

A Brief of the Minutes of the Meetings of the Board of Directors, A.C.R.L., Chicago

Meeting Jan. 27, 1950.

President Wyllis E. Wright, in calling the meeting to order, welcomed the A.C.R.L. representatives on the A.L.A. Council, committee chairmen, and other invited guests.

Ralph Parker reported on the progress the Committee on Budgets, Compensation, and Schemes of Service is making in preparing a classification and pay plan for professional schools. He stated the work was extremely complicated and little real progress had been made in the past two years. The Committee to Study Library Standards of Professional Schools, of which he is chairman, has made some small progress in promoting revision of accrediting procedures by the Society of American Forestry Schools.

Frank Lundy recommended that further study of the problem of the financial needs of the association be turned back to the officers and directors of the association and that the Committee on Financial Needs be dismissed. There followed considerable discussion of the present 20 per cent allotment of membership dues to the divisional treasury, and the desirability of asking for more for A.C.R.L. Mr. Hamlin reported current support for A.C.R.L. (budget for the A.C.R.L. office plus divisional allotment) was somewhat over 50 per cent of the total dues paid to A.L.A. by A.C.R.L. members. Much was said in favor of having A.C.R.L. collect its own dues and control its own funds, making generous allotments to A.L.A. Under such arrangements it would be in a better position to discharge its obligations to its membership. A motion to discharge the Committee on Financial Needs with thanks was passed.

The desirability of free subscriptions to *College and Research Libraries* in place of the *A.L.A. Bulletin* was discussed. President Wright reported this matter had not been dropped by the wayside and reported on the cost of the proposal.

The board next discussed the "Policy State-

ment" prepared early in 1949. This proposed that A.C.R.L. should have the right to admit members without respect to membership in another organization, that the association should collect and control membership dues, and that it should allot funds annually to the support of A.L.A. Headquarters. The statement opposed the organizational parts of the Fourth Activities Committee Report (Part II) and recommended cooperative exploration of plans for a federation of autonomous American library associations.¹ The statement had previously been approved by the board for submission to the regional conferences, where it had been likewise approved, virtually unchanged, at all except those held at Vancouver and Fort Worth. Opposition to the organizational parts of the Fourth Activities Committee Report had been unanimous. Mr. Wright suggested that there may have been misunderstanding of the recommendation regarding federation. The committee which prepared the "Policy Statement" merely recommended that A.C.R.L. should cooperate with other divisions of A.L.A. in studying plans for an improved A.L.A. through federation. The A.C.R.L. Board passed a motion that the "Policy Statement" be submitted to the A.C.R.L. General Session on the following day.

The executive secretary reported briefly on the work of his office and asked advice on keeping in touch with the membership. He requested assistance in handling a large accumulation of archives stored in the office. The board passed a motion authorizing the president of A.C.R.L. to appoint a local committee to review A.C.R.L. archives.

In a discussion of the term of office of the executive secretary of A.C.R.L. it was the general feeling of the board that a term of three to five years was normally desirable.

In regard to the location of the Midwinter

¹"A Statement on Relationship of A.C.R.L. and A.L.A." *A.L.A. Bulletin*, 43:310-311, October 1949.

A.C.R.L. Budget for 1949-50, as Amended and Approved Jan. 29, 1950

Probable Income

From membership dues \$5,500.00

Proposed Expenditures

College and Research Libraries annual subvention \$1,500.00

Section expenses:

Agricultural Libraries Section 50.00
 College Libraries Section 75.00
 Engineering School Libraries Section 50.00
 Junior College Libraries Section 300.00
 Reference Librarians Section 85.00
 Libraries of Teacher Training Institutions Section 75.00
 University Libraries Section 125.00

Committee expenses:

Budgets, Compensation, and Schemes of Service 100.00
 College and University Library Buildings 100.00
 Financing *College and Research Libraries* 100.00
 Periodicals Exchange Union 25.00
 Preparation and Qualification for Librarianship 175.00
 Publications 50.00
 Study Materials for Instruction in the Use of the Library 25.00
 Policy no funds needed
 Constitution and By-Laws no funds needed
 Membership 150.00
 Recruiting 175.00
 Statistics 100.00

