

An Analysis of Faculty Circulation In a University Library

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THE CUSTOMARY TABULATIONS of library circulation (by month, year and other periods; by subject classification; and by faculty, student and other users) provide information of some value, but other kinds of analysis would also be helpful in formulating decisions on library policy. In the college or university library, additional facts on faculty use should be particularly useful.

According to evidence cited by Mary Virginia Gaver,¹ there is on the elementary school level a positive relationship between both the reading habits and library backgrounds of teachers and those of their students. Waples² found the coefficient of correlation between the number of library loans per college student and per capita charges by faculty to be + .66. These findings, taken along with common observations, suggest the possibility of a causal relationship. If this conclusion be even partially justified, it becomes highly important that the university library stimulate greater use by the faculty, who then may influence students. Any facts which can be garnered about faculty library habits ought to facilitate this task.

Information about faculty circulation may also prove useful in determining departmental allotments for purchase of books and periodicals. Of the criteria for such decisions given in most standard texts, one usually concerns relative amount of library use by each field, yet

tabulations of faculty circulation statistics are seldom made by department.

With these points in mind, the writer noted all books checked out by the faculty from the library of a midwestern university throughout the spring semester, 1962, and analyzed the charges by rank and department of instruction. Table I, giving the number of books circulated to the entire faculty by academic level, shows that the amount of such use did not vary greatly from rank to rank, though the average for associate professors was somewhat high; for the full professors it was slightly low. Perhaps it is wise not to theorize about the reasons.

The totals given in Table I include the teachers in the University School (grades K-9), which has its own library and whose forty-four teachers accounted for sixty-two circulations. With this group eliminated, the totals become 397 faculty and 2836 books charged, or an average of 7.1 for the semester.

These figures may be compared with the trend suggested in a recent report of circulation in another university library: in 1946-47 the annual (presumably summer session plus two semesters) circulation for ninety-nine faculty members averaged thirty-five; in 1959-60 the average for 200 faculty was seventeen.³

¹ Mary Virginia Gaver, "Research on Elementary School Libraries," *ALA Bulletin*, LVI (1962), 120.

² Douglas Waples, "The Library," in *The Evaluation of Higher Institutions*, Vol. 4 (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1936), pp. 54, 65, 66.

³ Patrick Barkey, "More on the 'Absent Professors,'" *Library Journal*, LXXXVII (1962), 1346.

TABLE I
SEMESTER BOOK CIRCULATION BY FACULTY RANK

Rank	Number in University	Number Checking Out One or More Books	Total Number of Books Checked Out	Books Checked Out per Faculty Member
Professor	96	51	539	5.6
Associate professor	96	59	756	7.9
Assistant professor	149	84	990	6.6
Instructor	100	53	613	6.1
Total	441	247	2898	6.6

Not included in Table I, of course, is circulation of periodicals, recordings, and other materials. More important, there is no indication of use of materials within the library. However, it is apparent that faculty backs are not breaking under the load of library books. The complaint of Josey⁴ that "Many of these academicians never visit the library un-

less the president or dean calls a faculty meeting there" may be well-founded. Fortunately the wide availability of paperbacks provides a convenient excuse.

Table II shows the analysis by departments of instruction, omitting all faculty not directly concerned with classroom teaching. Whether the registrar, counselors and others use the library is important, but their library circulation cannot be credited (or charged) to any

⁴E. J. Josey, "The Absent Professors," *Library Journal*, LXXXVII (1962), 173.

