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BIBLIOTECOLÓGICAS

## MEXICO, LIBRARIES IN

### Historical Introduction

#### PRE-COLUMBIAN MEXICO

Among the countries of America, Mexico has one of the oldest and wealthiest cultural traditions. The Mexico of the present time is the result of both racial and cultural mixtures and mergers, and aside from its two basic roots, the Indian and the Spanish, each one of these has multiple origins. Thus Mexico is complex and varied, multiple and contradictory, but it is a country that already has a well defined personality.

Geographically speaking, it is located in the northern part of the Western Hemisphere, between  $32^{\circ} 43'$  and  $14^{\circ} 33'$  N, and  $86^{\circ} 46'$  to  $117^{\circ} 08'$  W. It is crossed by the Tropic of Cancer.

Mexico's most ancient roots are Indian. In Meso-America, that is, the central and southern part including Yucatan plus what is now Guatemala, Belice, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica, there were highly developed cultures whose monuments and artifacts are admired and studied by Mexicans and foreigners. For instance, the Olmec, Zapotec, Teotihuacan, Maya, Toltec, Mixtec, and Mexica are among the oldest and most rapidly evolved cultures of the American continent. The acme of the Olmec civilization took place at the beginning of our era; they developed a figurative writing and a calendar, highly valuable cultural elements, that were used as patterns by the other Mesoamerican groups.

The Mesoamerican cultures left a wealth of written material. In architectural monuments, sculptures, and paintings there are frequently inscriptions and numerical symbols, but there is still more valuable material: they wrote books that we now call codices. Only a few of these have been preserved, some of them in foreign museums. Unfortunately the various modalities of writing used by the cultures of Mesoamerica have not been deciphered yet; consequently there are large gaps in our knowledge of pre-Columbian groups. We hope that eventually some of them shall be deciphered and light will be cast on the Indian world before the Spanish Conquest.

#### COLONIAL MEXICO

The natural development of Indian cultures was broken by the arrival in 1519 of the Spanish conquerors led by Hernando Cortes. There were two determining factors in this interruption: in the first place, the terrible disturbance caused by a war, and secondly, the evangelizing action of priests that strove to erase an older culture in order to introduce Christianity.

## MEXICO, LIBRARIES IN

Nonetheless the same priests studied the American cultures and languages in trying to understand the Indian world they were evangelizing and they have left a great number of works that still are basic consulting texts for anyone interested in the American past. It is important to point out that immediately after the conquest, new cultural activities started to develop, such as the books by missionaries and the schools for Spanish and Indian children and young people; among some of the most important ones are the Santa Cruz de Tlaltelolco and San Juan de Letrán Colleges.

During the first half of the sixteenth century, the mosaic of Mesoamerican cultures became the Viceroyship of New Spain, the richest and most precious possession of the Spanish Empire. It was to be expected that the cultural activities of the Viceroyship would have as patterns those of the mother country, but the New Spain did not stop at being a mere reflection of Spain. It became a creative cultural center, because it relied on two essential elements to stimulate intellectual activities: the press that was introduced in 1539 through the effort of the Bishop Fray Juan de Zumárraga, and the establishment of the Real y Pontificia Universidad de Mexico (Royal and Pontifical University of Mexico) by a cedula issued by Philip II on September 21, 1551, that started its curricula in January 1553.

The colonial period yielded brilliant fruits in the fields of history, literature, architecture, and art. Among the famous names of that time we can mention Alva Ixtlixóchitl, Sigüenza y Góngora, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Juan Ruiz de Alarcón, Tresguerras, the Juárez, and Cristobal de Villalpando among others.

Although it is undeniable that their work shows a Spanish cultural tradition, it also has a non-European ingredient of its own, nourished in other sources; this is obvious in the splendor, originality, wealth, and limitless freedom of Mexican baroque art.

At the end of the eighteenth century and beginning of the nineteenth century the Viceroyship intellectual activities became one of the major elements in the struggle for independence. The creoles and half-breeds were two important social groups in colonial Mexico, and as they became better acquainted with the European and North American political situation, their desire for freedom also grew.

## INDEPENDENT MEXICO

In 1810 Hidalgo initiated the struggle for independence, and it ended in 1821 through the united efforts of Iturbide and Guerrero. The young nation's first century of independent life was unstable and turbulent; financial troubles, lack of political maturity, foreign aggressions, and other calamities contributed to make the nineteenth century a difficult time. Nevertheless, in spite of these hurdles the administrations of this country were concerned in raising the standard of education of the Mexican people so that it would not be the privilege of an elite as it had been during the colonial period.

First José María Luis Mora, Valentín Gómez Farías, and a few years later Melchor Ocampo, Guillermo Prieto, and Miguel Lerdo de Tejada did an outstanding effort

to spread public education. Grammar school education was entrusted to the *Compañía Lancasteriana* (Society of Lancasterians); middle and higher learning institutions were established, and among them, these of Toluca and Oaxaca were highly efficient.

The nineteenth century turbulent political events led to the dictatorship of Porfirio Díaz. During his regime, culturally speaking, there were first class personalities such as Gabino Barreda and Justo Sierra, who spread Auguste Comte's positivist philosophy.

Higher education was greatly encouraged, and the *Universidad Nacional de México* (National University of Mexico) was re-established at that time, after a long period of almost total inactivity; on the other hand, grammar school received little attention. In this aspect, as in many others, the administration of Porfirio Díaz served an elitist group and disregarded the basic needs of the majorities. Before the revolution, 80% of Mexico's population was illiterate.

### CONTEMPORARY MEXICO

In 1910 the Mexican Revolution, under the leadership of Francisco I. Madero, defeated Porfirio Díaz's regime, in spite of the disagreement among the different leaders. The revolutionary ideology is contained in the Constitution of 1917 which since then rules Mexico's public life. One of the important and transcendental constitutional articles, from the educational point of view, is the Third Article that proclaims that public education shall be free, compulsory, and laic. The subsequent administrations after the revolution, that consider themselves revolutionary governments, have always striven to a greater or lesser degree to encourage public education and raise the cultural standard of Mexicans.

The philosopher José Vasconcelos, who was appointed Secretary of Education by President Alvaro Obregón, accomplished some outstanding deeds, such as the reduction of the percentage of illiteracy in this country, and the establishment of technical and rural schools and libraries. These trends also prevailed during the administration of President Lázaro Cárdenas, who greatly encouraged rural education and established the *Instituto Politécnico Nacional* (National Polytechnic Institute).

The budget of the Ministry of Education has been largely increased; the major entries of the Mexican budget are assigned to every level of education. During President López Mateos' regime, the poet Jaime Torres Bodet was appointed Secretary of Education, and both established the *Comisión Nacional del Libro de Texto Gratuito* (National Board of Free Textbooks) which represents the great effort to make grammar school education available to all the Mexican children.

We have already mentioned that before the revolution 80% of the population was illiterate. According to the data of the general population census of 1970, 27,513,715 persons older than 6 years knew how to read and write, and 10,856,687 persons of the same age level were illiterate.

The Distrito Federal (Federal District) has the major population concentration of the whole country. According to the 1970 census there were 6,874,000 inhabitants

at that time; to this datum must be added the population of the metropolitan area around the Distrito Federal (Federal District) even though it belongs to other federal entities.

This major concentration of population has caused a marked centralization of services which is quite noticeable in the field of education. In recent years the major educational policies, especially those concerning higher learning institutions, tend to develop research, so that Mexico may become self-sufficient instead of depending upon foreign criteria and technologies to fulfill its needs.

### **Historical Aspects of Library Development**

According to Nettie Lee Benson, books on the history of libraries in Latin America are practically non-existent. Mexico is no exception, and books on this subject usually refer to the number of volumes or the kind of materials that were kept in colonial libraries, or speak about only one library such as the Biblioteca Nacional or the Palafoxiana. The few works that wish to offer a more general view are usually an accumulation of historical and anecdotic data.

Let us hope that in the near future we may have a true history of Mexico's libraries, that is, their relationship to the socioeconomic, cultural, and political conditions that led to their establishment, the gains and losses, their influence upon the communities they served, etc.