Addressograph Plates for the Office of the Executive Secretary 125.00

Moving Expenses of present Executive Secretary 483.00

Support of A.L.A. Washington Office 400.00

Officers' Expenses:

President 25.00
 Treasurer 10.00
 General Administrative Expenses, Travel, etc. 700.00
 A.C.R.L.'s share of the T.I.A.A. premiums for Executive Secretary (A.C.R.L. pays \$25.00 and the Executive Secretary \$25.00 per month) 300.00

\$5,303.00

meetings it was agreed that a downtown hotel was desirable. The executive secretary was requested to convey to A.L.A. Headquarters the feeling of the group on this subject.

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Meeting Jan. 29, 1950.

After calling the meeting to order, Mr. Wright brought up for discussion the provisional arrangement which provided for the A.C.R.L. Executive Office on the A.L.A. budget instead of previous practice of a separate and distinct budget for this office. The arrangement had been accepted provisionally by the A.C.R.L. Board of Directors

in the spring of 1949. Mr. Hamlin felt too inexperienced to express positive opinion for or against and suggested it be continued as a working arrangement until the Cleveland Conference. The plan was criticized as unbusinesslike by both Mr. Hamlin and Mr. Rush, who stressed the difficulty of responsibility to two different sources of funds. The latter felt that it was highly desirable for A.C.R.L. to have as complete as possible control over the budget of its executive office. It was agreed to leave this as a tentative arrangement until the time of the Cleveland Conference.

The Board voted that A.C.R.L. suggest to the member bodies of the Joint Importations Committee that this committee be dissolved.

The Board approved the budget as shown in the table.

The item of \$300 for the Junior College Libraries Section was approved in view of the expense of preparation of the booklist for junior college libraries upon which the section has already expended much labor. The subvention to *College and Research Libraries* covered the deficit of \$290 in the *College and Research Libraries* budget at the end of the fiscal year 1948-49, the cost of the anniversary issue in October 1949 which was double the usual size of the journal, and the cost of

publishing the 10-year index to the journal.

A motion was passed to continue the 85 gift subscriptions to *College and Research Libraries* for a second year. These go to foreign libraries where difficulties in dollar exchange are such that they cannot secure it with their own funds.

The board passed a motion approving a contract with University Microfilms whereby it will be possible for libraries to keep *College and Research Libraries* in microfilm instead of bound volume form if they wish to do so. No loss in subscriptions is expected to result from this arrangement.—Arthur T. Hamlin, Executive Secretary.

Plans Completed for the Midwest Inter-Library Center Building

At a recent meeting of the board of directors of the Midwest Inter-Library Corporation, final building plans were adopted. Construction is expected to begin during May, and the building should be ready for occupancy by Jan. 1, 1951.

The Center, which will provide cooperative housing in Chicago of less-used research materials for 13 middlewestern libraries, is planning six tiers of stacks covering a ground area 90 by 100 feet. A feature of the stacks is the use of a new type of compact storage hinged shelving developed by Sneed & Company, in which each aisle gives access to six layers of books instead of the usual two. The outer layers of double-faced shelving swing out, each three-foot section opening like a door, supported by casters and floor and ceiling pivots.

The anticipated capacity is 2,000,000 volumes of books, and 10,000 volumes of newspapers. It is expected that much of the newspaper collection will be converted to microfilm copies.

A low, split-level wing in front of the windowless stacks structure will house work-space, shipping room, administrative offices, photoreproduction laboratory, a teletype room, and 20 study cubicles.

When the building is ready for occupancy, the Center plans to send its truck to member

libraries to pick up books and newspapers they have selected for housing in Chicago. Deposits will fall into four categories as follows: *Category A*—Outright gift—ownership relinquished. *Category B*—Title remains with depositing institution; deposit is permanent so long as the Center shall last; material subject to recall only upon dissolution of the Midwest Inter-Library Corporation. *Category C*—Title remains with depositing institution. It is expected that deposits be indefinite. *Category D*—Rental storage. Space available at annual rental.

