

MANITOBA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

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CONTENTS

| | | |
|---|-----------------|----|
| The Librarian of 1984 | D.G.Mathieson.. | 2 |
| Automation Projects in Manitoba Libraries | | 7 |
| Some Projects Across Canada | | 8 |
| A Book Review | W.A.Cumming.. | 10 |
| Manitoba Libraries in Review | | 11 |
| News | | |
| University of Manitoba | | 12 |
| Winnipeg Public Library | | 14 |

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Cover

Designed by Lillian Kowal and Glen Tinley,
both of Winnipeg.

THE LIBRARIAN OF 1984*

D. G. Mathieson,
Data Processing Assistant,
Great-West Life Assurance Co.

The librarian of 1984 will be a computer system.

Library science has been defined as, "the knowledge and skill by which printed and written records are recognized, collected, organized and utilized."

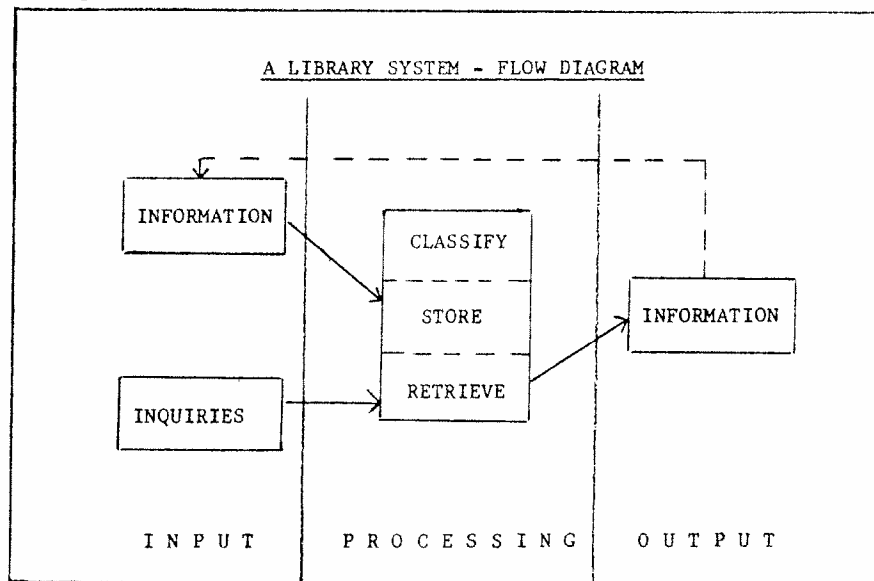
I hope to convince you that this skill can, should, and will be imparted (through the librarian's knowledge) to computer programs-- if not tomorrow, then at least within the next 18 years.

Why should we take this drastic step? Because, in my opinion, it's the only feasible way to resolve the inability of present library systems to cope with the information explosion.

Any system, or complex of purposeful activities--whether it's strictly manual or a combined man-machine system--may be thought of as consisting of three elements:

Input;
Processing of the Input; and
Production of Output.

Using this terminology, we can symbolize a library system by this flow diagram:



*Contribution to a panel discussion presented by members of the Winnipeg Section, Computer Society of Canada to members of the Manitoba Library Association at a general meeting, April 21, 1966.

(The broken line indicates that it may be necessary for the output information to be fed back into the system--as in the case of a circulation library; on the other hand, the output may be a reproduction or a summary of the stored information.)

The library system has one major purpose--to produce output information quickly and accurately in response to inquiries. There's considerable evidence that present-day systems are unable to achieve this objective. I suggest that long-range solutions won't be found merely by extending courses of action being followed today, for example, the use of microfilm to conserve storage space, and the construction of new library buildings. I believe that radically different systems, placing great emphasis on the analytical ability, storage capacity, speed, and accuracy of computer systems will be needed to overcome three major obstacles.

First, the supply of information is accelerating too rapidly for stopgap measures to be effective. One authority wrote in 1962, "while doubling in the output of technical literature has taken the last twelve years or so, the next such increase is expected in half that time."

In an attempt to check this statement, I analyzed publication dates in a selected bibliography to the literature on "artificial intelligence". Although the topic is a relatively old one, interest in it was stimulated by the development of the computer. Therefore, we should expect the literature to have grown somewhat more rapidly than that on other, comparatively stable, subjects. The rate of growth I uncovered, however, amazed me.