### **PRE-COLUMBIAN LIBRARIES**

Manuel Cruzado, based on Clavijero and Torquemada, tells us that upon their arrival to this country, the Spaniards found large collections of hieroglyphs that narrated the artistic, scientific, religious, and war experiences of its inhabitants, as well as their traveling and the prosperity and magnificence of pre-Columbian Mexico. These collections were true libraries in which a large number of people were entrusted to copy, keep up, and arrange the manuscripts on amate paper or in strips of venison hide 10 meters long or more, which were rolled or folded accordion-wise, putting a wood cover at each end so that they resembled books.

The main collections were located at Texcoco and Tenochtitlán, and were kept in temples in the custody of priests. After the Spanish conquest, these pre-Columbian "libraries or archives" were lost, and although there are few data left, we can assume that Mexicans understood at that time the usefulness and the need to preserve those manuscripts.

### **COLONIAL LIBRARIES**

The first press (1539) and the first university (1553) in America were established in New Spain; consequently it is logical that the first library on this continent was also established in this country (1534).

Ever since the beginning of the Conquest, the priests were concerned in bringing books to read and study and with those they started small collections at first that eventually formed the wealthy monastic libraries called "librerías." The enthusiasm over these libraries went to such extent that the phrase "a convent without a library is like a stronghold without an arsenal" became famous.

According to Iguíniz, colonial libraries were generally religious institutions in which the philosophical, theological, and ecclesiastical sciences were the major subjects, which gives a perfect image of the time.

The censorship practiced by the Inquisition forbade the ownership of books that spoke against religion, the government, or the church, as well as those about feigned and profane stories or lewd subjects, at the risk of penalties and excommunication. Generally speaking, anything that challenged the peace in New Spain was forbidden. In spite of it, those books circulated in the whole country.

The libraries' arrangement was very simple. The catalogs that are available show that books were registered alphabetically according to the author's name.

Fray Juan de Zumárraga established the first library in America by a royal cedula:

with regard to you, the Reverend Father in Christ Dn. Fray Juan de Zumárraga, Bishop of Mexico, that has reported to me that the Cathedral Church of Mexico City is in great need of a good library ("librería") due to the events and doubts that occur daily in that land, it has been requested that I order as I see fit which part of the tithe should be used to buy or make the necessary expenses regarding this library. Consequently, I declare and order that a fifth of the church funds of that Cathedral Church be used during the next first three years for this library. . . . Dated at Toledo, May 21st, 1534. I the King (free translation).

In 1537 Zumárraga expressed his wish to donate his library to the Colegio de Santa Cruz de Tlaltelolco. The stock of the library was confirmed subsequently by a donation to the San Francisco Convent

as I bought many books belonging to my Order with the permission of my prelates, and many other I have bought here, I now declare that I donate all of them to the library of the San Francisco monastery of Mexico City, excepting those that I have chosen for the hostel of Durango . . . (free translation).

During colonial times many private and educational monastic libraries thrived, such as those of the Colegios de San Ildefonso, which today is the Escuela Nacional Preparatoria (National Preparatory School), San Gregorio, Colegio Mayor de Santa María de Todos los Santos, and those of Melchor Pérez de Soto, Carlos Sigüenza y Góngora and Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz. Among the most prominent of the sixteenth century, we should mention in the first place the library established by Fray Alonso de la Veracruz, of the San Agustín Order, who installed the first library for the service of a whole community. Juan de Grijalva relates:

He placed in the Colegio (San Pablo) a famous library that he . . . had brought from Spain, where, as he says, he searched in different places and universities which had books on all the subjects, arts and languages that were known. The

first stock was sixty boxes of books, to which this great man added gradually all those that came to his knowledge and that were not already in the library. He decorated the library with maps, earth and celestial globes, astrolabes, orologues, forestaffs, planispheres and all the instruments used in the liberal arts. Thus it became the most distinguished and expensive thing in the whole kingdom (free translation).

He also established the libraries at the convents of San Agustín in Mexico and San Agustín Tiripitío in Michoacán that were very well known at that time.

The Biblioteca Palafoxiana of Puebla is the most famous sixteenth century colonial library due to its wealthy holdings, its beautiful furniture, and the bibliographic gems that it still keeps. It has been preserved magnificently, as it used to be at that time. This library was established by Don Juan de Palafox y Mendoza for the Real y Pontificio Colegio Seminario Conciliar de Puebla (The Royal and Pontifical Conciliar Seminary College of Puebla), an ecclesiastical training institution in that region organized according to the last resolutions of the Trento Council, which gave the necessary support in order that the three colleges that formed it, San Pablo, San Juan, and San Pedro, enrolled primarily poor students of Indian origin, so that the church could have a native clergy.

Don Juan, in his striving to provide the theological seminary with all the elements that were necessary for its efficient operation, donated his library and personal belongings; the library

consisted of approximately five thousand books with its shelves and iron works . . . for the use of the three colleges and all the secular or ecclesiastic people of this city and episcopate that wish to study in it from eight to eleven in the morning and from three to five in the afternoon, so that they can read, study or copy with no restrictions whatsoever, as this is the major purpose of this donation. It is forbidden to sell, lend or transfer any book . . . (free translation).

The donation was made through a public scripture signed at his episcopal palace, witnessed by the public actuary Nicolás de Valdivia on September 6, 1646, and approved by the King through the cedula issued in Madrid on December 30, 1647.

The library, that was quite enlarged by Bishop Palafox, was increased by all his successors, especially by Don Francisco Fabián y Fuero, who is responsible for the manorial building it still occupies with a

spacious vault and very good lights, decorating it with high and low book shelves of precious wood (free translation).

He added to the Palafoxiana the libraries of the Jesuit Colleges when they were expelled from Mexico in 1787. Subsequently it received more donations that enriched its stock. In 1836 Don Melchor Ocampo made a complete list of the collection which at that time had approximately 12,536 volumes, the majority written in Latin, Spanish, and French and bound in parchment.

In 1858 this library became a public state library. At present it has approximately 25,000 volumes, and among them are true bibliographic gems such as the *Promptuario*

del idioma mixteca (The Mixtec language promptuary) of 1755 and an incunabula known as *Crónica de Nuremberg* (The Nuremberg Chronicle) edited by Anton Koberger in 1493. It is classified in twenty-five sections. This museum-library is still a public library.

The Real y Pontificia Universidad de México (Royal and Pontifical University of Mexico) established in 1553 had a library until Don Manuel Ignacio Beye de Cisneros y Quijano,

who having received a great number of rare and quaint books of that time on every science, resolved to establish a public library to give service to the many students that then studied at the University (free translation).

The library was inaugurated with great solemnity on October 18, 1762. It was further enriched by the donations of former alumni and the stock of the college libraries of Jesuits when they were expelled. At that time there was a collection of approximately 9,000 volumes on every subject, and especially the books on theology, medicine, and politics are possibly the most select collection among those in Mexico City libraries.

The Biblioteca Nacional has preserved two manuscripts concerning the University Library: the *Inventario de la Biblioteca de la Nacional y Pontificia Universidad de Mexico* (Inventory of the Library of the National and Pontifical University of Mexico) of 1833, which consists of the number of volumes in each one of its shelves and boxes, and the unusual document "*Libro de faltas de los bibliotecarios de la Real y Pontificia Universidad de Mexico*," 1799.

As with most colonial libraries, the books of this library became part of the holdings of the Biblioteca Nacional at the end of the last century.

The first public library of Mexico, the library of the Cathedral of Mexico, was established in 1788. It is known under the name of Turriana as a memorial to its founders, the priests Luis and Cayetano Antonio Torres. They donated to the Cathedral of Mexico the books received by them and by their uncle Luis Antonio Torres so that it would become a public library; they also donated 20,000 pesos to support it.

The library was installed in the annex to the church and it had two spacious rooms with good light, and two other smaller rooms, in one of which were kept the forbidden books. The service hours were from 9 to 12 in the morning. There were quaint rules on how the books written in Latin should be used and handled by the readers; these were as follows:

- Do not treat it as a slave, it is free. Consequently, do not mark it.
- Do not wound it with cutting or sharp instruments. It is not an enemy.
- Do not draw lines in any direction, inside or outside.
- Do not bend, fold or wrinkle the pages.
- Avoid scribbling on the margins.
- Keep the ink a mile away. It would rather die than leave.
- Only insert clean papyrus pages.
- Do not lend it either overtly or secretly.
- Keep away from it mice, moths, flies and petty thieves.

