Recalling Twenty-Five Years of Academic Library Development

A. Ray Rowland

The last quarter of a century has produced more changes in college and university libraries than in all previous times. The University of Georgia, the oldest institution of higher education in Georgia, established Georgia's first academic library. Since that time, all Georgia's academic libraries have had as their primary function the providing of information services to the faculty and students of their institutions.

Some of the headlines and issues with which academic libraries have dealt in the past 25 years are: enrollment of students, the number of users, staff, resources, automation, resource sharing, development of new institutions, consortia, union lists, staff salaries, faculty status, SOLINET, OCLC, new buildings, renovations of old buildings, libraries over a million volumes, libraries over two million volumes, standards, long range planning, research and publications. All of these brought changes in the way we carry out our mission.

The main factors which have changed academic libraries for the better are: (1) automation, (2) more resources, (3) more and better trained staff, (4) increased enrollments, (5) library buildings, and (6) resource sharing.

A new word that came into our library vocabulary in the 1970's is vernacular today. Automation has more drastically changed the way we think and do things than anything since Melvil Dewey developed his decimal classification system more than a century ago.

The Georgia Institute of Technology and the University of Georgia were already developing in-house systems before most of us could even fathom the concept. Georgia Tech developed the first Com Cat (Computer Output Microform Catalog). Because of the foresight of Dr. Graham Roberts at Georgia Tech, John P. Kennedy and Elroy W. Eckhardt wrote a plan which resulted in the establishment of SOLINET. In 1973 18 college libraries from Georgia were founding members of SOLINET. These included: Augusta College, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Columbia Theological Seminary, Emory University, Fort Valley State College, Georgia College, Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia Southern College, Georgia Southwestern College, Georgia State University, Kennesaw Junior College, Macon Junior College, Medical College of Georgia, Middle Georgia College, North Georgia College, University of Georgia, Valdosta State College and West Georgia College. Today almost all academic institutions participate in SOLINET/OCLC.

Emory University, Georgia Tech, University of Georgia, Medical College of Georgia, and Georgia State University have fully integrated automation systems with dial access to their catalogs. Many libraries are working on plans and several will be operative in 1989. Automation and its capability of storing bibliographic data made it possible for libraries to take advantage of cataloging and classification already done by other libraries. The conversion of the Dewey to Library of Congress Classification System, already accomplished or in progress in some libraries, became an easier process; and the availability of preassigned LC call numbers provided an incentive to make the change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE I</th>
<th>1964</th>
<th>1989</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>3,510,000</td>
<td>15,107,276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volumes added Annually</td>
<td>216,363</td>
<td>603,058</td>
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<tr>
<td>Microforms</td>
<td>363,265</td>
<td>16,452,843</td>
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<tr>
<td>Periodical Subscriptions</td>
<td>25,626</td>
<td>154,190</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library Staff Professionals</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerical</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>1,104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Annual Expenditures</td>
<td>$3,752,667</td>
<td>$59,582,157</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Increased resources have been a major factor in increased services to the growing enrollment and facilities in all colleges.

Nothing affects any institution more than its personnel. There have been increases not only in professional staff but also in support personnel. To serve the ever increasing number of students, in 1964 there were 219 librarians and 469 clerical staff; in 1989 this had increased to more than 469 librarians and 1,104 clerical and other support staff.

In 1964, there were few librarians with doctorates; however, a number of librarians were already earning a second master's degree. Today more than a dozen librarians have their doctorate in library science, information service, higher education, and various disciplines. Many librarians see the M.B.A. degree as a useful tool as they climb the administrative ladder.

In 1964 there were 62,344 students being educated in colleges and universities in Georgia. Today 195,123 students are enrolled in institutions of higher education in the state.

During this quarter century two institutions closed their doors: Norman College and Tift College. Emory University closed its Dental School and Division of Librarianship. Eleven new institutions were established by the University System of Georgia and several changed from two year institutions to four year colleges offering baccalaureate degrees. Many have expanded their degree offering to include master's degrees, primarily in education and business. The University System is currently exploring the establishment of regional universities in various parts of the state.

Two new medical schools opened at Mercer University and Morehouse College; Mercer also opened the state's second engineering school. Georgia State University opened a new law school.