The earliest paper related to artificial intelligence appeared in 1842, and by the end of 1941--over a period of 100 years--28 books and papers on the topic had been published. Then the explosion began; the number doubled in five years, and it redoubled in each of the four succeeding four-year periods. Thus by the end of 1962, the bibliography listed almost 900 books, papers, and articles relevant to artificial intelligence--32 times the number available at the end of 1941, only 21 years earlier.

A second obstacle to solving our problems by extrapolating present methods is this: The demand for information is also accelerating very rapidly, and can be expected to increase even more quickly throughout the foreseeable future.

Not only are there more potential consumers of information now than ever before--in schools, technological institutes, universities, the professions, government, and business--but they're also more aware of their need for information. They know that resting on laurels can be very painful when others in the same field are learning and progressing rapidly.

Although the leisure explosion isn't upon us yet, I'm convinced that it will be by 1984. Then, I believe there'll be a growth in demand for "relaxation information" comparable to that for technical information. I draw no distinction between the two, as far as library systems are concerned. The information that:

"Chief Inspector Roger West of Scotland Yard
took off his hat to mop his forehead...."

may have considerable greater utility to many consumers than the information that:

"...our creative ability has moved so far and so fast in two generations that we are rapidly outstripping all the usual methods of recording, accumulating and retrieving information."

Third, the extension of basically manual library systems calls for an ever-increasing number of trained librarians. The National Employment Service, while noting that "close to 350" people obtained the Bachelor of Library Science degree in 1965, says that:

"...there is little possibility of meeting the figure of 2,600 professional librarians that the Canadian Library Association reports will be required by 1967."

All these trends certainly don't augur well for 1984, unless we're able to design and implement library systems very different in kind from those existing today.

Two major prophecies along this line have already been published, and I'll summarize them briefly.

John G. Kemeny, Chairman of the Department of Mathematics and Astronomy at Dartmouth, spoke in 1961 on the topic "A Library for 2000 A.D." His main assumptions were that:

1. "...university libraries will be obsolete by 2000 A.D."
2. "As our present libraries grow in size, they also become increasingly difficult to use."
2. "....a single central library....will serve for research purposes both the Federal Government and the major universities of the country."

The way in which Dr. Kemeny imagined this central library and its use was so similar to that of the second prophet, J.C.R. Licklider, that we'll allow the latter to speak for both. In his book, Libraries of the Future, Dr. Licklider also defined "the future" as the year 2000. Reporting on a study concluded in November 1963, he predicted that:

1. "...technological advances....will make it possible for us to create a national network of computers containing all...knowledge. Instead of using books or publications, the scientist, engineer, and scholar will use a console tied into this system...."
2. "The user will be able to carry on a rather sophisticated conversation with the computer using devices similar to....typewriters, oscilloscopes, light pens, advanced printout devices, and so on, to obtain all relevant information. Perhaps the computer can even respond to verbal requests."
3. "This dynamic system will have no need for books or physical documents, since refined search techniques, display screens, and rapid printout methods will make these passive artifacts superfluous."
4. "The creation of such a system is predicated on the economic assumption 'that interaction with information and knowledge will constitute 10 to 20 per cent of the total effort of the society'. The network will be justified on the basis of society's increased productivity and effectiveness resulting therefrom."

My own opinion is that these studies overestimated the time necessary to reach their goals, and underestimated the breadth of application of

the computer systems they envisioned.

Last year, for example, a pamphlet published by the National Employment Service said that:

"The medical libraries of Harvard, Columbia, and Yale universities are in the primary stages of an electronic integration that will see a network of computers and telephone lines giving scholars virtually instant access to their pooled resources. Yale's medical librarian believes that this project will stand historically with the development of the card catalogue as an advance in library science."

To my ears, this sounds like a giant step in the direction indicated both by Kemeny and by Licklider.

Computers are being produced today with virtually unlimited capacities for storing information. They also have the ability to retrieve it much more rapidly than was feasible even in 1963. Furthermore, they can accept and answer inquiries--apparently simultaneously--from a great number and variety of input/output devices at widely scattered locations. A computer with such potentialities will, in fact, be acquired this year by the University of Manitoba.

Because of this rapid rate of technological advance, I've reduced the magic date from 2000 to 1984. Aside from its Orwellian implications, I chose it because my chances of lasting until then (when I'll be 60) are considerably better than they are of my living until I'm 76. And I must confess I'd like to see the solution to the information explosion.

