

THE EDUCATION AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES SECTION
Association of College and Research Libraries
American Library Association

HISTORY¹

The Education and Behavioral Sciences Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries, American Library Association, originated from the interest and planning of two education librarians in 1967, immediately after the summer annual conference in San Francisco.

Barbara S. Marks, then Education Librarian, General University Library, New York University, and Howard W. Dillon, then Associate Librarian of the Graduate School of Education, Harvard University, met at that San Francisco conference and discussed problems that they had in common in their respective libraries. As a result of their discussion, they began a movement to establish a subsection of education librarians within the Association of College and Research Libraries.

Shortly after the 1967 ALA conference, a letter, signed jointly by Mr. Dillon and Mrs. Marks, was sent to education librarians in the organization. The letter, drafted by Mrs. Marks, stated in the opening paragraph:

It was our opinion that we could benefit from regular opportunities to communicate with our colleagues engaged in serving the education community in this manner. The problems worthy of attention are many. We find ourselves administering collections of growing complexity as the media for presenting curricula become more varied. The abstracting and indexing services for the literature of interest to educators today fall far short of our needs. The U.S. Office of Education has committed itself to a major program in indexing and disseminating the research literature of the profession—a program with implications for each of us. How can we voice our concern about these and similar problems and participate in rational solutions to them? We believe the first step is through the American Library Association.

In the same letter, they informed their fellow education librarians that, at that time, there were four subsections in the Subject Specialists Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries, and that:

By petition it would be possible for twenty-five members of ALA to initiate action to form an Education Subsection. Early action is advisable in order to bring this matter before the ACRL Planning and Action Committee at the ALA Midwinter Meeting, 1968. Favorable action at that time could permit the subsection to hold its organizational meeting during the 1968 Conference in Kansas City, June 23-29.

The petition for the formation of an Education Subsection caught the attention of librarians from the East to the West coast, and they joined in the proposal.

From these 27 names were drawn a mailing list for a newsletter written by Mr. Dillon. The newsletter ran to four issues, from November, 1967 to May, 1968. He did not intend it to be an official publication, but a means of communication during the early stages. At the same time he conducted a survey of education libraries. In the first newsletter he reported a suggestion from Wayne Gossage that the petition be broadened to include psychology and sociology.

At the request of Mrs. Marks, Mr. Dillon drafted the statement of purpose for the proposed subsection in November, 1967. This statement of purpose and scope, which was submitted to the Association of College and Research Libraries at the 1968 ALA Midwinter Meeting² was approved:

The Purpose of the Education and Behavioral Sciences Sub-section of the Subject Specialist Section is to provide a forum for the discussion of common problems in providing library service to educators, psychologists, and sociologists.

This Sub-section will concern itself with any issues related to its purpose. Among these are: the collection and indexing of instruments to test and measure intelligence, aptitude, achievement, skills, and attitudes; methods for handling the variety of media now employed in the publication of information, particularly curriculum materials; access problems regarding audio tape, video tape, and film records of teaching and counseling styles; and the presently uneven and limited abstracting and indexing services for these subject fields. The development, scope, and quality of any government, society, or commercial services which publish information or produce products for the bibliographic control of information

useful to education and behavioral science library collections will be appropriate subjects for the review of this Sub-section. Consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association and Division, this Sub-section shall have the authority to draft and issue statements of position on issues falling within its scope of interest.

Appropriate means of communication and discussion, including Sub-section meetings at the Annual Conference and special meetings in conjunction with other library and professional groups, will be considered by the duly elected officers of the Sub-section.

In March, 1968, the third newsletter announced the approval for the formation of the Subsection and the planning for an organizational meeting at the ALA Annual Conference in Kansas City. The fourth, and final, newsletter of May 20, 1968, gave the time for a late afternoon meeting, and the first formal program was to be a discussion of educational abstracting and indexing services. The first program featured a panel composed of Harvey Marron, Chief, Educational Research Information Center (ERIC), James Humphrey III, soon to become a vice-president of the H.W. Wilson Company, and Sidney Forman.

The mechanics of establishing the Subsection were devised by Howard Dillon, Wayne Gossage and Barbara Marks at their meeting in April. According to the words of Mrs. Marks in her letter requesting assistance from other librarians, "...in the absence of any formal democratic machinery", they appointed themselves as temporary officers with Mr. Dillon as Program Chairman, Mr. Gossage as Chairman of the Bylaws Committee, and Mrs. Marks as Chairman of the Subsection.

Two committees were formed, and members were named to the Organizing and Bylaws Committees. The Organizing Committee was composed of Barbara Anderson, Lorraine Mathies and Rose Marie Service, and the Bylaws Committee of Toyo Kawakami, Margaret Mattern, and Jacqueline Peldzus. The first draft of the Bylaws was written by Mrs. Kawakami, and it was amended by other members of the committee.

The first official meeting of the Subsection as a recognized body within the American Library Association was held at the ALA Annual Convention for 1969 in Atlantic City. The scheduled meeting was held on June 24 with Mrs. Marks presiding. About fifty or more librarians, representing the subject areas designated in the name of the Subsection, attended this session.

The program of this section was based on "Tests: Problems of Bibliographic Control, Collection, Maintenance, and Preservation", with Mr. Dillon as moderator. The Speakers were Oscar Buros, the distinguished editor of *Tests in Print* and the *Mental Measurements Yearbook*, and Priscilla Linsley from the Carl Campbell Brigham Center of the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, New Jersey.

At the 1970 ALA Conference in Detroit the Subsection sponsored a series of workshops on ERIC held on successive days, and a lecture by Harvey Marron, Chief of ERIC, at the membership meeting.