By means of teletype, member libraries will have quick access to deposited materials. A policy has been adopted which provides for the acquisition of new materials by the Center on a share-the-cost basis.

The present members of the Midwest Inter-Library Corporation are: The University of Chicago, State University of Iowa, University of Illinois, Illinois Institute of Technology, University of Minnesota, Indiana University, University of Kansas, Michigan State College, Northwestern University, Purdue University, University of Wisconsin, University of Cincinnati and the University of Notre Dame.

Ralph T. Esterquest, formerly assistant director of libraries at the University of Denver, is director of the Midwest Inter-Library Center.

Brief of Minutes, Association of Research Libraries, Jan. 26, 1950, Chicago

THE 34TH meeting of the Association of Research Libraries was held in Chicago at the Edgewater Beach Hotel on Jan. 26, 1950, beginning at 5 P.M. and continuing through dinner and the evening.

Ralph E. Ellsworth was elected a member of the Advisory Committee for a term of five years to succeed Donald Coney whose term had expired. Charles W. David was elected A.R.L. representative on the A.L.A. Council for a term of four years to succeed Paul North Rice whose term had expired.

It was decided that the next meeting of the Association of Research Libraries should be held in Cleveland in July at a date to be selected during the A.L.A. Conference week.

Documents Expediting Project

The Documents Expediting Project (designed to assist libraries in obtaining documents, for the most part "processed" documents, from Washington), which is under a joint committee of which Homer Halvorson is the chairman, was the subject of considerable discussion. The executive secretary reported on an examination of the history and operation of the project which he had recently made in Washington, and James T. Babb, the A.R.L. representative on the joint committee, reported on the findings of a questionnaire which had been sent out for the purpose of determining the experience of A.R.L. members with the project and their views with respect to it. In the end the opinion prevailed that though much light had been shed upon a subject which was too little understood, nevertheless not all the essential facts relating to this matter had yet been brought out. It was accordingly voted that Mr. Halvorson be requested to submit a full report on the project from the beginning and to distribute the report well in advance of the next meeting so that members would then be in a better position to discuss the problem with knowledge and to arrive at a sound decision.

Farmington Plan

Paul North Rice submitted a brief report dealing with the diminishing part which the New York Public Library has played in the operation of the Farmington Plan during the past year, due to the fact that agents of the Plan abroad have been asked to do their own classifying of Farmington Plan books and to make shipments directly to the recipient libraries in this country.

Keyes D. Metcalf, chairman of the Farmington Plan Committee, then reported on the operation of the Plan as he had observed it. He noted that there had been fewer complaints during the past year than previously, and he made reference to a convenient form which had been developed by the Acquisitions Department at Columbia University for reporting questions and errors to Farmington Plan dealers. The three main difficulties encountered in the operation of the Plan, he said, were: (1) errors of distribution, (2) errors of classification, and (3) difficulties relating to continuations—a subject which had been referred to in Farmington Plan Letter, No. 2, which had been issued in January 1950. Discussing service Mr. Metcalf observed that it had not been as rapid as it should have been, and he said that it was less satisfactory from France than from other countries, due to the fact that the Bibliothèque Nationale which is responsible for the materials sent from that country is currently very badly understaffed. He noted that the small amount of material being received currently from Belgium is not due to inefficiency in the operation of the Plan, but to the fact that publishing in Belgium is now at an unusually low ebb. Mr. Metcalf noted that funds were available to send a representative of the Farmington Plan Committee to Europe, and he said that such a visit should be made late this spring or sometime in the summer. He requested that participating libraries send reports of all their difficulties with agents

directly to him in order that it might be possible to place in the hands of our representative when he goes abroad some definite problems that require investigation.

With respect to the most fundamental question of all, namely that as to whether the Farmington Plan in its operation is giving adequate coverage, Mr. Metcalf expressed the view that a thorough study of the results achieved is needed, and he expressed the hope that Mr. Williams of Harvard would soon be able to make such a study.