What about the scope of such library systems? Both predictors I've quoted confined themselves to a reference library system used primarily by scientists and engineers. I can envision video display screens, high-speed printers, and typewriter input devices scattered throughout schools as well as universities; in the reading rooms of circulation libraries; in the offices of doctors, lawyers, and business men; in the studies of historians, clergymen, linguists, and anthropologists; and finally in private homes. Much of the "reading" for pleasure in 1984 may well take the form of viewing pages as they're displayed on a video screen (with the reader controlling the speed of "page turning", of course). I anticipate this development because the habit of reading in this way will previously have been acquired by large numbers of people in schools, universities, and their daily work.

I believe that the card catalogue will be obsolete by 1984, and that circulation libraries may well resemble the completely automated, unstaffed supermarket of the future. Special libraries, as we know them today, will have disappeared because their users will have direct access to the computer store of information.

Even the conversion of publications to this all-encompassing system will be relatively easy. As Time Magazine predicted a year ago, in a cover story on "The Computer in Society":

"Optical scanning devices, already in operation ...will eventually enable computers to gobble up all kinds of information visually. The

machine will then be able to memorize and store whole libraries, in effect acquiring matchless classical and scientific educations by capturing all the knowledge to which man is heir."

And just a few weeks ago, the New York Times reported that:

"An International Business Machines Corporation reader is now being used by the Social Security Administration to help process the typewritten earnings records of some 60 million people. The specially built I.B.M. machine is able to read 110 type faces at speeds of up to 1,200 letters a second."

And what will be the role of people in this library system? Machines are useless without the human resources needed to design, implement, maintain, and improve the system. This will be the chief responsibility of trained librarians in the future--to specify precisely what the computer is to do. They'll have the assistance of computer people, whose job will be to determine how the systems can accomplish the objectives laid down by the librarians.

The design of these computer systems will be far more difficult and time-consuming than finding the money to pay for them, or implementing them once they're designed. One major problem was raised, in the discussion of Dr. Kemeny's talk, by Gilbert W. King, Director of Research at IBM, who said:

"Knowledge cannot be organized for any reasonable period of time by a tree, such as the Decimal Classification. On the contrary, new ideas, which are really the object of information retrieval, result from the inverse of a tree, namely the combination of ideas. Cross referencing, not dissection, is the essence of a library."

This provocative comment ties in with my prediction that the card catalogue will become obsolete, and with it I'm ready to sum up this gaze into the future. Librarians and computer people, in developing the library system of 1984, must constantly ask themselves whether they're aiming toward the goal of making it progressively easier for the user of information to obtain it. If they do this, I'm confident that we can conquer the problems arising from both the increasing production of information and its increasing consumption. Man will have faster, easier access to more information--both for knowledge and for pleasure--than ever before in history. I hope we can all look forward with optimism to 1984--when the librarian will be a computer system.

AUTOMATION PROJECTS IN MANITOBA LIBRARIES

WINNIPEG PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Winnipeg Public Library uses an IBM sorter to sort transaction cards in its circulation system. An IBM collator has also been used. All the accounting procedures are automated as part of the City of Winnipeg organization. Future plans include an investigation of the use of the city's computer and an interest in computer produced printed catalogues.

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA LIBRARIES

The University of Manitoba Computing Centre is undertaking a study of the total information needs of the University with a view toward proposing an integrated system. Cataloguing, processing and ordering routines are being revised with automation techniques under consideration.

GREAT-WEST LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY LIBRARY

This Library is investigating the programming of serial control and circulation by the computer.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS PRAIRIE REGION LIBRARY

An IBM produced periodical and Microfilm union list has been completed.

ATOMIC ENERGY OF CANADA WHITESHELL RESEARCH STATION

Cumulative accession lists of books and research reports have been produced by the computer in conjunction with the facilities of the Chalk River Station in Ontario.

SOME PROJECTS ACROSS CANADA

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, EDMONTON

A mechanized circulation system is used involving punched cards. In the development stage is a system whereby punched cards will be eliminated and the circulation system will be linked directly to the computer. Some results of this will be that delinquent borrowers will be automatically re-fused and returned books wanted for reservations will be automatically signalled.

