

GLOSSARY

Academic Library -- For purposes of this study an academic library is defined as according to the peer group definitions of the OCLC/AMIGOS CACD: Peer Group 1 are research libraries in the Association of Research Libraries; Peer group 4, "Large Academic Libraries," are university libraries defined by size as owning 700,000 to one million volumes. Peer Group 7 is composed of academic libraries in four-year institutions granting graduate degrees owning 300,000-699,000 volumes. Peer Group 14, "the database," is composed of the holdings of 2326 libraries. In addition to the academic libraries, the database contains the holdings of community college collections and public libraries as well as special law, medical, and other specialized collections. In broad terms, the database is representative of the holdings of US academic and public libraries.

Bibliographic Utilities --There are a number of not-for-profit bibliographic utilities which offer online cataloging and other services to libraries such as electronic indexing and collection analysis/assessment products. The first library bibliographic utility, OCLC, was formed in 1967 by a group of academic libraries in Ohio. From a modest beginning as a statewide online union catalog, by OCLC has become an international bibliographic utility with over 27 million bibliographic records with over 3,000 member libraries and 16,000 libraries of all types worldwide accessing the database. The bibliographic records in the OCLC database are for book and journal titles, government documents, music scores, and audio-visual materials. Some archival cataloging is included.ⁱ

The Research Libraries Group (RLG), a consortium of large research libraries formed in

the early 1970s, used the Stanford University Library database as the foundation for the Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN). The RLIN database contains an online catalog of more than 55 million items--bibliographic records to books, serials, archives and manuscripts, maps, music scores, sound recordings, films, photographs-- held by over 110 academic and special research libraries. The main bibliographic catalog is noted for its strong retrospective research holdings.ⁱⁱ

Another bibliographic utility is WLN, begun in the 1970s with an automated system developed by Boeing Computer Services under contract to the Washington State Library. The WLN database contains 8.2 million unique bibliographic records representing the holdings of over five hundred libraries. WLN's commitment to a high quality database is widely known. A special strength is the integration of all online systems providing ease of use with a linked authority file and global updating capabilities. In addition to the online database, WLN offers CD-ROM catalogs and collection assessment software and products.ⁱⁱⁱ

Collection analysis is the process of examining or determining the characteristics of a total library collection, subsets of a collection, or groups of library collections. Collection analysis is, in effect, content analysis of library collections which can reveal growth patterns, subject or language concentrations, age distributions, and differences between subject areas. Whereas collection evaluation and collection assessment place value judgements on the adequacy of collections to cover the literature of a field or to provide user support, collection analysis is focused on methodologies to obtain more detailed information about the composition of collections than gross volume counts reveal. Collection analysis uses the title rather than the volume as the unit of measurement, collecting data by the elements of age, place of publication,

subject, format, and language. Aspects of the collection studied are the ratio of serial to monograph titles by subject field; the percentage of foreign language materials by subject field; the distribution of imprints by age throughout the collection; the relative percentage distribution by subject fields throughout the collection; the percentage, actual number and distribution of duplicate titles throughout the collection by age, by subject, and if desired by library location; or various combinations of data by age, subject, language, and format. Collection analysis produces data and collection maps or profiles which can assist in the process of assessing the strengths, weaknesses, and quality of library collections.

Collection assessment--is an "organized process for systematically analyzing and describing a library's collection, using both quantitative and qualitative measures. Collection assessment is based upon a descriptive approach to the subject information levels and formats available in the collections. Assessment is a means of organizing collection management information in a way that can be understood and used by those within the organization at various levels of responsibility or involvement in collection development. An assessment may also provide information to people outside the organization as they attempt to understand the priorities, unique nature, strengths and weaknesses of a collection."^{iv} The term "collection assessment" came into use in the 1980's and has been connected with the Conspectus, an instrument developed by the Research Libraries Group for the rating of library collections according to levels of collection strength. Collection assessment as defined in the Conspectus context is the qualitative judgment of "assessing" collection strengths according to six levels assigned to a breakdown of over 4,000 Library of Congress classification lines. Since its development in the 1980s, the Conspectus methodology has been used in academic libraries throughout North America and Europe and in

all types of libraries in regional or consortial collection assessment projects. Multi-type collection assessment projects in Alaska and in the Pacific Northwest produced a modified Conspectus which has been adopted for use in smaller academic and public libraries. Several manuals have been produced for use in implementing the Conspectus methodology.^v Collection Assessment: A Look at the RLG Conspectus is a monograph devoted to the Conspectus containing articles on the history and uses of the Conspectus with a selected, annotated bibliography by Jerry Seay.^{vi} Although the Conspectus is a collection assessment methodology, in order to arrive at an informed state sufficient to make the qualitative judgments necessary in making collection level assignments, the use of collection analysis techniques is recommended.

