

Continuing Education for Academic Librarians—VII

A position, one of several similar positions advertised, appeared recently in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. It was for an assistant to the library director to be responsible for business operations of the library. Educational qualifications included courses in statistics, in personnel administration, and in budgeting, all of which are present only to a limited degree in the MLS program and often tend to be viewed by the library school student as of secondary importance.

The academic library is an administrative unit and requires the same level of efficient management as any other unit of the college or university. The library manager, to do this, needs the skills of library and information science and of business administration. This combination of requisite skills does not fit into the traditional one-year MLS program, and the typical library school does not have sufficient courses in business administration in its curriculum.

A coordinate program resulting in a joint MLS/MBA degree is one possible solution. The graduate of such a program would have the ad-

ministrative skills and the information skills necessary to manage an academic library. Libraries have many fine librarians who have administrative responsibilities but who are not able administrators. Few administrators have a knowledge of and sensitivity to library and information services as they are or should be performed. Many aspects of librarianship—acquisition of materials, contracting for services, union negotiations, in addition to the daily responsibilities for personnel and financial accountability—are administrative. They cannot be performed well without a knowledge on the part of the library manager of both information services and administration.

A second alternative in educational programs for schools of library and information science would be to promote courses in business and public administration for students and to provide independent study and internships in library management.—Ann E. Prentice, *Director of the School of Library and Information Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.* ■■

Study of Academic Library Salaries in California

The California Postsecondary Education Commission issued in May a report on a study of academic library salaries in that state. Entitled *Librarians' Compensation at the University of California and the California State University and Colleges: The Search for Equity*, the report concludes that librarians in the University of California and in the California State University and colleges are currently being paid at a higher level than librarians in comparable four-year institutions both in California and nationally. However, the report also notes that the salaries still fall behind by as much as 20 percent when compared with salaries for community college librarians in California.

The study, conducted in response to legislative request, states that both the university and state university and colleges systems are in a healthy competitive situation in hiring and retaining librarians due to this salary advantage and the fact that there is currently a surplus of librarians available in California.

(The report was prepared before the passage of Proposition 13 in that state.)

The initial response from academic librarians in California to this report has not been favorable. In a special meeting on May 16, the State University and College Librarians Chapter of the California Library Association passed a resolution contending that the methodology of the report is "superficial, incomplete, and capricious, and many of its conclusions found to be illogical and inequitable" and calling upon the commission to withdraw the report so that the issues might "be restudied by more competent analysts." On June 2 the Assembly of the Librarians Association of the University of California (LAUC) also passed a resolution urging withdrawal of the study. Charging that the study is both incomplete and inaccurate, LAUC states that it cannot be used as the basis for an evaluation of or determination of a salary structure for librarians.