Mr. Metcalf then raised a question concerning the division of fields, stating that he had come to the conviction that the operation of the Plan had been handicapped by the division of fields into too small classes. As a result it was difficult to determine who had a particular book. He also raised a question as to whether the Plan was saving money for participating libraries. With regard particularly to material in the so-called minor languages he questioned the wisdom of following logic as we had done and dividing such materials among 54 libraries. He suggested that one of the reasons for our minute division had been the desire of some libraries to prove that they were scholarly and that language presented no difficulties to them. It would have been wiser, he felt, to divide the minor language materials, which undoubtedly present peculiar difficulties, among a small number of libraries which had most need for them and which had adequate facilities for handling them. Upon motion by Mr. Ellsworth it was voted that the Farmington Plan Committee reconsider the whole question of the division of fields.

Mr. Metcalf then turned to a discussion of the extension of the Plan to additional countries, and he reviewed the contents of Farmington Plan Letter No. 2 on the question of Latin materials. Upon motion it was voted to include Bolivia, Peru, and Ecuador in the Plan this year as soon as arrangements could be completed.

Mr. Metcalf then suggested that it was desirable for the association to begin the consideration of the 1951 program of the Plan, and he raised a question of including Spain, Portugal and Brazil, and he added that Lewis Hanke of the Library of Congress who was going abroad would investigate the desirability of adding these countries. He inquired whether the association would approve of in-

cluding these countries in 1951 if Mr. Hanke's investigations indicated that conditions were favorable. A question was raised as to whether it was proposed to extend the Plan to these additional countries without waiting for the report upon coverage and savings under the Plan in its earlier operations. Mr. Metcalf replied with a recommendation that a report be made to the association by Mr. Hanke upon his return from abroad, but that a final decision be reserved until the July meeting of the association. Upon motion by Mr. Clapp it was voted to request Mr. Hanke to investigate and to report not later than July 1950 on the desirability of adding these countries.

Mr. Metcalf then raised a question as to the desirability of extending the Plan to Germany and Austria. After various expressions of interest from members present, Mr. Metcalf said that he felt that a decision to extend the Plan to these countries could not be made until conditions there were such that reasonable coverage could be expected. He said that the representative of the Farmington Plan Committee who was to go abroad this spring or summer would report on this problem at least before the next midwinter meeting of the association. With respect to the extension of the Plan to Great Britain, Mr. Metcalf pointed out that guidance had been sought through a special survey of our acquisitions of British publications, and that on the basis of that survey he had recommended in Farmington Plan Letter No. 2 that Great Britain be not included since nearly adequate coverage was apparently being achieved there without the Plan.

Charles H. Brown urged that the extension of the Plan to India be seriously considered. Mr. Metcalf indicated that it had been the policy of the Committee to concentrate first on the Latin alphabet countries. He expressed the view that it might be wise to ask some competent person who might be going to India, to investigate the problem for us. It was pointed out that Mr. Poleman of the Library of Congress has recently gone to India, and Mr. Clapp said that the Library of Congress would try to have him report. Mr. Metcalf then raised the question of extending the Plan to Ireland. After a brief discussion from the floor, he expressed the view that the procedure of investigating and reporting before decision be followed with respect to all these

questionable countries before attempting a decision.

The possibility of extending the Plan to South Africa, New Zealand and Australia was then laid before the group for consideration. After a brief discussion it was decided again to follow the procedure of investigation and report before decision.

Mr. Metcalf asked for an expression of opinion as to whether the Plan should be extended to Canada. Mr. Bauer said that Canada could well be omitted since it was likely that coverage of Canadian publications was already adequate. Mr. Metcalf suggested that the problem be investigated and a report submitted at the July meeting of A.R.L., or at the next midwinter meeting at the latest.

Mr. Metcalf said that as yet there were no adequate figures on the number of books received under the Plan in 1949. He hoped that an adequate report on this subject would appear in the next Farmington Plan Letter.

In conclusion, Mr. Metcalf said that the problem of serial publications was very important and needed study. He hoped to have a study of the problem made and suggested that our agent who is to go to Europe should try to secure lists of serials from the smaller European countries.