Keep water, oil, fire, mildew and dirt away from it.

Use it, do not abuse it.

It is lawful to read it and make the summaries that you need.

Once you have read it, do not keep it indefinitely.

Return it as you received it, undamaged.

Those who thus behave, even if they are unknown, will figure in the friend's album. Those who act otherwise shall be erased.

The library once had 19,295 volumes; each one of them had a hollow engraved ex-libris with the coat of arms of the donors. Manuel Ramírez, José Mariano Beristain y Souza, and José María de Agreda y Sánchez are a few of the prominent men of that time who were curators of that library.

According to Juan Iguíniz

Important libraries such as convent and college libraries had been established in the capital of the Viceroyship in previous centuries, but none was a proper public library, since they were designed to be used by limited groups of persons; consequently, the one established by the Doctors Torres marks an important step in the history of our libraries and in the annals of our intellectual life (free translation) (1).

At the end of 1867 it was expropriated by the government and sent to the Biblioteca Nacional which received only 10,210 volumes. Some of its more valuable manuscripts are now in the "Genaro García" library of Texas University.

## NINETEENTH CENTURY LIBRARIES

In the nineteenth century, after the War of Independence (1810-1821), the libraries became more liberal and secular, and foreign books from different countries, including forbidden books, were found in them. José María Luis Mora wrote in 1836, "Through those who have visited recently other parts of America, we know that there are more public libraries than in Mexico; but all those who have lived in Mexico agree in that none of them have as many collections of books" (Cruzado). And he asserted that in Mexico there was more book trade than in the other countries.

According to Spell (2), if one follows carefully the details involved in the establishment of the *Biblioteca Nacional*, the first North American public library, one must do justice to Don Manuel Eduardo de Gorostiza; on the other hand, it is possible to understand the role of politics in the cultural history of an institution. Gorostiza was a cultivated person who had held diplomatic posts in Europe, and later became a well known playwright; he was recalled to Mexico in 1833 by Vice President Gómez Farías as collaborator in the cultural activities of his administration. Gorostiza became conscious of the poverty and illiteracy of the people and the lack of public cultural institutions such as museums and libraries.

On September 12 an unsigned article entitled "Biblioteca Nacional" was published by the government newspaper "el Telégrafo," that said, among other things:



It would do much honor to the Republic if all the books, booklets, pamphlets and periodicals, map and chart collections by Mexican authors were deposited in a truly national library, and if in the future the editors of the District and Territories were compelled to send a copy of everything they published . . . (2).

In October 1833 Gómez Farías closed the university and established the Dirección General de Instrucción Pública (General Board of Public Education) to supervise everything concerning public education. On October 24 he appointed Gorostiza director of the Biblioteca Nacional and approved the regulations prepared by him. These regulations show that Gorostiza was well acquainted with library management, and among other things he says:

The establishment of a national public library is approved, and it shall occupy the building of the former Todos los Santos College; its initial funds will be those of the University and this institution libraries. . . . It will have a 3,000 pesos annual budget to buy books and periodicals. . . . All the mail related with the institution shall be postage-free. . . . The books and manuscripts shall be classified and ordered in the stacks according to their subject, and will be numbered and evaluated by experts. Three alphabetical indexes (by author, title and subject) will be edited . . . so that readers may consult them and ask specially for those books they wish to read (2).

Gorostiza took great interest in the restoration of the building and the organization of the collection. Several persons supported the library project, but in spite of this, certain sectors became very aggressive, because they considered him a collaborator of an administration that wished to take public education from the hands of the church and that had reached a point in which it would make available to the people many forbidden books.

A very short time before the library was inaugurated, President Santa Ana proclaimed the decree of July 31, 1834 by which all the changes that had occurred during Gómez Farías' regime were abolished. Thus the Biblioteca Nacional ceased to exist. Another decree related to the Biblioteca Nacional was published in 1846, but civil wars and the American invasion again prevented its establishment.

In 1857 Comonfort signed a decree that abolished the university, and commanded that the books, funds, and other possessions that belonged to it should be transferred to the Biblioteca Nacional. He also established the Depósito Legal (Legal Depository) compelling all the editors to send to the library two copies of everything they printed.

According to Manuel Payno, the holdings of the Biblioteca Nacional before the Intervention and the empire were 90,964 volumes that came from the university and the colleges and convents interposed by the reform laws. During the empire, Maximilian ordered that the books should be put into boxes and be stored in other buildings outside the university. Once the republic was re-established, President Juárez decreed on November 30, 1867 the establishment of the Biblioteca Nacional, and appointed José María Lafragua director. To the books that were formerly at the university were added those of the cathedral's library and those of the Jesuits and other convents; they were put in the Templo de San Agustín, where they still are.



FIGURE 1. *Biblioteca Nacional Main Reading Room, Mexico, D.F.*

In 1880 Don José María Vigil became its director, and he immediately started the technical organization of the collection using the Namur System. Once the building was restored and the collection organized, the Biblioteca Nacional (see Figure 1) was inaugurated with great solemnity on April 2, 1884 by President Don Manuel González. The following year, President Porfirio Díaz issued its regulations.

Don José María Vigil worked on the library's catalog, of which twelve volumes were published. He also established the Instituto Bibliográfico Mexicano (Mexican Bibliographic Institute) in 1899. It had as its goal the integration of the general bibliography of Mexico which would include all the works written by Mexican

authors, no matter where they had been printed, and those by foreign authors printed in Mexico. This institute ceased to be in 1908. It published a *Bulletin* of which eleven volumes were turned out.

Some of the state public libraries that still exist at present were also established in the first 3 decades of the last century. Some worth mentioning are those of Oaxaca, established in 1826; Chihuahua, established in 1829; and that of the State of Mexico, established in 1827. The other states started their libraries in the second half of the nineteenth century. A major part of their collections came from the convents' libraries.

Valuable private libraries were formed in the nineteenth century; unfortunately the best of them, with a wealth of historical documents about Mexico, were sold to foreign countries, such as the one belonging to José María Andrade that was sold by Fisher in London, the one of Genaro García sold to Texas University at Austin, and that of Nicolás León sold to Germany and the United States.

It is also worth mentioning that since the nineteenth century, university and special libraries gave service to anyone who required it, and operated as public libraries; among them we can mention the libraries of the Escuela Nacional Preparatoria (National Preparatory School), Escuela de Jurisprudencia (Law School), Sociedad Mexicana de Geografía y Estadística (Mexican Geography and Statistics Society), and Museum, Sociedad Científica Antonio Alzate (Antonio Alzate Scientific Society).

## TWENTIETH CENTURY

The most important events of the first half of the twentieth century were: the formal initiation of library education in 1916, the creation in 1921 of the Departamento de Bibliotecas (Department of Libraries) of the Secretary of Public Education (SEP) which for the first time promoted school and popular libraries in Mexico, and the establishment of the Asociación de Bibliotecarios Mexicanos (Association of Mexican Librarians) in 1924. It was also during this period, in 1927, that the first professional library conference was held.

Since 1945 the most important developments have been the founding, in 1945, of the Escuela Nacional de Bibliotecarios y Archivistas (ENBA) (National Library and Archives School), the creation of the Centro de Documentación Científica y Técnica de México (Mexican Scientific and Technical Documentation Center) in 1952, the formation of the Asociación Mexicana de Bibliotecarios (Mexican Library Association) in 1954, the establishment of the Colegio de Bibliotecología y Archivología (College of Library and Archives Sciences) of the National University of Mexico (UNAM) in 1956, the development of special libraries and information centers, the creation of the Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACYT) (National Council for Science and Technology) in 1970, and the initiation of automation in acquisitions and information retrieval.

During the Porfirio Díaz regime, the country had sixty libraries that primarily served the elite class dominated by the group of intellectuals known as los "cientí-

ficos" (the scientists). Nothing was done during this period for public libraries nor for the education of the people.

