

# Topic A

## COLLEGE & RESEARCH LIBRARIES

These words are written as planning is underway for two library conferences in New York State to occur within a month of each other. They have as their subject, librarians and collective bargaining—a topic of dominating interest in many of our libraries. ACRL itself will give national attention to the subject this summer in its preconference institute, planned for San Francisco in June: “Collective Bargaining in Higher Education: Its Implications for Governance and Faculty Status for Librarians.”

As a prelude to the forthcoming ACRL institute, this issue of *College & Research Libraries* features a group of articles related to the subject of the conference, with the hope that they will stimulate thought and generate interest in the meeting.

Dwight R. Ladd's opening article, “Myths and Realities of University Governance,” based on his address at the ACRL meeting in July 1974, provides a context for the later articles as he points out the fallacies of our institutions of higher education considering themselves self-governing and operating within an environment of consensus.

Two articles from Michigan and Pennsylvania show how academic librarians' rights and privileges have been established or reaffirmed as a result of the collective bargaining process. Reports from California and New York discuss and question the role of the professional association in an era of collective bargaining. Both articles agree that there is a role for both professional organizations and unions. The report from California looks upon the professional organization as providing a “managerial workshop” for librarians in their career development; whereas, the report from New York looks to the professional association to communicate librarians' needs to the union as a pressure group.

Although the earlier articles concentrate on librarians and collective bargaining, Michael Simonds' contribution to this issue directs its attention to clerical employees in two Philadelphia university libraries and their attitudes toward their work and their unions.

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the Midwest Academic Librarians Conference, a “nonorganization” of college and university librarians. This issue concludes with H. Vail Deale's record of MALC's second decade, which supplements his earlier account from 1964. We join with others in the profession in wishing MALC a happy anniversary and continued success in its “commitment to communication.”

R.D.J.

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