The Pest of Questionnaires

Warner Rice discussed the pest of questionnaires from which we all suffer with increasing frequency. He began by pointing out that he was not concerned about requests for statistical information relating to the operation of his library, though he did wish that statistics could be made to appear more promptly in published form and that individuals submitting requests for information would exercise more ingenuity in locating information already available before they resorted to the method of questionnaires. His real concern, however, was with the numerous questionnaires that are submitted by various committees and by graduate students. Many of these questionnaires, he felt, were formulated without regard to sound principles of research and the studies that emerge from them often have no scholarly value and can have no scholarly value. The problem cannot be solved by our refusing to answer or by charging a fee for the work involved in answering. The problem is more fundamental than this. Mr. Rice suggested that it might be solved

if the institutions responsible for the proliferation of objectionable questionnaires would try to bring about better methods of thinking and would cultivate sounder principles of research.

Mr. Coney suggested that all questionnaires be submitted in duplicate in order to save the answering library the effort involved in making copies. Mr. Kuhlman proposed that Mr. Rice discuss the problem with the Association of American Library Schools. It was also suggested that the Association of College and Reference Libraries should review all questionnaires submitted by its various members. Mr. Hamlin, the executive secretary of that organization, who was present as a guest, pointed out that it could do so for questionnaires sponsored by A.C.R.L. headquarters and appearing under its letterhead, but that it could hardly exercise control over questionnaires submitted by various committees.

Committee on Library Privileges and Fees

Stimulated by a request from Harvard, the executive secretary had recently appointed the following Committee on Library Privileges and Fees: Keyes D. Metcalf (Harvard), chairman; Donald Coney (California); Robert A. Miller (Indiana); Carl White (Columbia); Herman Henkle (John Crerar).

Mr. Metcalf, chairman of the committee, spoke briefly of the problem created for some large research libraries by the very considerable number of visiting scholars from outside who seek to use their collections, and he said that it appeared to be necessary to consider the possibility of charging fees to these outsiders for such library privileges. He said that as yet his committee had had no opportunity to meet and make a serious beginning of his work, but he said that he was very anxious to have the problem studied and that he would appreciate receiving letters and comments from all members of the association.

Use of Manuscripts by Visiting Scholars and Microfilming of Same

Mr. Metcalf spoke of the problem of the use of manuscripts by visiting scholars and the analogous problem raised by the microfilming of manuscripts for the use of scholars at a distance. He said that it was the long standing policy of Harvard to cooperate with visiting scholars without discrimination by making its manuscripts pretty freely available

to them, but he has come to have the feeling that there are special manuscripts whose use might better be restricted to scholars of fully recognized competence and to use in connection with studies in which they would be central. He expressed the view that the whole problem needed careful consideration, and he said that it would seem to him desirable to have a code of fair practices adopted. Mr. Babb commented briefly on the experience at Yale and agreed that the problem was a serious one. He said that he had always been completely lenient in the matter of permitting visiting scholars to use manuscripts in the Yale collections, but that members of the Yale faculty had recently expressed dissatisfaction and had grown critical. He has accordingly been saddled with the responsibility of determining who is a competent scholar and may properly be permitted to use such manuscripts, but he said he felt that he was not qualified to make such a judgement and ought not to be asked to do so. Mr. Miller asked how anyone could make the decision as to who is a competent scholar, and he also inquired how any library could hope to maintain its standing as a national library if it placed limitations on the use of its materials. Mr. Babb acknowledged that Yale has had a policy of giving exclusive use of manuscripts to Yale people for a period of five years, but only if a request for exclusive use of them is made. Ralph Shaw referred to his forthcoming study of this problem and said that many rights are currently being asserted which do not exist. Mr. Clapp said that he considered a code of ethics on this subject was urgently needed. Lawrence Powell asked what purpose such a code would serve. Mr. Metcalf replied that it could be used as a guide in making decisions as to whether a manuscript should be made available to a visiting scholar or not. Mr. Powell said that in his university the faculty had control of the use of manuscripts and that he doubted whether a code drafted by librarians would be acceptable to them or indeed to any scholars. Mr. David suggested that a code developed by librarians would probably not be acceptable to scholars and suggested that a mixed committee of scholars and librarians be appointed to formulate such a code, which might then be submitted to A.R.L. for discussion and possible approval. Upon motion by Mr. Clapp it was voted that the executive secretary and the Ad-

visory Committee appoint a committee to study the problem and to draft a code of fair practice for presentation to the July meeting of the association.

