

program of Christian education. Dr. Jesse Baden, in writing about Billy Graham in *Christianity Today*, said:

He (Billy Graham) has a high Christology, for without that it would be very difficult, if not impossible to be an evangelist. In all my experience in evangelism, I have never known a minister or an evangelist who was a successful winner of souls to Christ and membership in the Church, who did not have a high Christology. If man is a sinner, he needs a Saviour and a Saviour who "can save to the uttermost."¹

So in religious education. Only a Person as the New Testament Christ and Lord can adequately become the goal of Christian nurture; only the Jesus of the Scriptures can provide the ideals which can control conduct; only the uplifted Savior can bring the regenerative effect into a life in order that "desirable changes" may come about.

¹*Christianity Today*, Vol. I, No. 24 (September 16, 1957), p. 24.

A paper read at the midwest regional meeting of the E. T. S.,
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INCREASING RESEARCH RESOURCES THROUGH LIBRARY COOPERATION: A PLAN

The purpose of this paper is to acquaint you with a plan for cooperation between the libraries of institutions represented in the Evangelical Theological Society, midwest region.

Through some simple activities on the part of these libraries, I hope to point out how our research resources may be enlarged both in number and in scope. I am sure that those of you who carry on research will be interested in a plan for making available, more readily, the materials of your subject.

By library cooperation, I have in mind a plan whereby E.T.S. libraries by a joint effort, share in the selection and purchase of periodicals and books in predetermined areas and make these materials accessible through card catalogs and lists. The plan would also include making these materials available through interlibrary loan.

Before explaining this plan in detail, I would like to say that such a plan is not original with me, nor is it rare among academic libraries. Cooperative programs are presently operating on the local and national levels. They have been born of the realization that libraries, even some of the wealthiest ones, cannot acquire everything, even in single areas of knowledge.

You, with the librarians of your institutions, know of the vast numbers of books and periodicals coming off the presses today, even in the fields of religion and philosophy.

Ulrich's Periodical Directory, which does not list the ephemeral religious periodicals, notes three hundred and thirty religious periodicals and one hundred and forty philosophy periodicals.

American book publishers alone printed 1,450 new titles in 1957 on religions and philosophy. These book figures do not cover new editions or books from foreign presses.

Though there are titles among this large number of books and periodicals which would not be of value to you, I am sure there are many which you and your libraries would like to purchase but cannot because of the expense and library space involved. Also, some of these titles are too costly or specialized to warrant their purchase by a single college or seminary library. Many of the foreign language books are in this category.

To rely on interlibrary loan for materials which your library does not have is not always satisfactory for at least two reasons. One, there is the delay in determining which library has the desired book. And two, the loaning library often cannot supply the book because it is on reserve or for some other reason.

Therefore, because of our libraries' inability to provide very little more than the minimum in books and periodicals desired and the generally unsatisfactory service of interlibrary loan, I bring this matter of library cooperation to your attention. If, in your opinion, the plan has merit, I would appreciate your discussing it with the librarian of your institution and would be interested to hear from you if your library is interested.

The plan I have in mind could include the items which I will now outline in some detail. The first item is, however, the simplest and least expensive and would serve as an initial step.

The cooperating libraries would prepare a union list of their periodical holdings in the fields of religion and philosophy. This list would be in simple alphabetical order by title with appropriate abbreviations indicating which library or libraries have the periodical, the length of the run, whether or not it is being received currently, and its permanent form (bound or microfilm). The list would be similar in purpose and format to the Union List of Periodicals. This list would be reproduced and sent to all participating libraries. Thus each library would have a key to the periodical holdings of all other member libraries.

The cooperative system would include the mechanics of sending and receiving requests for member libraries' periodicals. If photocopy machines are available or can be made available, it would be a simple matter to reproduce the requested article for a few pennies and eliminate the necessity of mailing periodical volumes.

It is obvious that the value of this initial step exists only when a requested periodical is not in a given library but is available in another library through the union list. This leads to the next step in the plan.

After proper consideration and consultation, the cooperating libraries could determine among themselves that each of the member libraries would subscribe to a certain periodical or to a periodical to which none of the other libraries is subscribing currently. In some cases the selection would be a specialized periodical, in the German language for example. In other words, it would be a source which is valuable but not readily available, and considering the space and expenses involved, not worth the use it would be accorded by a single library.

The results of the two steps just considered, depending upon the

number of the cooperating libraries, would considerably enlarge the periodical resources available to both you and your students in your research efforts.

Books are the second type of materials which could be increased by a cooperative effort. While it would require more effort and expense than periodicals, I think it is worth the trouble.

Basically the cooperative plan for books is similar to that for periodicals. That is, it would include a finding list plus a cooperative acquisitions program. However, the type of catalog for listing library holdings, the extent of the information listed, and the manner in which the information is to be listed, is dependent upon so many factors that it does not seem profitable to recommend any one plan in detail in this paper. However, to illustrate how such a plan could work, I would like to cite one method which, with necessary modification, could be adopted.

A single card catalog, similar to the card catalogs found in each of your libraries would be set up in a centrally located member library. All books of all member libraries relating to religion and philosophy would be represented in this union catalog by author card only. The cards would be filed alphabetically by author. Each card would have written on it the symbol or abbreviation of as many libraries as have the book. It would, of course, be kept up to date. Thus the central union catalog would represent the holdings of all member libraries in religion and philosophy.

Libraries which are not able to locate a requested book in their stacks could fill out and send a prepared form to the library which has the union catalog, which in turn would forward the request to the institution which has the book. The book would then be sent to the requesting library.

The use of a photocopy machine to make up the original union catalog and then duplicate it several times would make it possible to place a union catalog in all member libraries. This move would cut down the time involved in locating a desired book.

The advantages of pooling resources would be multiplied if a similar course were followed as in the case of periodicals. That is, if each library agreed to make a special effort to watch for and select books in a predetermined area. For example, current German books in the area of N. T. criticism. The choice of area should correspond, of course, with the emphasis of the particular school. Not all subject areas in religion could be covered, nor in the case of foreign language books. But it is not the purpose of this cooperative effort to completely cover the field. This is impossible with the resources on hand. It is the purpose, however, to increase our coverage with relatively little effort and expense.

Some of you have noticed by now that I have entirely ignored the objections to such a program as I have outlined. It has been done purposely for two reasons: (1) it is not possible to explore this area in the time at hand, and more important, (2) most, if not all these objections have been met and discarded or resolved in the cooperative programs now in operation.

I believe it would be waste by neglect to ignore the possibilities and advantages of pooling our resources, especially as the institutions represented here have a common interest in religious literature and in the purpose of making available the finest possible training to their students.

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