Key administrators in libraries change. Most academic libraries have felt the effects of Father Time, and some of these changes are mentioned here. Porter Kellam retired from the University of Georgia after 25 years, while Evelyn Fritz retired after 39 years at the University of Georgia. Dorothy Crosland retired from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1971 after 46 years, a record which probably will never be equaled. She was succeeded by Graham Roberts, associate director, who retired in 1984. Others who have retired after long years of service include Guy Lyle retired at Emory University in 1973; Sadie Rainsford retired from the Medical College of Georgia after serving 31 years; Thora Hambrick retired from Valdosta State College in 1977; Susie Harris in 1973 from North Georgia College after serving 28 years there with a total of 43 years in Georgia libraries; she was succeeded by Majorie Clark who has now retired; Annie Bell Weaver retired from West Georgia...
College; Hassie McElvene from Georgia Southern College in 1972 after serving 35 years there; Thomas Chandler from Oglethorpe University; Charles Stone from Mercer University and was succeeded by Daniel Metts who has now retired; Robert Green, Kennesaw State College; Joel Homes retired from Columbus College; Mary Emma Henderson, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College; Eula Windham, Middle Georgia College; Russell Brown, Dalton College; Edna Byers retired from Agnes Scott College in 1969 after serving 37 years; Homie Regulus, Fort Valley College; Virginia Satterfield, Georgia College; Sara Gregory, Oxford College; Robert Ryan, South Georgia College; and Lucille Adams retired from Brenau College. These names are listed according to the American Library Directory and the author's memory.

A number of librarians who are now administrators have been associated with the same institutions during this entire period: Tena Roberts, Wesleyan College; Joy Trulock, Valdosta State College; Valentine Dobbs, North Georgia College; Marguerite Fogelman, Augusta College; Ray Rowland, Augusta College; Mary Overby, Mercer University; Dorothy Mims, Medical College of Georgia; Ondina Gonzalez, Berry College; and Helen C. Wiltse, Georgia Institute of Technology.

In addition, several librarians who are listed in the 1965 edition of American Library Directory but are at different institutions now include: Ann Harman, Guy Craft, Hubert Whitlow, Ann Morton, and John Pattillo. Mildred Tietjen is no longer working in the library at Georgia Southwestern College but is now Associate Dean there. Many other librarians not listed in the directory have also served during the entire period.

New library administrators who are among the leaders in the library profession came to the state during this period. These include: Charles E. Beard and Betty Johnson, West Georgia College; Ralph Russell and Carolyn Robison, Georgia State University; Julius Ariail and Edna Earle Brown, Georgia Southern College; Thomas G. Basler, Medical College of Georgia; Millie Parker, Paine College; J. Allen Spivey, Brunswick College; Merryl S. Penson, Columbus College; Gretchen Neill, DeKalb College; Brenda Purvis, Gainesville College; Frank Lewis, La Grange College; Janice C. Fennell, Georgia College; Miriam Drake, Georgia Institute of Technology; Mary Howard and Elizabeth Hammond, Mercer University.

Libraries can continually increase resources but must have space to adequately shelve books and seat users. This has been a good period for construction. Probably more new academic libraries were constructed in this quarter of a century than during any other period.

While the original parts of their main libraries were dedicated in 1953, both the University of Georgia and Georgia Institute of Technology have built major additions to their libraries. Two magnificent libraries were the beneficiaries of Robert W. Woodruff's generosity and bear his name; these are at Emory University and Atlanta University Center. Almost every other college built or remodeled a library, and many are now making plans for new buildings or additions. The latest of Georgia libraries to open was in January 1989 at Southern College of Technology.

The greatest challenge which academic libraries face now and for many years in the future is the issue of resource sharing. As the holders of the greatest collection of research materials, all are involved in resource sharing. Interlibrary Loan has increased at an almost alarming rate since the implementation of the OCLC ILL mode. We can now locate sources quicker and serve our patrons faster. Several librarians are already involved in sending material by Tele Fax.

If the next 25 years bring us as many changes as the last 25, Georgia's academic libraries will indeed be in a better position to serve their public efficiently.

Author's Note: While I have checked many sources, in addition to my memory, errors of omission in listing names in various groups may have occurred; these are not intentional.