Only with the Obregón administration was public education and the development of popular libraries initiated and supported with enthusiasm. The driving force behind this movement was José Vasconcelos, under whose direction as Secretary of Education a literacy campaign was initiated. In 1921, as rector of the National University, he created the Dirección de Bibliotecas (Libraries' Board) which later was transferred to the Secretary of Public Education and became the Departamento de Bibliotecas (Department of Libraries). Vasconcelos founded about 1,661 public libraries throughout the country with holdings of 218,244 volumes, among which the Cervantes Library should be mentioned, because it was the first Mexican library occupying a building constructed especially for library purposes, in 1924; as well as sixteen in Central American countries. Vasconcelos' idea was to establish in populous zones of the capital, and as far as possible in the state municipalities, small public libraries stocked with books considered indispensable to the needs of workers, peasants, and children. He put collections in hospitals, labor unions, agrarian communities, jails, and Mexican embassies abroad. Vasconcelos not only founded libraries, but also attempted to organize them as far as possible and train personnel by means of special library courses.

Since 1922 the Department of Libraries has published its official periodicals *El libro y el pueblo* and *El maestro*. When Vasconcelos left the SEP, public libraries were neglected, Succeeding governments did not support library service and in 1935 the Department of Libraries was down to thirty-one libraries in all.

During the Lázaro Cárdenas administration, special attention was given to rural education. Books were placed at the disposal of the working classes. Mobile collections were established on trains and busses, and rural school libraries were pushed. When Cárdenas left office there were thirty-nine public libraries, nine circulating libraries on busses and trains, and 1,136 rural libraries with collections from fifty to 100 books.

In 1938 the government of the Federal District planned the founding of public libraries in the offices of the city's boroughs (Delegaciones) which would especially help the student population in finding books for study and reference. In 1940, under the initiative of Francisco Gemoneda, the first libraries under the Department of the Federal District (DDF) were created, several of them installed in the borough offices. The services extended by these libraries has been very unstable since they have not had the continuity of support necessary.

Fernando Peñalosa has stated that the DDF had a union catalog of the holdings of its libraries and permitted interlibrary loans. In 1944 fourteen libraries had been established with collections from 800 to 2,000 books.

In 1936 the Biblioteca del Congreso de la Unión (Library of Congress) was inaugurated, one of the country's most ambitious plans in terms of library collections and functions. However, since its founding, it has limited its services to its reading rooms only. It now has a collection of 120,000 volumes and, along with the National Library, enjoys legal depository privileges.

In 1946 the country's most important public library was started, la Biblioteca Mexico (Library of Mexico). Again, it was José Vasconcelos who was its founder and first head librarian. It opened its doors with 40,000 volumes and has enriched its collections with the purchase of personal libraries, including Antonio Caso's collection strong in philosophy and social sciences, and Carlos Basave's library in the history of the Mexican Revolution. It now has a collection of over 115,000 volumes and its services include all those associated with public libraries. Since 1959 it has been under the direction of Dr. María Teresa Chávez.

Since 1945 another development has begun, the support of special libraries. The fruition of this new policy was the creation of the Mexican Scientific and Technical Documentation Center. According to its director, Armando Sandoval:

The Latin American countries received a UNESCO offer to create within its territory a documentation center which would satisfy the very strong need felt by scientists and technicians for prompt and adequate information on work done by their colleagues in the rest of the world, encouraging in this manner, technical, industrial and, as a result, economic development.

In 1950 Mexico signed an agreement with UNESCO for the organization in the Federal District of the first Scientific and Technical Documentation Center with regional Latin American services. The center functioned with UNESCO support until February 1954 when, by decree, the Government Center took responsibility for it. The purpose of the center was to gather, classify, and distribute data of all types in all fields of the pure and applied sciences. In order to accomplish these ends, a rich scientific and technical collection in periodical literature was formed. The center received 2,700 titles regularly and was equipped with a fine selection of indexes and other reference works. Moreover, it received collaboration from other scientific and technical libraries which unilaterally offered lending services. In this way, 30% of the information obtained came from the center's collection, 45% from collaborating libraries, and 25% from abroad.

In order to make known the contents and range of its periodicals, the center published its bulletin, presenting in Spanish wide fields of scientific information. It was published on a monthly basis and each number contained 6,000 entries divided into five sections. The center also elaborated bibliographies and translations and supplied photocopies of publications.

During its existence 50% of its services were to physicians, the chemists followed in second place, and third place went to engineers. When it went out of existence in 1962, the major part of the collection was transferred to the Center for Advanced Studies of the National Polytechnic Institute.

### *Library Education*

Education for librarianship received a late start in Mexico. According to Juan Iguíniz, it was not until the second decade of this century that any attention was given to library training.

There were various attempts at creation of training schools for librarians. The first attempt for which there is information was in 1912 when Ezequiel A. Chávez addressed employees of the Secretariat of Public Works with a lecture on the Dewey Decimal Classification.

In 1915 Agustín Loera and Chávez succeeded in creating the first School of Librarians and Archivists so that all personnel associated with the country's libraries and archives might receive necessary instruction. On June 24, 1916 courses were begun; the school functioned for 2 years in the National Library Building. In this school an enthusiastic group was formed, among which Juana Manrique de Lara and Atenógenes Santa María are the best known. Juan Iguíniz declares that the short life of the school was due to the lack of an economic future for the profession. It may be said that since then there has been a continual effort to orient and train employees working in libraries. Lectures and training courses were organized by Juan Iguíniz, Vicente Lombardo Toledano, Francisco Gamoneda, Joaquín Díaz Mercado, Juana Manrique de Lara, María Teresa Chávez, and others.

In 1925 the Departamento de Bibliotecas founded the second Escuela Nacional de Bibliotecarios which closed down that same year. However, it was not until 1945 that the first professional library school was organized, the Escuela Nacional de Bibliotecarios y Archivistas (ENBA) under the tutelage of the Departamento de Bibliotecas of the SEP with Jorge González Durán in charge at that time.

The ENBA's first director was the historian, Francisco Orozco Muñoz. From the beginning, courses were offered at two levels, the technical and master's programs. Prerequisites at the technical level were the secondary school diploma; for the M.A. program, the *bachillerato* (preparatory school degree) or its equivalent. Directors of the school over the years, now called Escuela Nacional de Biblioteconomía y Archivonomía, include Carlos A. Madrazo, Roberto Gordillo, Pedro Zamora, and Adolfo Rodríguez. The school published a *Boletín* from 1953 to 1963 and, beginning in 1970, a yearbook, *Bibliotecas y archivos*.

With the need to satisfy the nation's demand for librarians, and before a national program for library training existed, the ENBA participated various times in the organization and conducting of intensive training courses for students and library employees as, for example, in 1963, when in collaboration with the University of the Americas a course was given for Central American and Mexican librarians, in 1964 and 1965 with the Universidad Veracruzana, in 1967 with the Universidad de Sinaloa, from 1968 to 1970 with the Universidad de Nuevo León, and in 1970 with the Universidad de Sonora. Since 1974 the ENBA has collaborated with the CONACYT (Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología) and its national program of library training. Even so, the lack of trained personnel in libraries is pathetic, since in the entire country there are only sixty librarians with professional degrees and 300 "pasantes" (course work completed but without the degree).

In 1956, 11 years after the ENBA, the Consejo Universitario of the UNAM officially approved the degrees of M.A. in Library Science and M.A. in Archives with José María Luján in charge of the Colegio, followed by Alicia Perales and now under Gloria Escamilla.

In the UNAM only isolated courses had been given, the first by Juan Iguíniz in 1924. Due to the interest that existed in favor of trained personnel to take charge of libraries, José María Luján, then associate librarian of the Biblioteca Nacional, took the matter up with university authorities, in order to establish professional library and archival education within the Facultad de Filosofía y Letras (Faculty of Philosophy and Letters). Thus the present Colegio de Bibliotecología y Archivología was created, located in the Biblioteca Central in the Ciudad Universitaria, functioning without interruption since 1956. In 1958 the programs were modified, divided into two levels, *licenciatura* and master's with additional credits in technical courses, teaching, and research. Later a new curriculum added further courses to the *licenciatura* program which now takes 4 years, while the M.A. takes but 2.

