Report on Farmington Plan Program

Report to Council on Library Resources on grant received by the Association of Research Libraries for its Farmington Plan Program

Immediately prior to receipt, in July 1959, of the Council on Library Resources' second grant for the support of certain Farmington Plan studies and activities, there was a complete reorganization of the FP Committee. As reconstituted, the general committee has responsibility for the over-all development and implementation of the Farmington Plan, but delegates the actual field operations for the most part to seven regional sub-committees covering the worlds: Western Europe, Middle East, Far East, South Asia, Slavic and East Europe, Africa, and Latin America. The reorganized committee was able to make more effective use of the council's grant than would otherwise have been possible.

Several specific investigations were included in the request for the council grant, and these were satisfactorily completed by the terminal date. The studies in at least two instances were preparatory to possible extension of the Farmington Plan into new areas.

The first study to be finished (Jerrold Orne, *Report on the CIA Library Acquisitions Program*, 1959) was a survey of the relationship of the Farmington Plan to the Central Intelligence Agency's procurement program. The investigation was made for the committee by Jerrold Orne, Library of the University of North Carolina. On the basis of Dr. Orne's findings, it was the consensus that, though the CIA and FP overlap to a certain extent, the scope and purposes of the two agencies are entirely different and both should be continued.

A second investigation was undertaken by Dale Barker, associate director, Georgia Institute of Technology Library, to determine the degree of completeness with which U.S. libraries are covering current foreign periodicals in the social sciences. The assumption was made that the periodical literature of the world in chemistry, physics, biology, and other major sciences is adequately represented in American libraries, but that holdings are much less complete in the humanities and social sciences. Based upon checking the UNESCO *World List of Social Science Periodicals*, Mr. Barker found that more than 95 per cent of the titles in this field are now known to be available in the United States. (Dale L. Barker, *Foreign Social Science Periodicals Received in American Libraries*, [Urbana, Ill., Farmington Plan Committee of Association of Research Libraries, 1960].) It was concluded, therefore, that periodical publications should continue to be excluded from Farmington Plan operations, other than for the limited program for new periodicals already functioning.

A third study came to different conclusions. This was concerned with the holdings of American research libraries in the area of foreign government publications. The survey was done for the committee by Donald Wisdom, assistant head of government publication section, serial division, Library of Congress, with Paul Berry, chief of the serial division, serving as adviser. Optimistically, it was hoped that the findings would be such as to make it unnecessary for the Farmington Plan to become involved with government publications, a huge and exceedingly complex field. The survey report, however, concluded that "Current holdings of foreign government publica-
tions in American research libraries are inadequate, and there is a universal de-
pendence on the Library of Congress for the comprehensive collecting of foreign
government publications." (Donald F. Wisdom, Foreign Government Publica-
tions in American Research Libraries; a survey prepared for the Farmington Plan
Committee of the Association of Research Libraries, 1961.)

An important question of policy was raised by the Wisdom study. Should the
research libraries of the country continue to rely primarily upon the Library of
Congress or should an effort be made to bring into the United States at least two
copies of all foreign government publications? The latter would mean develop-
ment of a national plan of collecting, dividing responsibility among research
libraries, as is now being done for Farm-
ington Plan materials. Even the Library
of Congress holdings in certain areas have
serious lacunae. Some of the libraries
which have accepted national assign-
ments under the Farmington Plan are
going beyond monographic publications
to collect periodicals, newspapers, and
government publications. This points to-
ward a possible solution, since the larg-
est gaps in holdings of foreign govern-
ment publications are for the countries
assigned on a national, rather than on
a subject basis. The cooperating li-
braries, accordingly, have been asked to
adopt as standard procedure the collect-
ing of government publications for the
areas assigned to them.

Visits to Dealers

Another item included in the Farm-
ington Plan budget submitted to the
council was a series of visits to prospec-
tive Farmington Plan dealers in South
America—an area poorly represented in
the program to date. These visits were
made by the chairman of the commit-
tee, Robert B. Downs, in January and
February 1960. The countries included
were Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay,
Peru, and Uruguay. Contacts were es-
established with a number of well-quali-
fi ed dealers, some of whom are now being
used by Farmington Plan participants.
(Robert B. Downs, Survey of Prospective
Farmington Plan Dealers for South
America, 1960.)

