
This work contains a collection of papers presented at the Library History Seminar IX, "Libraries and Philanthropy," held at the University of Alabama in the spring of 1995. This comprehensive collection covers topics on library philanthropy from the times of Ancient Greece and Rome to modern Europe, India, and the United States. Greatest emphasis is given to the individuals, communities, and organizations responsible for the birth and evolution of library philanthropy. The authors of the papers presented during the plenary sessions provide a historical overview of public libraries as playing a key role in the development of American civil society. They also explore the origins and implications of public funding in which nonprofit, nongovernmental, and philanthropic agencies played a significant part in the development of libraries.

In addition to funding library buildings and library collections, many benefactors offered funding for library services and research. Groups committed to addressing the problems of libraries, such as the Council on Library Resources, were funded by the Ford Foundation. In the 1950s, the Ford Foundation became the sponsor of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Project INTREX. Even though INTREX became a project for developing applied technology rather than focusing on information research to help libraries, it produced motivated staff and students who influenced trends in the library world. A majority of authors such as Mary B. Haskell, Ann Curry, Paula D. Watson, Maxine K. Rochester, Nicoletta M. Hary, Wayne A. Wiegand, Nancy Becker Johnson, Peggy Sullivan, Robert Sidney Martin, and Orvin Lee Shiflett focused on private benefactors.

The philosophical issues that motivated private benefactors to donate money to libraries varied: Andrew Carnegie saw his library program as a gift to all society for improvement and enlightenment; Phoebe Hearst, on the other hand, considered her library philanthropies as gifts returned to the communities; and the Rockefellers were able to see “the big picture” of which libraries were a part along with other institutions and museums. They also contributed to library buildings and collections abroad such as in Japan and Switzerland with the incentive to promote better relations between the United States and these countries. Although many of the women philanthropists were unlikely to have had formal education, their strong interests in reading and literature motivated them to contribute to libraries. Their commitment to library philanthropy also was related to those other aspects of their lives that contributed to their progress toward financial, political, and social independence. In her essay “ALA Youth Services Librar-
ians and CARE-UNESCO's Children's Book Fund," Christine Jenkins discusses the impact that organizations such as the CARE-UNESCO and DLCYP (ALA's Division of Libraries for Children and Young People) had on libraries during the Cold War. The attempts of CARE-UNESCO to export children's books to other countries raised many sensitive issues which resulted in the development of tensions between DLCYP and CARE-UNESCO. Some of these issues were related to diversity, censorship, and translation; questions establishing evaluative criteria of literary quality, child appeal, and what is considered the "right book" for children overseas became big issues for debate. In many cases, organizations and individuals used library philanthropy as a means of promoting their political and social agendas. A clear example is the case of the Derby Public Library in the Midlands, England. The benefactor of the Derby Public Library building was Michael Thomas Bass, head of the famous brewing company. There is no question that his motive for building a library was to benefit the brewing trade and to counteract writers of the late nineteenth century who suggested that drinking was immoral. He demonstrated his idea of a well-rounded vision of life and leisure by building a library and suggesting to the English people that beer and books could coexist.

Libraries & Philanthropy is a well-organized collection of twenty-five essays, each of which contains a wealth of bibliographic notes and references to supplementary sources. These intellectually stimulating essays may not have much practical application, but their accounts of the historical and theoretical background of library fund-raising are invaluable.—Constantia Constantinou, Iona College, New Rochelle, New York.


As anyone who works with serials knows, change is the key concept and uncertainty about the future is the general attitude. From a library perspective, these changes affect technical services in a most direct way but also impact the education and role of librarians, library organizational structure, and the development of a new model of scholarly communication. From the commercial point of view, the issues affect relationships among publisher, vendor, and library, and the publisher’s role in scholarly communication. This volume, appropriately dedicated to Peter Gellatly, attempts to cover these many pressing issues, as they relate to serials management, in sixteen articles written by publishers, vendors, librarians, and library educators, as well as an editor of an electronic journal and a computer scientist. For the most part, it succeeds. The buyer should be aware that this volume has been published previously as an issue of The Serials Librarian. Not surprisingly, most of the articles in the book pertain to the technical services aspects of managing serials in the electronic era and cover diverse topics including a discussion of collection development issues, a description of a locally developed serials control system, an annotated "webliography" of library sources available on the World Wide Web, and an exploration of serials management issues in a consortia context.

Elizabeth Cooley and Edward A. Goedeken write a provocative piece with the premise that we must collect information, not formats. Once it has been determined what information is needed, a decision can be made on the most appropriate format—print, electronic, or whatever else might be available. The really intriguing part of the