CHAPTER SIX

ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

The major contributions to the history of academic libraries began with Louis Shores's Origins of the American College Library, 1638-1800 (1934, 6.11), originally written as a dissertation at George Peabody College for Teachers. Analyzing nine colonial colleges and giving particular attention to administration and collection growth, Shores established a methodological pattern still respected and utilized in library historiography, that of drawing generalizations by examining closely a selected group of institutions as they evolved during clearly defined historical periods. Later syntheses resembling the Shores model include Benjamin E. Powell's, "The Development of Libraries in Southern State Universities to 1920" on libraries at the universities of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia as well as Louisiana State University (1946, 6.23); an especially thoughtful study by Kenneth Brough, Scholar's Workshop: Evolving Conceptions of Library Service (1953, 6.31), on Columbia, Harvard, Yale, and the University of Chicago from 1876 to 1946; and Robert E. Brundin's, "Changing Patterns of Library Service in Five California Junior Colleges, 1907-1967" (1970, 6.162).

Additional topical studies of particular note resulted from research conducted by Thomas Harding whose College Literary Societies: Their Contribution to Higher Education in the United States 1815-1876 (1971, 6.60) is recognized as a comprehensive work, national in scope, and Neil A. Radford who produced The Carnegie Corporation and the Development of American College Libraries, 1928-1941 (1984, 6.137). Radford considers two topics under-represented in the historical literature: college libraries (as distinguished from university libraries) and the role of private philanthropy in library development.

Two general syntheses in the history of American academic libraries, based essentially on foundational sources, appeared almost simultaneously. Arthur T. Hamlin divided The University Library in the United States 1815-1876 (1971, 6.60) into a chronology tracing academic libraries from the Colonial era to the post-World War II period and a collection of essays on governance, organization, services, architecture, cooperative efforts, collection building, technical processing, technology, and finance, interspersing his narrative with personal reminiscences. Similarly, Lee Shiflett provided a synthesis by analyzing previously printed works. His Origins of American Academic Librarianship (1981, 6.121), summarizing trends from 1876 to 1923, considered the subject in the context of bureaucratic and curricular developments in higher education, arguing that librarians never enjoyed a "Golden Age" of full acceptance by the professoriate or internal consensus about priorities of service and expertise. These two monographs had been preceded by Richard D. Johnson's Libraries for Teaching, Libraries for Research: Essays for a Century (1977, 6.100), a collection of historical articles on academic libraries and librarians published in 1976 in College & Research Libraries as part of the American Library Association's centennial celebration. Well-researched and carefully edited, essays from
the Johnson anthology are listed separately in this chapter (except for those that deal exclusively with private research libraries).

Considerably less comprehensive, though quite useful for general perspectives, are articles by W. N. C. Carlton on academic libraries in the mid-nineteenth century (1907, 6.4) and Arthur E. Bestor, Jr., "The Transformation of American Scholarship, 1875-1917" (1953, 6.30), detailing research developments in higher education and subsequent growth in university libraries. These were complemented somewhat later by three important articles on college libraries: Howard Clayton, "The American College Library: 1800-1860" (1968, 6.53); Richard Harwell, "College Libraries" (1971, 6.61); and John Caldwell, "Perceptions of the Academic Library: Midwestern College Libraries as They Have Been Depicted in College Histories" (1984, 6.132).

Most of the recent articles have tended to focus on specific aspects of academic librarianship. Edward R. Johnson studied subject divisional organization from 1939 to 1974 (1977, 6.99); J. Periam Danton examined budgets in the selected years of 1860, 1910, and 1960 (1983, 6.128); and David Kaser reviewed architectural style and function for the years 1960 to 1984 (1984, 6.135) and 1870 to 1890 (1986, 6.145). Wayne A. Wiegand's collection, Leaders in American Academic Librarianship, 1925-1975 (1983, 6.131), provides a variety of insights into university library management. Individual entries from this collection appear by subject, together with other entries in Chapter 15, "Biographies of Individual Librarians and Library Benefactors."

Among three major areas of library organization—collection development, public services, and technical services—the first two are discussed in this chapter. Since most of the historical writing on technical services examines developments not only in academic libraries, but also in other types of libraries, frequently treating issues that transcend jurisdictional and geographical boundaries, it is listed in Chapter 13, "Special Aspects of Librarianship," rather than here.