Meetings of Committees

One of the most profitable uses of the
council funds was to finance meetings of
members of the area subcommittees, or
to send representatives of the committees
to attend meetings of related associations
and groups interested in the procure-
ment of foreign publications. Particu-
larly active were the Slavic and East Eu-
ropean Committee, working with the
Joint Committee on Slavic Studies; the
African Committee, working with the
African Studies Association; and the
Latin American Committee, cooperating
with the Seminar on Latin American Ac-
quisions. The South Asian Committee
worked closely with the Association for
Asian Studies, and the Near Eastern
Committee with the Social Science Re-
search Council. The area committees
were thereby substantially aided in de-
veloping plans for the selection,
acquisi-
tion, and distribution of materials for
their respective regions.

Dissemination of Information

To make the Farmington Plan more
widely known and understood, the chief
of the Farmington Plan Office, Edwin E.
Williams of the Harvard University Li-
brary, prepared a descriptive brochure
entitled What Is The Farmington Plan?
(Edwin E. Williams, What Is the Farm-
ington Plan? rev. by the Farmington Plan
Committee of the Association of Re-
search Libraries, Cambridge, Mass.: Har-
vard Univ. Print. Off., 1959.) An edi-
tion of 5,000 copies, produced by the Har-
vard Printing Office, has been distributed
to members of learned societies, univer-
sity faculties, publishers, bookdealers, li-
brarians, and others who should be informed of the program.

Dealers and librarians frequently have expressed a need for a revised Farmington Plan Handbook. The 1953 edition is out of date in many respects. Edwin Williams, who edited the first edition, has prepared a revision incorporating the changes of the past eight years. (Edwin E. Williams, Farmington Plan Handbook, rev. to 1961 and abridged, Ithaca, N.Y.: Association of Research Libraries, 1961.) This second edition is now available.

**Future of Farmington Plan**

Financed in part from council funds, the Farmington Plan Committee and the ARL Advisory Committee held a joint meeting on March 24, 1961, at Columbia University. The recent progress and current activities of the general and area committees of the Farmington Plan were reviewed. Growing out of the reports presented by the committees and the ensuing discussion, it was agreed that the Farmington Plan should be more widely publicized among foundation officials, in influential government circles, among scholarly societies, and similar groups, in order to broaden the base of support from the federal government, the foundations, and the universities. To attain maximum effectiveness, it was further agreed, the Farmington Plan should be administered as a division of a national Association of Research Libraries office, with a permanent full-time staff, rather than, as at present, carried on by voluntary effort.

Without question, the Farmington Plan program has made extraordinary progress since the first Council on Library Resources grant was received in 1957, and the advances can be credited in large degree to the stimulus of the two grants. Without the solid basis of the surveys, studies, and analyses of the Plan, over a period of several years, followed by extended discussions, the ARL would not be prepared, as it now is, to move forward on a broad front with this major experiment in library cooperation.—Robert B. Downs.

**Rare Book Conference at Miami**

Plans for the third Rare Book Conference are well under way. The date is June 15th and 16th, 1962, the place is the beautiful modern campus of the University of Miami at Coral Gables. Most of the meetings will be held at the new library, which is not even completely built as yet, but will be ready for us on June 15th according to Archie McNeal and C. Lewis Morgan, Jr., the Local Arrangements Chairman.

Topic of the conference will be Book Illustration. Speakers will be William Bostick (Detroit Institute of Arts), Herbert Cahoon (Pierpont Morgan Library), Budd Gambee (University of Michigan), Lucien Goldschmidt (New York City), Mrs. Georgia Haugh (William L. Clements Library), Hellmut Lehmann-Haupt (H. P. Kraus), Harry Shaw Newman (Philadelphia), and Lawrence Thompson (University of Kentucky Libraries). There will be lectures on Early Woodcuts, Baroque Books, Modern Book Illustration and Design, American and Latin American Book Illustration, Authors as Illustrators, The Cartographer’s Art, and others.

Fee for the conference, including rooms at the recently completed and newly furnished dormitories, as well as meals for two days, will be approximately $30.00–$35.00. There will be available some rooms for couples. Rooms at nearby University Motel are available, but their cost is in addition to the fee.