### *Associations and Publications*

As a result of the movement begun in 1916 in support of libraries, in 1924 the first Asociación de Bibliotecarios Mexicanos was formed. The goal of the association was "to work for the support and development of library science and other bibliographical sciences and strive for the intellectual, professional and economic improvement of librarians." Its first president was Juan Iguíniz and had as its organ a *Boletín* which was published for a number of years. In 1927 the association disbanded and was reorganized in 1933 with new regulations. In that year there were 108 members. Among other things, the association fought for the creation of a library school.

Nearly 20 years after the disappearance of the reorganized association, it was again revived in 1954, and has continued in operation without further interruptions under the name Asociación Mexicana de Bibliotecarios (AMBAC). In 1956 it became a civil association under Mexican law and new regulations were formulated in 1966. Its statutes were revised in 1974. Among others, Armando Sandoval, Elvia Barberena, Pedro Zamora, Roberto Gordillo, Ario Garza Mercado, and Guadalupe Carrión have been its presidents.

Due to the Asociación, the Jornadas Mexicanas de Biblioteconomía (Mexican Library Conferences) have been analyzed and discussed. The three library congresses held in 1927, in 1928, and in 1944 served as precedents for the Jornadas.

The first Jornadas were held in Mexico City in 1957 and dealt with the state of library service at that time. The second Jornadas were held in San Luis Potosí in 1959 and touched on points related to library education, library legislation, national bibliography, and university libraries. In 1960, in Mexico City, the third Jornadas concentrated on school libraries. The fourth Jornadas, in Jalapa, Veracruz in 1965, had as a theme, libraries in the life of the nation (*Las bibliotecas en la vida nacional*). In 1969 the fifth Jornadas took place in Mexico City with the theme, libraries, the decisive factor in educational reform. The sixth Jornadas in Guanajuato, held in November 1974, considered the problem of national integration of library service.

For a brief period (1957 to 1958) the Asociación published a *Boletín*. At present,

besides the *Memorias* (Reports) of the Jornadas, the *Noticiero de la AMBAC* (AMBAC News) has been put out since 1966.

Other bodies are affiliated with the AMBAC, such as the Asociación de Bibliotecarios de Instituciones de Enseñanza Superior y de Investigación (ABIESI: Association of Librarians for Institutions of Higher Education and Research), founded in 1967, at present with Ario Garza Mercado as president and Rosa María F. de Zamora as vice president. In 1968 the ABIESI formulated its *Normas del servicio bibliotecario* (Standards for library service) and in 1973 a *Código de Préstamo Interbibliotecario* (Draft code for Interlibrary Loan). Other affiliates are the library associations of Yucatán, Nuevo León, Baja California, etc.

### Present Situation

The development of Mexican libraries, as is the case in the majority of Latin American countries, has lacked coordinated planning; their creation and expansion is the result of specific requirements.

There are some 1,982 libraries throughout the country with approximate total holdings of 8,200,000 volumes. In the Distrito Federal (Federal District) there are 275 libraries with roughly 5,166,000 volumes which represent 63% of total national holdings.

Of the 275 libraries in the Distrito Federal, 252 belong to the federal government and decentralized agencies. Their total collections reach 3,616,200 volumes and include 70% of total holdings in the Distrito Federal. The private sector libraries have total collections of 1,549,800 volumes, equivalent to 30%. These libraries belong to educational institutions and cultural societies and associations.

The majority of the nation's libraries depend on federal and state governments. The federal government, through the Secretaría de Educación Pública, supports most of the country's public, school, and university libraries. The Departamento de Bibliotecas is in charge of 139 libraries, seventy-three in the Distrito Federal, sixty-four in the different states, and two in the United States, one in San Antonio, Texas, the other in Los Angeles, California. Of these 139 libraries, eighty-eight are public libraries, six are children's libraries, thirty-eight are school libraries, and seven are special libraries. Other libraries under the SEP are the thirty-two libraries of the Regional Technological Institutes, the sixteen libraries of the Instituto Politécnico Nacional, and the twenty-two libraries of specialized schools at the university level.

In terms of technical processes, it can be said that the majority of university and special libraries use the Library of Congress Classification and have adopted the *Reglas de Catalogación Angloamericanas* (Anglo American Cataloging Rules). Most of the public libraries use the Dewey Decimal Classification and are trying to work out uniform cataloging criteria.

In Mexico library architecture is practically non-existent, and even though the Secretaría de Obras Públicas (Ministry of Public Works) and the Secretaría de



Educación Pública have constructed various buildings specifically as libraries in recent years, the most outstanding library buildings include the Biblioteca de la Escuela Nacional de Agricultura (Library of the National School of Agriculture) and the Biblioteca del Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Agrícolas (Library of the National Institute for Agricultural Research), both in Chapingo, the Library of the University of the Americas in Cholula, the Biblioteca of the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (Library of the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Advanced Studies), and the Biblioteca Central de la UNAM (Central Library of the National University). This last above all has as a distinguishing feature its artistic murals. In the near future public library buildings will be constructed in Mexicali, Baja California, and Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, as well as new libraries for the Instituto Nacional de Energía Nuclear (National Institute of Nuclear Energy), the Colegio de México, and the Universidad Iberoamericana.

## PUBLIC LIBRARIES

The Federal District government maintains only twenty-two small public libraries with total collections of 90,000 volumes. These libraries lack a policy of continuing support and have been subject to the fluctuations of each 6 year change of federal government administration. No truly municipal library exists that would provide service to Mexico City. One library that functions in part as a municipal library is the Biblioteca de México. This library is supported by the Secretaría de Educación Pública and is in fact the only well-organized library of its nature, counting on professional personnel. The Biblioteca del Congreso de la Unión also functions in some respects as a municipal library and at present has holdings of approximately 120,000 volumes.

The public libraries in the several states depend on state government support. In seven states, due to lack of budget, state university libraries function officially as public libraries as well. These states are Jalisco, Michoacán, Nuevo León, Oaxaca, Puebla, San Luis Potosí, and Sonora. The municipal governments maintain completely or partially their municipal libraries. These libraries in general have very small collections and do not employ professional personnel.

The country's public library system is poorly organized, since the Departamento de Bibliotecas of the SEP has not had sufficient trained personnel to coordinate and supervise the libraries under its jurisdiction. The Departamento de Bibliotecas publishes annually the *Directorio de Bibliotecas de la República Mexicana*. The Biblioteca Nacional has never been able to develop the traditional functions of a national library, nor will it be able to do so in the future, since it has been a part of the UNAM since 1929. The holdings of the Biblioteca Nacional, a little over a million volumes, represent the most important collection in the country in social sciences and humanities. As part of the Instituto de Investigaciones Bibliográficas (Bibliographical Research Institute), it carries out bibliographical activities at a national level, and publishes the *Anuario Bibliográfico*, *La Bibliografía Mexicana*, and the *Boletín del Instituto de Investigaciones Bibliográficas*.

The authorities of the Secretaría de Educación Pública (1964–1970) laid plans for the creation of an official agency to direct national policy in research, coordination, and development of library service and documentation centers. A commission of four experts was named, which, after 3 years of study, presented a project for a Biblioteca de la República which, however, was never carried out.

For a number of years, several libraries have functioned under the jurisdiction of foreign embassies or binational cultural institutes, the most important being the Benjamin Franklin Library (United States, since 1942), the Library of the Anglo-Mexican Cultural Institute (Great Britain, since 1943), the Library of the Russian-Mexican Cultural Institute (USSR, since 1944), the Library of the French Latin-American Institute (France, since 1946), and the Library of the Canadian Embassy (since 1971). The service provided by these libraries is very important as a source of cultural information of the particular country, although the Benjamin Franklin Library has in addition important holdings in science and technology.

### SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Although important advances have been made in fundamental education in Mexico, and the usefulness of school libraries as an indispensable aid to teachers and students is understood, these libraries have received the least support on the part of the government and educational authorities. This deficiency is understandable if the tremendous educational problems which confront the nation are taken into account: the enormous increase in student population, the appropriations for new school buildings, salaries to new teachers, etc., which at the present time make the creation of libraries seem like a luxury.

### UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES AND HIGHER EDUCATION

There are thirty-nine official and private universities throughout the country, nine in the Distrito Federal and thirty in the different states. In addition, there are eighty-seven schools and institutes at the university level, twenty-eight in the Distrito Federal and fifty-nine in the various states.

These 126 institutions count on their own respective libraries. In the case of the universities, the majority have a central library and departmental libraries for each of their faculties, institutes, and schools. Generally speaking, centralized organization is only partial. Even though educational authorities have given greater support to university libraries in the last 5 years, holdings are not sufficient for teaching and research needs, with the large number of students involved. Almost all lack personnel with adequate training as well as the financial resources necessary for the purchase of books and proper equipment.

The National University's library system is the most important and valuable in the country. Its information system is composed of the Dirección General de Bibliotecas, the Biblioteca Central (see Figure 2), some seventy departmental

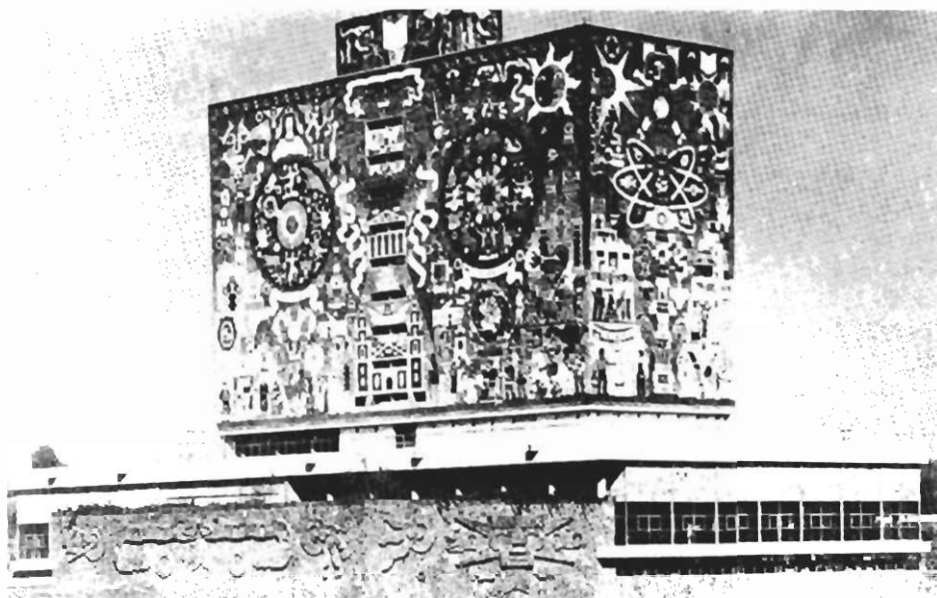


FIGURE 2. *Biblioteca Central of the National Autonomous University of Mexico.*

libraries, and the Centro de Información Científica y Humanística. Other important libraries of universities and of other institutions of higher learning in the Distrito Federal are the libraries of the Colegio de México, the Universidad Iberoamericana, and the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México. Outside of Mexico City the libraries of the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, the Universidad de las Américas in Cholula, and the Escuela Nacional de Agricultura de Chapingo are the most important. Praiseworthy efforts have been made by the universities of Guanajuato, Nuevo León, San Luis Potosí, Sonora, and Veracruz in training personnel and supporting library service.

Of transcendental importance for the nation's higher education has been the foundation of the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, created by decree in December 1973. It has three campuses, all in Mexico City: Azcapotzalco, Iztapalapa, and Xochimilco. The university has the highest percentage of teachers with doctorate and M.A. degrees, the highest percentage of professors to students, and the highest budgets in percentage terms for its libraries.

In the last 10 years better communication between government authorities, educational officials, and teachers has brought as a consequence improved financial support for the country's higher educational system. The Asociación Nacional de Universidades e Institutos de Educación Superior (ANUIES) has served as a very important link between the activities of the two library associations and the libraries of the 126 members of ANUIES.

## SPECIAL LIBRARIES AND DOCUMENTATION CENTERS

The increase in scientific and technical activities over the past 30 years and the consequent repercussions in technical, economic, social, and political spheres in Mexico have brought about important changes in the demands for information and in services which special libraries and documentation centers can provide. This demand for information has made necessary knowledge of what has been done and what is being done in the more developed countries, so that duplication of effort in research and the scientific progress in the developed countries may be avoided.

Besides the special libraries of some universities and institutions of higher education, special libraries and documentation centers are found in official and private agencies. These bibliographical centers are almost in their entirety located in Mexico City and its environs and 90% of them belong to government agencies. Due to the demands for information, these special libraries and documentation centers have cooperated among each other, especially in the area of interlibrary loan. The most important information centers found in this group belong to the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (National Institute for Anthropology and History), the Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Agrícolas (National Institute of Agricultural Research), the Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Pecuarias (National Institute of Livestock Research), the Instituto Nacional de Energía Nuclear (National Institute of Nuclear Energy), the Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social (Mexican Institute for Social Security), the Servicio Nacional de Adiestramiento Rápido de Mano de Obra en la Industria (ARMO) (Rapid Training of Industrial Labor), the Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (National Council for Science and Technology), the Centro de Información Científica y Humanística de la UNAM (UNAM Scientific and Humanistic Information Center), the Instituto Mexicano del Petróleo (Mexican Petroleum Institute), Petróleos Mexicanos, Banco de México, and Nacional Financiera. These special libraries in general have very good collections, offer the necessary services, and have sufficient professional personnel. It may be said that these libraries and the university libraries absorb 80% of the total budget allocated to libraries in Mexico.

CONSEJO NACIONAL DE CIENCIA Y TECNOLOGIA (CONACYT).  
DIVISION OF INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION (D.F.)

The National Council of Science and Technology was created by the federal government on December 28, 1970 to function as a coordinating agency for the scientific and technological activities being carried out in Mexico and to promote the application of science and technology toward greater national economic development. One among the several functions of the council has been that of setting up a national information and documentation service.

The Division of Information and Documentation comprises the departments of Information and Library Systems, Human Resources Development, and Technical

Information Service. The duties of the Department of Information and Library Systems essentially have consisted of performing the following tasks:

(1) Preparation of the "Union Catalogue of Periodical Publications" in Mexican libraries. In 1973 was published a supplement to the first edition in which the periodical literature of 132 libraries was listed. At present a second edition is to be printed.

(2) Organization of libraries and information centers into a nucleus network operating as an automatic interdisciplinary system to integrate and coordinate available documental resources. The objectives of the network are to: provide information service to library users through lists alphabetized according to authors, titles, and contents; offer bibliographic and selective dissemination of information; facilitate technical processing within libraries; and to facilitate informational exchange through library systems developed by other agencies such as MARC, CAN/SDI, and others.

In its initial stages of operating, the network has codified, up to now, 76,000 titles of six of the principal specialized libraries of Mexico City.

(3) Advisory service in the development of systems of information science. The objectives of this project are to organize and supervise information service in specific fields of knowledge.

Library assistance has been given to institutional libraries of higher learning such as those of the state universities of San Luis Potosí, Sonora, Oaxaca, Aguascalientes, Nayarit, and to the Regional Institute of Celaya.

Not only has library consultant service been responsible for the creation of the following agencies: the Center for Metallurgy Information, the Mexican Center of Chemical Information, and the Arid Zones Information Center of Saltillo, but it has also given impetus to State Bureau Information Service Centers, the Ocean Science and Technology General Educational Service, the Mexican Cement and Concrete Institute, and the General Service Office of Telecommunications. It has provided the bases for setting up national information networks related to housing, urban construction and development, livestock raising and agriculture, and biomedics.

(4) Basic Booklists. This section has charge of printing lists of books, legal publications, and compilations of basic reference books to be used at university level. Such lists are now available in the following subjects: economics, marine science, mining and metallurgy, civil engineering, commerce and administration, physics, chemistry, pharmaco-biology, cattle breeding, and agriculture. It will soon issue printed lists for medicine and biology.

