared consistently throughout the past decade and, being more specialized, are cited in other chapters as well as being mentioned in the introductory essays.

Of special use to students are three chronologies, well-designed sources of practical ready-reference value: Josephine M. Smith's *A Chronology of Librarianship* (1968, **2.117**); Elizabeth W. Stone's *American Library Development, 1600-1899* (1977, **2.239**), revised and expanded from an earlier work published in 1967; and a list of significant events in black American librarianship compiled by Casper LeRoy Jordan and E. J. Josey (1977, **2.230**).

Statistically based studies have found a place in librarianship, thus reflecting their popularity in social history generally. Charles Coffin Jewett compiled the earliest major work, *Notices of Public Libraries in the United States of America* (1851, **2.2**). Various older statistical compilations, including Jewett's, came under scrutiny in recent studies such as Elmer D. Johnson's "Southern Public Libraries in the 1850s: Correcting an Error" (1969, **2.122**), Frank Schick's "Library Statistics: A Century Plus" (1971, **2.148**), Haynes McMullen's "The Prevalence of Libraries in the United States before 1876: Some Regional Differences" (1972, **2.155**), and Kenneth G. Peterson's "Library Statistics and Libraries of the Southeast before 1876" (1972, **2.158**). In a similar vein, J. Periam Danton made effective use of statistical compilations in his comprehensive review essay on the *Dictionary of American Library Biography* (1978, **2.249**); Wayne A. Wiegand studied American Library Association (ALA) leaders from 1876 to 1917 alone and with Geri Greenway (1981, **12.364**; 1981, **12.365**; both listed in Chapter 12, "Library Associations"); and Haynes McMullen and Larry J. Barr offered a descriptive analysis of statistics resulting from their bibliography on libraries in American periodicals (1986, **2.362**).

Some issues touch on many facets of librarianship but have not produced large enough bodies of historical literature to merit separate chapters. A few examples of recent

scholarship are provided for each of the following subjects: censorship and intellectual freedom, copyright, services for the handicapped, information science, library architecture, library literature, library management, microform collections and services, preservation of library materials, and racial and minority issues.

Current historical assessments of intellectual freedom in libraries begin with David K. Berninghausen, who emerged in the 1970s as one of librarianship's most articulate spokesmen on behalf of the freedom to read, as his collection, *The Flight from Reason: Essays on Intellectual Freedom in the Academy, the Press, and the Library* (1975, **2.179**) clearly demonstrated. He and Judith Krug both published articles on the history of the Library Bill of Rights (Berninghausen, 1970, 2.130; Krug, 1972, **2.153**); Chandler B. Grannis revised Anne Haight's authoritative historical bibliography, *Banned Books* (4th ed., 1978, **2.253**); and L. B. Woods examined censorship, primarily in school and public libraries, for the period 1966 to 1975 in a monograph (1979, **2.276**) and in several essays. In the 1980s various facets of the

associations (listed separately in Chapter 12, "Library Associations"), and biographical entries for key black librarians (listed separately in Chapter 15, "Biographies"). Four doctoral dissertations merit special mention, beginning with Lelia G. Rhodes's "A Critical Analysis of the Career Backgrounds of Selected Black Female Librarians" (1975, **2.192**), an examination of fifteen individuals including Augusta Baker, Clara Stanton Jones, Virginia Lacy Jones, Annette Phinazee, and Jessie Carney Smith. Elinor D. Sinnette produced a solid study of Arthur Schomburg and his work with black

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