Collection evaluation -- The ALA Glossary defines collection evaluation as "The process of assessing the quality of a library collection, usually in terms of specific objectives or the needs of the target group of that particular collection, one aspect of collection development."^{vii} In ALA guidelines, articles by collection management experts, and textbooks the term is described as a process with attention focused on different types of research methodologies or techniques employed in collection evaluation. Many of these explications are chapter or book length. Collection evaluation can be described briefly as a broad term which encompasses the process of identifying strengths and weaknesses in a collection by subject areas. It is also a process of determining the extent to which a library collection is meeting user needs. The word "evaluation" itself means a value judgment. It is the "process by which librarians judge the appropriateness of their collections for the library's users and the mission of the library."^{viii} The two main areas of collection evaluation are generally agreed to be collection-centered evaluation and use or client-centered evaluation.^{ix} The literature of collection evaluation has been the

subject of reviews by Mosher,^x Weimers,^{xi} Faigel,^{xii} Lancaster,^{xiii} and Osburn.^{xiv} A comprehensive bibliography of the field of collection evaluation has been compiled by Nisonger.^{xv}

Divisions of Knowledge:

Humanities/Arts -- the fields of philosophy, religion, art and design, music, languages, literature and linguistics, theater, speech and communications, and bibliography. These fields are defined in the study by the use of an "H" in the Library of Congress classification breakdown in Appendix A.

Social Sciences -- the fields of history and biography, geography and anthropology, recreation, business and economics, law and political science, education, sociology and psychology, printing and publishing, and library science. These fields are defined in the study by the use of an "SS" in the Library of Congress classification breakdown in Appendix A.

Science -- the term "science" in this study is defined as including the fields of mathematics, computer science, physics and astronomy, chemistry, geology, natural history, botany, zoology, microbiology, medicine, agriculture, technology, the engineering fields, mining and manufacturing, home economics, military and naval science, and oceanography. These fields are defined in the study by the use of "SCI" in the Library of Congress breakdown in Appendix A.

Imprint -- The term "imprint" has several different closely related meanings. The ALA Glossary defines "imprint date" as the "year of publication, distribution, manufacture, etc..." The Glossary

also defines the term "imprint" as "a book itself, such as early American imprint."^{xvi} The official term used with the OCLC/AMIGOS CACD is "non-serial imprint," defined as "an item either complete in one part or complete, or intended to be completed, in a finite number of parts."^{xvii} In this study the terms "imprint," "non-serial imprint", "monograph," "title," and "bibliographic record" are all used interchangeably to denote one publication unit or "book." In this study the data are for new books or non-serial imprints published in the years 1985-1995. An imprint is determined to be non-serial by the bibliographic level code "m" in the OCLC bibliographic record.^{xviii} The criteria for inclusion of a non-serial imprint in the OCLC/AMIGOS Collection Analysis CD system were that the bibliographic record be for non-serial printed materials only with Library of Congress call number present in the record and that the imprint be "held by at least one ARL library or academic library."^{xix} In addition another criterion for exclusion was the classification of a non-serial imprint as a government publication. Although the AACR2 definition of state publications includes university press publications, UP titles are included in the CACD.^{xx}

Monograph--is variously defined by librarians, publishers, or readers. The narrowest definition is that of a "separate treatise on a single subject or class of subjects, or on one person, usually detailed in treatment but not extensive in scope, and often containing bibliographies. Frequently published in series."^{xxi} While officially a learned treatise or book on a single or narrow topic, it is sometimes used to mean any book for practicing scholars or professionals as opposed to a textbook for students or a popular trade book. Sometimes it seems that if a book sells, it is called a 'book' or 'serious-non-fiction.' If it does not sell, it is called a 'monograph'."^{xxii} Often, in the library arena, a monograph is any single work which is not periodic in frequency; it can be multi-

volume.

Mean number of holding libraries -- In an overlap study, a title which is owned by more than one library is a title which is "duplicated" in the library collections under study. In this study the "mean number of holding libraries" is the average number of libraries in the peer group under study which own a title. The mean number of holding libraries is calculated by dividing the total number of holdings by the total number of bibliographic records (titles) in given subject range. The resulting figure is the average number of libraries per title for that subject category. Mean number of holding libraries is a measure of duplication in the collective resources base of a peer group.

