

**BIBLIOGRAPHY OF COOPERATIVE
CATALOGUING AND
THE PRINTING OF
CATALOGUE CARDS (1850-1902)**

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ADAM JULIUS STROHM & TORSTEIN JAHR

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BIBLIOGRAPHY
OF
COOPERATIVE CATALOGUING
AND THE
PRINTING OF CATALOGUE CARDS

WITH INCIDENTAL REFERENCES TO INTERNATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY
AND THE UNIVERSAL CATALOGUE

(1850-1902)

BY
TORSTEIN JAHR
AND
ADAM JULIUS STROHM

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS,
Washington, D. C., October 24, 1902.

SIR: Some three years ago, while students at the library school in the University of Illinois, Mr. A. J. Strohm (now librarian of the Trenton Public Library) and myself became interested in the literature of international bibliography, cooperative cataloguing, and the printing of catalogue cards, and eventually decided to compile an annotated bibliography of the subject from the year 1850 to the end of 1899. In June, 1900, the list, which then contained 289 entries, was presented to the University in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of B. L. S.

Since that time the interest in cooperative cataloguing has been growing rapidly. In the old world this interest has been mainly centered in the cooperative plans and enterprises of the Royal Society of London, the Institut international de bibliographie at Brussels, and the Concilium bibliographicum at Zurich. In the United States the most notable cooperative venture has been the distribution of printed cards by the Library of Congress. In view of this fact and the probable relation of the Library of Congress to other cooperative work in the future, it has been thought that the publication of this list, revised and brought up to date by Mr. Theodore W. Koch and myself, might aid in giving those interested in the movement a general view of its development and so help in the future discussion of questions sure to arise. We, therefore, offer it for the purpose.

Respectfully submitted: TORSTEIN JAHR,
Assistant in Catalogue Division.

HERBERT PUTNAM,
Librarian of Congress.

PREFACE.

The present list aims to present a chronological conspectus of the growth of the literature about plans and enterprises in cooperative cataloguing and international bibliography.^a The printing of catalogue cards being one avenue toward the attainment of these desired ends, some of the literature dealing more specifically with this phase of the problem has been included here. Thus the subjects, international bibliography, cooperative cataloguing, and the printing of catalogue cards, are seen to have a closer connection than a first glance at the title of our bibliography would suggest. The chronological arrangement of the data has been chosen in order to show the progress of the movement toward cooperation and to give historical sequence to the discussion of the subject. It will be noticed that during the last decade the need of fuller catalogues and more systematic bibliographies in the various fields of literature has been a subject for discussion at numerous conferences of librarians and international congresses of scientists. It is generally conceded that these ends are only to be attained through cooperation and centralization. Of late the main propositions have been the production of a universal or international

^aA few catalogues and bibliographies have been included for the sake of making complete the chain of discussion, while they are generally omitted because, though in themselves the result of cooperation, they do not constitute literature about the subject. Most of those that have been included find a place here as the fruition of plans discussed in other entries. Likewise, union lists of both books and periodicals have, as a rule, been omitted. Those who are interested in the latter are referred to A. C. S. Josephson, "A bibliography of union lists of periodicals (1864-1899)," originally published in the Papers and proceedings of the twenty-first annual meeting of the American Library Association and reprinted with some additions (bringing the total number of entries up to 25) in July, 1899.

bibliography of scientific literature, cooperative cataloguing of more or less special subjects, the establishment of bibliographical institutes, and the distribution of printed cards from a central bureau.

The subject in question dates further back than 1850.^a During the French Revolution a movement was on foot for the establishment of a union catalogue for all the libraries in France, but failed, as did so many of the other plans of that epoch.^b During the first half of the nineteenth century there were some scattering expressions, especially in France and Germany, of a growing demand for something in the nature of cooperative work looking toward the compilation of national and universal bibliographies, but they had no practical results.

The year 1850 has not been arbitrarily chosen. It may be said to form the actual starting point. In that year a discussion was occasioned by the appearance of the memorable "Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the constitution and government of the British Museum."

"The *Athenæum* journal, the most prominent organ of the assailants of the Museum," said a writer in the *Edinburgh review*,^c "in concluding its remarks upon the report of the commissioners, astonished its readers by proposing a universal catalogue, to contain all the books that ever were printed. The plan was that our government should catalogue all British works, and every other its own. Such a catalogue would serve for every library; nothing would be necessary, in any one such institution, except to indicate the presence of each work in the library by affixing to each its press mark, or designation of its place on the shelves. Separate stereotype blocks for each title are proposed to be

^aGabriel Naudé, in his "Advis pour dresser une bibliothèque," Paris, 1627 (reprinted 1644 and 1876, and English by J. Evelyn, London, 1661), recommended that the libraries get together the largest possible collection of catalogues and in this way procure a central catalogue by means of which scholars might know where to find the books of which they stood in need.

^b*Cf.* Tourneux, "Bibliographie de l'histoire de Paris pendant la Révolution française," Paris, 1900, t. 3, p. 622-635, and our entries no. 184 and 305.

^c*Cf.* entry no. 1.

presented by each government to the rest, out of which any variety of plans of cataloguing might be made feasible."^a

This plan of separate stereotype blocks had been brought before the commissioners by Mr. W. D. Cooley, but the same idea had already occurred to Prof. C. C. Jewett, who as early as in the fall of 1847 appears to have communicated it to Mr. Henry Stevens and urged him to introduce the plan to the authorities of the British Museum.^b Professor Jewett did not, however, bring it before the public until 1850, when he made it the subject of a communication to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at its meeting at New Haven, Conn., August, 1850,^c which constitutes another reason for considering this date as a turning point.

The next movement of note is that of the Society of Arts, London, which at its second ordinary meeting, December 1, 1852, at the instance of Sir Henry Cole, considered the project of producing a universal catalogue and, as a first step toward it, of preparing a catalogue of all books printed in the United Kingdom before 1600. No measures were adopted, and the matter was dropped; but in 1876 the Society once more took the idea into consideration, and it became the subject of much discussion during 1878-79, which, although devoid of practical results, yet served a useful purpose in calling renewed attention to urgent problems in bibliography.

In 1876 the American Library Association was formed, and since that time the cooperative cataloguing movement has progressed with rapid strides. The great drawback in all bibliographical work is that by the time, or even before, a work is published and in circulation it has fallen into arrears. To remedy this disadvantage the card catalogue has been introduced in a majority of libraries for their individual use, and the system of printing the separate titles on slips or cards has been found serviceable also in preparing bibliographies.^d The American Library Association Cooper-

^a*Edinburgh review*, October, 1850, page 394, in the article "British Museum commission: Catalogue of printed books," 92: 371-398.

^bA. Growoll, "Some notes on cooperative or labor-saving methods of printing library catalogues," *Library journal*, 13: 281.

^cPrinted in its *Proceedings*, 1851; cf. entry no. 2.

^dFor the history and development of the card catalogue system, see M. S. R. James, "The progress of the modern card catalogue principle," in *Public libraries*, 7: 185-189.