Solid studies devoted to collection development began with "Book Collections of Five Colonial College Libraries: A Subject Analysis" (1960, 6.43), a dissertation by Joe Kraus that resulted in several journal articles and established his work as a standard for subsequent research. Soon thereafter, J. Periam Danton compared book selection and collection development in the United States and Germany (1963, 6.46). Lowell Simpson examined society libraries at Columbia, Dartmouth, Princeton, and Yale from 1783 to 1830, concluding, as did his predecessors, that the society libraries were superior to their college counterparts with regard to physical facilities, accessibility, and collection quality (1977, 6.101). Charles B. Osburn discussed the post-World War II period, concentrating on library growth and patterns of research in major disciplines and concluding that growth in research collections paralleled growth in research efforts but without responding directly to those efforts (1979, 6.108). David Kaser hypothesized the existence of five distinct periods from 1780 to 1980 in "Collection Building in American Universities" (1980, 6.110). Michael J. Waldo challenged some of the prevalent ideas about the book collections of college libraries and literary society libraries in his comparative study of twelve midwestern campuses during the mid-nineteenth century (1985, 6.141).

As generally illustrated by studies mentioned in this essay, doctoral programs produced the lion's share of the substantial research during the past fifty years. Thus, graduate work in history, librarianship, and, to a lesser extent, education has produced a large number of histories of academic libraries. Many of these works, whose interpretive quality varies widely, discuss selected time periods, which are often determined by the tenure of chief administrators. Most of the studies of liberal arts and teachers college libraries tend to be treated in master's theses, while research university libraries tend to be treated in doctoral dissertations. Thus, libraries at large universities have become the focus of the most extensive inquiry. The major studies, several of which have subsequently appeared as journal articles, include Haynes McMullen on the University of Chicago (1952 and 1953, 6.239), Russell Bidlack on the University of Michigan (1962, 6.415), Wayne Yenawine on the University of Illinois (1955, 6.241), Mildred Lowell on Indiana University (1961, 6.261), Winifred Linderman on Columbia University (1959, 6.475), James Skipper on Ohio State University (1960, 6.568), Roscoe Rouse on Baylor University (1962, 6.672), Robert Munn on the University of West Virginia (1962, 6.738), Kenneth Peterson on the University of California at Berkeley (1970, 6.163), Louis Moloney on the University of Texas (1970, 6.682), and Clarence C. Gorchels on Washington State University (1971, 6.734). These were followed—after a hiatus of more than a decade—by Thomas F. O'Connor on Yale University (1984, 6.197), Christine Desjarlais-Leuth on Brown University (1985, 6.630), and Francis X. Roberts on the University of Buffalo (now the State University of New York at Buffalo; 1986, 6.522).

Occasionally, a university takes an active role in publishing the history of its library. See, for example, Harry Clemons's The University of Virginia Library (1954, 6.718), J. Orin Oliphant's The Library of Bucknell University (1962, 6.610), John Jennings's The Library of the College of William and Mary in Virginia, 1693-1793 (1968, 6.724), and Kenneth Peterson's previously mentioned study of the University of California (1970, 6.163). Finally, more recent research has yielded library histories that are less lengthy but of equal interpretive value. William S. Dix on Princeton University (1978, 6.452), Charles R. Schultz on Texas A&M University (1979, 6.695), and Merrily E. Taylor on Yale University (1982, 6.196) merit special mention.
General Studies

1876-1919


6.10 Wilson, L. R. The Emergence of the College Library: An Address by Dr. Louis R. Wilson. New York: Carnegie Corporation, 1931.


1950-1971


Special Studies Arranged by State

Alabama


Alaska


Arizona


Arkansas


California


**Colorado**


**Connecticut**


Delaware


District of Columbia


6.208  Pendell, L. "Gallaudet College Library [since 1876]." DCL 28 (1957): 4-8.


Florida


Georgia


**Hawaii**


**Illinois**


**Indiana**


**Iowa**


**Kansas**


**Kentucky**


**Louisiana**


**Maine**


**Maryland**


Massachusetts


6.313 "Williams College Library." *NLGPC* 3 (15 March 1853): 37.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>


Michigan


**Mississippi**


**Nebraska**


**Nevada**

New Hampshire


New Jersey


New Mexico


New York


Ohio


Oregon


Pennsylvania


6.592  Jones, S. B. "The Early Years of the University Library." *Library Chronicle: Bicentennial Issue Published in Memory of the Founding of the University of Pennsylvania Library, 1750 17* (1950): 8-22.


6.608 Smith, D. J. "Early Libraries in Crawford County." WPHM 40 (1957): 251-76.


Rhode Island


South Carolina

6.631 "South Carolina College Library." *NLGPC* 3 (15 December 1853): 213.


Tennessee


**Texas**


6.666  Ratchford, F. E. "Rare Book Collections." *HT* 2 (1952): 441.


6.678 Sitter, C. L. "The History and Development of the Rare Books Collections of the University of Texas Based on Recollections of Miss Fannie Ratchford." Master's thesis, University of Texas, 1966.


6.710  Snapp, E. "The Woman's Collection, the Texas Woman's University Library." Special Collections no. 3 (1986): 101-14.

Vermont


Virginia


West Virginia

6.736 Harris, V. "Library Development in Five Denominational Colleges in West Virginia." Master's thesis, Western Reserve University, 1952.


Wisconsin


**Wyoming**