OCLC/Amigos Collection Analysis CD system (CACD) -- a product which contains a CD-ROM database of bibliographic records. The product is customized for one library to compare its holdings to other peer groups of libraries. The 1997 edition of the OCLC/AMIGOS CACD which contains bibliographic records for 1.7 million non-serial printed materials all with an imprint date in the ten year range of 1979-1989 is the edition used for this study.

Overlap Study -- an analysis of the duplication of titles in the collections of a group of libraries.

Peer Group -- a set of libraries defined as a group for purposes of comparison in terms of budget, volumes, etc. and according to certain common characteristics, i.e. similar type, size, and mission. Often, a peer group is made up of institutions of similar type and size in a geographically defined grouping.

Resource base -- in this study, the collective non-serial printed holdings of U.S. academic libraries for which data are analyzed by peer group.

Title -- used interchangeably with the terms "non-serial imprint," "monograph," and "bibliographic record." All indicate one unit of publication or "book."

Union Catalog -- "A catalog of the collections of all the libraries of a library system (a central catalog) or a group of independent libraries cooperating for this purpose, with indication by means of location marks of the libraries in which a given bibliographic item may be found."^{xxiii}

Unique title -- in an overlap study, a title which is owned by only one library in the group of libraries under study. A high percentage of unique titles is regarded as a measure of diversity among the group of collections under study.

Chapter Notes

- i. OCLC Newsletter, 202(March/April 1993): 11.
- ii. Research Libraries Group News, Issue 29 (Fall 1992): 19.
- iii. WLN Systems and Services, (Lacey, WA: WLN, June 1993): 1-3.
- iv. WLN Collection Assessment Manual.
- v. Jutta Reed-Scott. Manual for the North American Inventory of Research Collections (Washington, DC: Association of Research Libraries, 1985); Nancy Powell and Mary Bushing, WLN Collection Assessment Manual, 4th ed. (Lacey, WA: WLN, 1992).
- vi. Katina Strauch and Richard J. Wood, eds., Collection Assessment: A Look at the RLG

Conspectus (New York: Haworth Press, 1992); also published as The Acquisitions Librarian 7 (1992); Jerry Seay, "The Conspectus: A Selected Annotated Bibliography," in Collection Assessment: A Look at the RLG Conspectus, 177-189.

vii. The ALA Glossary of Library and Information Science, Heartsill Young, ed., (Chicago: American Library Association, 1983), 49.

viii. WLN Collection Assessment Manual, 13.

ix. Guide to the Evaluation of Library Collections, Barbara Lockett, ed. (Collection Management and Development Guides, No.2), (Chicago: Resources and Technical Services Division, Resources Section Collection Management and Development Committee Subcommittee on Guidelines for Collection Development, American Library Association, 1989): 1-3.

x. Paul L. Mosher, "Quality and Library Collections: New Directions in Research and Practice in Collection Evaluation," in Advances in Librarianship 13 (1984): 211-238.

xi. Eugene Weimers Jr., et al., "Collection Evaluation: a Practical Guide to the Literature," Library Acquisitions Practice & Theory 8 (1984): 65-76.

xii. Martin Faigel, "Methods and Issues in Collection Evaluation Today," Library Acquisitions Practice & Theory 9 (1985): 21-35.

xiii. F.W. Lancaster, If You Want to Evaluate Your Library (Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science, 1988).

xiv. Charles B. Osburn, "Collection Development and Management," in Academic Libraries: Research Perspectives, ed. Mary Jo Lynch and Arthur Young, (Chicago: ALA, 1990): 1-37.

Thomas E. Nisonger, Collection Evaluation in Academic Libraries: A Literature Guide and Annotated Bibliography (Englewood CO: Libraries Unlimited, 1992).

xvi. The ALA Glossary, 115.

xvii. Anglo-American Cataloging Rules, 2nd ed., Michael Gorman and Paul W. Winkler eds. (Chicago: American Library Association, 1978), 568.

xviii. Online Systems Books Format, 3d. ed., (Dublin, Ohio: OCLC, 1986): 2.

xix. OCLC/AMIGOS Collection Analysis CD User Guide, rev. November 1991 (Dublin, Ohio: OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Inc., 1989): 1:3.

xx. Ibid, 20.

xxi. Harrod's Librarians' Glossary, 8th ed. Compiled by Ray Prytherch (Gower, 1995).

xxii. Librarians and Publishers.

xxiii. The ALA Glossary, 235.