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Toronto Public Library and its branches have produced a system whereby a computer will automatically re-order paperback books for replacement. The computer stores the information pertinent to re-ordering, such as what books are in-print, publisher's addresses, new editions, etc. The re-ordering of basic paperbacks individually will be eliminated.

ONTARIO NEW UNIVERSITIES LIBRARY PROJECT

The University of Toronto has produced book catalogues of its collection from computer tape for its several libraries. To meet the demand for establishing five duplicate collections for its colleges, the Ontario New Universities Library Project was established. Separate subject, author, title and shelf list catalogues will be produced as well as cumulations. The University of Toronto is the first library in Canada to print a general library catalogue by this method. On demand, the computer will be able to select and print any bibliography by subject heading, author, etc.

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

This library is using the Computer Center on its campus and the first project produced was the short title catalogue of books. The purpose of this catalogue was to bring under control a large number of books which the library had accumulated by gift and which had not been catalogued, due to staff shortages and so on. A second project was a computer produced list of serials.

IMPERIAL OIL OF CANADA Ltd., CALGARY

A "streamlined Information System" produced by computer is operating in the Western Regional Technical Information Services Library. This system provides "in-house" information services to its research staff. The system prints a current awareness publication, subject, author and title indexes.

UNIVERSITY OF LAVAL

The library has produced a subject heading catalogue with the use of the computer. Plans include several stages which will include the printing of subject headings on 3x5 catalogue cards; keeping the list constantly up-to-date; and printing of separate subject heading lists for each faculty library.

ROYAL BANK OF CANADA, MONTREAL

The library and staff have prepared a computer based KWIC index to the Hearings and submissions of the Canada Royal Commission on Banking and Finance, 1961.

DUPONT OF CANADA LTD.

The Economist's Library has developed a punched card system for maintaining periodical records. This system is mechanized and does not involve the computer. Punched cards have replaced all previous subscriptions records. The cards can be sorted in any order and information can be printed in any arrangement, such as an alphabetical list by title, a list for the subscriptions taken by each department, and so on.

ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES

As a result of the Librarian's Committee of the Association of Atlantic Universities, Dalhousie University Library was assigned the project of producing a complete list of serials received and held by the library.

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A Book Review

HORTICULTURAL HORIZONS

By F. L. Skinner

To be published by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture.
150 p. col. plates. \$4.00. Ready early 1967.

REVIEWED BY W. A. CUMMING, HEAD, ORNAMENTAL SECTION, CANADA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE EXPERIMENTAL STATION, MORDEN, MANITOBA.

Horticultural Horizons is an autobiography of the life and work of Frank Leith Skinner, M.B.E., LL.D., F.R.H.S., who through his perseverance, self-discipline and self-education, has become one of the leading plantmen, horticulturists, taxonomists and plant breeders of the western world. Few men working in universities or other private offices, governmental institutions, with all the modern advantages of libraries, laboratories, herbariums, and so on, can claim anywhere near his success. By his own initiative and expense, working on a pioneer farm near a small hamlet in Northern Manitoba, over a short period of forty years, this genius among plantmen has established his name for generations to come. He has received acclaim and honor from both North America and Europe.

The average reader will find Dr. Skinner's book fascinating, for it contains a mixture of adventure, philosophy, personal anecdotes and major experiences of his life and work.

Amateur gardeners will find much sound advice on their gardening problems, particularly on hardy and adaptable plants.

The professional horticulturist will marvel at Dr. Skinner's knowledge of hardy plant material throughout the northern hemisphere and the success he has attained in the hybridization of species and cultivars of many genera. The record of his breeding work, the cultivars which he has introduced to date, combined with the lists of plant accessions which he has grown and tested at Dropmore, Manitoba, are invaluable references. His hints on where to look for new hardy plants will serve as a guide to plant exploration in the future. Plant breeders will be inspired by his suggestions of new combinations of plants for the future.

Have you renewed
your M.L.A. membership
for -- 1966-67?

Manitoba Libraries in Review

FORT GARRY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Fort Garry Public Library opened its doors for the first time in September, 1956 in a modest 12 by 24 room in the municipal hall of Fort Garry with only 4,000 books. The present building, opened almost four years later, is located at 1360 Pembina Highway and now houses some 25,000 volumes, as well as a sizeable collection of classical, popular and children's recordings and a section of French language titles.

