Introduction

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A library can be no better than its collection[1] (although sometimes it can be a good deal worse). Consequently, collection development is vital to all types of libraries — academic, public, school, and special. Moreover, most library functions — administration, acquisitions, serials, reference, government documents, media, special collections and childrens' librarianship — are involved in varying degrees in the collection development process.

In the early autumn of 1988 Dr. Daniel Callison, Associate Dean of Indiana University's School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) and editor of *Indiana Libraries*, asked me to serve as a guest editor for a special issue of *Indiana Libraries* dealing with collection development and acquisitions. A number of methods were used to obtain contributions for this issue. The majority were procured through

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[1]A comment made to me by Steven J. Schmidt, the library and information science coordinator at IUPUI, in the autumn of 1989 when he was informed I would be editing an issue of *Indiana Libraries* concerning collection development.

direct requests to collection development and acquisitions librarians throughout the state of Indiana. The guest editor also recruited contributors from his collection development classes in Indiana University's SLIS and through informal contacts with former colleagues in Texas. Finally, I received a contribution directly from Dr. Callison, one article from Dr. Callison's file and wrote a paper myself.

Many of the most important themes in contemporary collection development and acquisitions are covered in the eleven separate contributions which make up this issue, including collection evaluation, collection development policies, selection of reference tools, collection overlap, retrospective approval plans, citation analysis, disposing of unwanted duplicates, vendor analysis, dealing with budgetary constraints, and analyzing periodical holdings. Most of the articles are written in an Indiana context, although two deal with Texas. However, the guest editor is confident that all will be of interest to Indiana librarians.

A well thought out collection development policy is a vital founda-

tion for good collection development. Daniel Callison has analyzed 141 Indiana school district library media center selection or collection development policies, using a content analysis methodology to identify changes in policy content from 1975 to 1985. His article also includes a review of the pertinent literature.

No selection of articles on collection development would be complete without a contribution concerning collection evaluation. Maureen Gleason convincingly argues that collection evaluation constitutes the core of collection development practice. She offers numerous philosophical and practical insights into the collection development process, based on both the literature and her experience in collection development at the University of Notre Dame.

The contribution of Jean-Pierre V.M. Herubel should be of special interest to academic librarians. He proposes an experimental bibliometric method for evaluation of the periodical collection, based on citation analysis of three core interdisciplinary history journals.

Peg Kaser, a former Peace Corps volunteer in Africa, addresses a problem of perennial concern to librarians: how to dispose of unwanted duplicate books. She suggests donation to overseas libraries as an appropriate solution and provides practical tips concerning what materials are needed and how a librarian should proceed to send them overseas. Names and addresses of organizations that specialize in placing books in overseas libraries are included.

Brent Koehn presents a four dimensional model which describes New Testament print materials for an academic library collection. His frame work covers hierarchical scope (the entire Bible, the New Testament, a division of the New Testament or a single NT book), type of material (primary, secondary, adjacent, or reference), depth (surface, shallow, medium and deep), and intellectual ability level (lower undergraduate, upper undergraduate, and graduate).

Mark Leggett discusses the important role directories play in business reference work. He then presents a list of Indiana-oriented business directories compiled by the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library's Business, Science & Technology Division.

Present-day collection development and acquisitions librarians in Indiana and throughout the nation inevitably bemoan their book budget's meager size. Mildred McGinnis discusses the pros and cons of numerous options for stretching the monographic budget, including cost studies, approval plans, vendor discounts, use of cheaper binding and avoiding duplicates.

Resource sharing, which allows libraries to meet patron needs through "access" rather than "ownership" is often touted as the solution to financial hardship, but requires prior analysis of the participating libraries' collections. Ruth H. Miller and Martha W. Niemeier use a random sample from the third edition of *Books for College Libraries* as well as shelf list samples to analyze uniqueness and overlap among the holdings of Indiana State University, the University of Southern Indiana, the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and St. Mary-of-the-Woods College, while focusing on publication date and subject area.

Sally Jo Milne analyzes a periodical weeding project con-

ducted during the winter of 1989 at Goshen College's Good Library. She depicts the process and criteria used to review current periodical subscriptions (along with their backrun files) as well as backruns of titles for which current subscriptions are no longer held.

Tom Nisonger describes a retrospective approval plan utilized at the University of Texas at Dallas library during the mid-1980s. His article's purpose is to introduce readers to a relatively little known tool for retrospective collection development. The advantages and disadvantages of this approach are discussed.

Conscientious acquisitions librarians seek to maximize their resources by selecting vendors who offer the best discounts and services. In order to gather data concerning vendor services and to analyze their performance, a group of librarians in the Dallas-Fort Worth area of Texas organized a formal Vendor Study Group under the auspices of the Association for Higher Education of North Texas, a local consortium. The Vendor Study Group is chaired by Dr. Zary M. Shafa, Associate Library Director at the University of Dallas. Glenda A. Thornton, the Group's Recorder, describes the goals, objectives and accomplishments of this group.