Mr. Tate commented on the particular problem created by the reference use of manuscript theses. He thought that it would be desirable to study the matter of a code of fair practice especially for theses in the science and engineering fields where "primacy" or "priority" is a matter of great importance. There was disagreement as to whether this problem of manuscript theses was a part of the more general problem concerning the use of manuscripts which Mr. Metcalf had raised, or whether it was a separate problem. In the end the chairman moved that the committee which had been authorized should determine for itself whether theses should or should not be considered a part of the manuscript problem.

Mr. Miller of Indiana urged that in the make-up of the committee care should be exercised to include "have-nots" as well as "haves" in the membership.

Committee on Microfilming Cooperation

Mr. Tate, chairman of the committee, submitted a final report in which he reviewed briefly the work of the committee since its appointment nearly four years ago, and summarized its achievements. A brief digest of the report follows:

1. *Information Center on Long-Run Microfilm Projects.* Through the cooperation of the Library of Congress an Information Center on long-run microfilm projects involving newspapers, serials, or manuscripts has been established there in the Union Catalog Division. To the extent that libraries and others cooperate in listing their holdings the Information Center will be able to supply up-to-date information on projects that have been completed, are in progress, or are in prospect.

2. *Newspapers on Microfilm, A Union Check List,* compiled under the direction of George A. Schwegmann, Jr., has been published by A.R.L. in cooperation with the Library of Congress. There is already evident need for a new revised edition, and it is hoped that in connection with the work of the Information Center at the Library of Congress such a revised edition can be issued in the not too distant future.

3. *Standards for Newspaper Reproduction*

on 35mm Film. Under the direction of Herman H. Fussler and Cabot T. Stein of the University of Chicago, preliminary set of standards for the reproduction of newspapers on 35mm film has been drafted. It is to be published in the new journal, *American Documentation*, Vol. I, No. 1.

4. *Interlibrary Loan Policy for Microfilming Reproductions.* The committee has endeavored to develop a set of basic principles governing this subject, though their adoption has been left for the voluntary action of libraries.

5. *Sale and Pricing Policies.* Though the committee has spent much time in the discussion of these matters, it has not succeeded in resolving the present chaotic sale and pricing situation.

6. *Objectives of Long-Run Periodical Filming.* The committee has felt the need of a long-range broad scale plan of microfilming both for preservation and for use, but so far it has not been able to develop such a master plan with any degree of success, and it therefore proposes to delegate this and other responsibilities to its successor agency whatever that agency may be.

Mr. Tate then expressed very strongly the view that his committee had carried out its assignment as far as it felt able to do, and he urged that it be discharged. There being no objection, it was ruled that the committee be discharged with thanks.

The Continuing Problem of the Preservation of Newspapers

Mr. Kuhlman asked a question as to how many of the libraries represented at the meeting had changed their subscriptions to the *New York Times* from the rag-paper edition to the film edition for purposes of reference and preservation. It was indicated, though with some uncertainty, that eight libraries have so changed.

Mr. Clapp then spoke in more general terms of the large problem of the preservation of newspapers by means of microfilm reproduction (which he felt was still with us), and he referred to the original memorandum of the Librarian of Congress on this subject which had preceded the appointment of Mr. Tate's Committee on Microfilming Cooperation. The Library of Congress, he said, was besieged with inquiries which had a direct bearing on this question, and he expressed the

view that it might be well to have a board or committee, perhaps the Board on Resources of American Libraries, to which the Library of Congress might turn for advice. Although the Tate Committee had been discharged, there was need for assistance and for planning, and the libraries must certainly get together and cooperate with respect to this matter. A suggestion was made that we look to the Information Center that had been established at the Library of Congress on the advice of the Tate Committee, but it appeared to be Mr. Clapp's view that while the center was important, something more positive was required. Mr. Coney urged that the Board on Resources be asked to appoint a subcommittee to study this question. Mr. Downs, chairman of the Board on Resources, said that he hoped the board would be favorable to such a proposal. It appeared to be the sense of the meeting that no further action should be taken by A.R.L. until it could be learned what constructive development with respect to this matter might come from a direct exchange of views between the Library of Congress and the Board on Resources.