Two years ago, the Fort Garry Library Board expanded services to include a 1,500 book depot in the St. Norbert area to bring library services to readers from the kindergarten to grade eight level who were having difficulty reaching the central library.

Membership in the library now totals some 13,000 borrowers or about 70 percent of the population of the municipality. Monthly circulation in all departments stands at almost 14,000.

In September a bequest from a long-time Fort Garry physician's estate given to the library is being translated into an attractive and practical extension to the library. This development programme was made possible by a legacy of nearly \$80,000 from Dr. A. W. Hogg an early resident of the municipality who practised at the Fort Garry Clinic until his retirement in 1962. Two additions are planned. A spacious sunken addition to the north-east corner of the present building will provide new quarters for the library's growing reference and music sections. Bounded on two sides by a wide mezzanine, this upper area will be serviced by two wide staircases for easier access and control. In the south-east corner, a bright airy addition to the already overcrowded children's department will assist the 7,000 younger patrons in their leisure and scholastic reading programs, while expanded workroom facilities and a cataloguing office will take the burden off the present work area as well as providing for the extension of services throughout the next ten years. Both extensions will add about 3,000 square feet to the library's present 5,000 square feet. The project is expected to be completed by mid-January, 1967.

Mrs. Peter McIntock is chairman of the Fort Garry Public Library Board and Mrs. K. A. Fuerst is Librarian.

NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA CREATES NEW POSITIONS

Mr. David T. Wilder has been appointed Director of Libraries of the University of Manitoba, and Mr. David W. Foley has been appointed Chief Bibliographer. Both appointments became effective on August 1st. These positions are new, the first of a series of developments recommended for the University Libraries by Richard H. Logsdon, Director of Libraries at Columbia University, and Stephen A. McCarthy, Director of Libraries at Cornell University. Both are frequently engaged as consultants by libraries and by universities in North America and England.

Mr. Wilder was born in Rochester, New York. He has the following degrees: A.B. from Union College, Schenectady, N.Y., 1940; M.A. in History from the University of Rochester, 1941; B.S. in Library Service from Columbia University, 1942. Before coming to Winnipeg, Mr. Wilder completed an assignment as Program Specialist on University Library Development for the Ford Foundation in the Middle East. He was based at the University of Baghdad, and his responsibilities extended into Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria as well as Iraq. That was Mr. Wilder's second term in the Middle East as he has served for three years in the early 1950's as University Librarian at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon. His first senior position was Librarian of Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, from 1946 until he departed for Beirut in 1951. From 1954 to 1960 he served as Assistant Director of Libraries at the Ohio State University and then as University Librarian at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan. In 1958 Mr. Wilder prepared a report for the Social Science Research Council, entitled, The Acquisition and Control of Publications from the Near and Middle East, which served as some basis for the later development of programs by the Library of Congress and American research libraries in the procurement of books from foreign areas. He also served for some years on a subcommittee of the SSRC concerned with library problems in that region. He is a member of the American Library Association, The Association of College and Reference Librarians and the American Association of University Professors. He served as Chairman of the Intellectual Freedom Committee of the Ohio State University Chapter of AAUP and was Chapter President at both Hamilton and Oakland.

As Chief Bibliographer, Mr. Foley will be freed from the routine duties in the total library operation and will be able to plan the acquisition of new material and to develop the collections, working with faculty members in all departments of the University. His responsibilities may include any of the collections in the University, but he will work primarily in areas of the humanities and social sciences. Mr. Foley, who is a native of Bowmanville, Ontario received a B. A. from McMaster University in 1942, a B.L.S. from the University of Toronto in 1948, and an M.L.S. from the University of Michigan in 1950. Before coming to Winnipeg he was Assistant Librarian at the University of Toronto and since 1961 has been Chief Librarian of the University of Manitoba. Mr. Foley is a member of the Canadian Library Association, American Library Association and Ontario Library Association. He served as President of the Canadian Library Association for the 1964-65 term.

Miss Gladys Sudomlak, School of Architecture Librarian has left for McGill Library School, and Mr. John Miska of the Engineering Library has left for the Department of Fisheries Library in Ottawa.

Miss Nancy Wells, Miss June Dutka and Mr. Peter Anthony, all 1966 graduates of the School of Librarianship, University of British Columbia have joined the University of Manitoba Libraries.

Miss Mary Jane Vincent, a 1964 graduate from McGill University Library School has returned to the University of Manitoba Libraries after spending eighteen months in England.