The Bylaws for the Subsection,³ written two years before, were ratified at the same 1970 conference.

Archival materials show evidence of three EBSS committees active in 1970:

- Committee on ASCD Curriculum Materials. Chair, Earl Shaffer.
- Committee on Bibliographic and Physical Control of Nonprint Materials. Chair, Margaret Mattern.
- Committee on Psychological Tests. Chair, Priscilla Linsley.

In 1976 Wayne Gossage and Ruth Bauner organized responses to Gossage's "open letter" to EBSS members in the February, 1976, *C&RL News* and ideas generated in "discussion circles" held at the 1976 ALA Annual Conference. Five ad hoc committees were established for the 1976-77 year. Of these five, four become standing committees with slight variation in their titles and charges.

Further, an extensive mailing from Wayne Gossage, Immediate Past Chair, in September 1976, clearly defined expectations for committee members and charges for the newly formed ad hoc committees. The current foci of EBSS are a direct outgrowth of this organization of the Education and Behavioral Sciences Section.

(NOTE: In 1992, during an update of the manual, the archival materials were removed. Copies of these items are located at the ALA Archives at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library.)

¹ Drafted by Toyo Kawakami. Edited by Virginia Parr.

² *College and Research Libraries News*, May, 1968, p. 131.

³ *College and Research Libraries News*, November, 1969, pp. 353-355.

EBSS Timeline: Highlights from the EBSS Manual

- 1967: Barbara Marks and Howard Dillon discuss establishing an education subsection of ACRL. Twenty-seven education librarians sign a petition supporting the subsection.
- The petition is broadened to include psychology and sociology at the suggestion of Wayne Gossage
- 1968: ACRL approves the Education and Behavioral Sciences Sub-section at Midwinter
- Organizational meeting at ALA Annual (Kansas City)
- Dillon, Gossage, & Marks appoint themselves temporary officers. Newly formed Bylaws Committee drafts bylaws.
- 1st program: panel discussion of educational A&I services
- 1969: Marks presides over 1st official meeting of the Subsection on June 24 at Annual (Atlantic City)
- 1970: Subsection bylaws ratified at ALA Annual (Detroit)
- EBSS sponsors series of ERIC workshops at Annual
- 1974: EBSS program at Annual is 1-1/2 day workshop: *Access to Printed and Computerized Census Data: An Instructional Program*
- 1978: Bibliographic Instruction for Educators Committee publishes “Worksheet on How to Use Resources in Education” in October issue of *C&RL News*
- 1979: Psychology/Psychiatry Committee sponsors Annual program by Jean Roberts, MD: *Wisdom of Make Believe, Psychological Insights from Some Famous Works of Fiction*
- 1981: Curriculum Materials Committee produces 1st edition of *Directory of Curriculum Materials Centers*
- 1982: Annual program includes panel discussion on *Video-Disc Applications in Educational and Behavioral Sciences*
- 1986: Tom Peischl edits first volume of EBSS Newsletter
- Joint Subcommittee of the Curriculum Materials and Problems of Access and Control of Educational Materials Committees publish “Cataloging Practices and Resource Sharing of Curriculum Collections in Academic Libraries” in April issue of *Journal of Library Administration*
- 1989: EBSS and RASD MARS sponsor Annual program: *Selecting, Evaluating and Creating Policies for Computer-Based Resources in the Behavioral Sciences and Education*
- 1990: Psychology/Psychiatry Committee publishes “Psychology and Psychiatry Serials: A Bibliographic Aid for Collection Development” in *Behavioral and Social Sciences Librarian*
- 1991: First Discussion Group meeting held at Midwinter. Topics are “Evaluation of Bibliographic Instruction;”

“Management and Assessment of Curriculum Collections;” and “CD-ROM Products: The Impact of PsycLIT, ERIC, Sociofile and others on Bibliographic Instruction and Reference Service in Education and the Behavioral Sciences”

- 1993: EBSS celebrates 25th anniversary. Ad hoc committee produces *EBSS 25th Anniversary Roster, 1968-1993*
- 1994: Mary Ellen Collins is first recipient of Distinguished Librarian Award
- 1995: Instruction for Educators Committee publishes *Teaching Information Retrieval and Evaluation Skills to Education Students and Practitioners: A Casebook of Applications*
- 1996: Social Work/Social Welfare Committee publishes *Human Service Organizations and Their Publications: A Directory of Selected Sources*
- 1997: Deborah Rollins serves as first Web Manager
- 1998: Judy Walker serves as first moderator of EBSS-L
- 2000: Reference Sources and Services Committee publishes “Research in Education: A Comparison and Analysis of Databases” in January issue of *C&RL News*
- 2001: *Directory of Test Collections in Academic, Professional, and Research Libraries* published by ad hoc Test Collection Directory Committee (1997-2000)
- 2005: Ad hoc Historical Textbook & Curriculum Collections Directory Committee publishes *Directory of Historical Textbook and Curriculum Collections*
- 2006: Ad hoc Information Literacy Steering Committee charged with creating information literacy guidelines for disciplines represented by EBSS
- 2008: EBSS celebrates 40th anniversary
- 2009: EBSS goes completely online with the Fall Newsletter
- 2010: EBSS provides the option for committees to meet virtually for midwinter. All but 5 committees meet virtually
“Psychology Information Literacy Standards” a project of the Psychology Committee was approved at ALA Conference June 2010.
- 2011: Online Learning Research Committee members publish “Learning Objects as Tools for Teaching Information Literacy Online: A Survey of Librarian Usage” in May 2011 issue (72/3) of *College & Research Libraries*
- “Information Literacy Standards for Teacher Education”, a project of the Instruction for Educators Committee was approved by ALA May 2011.