(5) Automatic Systems of Retrieval and Dissemination of Information. Under this heading comes that of exploring techniques and procedures necessary for selecting, acquiring, storing, and offering automatic services of retrieval information. At the initial stages CAN/SDI systems will be put into service in the Ministry of Public Works and tested with the MARC II system.

The program of the Department of Human Resources Development is aimed to solve the serious problems arising from the shortages of professional personnel

upon whom further development on all levels can depend. Having this mission in mind CONACYT has given scholarships for study in schools of library science in Brazil, Canada, Colombia, the United States, Panama, and Israel; and twenty-one graduate fellowships on the master's degree level for study in the United States and Brazil. Through its intensive training programs given at the National School of Library Science and Archives, it has equipped a total of 110 people for work in libraries on a technical level. Both at the Universities of Sonora and Baja California it has undertaken training programs for university library staffs. Besides, CONACYT has dedicated efforts to organizing and setting up courses and special seminars in the use and management of TELEX, to the compilation of a thesaurus, to the preparation of personnel for work in information services, and in programs of cooperation with the FID/CLA and the University of Mexico, and has also offered assistance to industrial agencies. Its projects for the future are a continuance of the aid given on the master's degree level and the offering of special courses and seminars such as the one given in Administration of Information Services in Latin America.

The Technical Information Service Department (SIT) has as its principle aims making available technical and scientific information and aiding industries to develop to a maximum. The field of action covers a program of industrial relations, the maintenance of a question-answer service, and the publishing of a technical news bulletin. On the SIT staff of fifteen, eleven are engineers having diverse specialties. Under SIT's action-oriented program of industrial relations, staff members have visited over 400 firms and industries and acted as answering consultants for more than 1,050 inquires referred to them. There are now 1,190 subscribers to the SIT technical news bulletin.

SIT tenders service to industrial associations and professional societies such as the Association of Industrial Pharmacy and the Graphic Arts Industrial Society, and also has entered into exchange programs with the countries of Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, and Venezuela. At present José Quevedo is the head of the Division of Technical Information Service, successor to Guillermo Fernández de la Garza, its first director.

### **Some Main Libraries and Information Centers**

#### **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN LIBRARY (D.F.)**

With funds appropriated by the U.S. Congress and channeled through the American Library Association, the Benjamin Franklin Library was established in Mexico City in 1942 as a "good neighbor symbol."

The Benjamin Franklin Library opened its doors with 3,000 volumes on its shelves. Not only were books loaned to children and adults, but reference service, microfilms, lectures, concerts, exhibitions of books, sculpture, photography, and painting were part of its program.

By 1944, only 2 years later, the library had doubled its collection of books and periodicals. An English-language institute was added to the library's many services, and in 1945 a radio program was sponsored which transmitted literary information twice a week. In the Children's Room the weekly story hour and the exhibition of documentary films had become very popular.

In 1948 the State Department took charge of the library and created the Mexican-American Institute for Cultural Relations which took over the English classes. That same year the first branch library was opened in Monterrey, followed by others in Guadalajara and Puebla (1949), Tampico (1960), Mazatlán (1962-1970), and Hermosillo (1967).

In 1950 a new program was started, a bookmobile which made short trips to nearby towns, loaning books to people who lacked access to library services. In 1953 the library became a U.S. Information Center.

In 1968 the Young People's Section was enlarged to provide service for high school, vocational, and business school students.

To improve the image of United States culture, besides books the reader has access to a large record collection which includes all forms of American music: classical, folklore, jazz, popular, etc., besides recordings of famous speeches, poems, and literary works. A collection of scores is also available. Normal library service is complemented by free distribution of pamphlets covering a wide variety of subjects on United States culture and current events.

Books are loaned to all parts of the country. Researchers are offered interlibrary loan service through a special arrangement with the Library of Congress and large United States university libraries. Besides, the library secures upon request copies of American patents and Xerox and microfilm copies of books and articles which can not be located in Mexico.

Readers who use the library, classified by occupations, include the following: students (66%), professional people (11%), teachers (7%), and others (16%). At present the library has 22,300 registered patrons. The collection is composed of 40,000 books of which 18,000 are Spanish translations, subscriptions to 304 periodicals, and 4,750 pamphlets. At present the director is Mary Joan Collett, and Elvia Barberena is the associate librarian.

#### BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL DE ANTROPOLOGIA E HISTORIA (D.F.)

The former library of the National Museum, now the National Library of Anthropology and History, serves as the bibliographic reference center for the National Museum of Anthropology and History and is outstanding as an institution for cultural research and investigation in Mexico.

Credit goes to Lucas Alamán whose idea it was in 1831 to set up a library as a part of the National Museum. Toward that end he had Arthur Wavell send the first shipment of books to the museum curator Isador Ignacio Icaza from London. However, due to unfavorable circumstances, for the most part political, the new library did not get much beyond this initial start. Subsequently, on December 22,

1888, after more than half a century of practically no activity, the library was formally inaugurated under the librarianship of José María de Agreda, its first director.

By 1900 the library institution had on its shelves 4,865 volumes to which Paso y Troncoso had added by donations of manuscripts, pamphlets, and books, and the worthwhile accession by purchase of 256 other volumes.

Of the manuscripts which came to be the property of the library during this period, were included original files of the Inquisition Tribunals collected by Vicente Riva Palacio; historical documents both of the colonial period in Mexico and of the national independence; original papers of the Jesuit Company in Mexico; and other papers of the Royal Hospital for Aborigines (Hospital Real de Naturales). Other exceedingly important acquisitions at this time were the legal papers relating to the colonization of Texas, preserved by Veytia, and an important documental collection belonging to José Fernando Ramírez.

The library of the National Museum grew steadily to the point that, where in 1917 it had had a monthly readership average of 180; for the five year period 1943–1948 it sustained a monthly average of 1,150 readers consulting 22,401 volumes. In view of the prominence of the library in the cultural and scientific development of Mexico and its importance as the Central Library of the National Institute of Anthropology and History, a more up-to-date reorganization of its resources was put into effect in 1944.

In recent years the library's acquisitions have increased, the most recent one being the Dr. Alfonso Caso's collection, highly specialized in the field of anthropology.

As for the classification system of the former library of the National Museum, it is worthwhile to point out that the first card catalog was made in 1907 without any rigid system, so to speak, being carried out. The second catalog was done in 1908 under the decimal system classification, and in 1944 a new classification was adopted: the Classification of the Library of Congress.

Since the charting of the library it has had the following directors: José María de Agreda y Sánchez, Catarino D. López, Nemesio García Naranjo, José de Gener Ortiz, Vicente A. Galicia Chimalpopoca, Col. María de Jesús González, Manuel Toussaint, José Vázquez, Trinidad Carrasco, Maclovio Gómez, Manuel Mester Ghigliazza, Julio Torri, Manuel Romero de Terreros y Vinent, Gustavo Gómez de Orozco, Enrique Juan Palacios, Jesús García Gutiérrez, Mariano Silva y Aceves, Francisco Monterde, María Luisa Ross, and Antonio Pompa y Pompa.

Upon the establishment of the great new anthropological unity in Chapultepec Park, the old Library of the National Museum was reorganized as the National Library of Anthropology and History coming under the National Institute of Anthropology and History. It is now a central library directing the library policies of the other smaller libraries of the institute.

This great library of massive tradition in Mexico has besides its multiple ordinary consulting services, documental manuscripts, records, tapes, microfilms of more



than 14 million copies, slides, and an extensive selection of books on the fields of linguistics, archeology, physical anthropology, ethnology, history, and related fields in the study of man and his environment. Its treasure of books contains in it principle editions, codices, pictographs, cartography, and editions of inestimable value in the field of scientific research.

The National Institute of Anthropology and History has published through G. H. Hall and Company of Boston, Massachusetts, the first volumes of the catalog of this important library, and in 1975 will edit the last part of the catalog.