TABLE II
SEMESTER CIRCULATION TO CLASSROOM FACULTY BY DEPARTMENT OF INSTRUCTION

Department	Total Number of Faculty	Number of Faculty Checking Out One or More Books	Total Number of Books Checked Out by Faculty	Number of Books Checked Out per Faculty Member
Art	12	8	61	5.1
Biological Sciences	14	12	185	13.2
Business	23	10	82	3.6
Chemistry	11	11	69	6.3
Earth Sciences	11	6	54	4.9
Economics	4	2	38	9.5
Education	41	13	194	4.7
English	34	30	578	17.0
Foreign Language	9	6	138	15.3
History	17	12	265	15.6
Home Economics	9	2	69	7.7
Industrial Arts	11	5	38	3.5
Journalism	3	2	4	1.3
Library Staff	20	19	203	10.1
Library Science	4	4	82	20.5
Mathematics	18	10	45	2.5
Music	17	8	72	4.2
Nursing Education	6	3	36	6.0
Philosophy	4	4	37	9.3
Physical Education	28	7	20	.7
Physics	6	4	130	21.7
Political Science	7	6	114	16.3
Psychology	7	5	20	2.9
Sociology-Anthropology	7	7	43	6.1
Speech	21	10	74	3.5
University School	44	7	62	1.4
Total	388	215	2713	7.0

given department. In this table some similar departments (e.g., Women's and Men's Physical Education) are given together. Obviously some departments are too small to lend their statistics much significance.

It is interesting to note that the high average of the library science department was exceeded only by physics at 21.7 per capita, and that only the departments of sociology and anthropology, chemistry, library science, and philosophy had every member checking out at least one book during the semester.

The 10.1 figure for the library staff does not reflect the considerable number of books borrowed while being processed.⁵

As a part of the same study, an effort was made to determine whether new book lists have an influence on faculty circulation. At the university in question, a monthly list of selected titles was mailed by the library to each faculty

member who wished to receive it. Two of these lists were checked against actual circulation to the faculty. On one monthly list, containing 232 titles shelved in the stacks, seven were charged out by the faculty within thirty days of receipt of the list. The other list included 280 stack titles, of which fifteen were checked out by the faculty within thirty days. Among these fifteen were three which had been requested for order by the persons who checked them out.

It may be concluded that these particular lists were relatively ineffective in stimulating faculty circulation. This part of the study suggests the possibility of experimental changes in format and presentation of such lists, with measurement of results.

To conclude: because so much of the success of the university library depends on the faculty, it is highly important that we learn more of their library habits with respect to particular subject fields, and in various types of institutions. The analysis of such facts should furnish material for realistic planning as we attempt further to stimulate faculty use.

⁵ An interesting note in this connection is the statement of one college librarian: "I find the books in our cataloging room tantalizing and tempting, and am likely to sneak out books that are waiting there for Library of Congress cards." Flora B. Ludington, "The Librarian's Reading, Personal and Professional," *Illinois Libraries*, XLIV (1962), 355.

Selected Reference Books . . .

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ATLASES

Kovalevskii, Petr Evgrafovich. *Atlas historique et culturel de la Russie et du monde slave*. Paris, Elsevier, 1961. 216p. il., maps. 59.50 n.f.

Here is a superior illustrated history of the Slavic world from earliest times to the present, with emphasis on cultural contributions and the varying development of its component nations and cultures. The 630 black-and-white illustrations include many photographs of outstanding works of art. The text incorporates some of the results of recent archaeological research on the medieval period, according to general references to these materials in the introduction. There is a bibliography of Western language works, and sixteen colored plates of maps. The volume is well printed and bound. It is recommended for college and larger public libraries.—E.B.

USSR. Glavnoe upravlenie geodezii i kartografii. *Atlas SSSR*. Moskva, 1962. 185p. 39cm. 5 rubles.

This is a general atlas for the USSR, with three principal sections: general geographical maps, maps of natural conditions, and economic maps. According to the introduction, geographical maps are on a scale of 1:3 or 1:4 million, with a few areas at 1:8 million. Economic maps refer to industrial development as of 1960, and agriculture in 1959, with projections. Place name changes through the end of 1961 are included. There is an index of 25,000 geographical names. In general the quality of color work, printing, and paper is superior to that of previously available one-volume atlases for the USSR alone, published in the Soviet Union.—E.B.