NEW LIBRARIES APPROVED

Recent elections have approved the establishment of the following libraries: Municipal libraries at The Pas and Thompson; A regional library to include the Rural Municipalities of Rosser and Rockwood and also the Town of Stonewall; the Rural Municipality of Swan River voted to join with the Northwest Regional Library at Swan River.

Mrs. Ah Bi Wang has been appointed Assistant Librarian at the Canada Department of Agriculture Research Station Library. Mrs. Wang was formerly with the Aluminum Ltd. Group Library in Montreal. Mrs. A. E. Andrich, formerly with St. Paul's College Library has become Library Assistant.

Mr. Terence Mitchell, B. Ed.(Man.) joined the Brandon College Library staff on September 1st. He will supervise the Resources Centre in the Education Building which is now being constructed.

Mr. John Wilde assumed his duties as Assistant Librarian of the St. James Public Library on September 1st. Mr. Wilde is an Honour's graduate in Arts from the University of Michigan and holds a Library Science degree from Western Reserve University. He served as a foreign service officer with the United States State Department from 1960-1965. Miss Arlene Jack, B.A.(Man.) has been appointed Assistant to the Head of the Adult Services Department. She assumed her duties on June 1st in succession to Miss Alison McMillan, who left to be married and make her home in Eastern Canada.

Mrs. Jean Van Walleghem of the Winnipeg Public Library has replaced Miss Elizabeth Johnson as Treasurer of the Manitoba Library Association. Miss Johnson left for Europe in September.

WINNIPEG PUBLIC LIBRARY

New Central Library Site

A special committee to report on a site for a new central library has been set up by Winnipeg City Council following a delegation from the Library Committee led by Professor A.S.R. Tweedie. Chairman and Convener of this Committee is Alderman Robert Moffatt. The Library Committee is represented by Mr. Leonard Urch. Among proposals to be investigated is one which would erect a large multi-purpose building on the Portage Avenue and Kennedy Street site. Street level would be shared by the library and retail stores. A greatly expanded central library would occupy two floors covering a whole city block. Above this, a high-rise office tower would be set. Proponents of the scheme feel that this would not only solve the library's problem, but would be a major factor in restoring the downtown area.

Arrangement with United College

Special arrangements have been made by the Winnipeg Public Library for United College students. Under terms of an arrangement approved by the Library Committee in December, 1965, library cards issued by United College will be honored by all branches of the Winnipeg Public Library. Dr. W.G. Lockhart, Principal, has promised full co-operation to ensure that books will be returned promptly.

Agreement with Henderson Regional Library

The agreement between Henderson Regional Library and the Winnipeg Public Library was discussed briefly by H. H. Easton, Winnipeg's City Librarian, at a recent meeting of the Trustees' Section, of the Manitoba Library Association. Mr. Easton said that from Winnipeg's point-of-view, residents of East Elmwood were being given better service through use of the Monroe Branch of the Henderson Regional Library. Use of the Winnipeg Public Library by residents of Henderson Regional Library was largely confined to central and downtown libraries, and, although this use is growing, it is not yet heavy enough to require additional expenditures for staff or books. Mrs. Dorothy Crosby, Henderson Regional Librarian says: "This exchange of services has relieved us of one of our graver concerns: that of the borrower who has need of resources for research, or of special books of limited appeal, or even of older books out-of-print before we were in existence, needs that we are not equipped to supply. Since our circulation at our main branch is greater recently than ever before it seems that people are simply increasing their use of books and not substituting one service for another. This exchange then has encouraged the use of books at many levels and by all ages of patrons. The actual cash outlay has been nothing."

READING STIMULATION GRANT

The Canadian Federation of University Women awards a Reading Stimulation grant of \$500.00 annually to be used to purchase children's books in areas in Canada where the library budget is limited and the need is great. There are two conditions:

1. A qualified librarian is in charge of Boys and Girls work (B.L.S. degree).
2. The library is, or will soon become a part of a regional library system.

In applying the following details should be given:

1. The library's need for the grant.
2. Program for administering it if received.
3. Training and qualifications of the children's librarian.
4. Connection with regional library system at present or in future.

Submit applications in duplicate to:

Miss Phyllis Lapworth,
Chief Librarian,
Public Library,
Medicine Hat, Alberta.

Deadline is March 31, 1967.