Committee on Serials in Research Fields

This was formerly the Committee on Reproduction of Wartime Periodicals. Charles H. Brown, chairman, reported on the progress which the firm of Edwards Brothers is making with its program of facsimile reproductions of wartime periodicals.

Mr. Brown said that his committee contemplates the preparation of comprehensive lists of all periodicals which are announced for reproduction anywhere and the publication of these lists, probably in the Unesco *Bulletin for Libraries*. He said that Walter J. Johnson of New York, Springer-Verlag, and many others have announced plans for reproduction of many sets.

Mr. Brown said that on account of the dollar exchange problem, Unesco was anxious to obtain permission to reproduce certain American scientific journals in France rather than in this country, and, as a means of strengthening the hand of Unesco in this laudable enterprise, he presented a resolution which the association passed urging upon the publishers of American periodicals the desirability of their consenting to the photographic reproduction of their periodicals now out of

print for distribution and sale in soft-currency countries.

Mr. Brown said that his committee had had considerable correspondence with Unesco regarding exchanges, and he pointed out that in the Unesco *Bulletin for Libraries* there have been lists of publications available for exchange by various institutions in the United States and abroad. He urged that these lists receive the careful attention of exchange librarians.

Mr. Brown drew attention to the lists of most cited periodicals in the various fields of pure and applied sciences which had been issued by a committee of A.R.L. in 1942, based on 1939 publications. He said that his committee hoped to make arrangements for a new edition of these lists, to be based on 1949-50 publications. The association approved.

Mr. Brown especially asked that librarians who are successful in getting regularly all issues of their Russian periodicals notify him as to how they are doing it.

Committee on Prices of German Books, Periodicals, and Microfilm

Mr. Clapp, chairman, reported how this committee had arisen out of complaints presented orally to the last meeting of the association held in Cambridge in March 1949. He then went on to report the various investigations which the committee has carried on and stated that up to date little evidence has come to light that seems to justify the complaints that have been made. He accordingly concluded as follows: "The committee sees no cause for alarm on the German front and recommends no action."

Committee on Research Libraries and the Library of Congress

Mr. David, the chairman of this committee, submitted a final report the principal feature of which was a long letter from the Librarian of Congress which summarized the results at which the committee had arrived in its consideration of the half dozen problems with which it had been concerned. The contents of this letter were far too extensive to be included here. It must therefore suffice to say that the Librarian of Congress acknowledged that all assignments made to the committee had been placed in appropriate channels or

awaited the completion of important stages of development, and therefore he was willing to have the committee dismissed. The chairman, therefore, while fully acknowledging that not all of the problems submitted to the committee had been successfully resolved and that there would doubtless still be continuing need for discussion of the various problems of the research libraries and the Library of Congress, nevertheless requested that his committee be permitted to dissolve. The request was granted and the committee was dismissed with thanks.

United States Book Exchange

The executive secretary presented on behalf of the director of the U. S. Book Exchange, Inc., a very gratifying report of progress.

Committee on Customs Procedures and Importation Difficulties

Lawrence C. Powell, chairman, reported that there is some prospect of legislation which would increase from \$100 to \$250 the value of merchandise for which the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe regulations for declaration and entry. The effect would be very advantageous for libraries making importations, but it is as yet by no means certain that such favorable legislation will be enacted.

A Monthly Index to United Nations Publications

An announcement has been received that the United Nations Library will begin publication in February 1950 of a monthly index of documents under the title *United Nations Documents Index; Documents and Publications of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies*. It is intended to list and index by subjects all of the documents and publications of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies received by the United Nations Library, except restricted (confidential) materials and internal papers. The publication will be reproduced by photo-offset with a printed cover and will be 8½ x 11" in size. It is estimated that each issue will run somewhere between 75 and 100 pages. The subscription rate for the publication will be about \$8.00 in the United States and Canada.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 P.M.—
Charles W. David, Executive Secretary.