### EL COLEGIO DE MEXICO LIBRARY (D.F.)

#### *Parent Institution*

Upon request of distinguished Mexican writers and scholars, who were concerned for the Spanish intellectuals affected by the Civil War in Spain, the Federal Government established the Casa de España en Mexico in 1938. Its first president was the outstanding humanist Alfonso Reyes. Under his leadership both Spaniards and Mexicans selected the name of El Colegio de México when the casa was reorganized to become an institution of research and higher education. The term El Colegio was chosen because of its connotation, closely related to the origin of the institution, of a free association of scholars meeting regularly to exchange ideas and to keep each other informed of their work. The second term was chosen to imply a vocation of integration to the life and culture of the country.

Alfonso Reyes was followed in office by Daniel Cosío Villegas (historian, political scientist), Silvio Zavala (historian), and at the present time, Victor L. Urquidi (economist). For the Latin American scholar and bibliographer, these names illustrate the policy of keeping El Colegio in the hands of research people, because all four have kept publishing while assuming administrative duties. The same is true at lower levels of the administration.

El Colegio has both research and teaching programs in economics, demography, history, international relations and political science, linguistics, literature, sociology, and statistics. By area it gives emphasis to Latin America and the East. It has a research program on urban studies.

Upon specific requests from other institutions, El Colegio accepts mission-oriented research projects which are not included in its permanent program. By 1976, for instance, El Colegio has to render for publication a dictionary of the Spanish language in Mexico, and a contemporary history of México.

El Colegio offers the following degrees:

- (1) Licenciatura in international relations
- (2) Master's degree in economics, demography, Latin American studies, and Oriental studies
- (3) Ph.D. degree in Hispanic linguistics, Hispanic literature, history, and social studies with specialization in sociology

For its size El Colegio keeps a high degree of productivity in the matter of publishing. Its last catalog registers more than 300 monographs in print plus six journals and one series of occasional papers.

The library is not different from other working libraries all over the world. It is in charge of selection, acquisition, organization, maintenance, promotion, interpretation, circulation, and control of suitable materials. Technical processes are designed according to the needs of El Colegio de México. Public services, however, cover a much larger population. Other deviations of standard practices may be observed in the difficulty to classify the library within just one category, be it special, university, or public.

According to by-laws and regulations, the library director is appointed by the president of El Colegio de México in consultation with the Board of Governors. Since about 1966 the library has followed consistently the policy of placing professional tasks in the hands of professional librarians in the contemporary sense of the expression. There are seven professional places in 1975, which are those of the library director, the three section heads, and three catalogers/classifiers.

The status of the professional librarian here is very similar to that of the professor and the research worker. El Colegio de México has been the first Mexican institution to establish 1-year sabbatical licenses for its professional librarians. The status of the library director is very similar to that of the directors of the centers. The first is also a member of the Board of Directors and the Board of Publications.

### *Directors*

The first three presidents of El Colegio de México followed the policy of putting the library in the hands of people who used to write books and, consequently, knew about books. The first library director was Francisco Giner de los Ríos, a Spanish poet, who actually started the library from scratch. Susana Uribe de Fernández de Córdoba was the second library director and also the one who remained longer in office. A historian and bibliographer, Susana Uribe also took seriously her responsibility as a librarian. For a shorter period Berta Ulloa, also a historian with great experience in bibliography, took office as acting director. Ario Garza Mercado is the fourth library director. He already had the master's degree in library science when he was appointed in 1966. He wrote the first manual of organization, policies, and procedures. He has been concerned mainly with raising the efficiency of processes and services, with the same structure and, until 1974, with the same number of personnel the library already had.

### *Collections*

The library has a little above 120,000 monographs. Before the classification of periodicals started they occupied about a third of the space allocated to books and pamphlets. It is estimated, however, that the library has only about 20,000 *complete* volumes of periodicals, either bound or unbound.

A sample survey of titles made recently shows the collections are stronger in social sciences (40%), history (28%), and literature (12%). General works amount to little above 4% of the holdings. The library has a small collection of Oriental materials, one of the few in Latin America. It has around 10,733 volumes.

Almost 93% of the titles belongs to books, monographs, and serials. Little more than 6% represents United Nations and some other documents. Consequently other types of materials, if counted by title, represent about 1% of the collection.

*Processes and Services.* The last 6 years the library has acquired about 15,000 items a year. About two thirds of the items are books and pamphlets. Only 25% of the last are counted as purchases but the figure should not be misleading. All publications from the Fondo de Cultura Económica, The Organization of American States, and the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México are counted as gifts and exchanges, for instance.

The library uses Dewey and the Anglo American rules for the cataloging and classification of most of its materials. The number of loans has been rising consistently since 1966. In 1974 the library registered 85,233 loans, of which 52% were loans for internal readers, 46% were loans for external readers, and 2% were inter-library loans. Thus the rise of the figures may be attributed obviously to the rise in the number of professors, research workers and students at El Colegio de México, but mainly to loans for other readers. Reference services, tailored bibliographies and so forth, can not be counted as easily as other things, but the library is as active in this as in other services.

*Integration.* The library director, with the assistance of the section heads, is responsible for the course on research techniques for students of the licenciatura in international relations.

El Colegio has published the second edition of the *Manual de Técnicas de Investigación*, two bibliographies, and a couple of book reviews concerning theses and reference works for social science studies on Latin America in *Foro Internacional*, the journal of the Center of International Studies.

Advisers who have collaborated, Carl Deal, Latin American bibliographer of the University of Illinois, Toshikazu Kanaka, from the National Diet Library in Japan, and Ralph Ellsworth, the authority in academic library buildings, are assisting the library as consultants for the library part of the new campus.

*Perspectives.* The building for the next 10 years will provide not only for the expansion but also for the planned evolution of the library. It will be able to house 360,000 volumes, 450 to 500 reader stations, and sixty-two places for library work. Under Susana Uribe, the library had experience in analyzing journal articles. It is expected that the library may go further into indexing this type of materials. The library will keep being mainly an information system of record retrieval, but it will move a step further to more precise information activities, as a refinement of its reference function. If everything comes out more or less as planned, the library will play a new role within the next 10 years; a very similar role to that played by specialized national libraries and regional centers of documentation.

**ESCUELA NACIONAL DE AGRICULTURA. CENTRAL LIBRARY  
(CHAPINGO)**

On February 22, 1854 the Escuela de Agricultura opened its doors to students in the Convento de San Jacinto. In 1924, when the Escuela was moved to the Hacienda de Chapingo where new buildings had been constructed, quarters for the library were dedicated. In 1946 a new building was inaugurated which included a general reading area, a study room, and cubicles for researchers and graduate students. The collection was rich in nineteenth century materials but completely lacking in recent publications. In 1963 the need for reorganization was clearly recognized so that library activities and services could be improved. A budget of \$565,000.00 was assigned to this reorganization and provided by the Ford Foundation. On February 22, 1967 a new library building was officially inaugurated, planned, and constructed specifically for a collection of half a million volumes to be reached over a 10-year period.

As for the design, the library is provided with the latest-type installations. Wood-finished metal shelving is distributed according to user convenience in all three floors of the building. Readers have direct access to the collection. Besides some 400 individual reading tables, there are sixteen cubicles for group study, eight with a capacity for twelve to fourteen users, the rest for six. These cubicles are primarily for seminars and research study groups, equipped with chairs, tables, and blackboards.

The library has a specialized collection of 32,000 volumes in agriculture and related fields. It receives annually subscriptions to 1,105 periodicals in agriculture and related fields by gift, exchange, and purchase. Besides books and periodicals, the library has 5,000 pamphlets. The library is a depository for publications of the USDA and U.S. agricultural experiment stations as well as for publications of international organizations such as the FAO and the International Institute for Agricultural Sciences, and, of course, of the Mexican Secretaría de Agricultura y Ganadería as well as of the Secretaría de Recursos Hidráulicos (Ministry for Water Resources). Reprints and microforms, grouped in special collections, are also available to readers. Interlibrary loan services and photographic reproduction of documents are offered.

The library, with Dora Benveniste in charge, aims at gathering and distributing agricultural information to all areas that require it, since adequate agricultural planning for Mexico is considered indispensable. The school has 1,700 students, 135 full-time faculty members, and 146 part-time teachers. The library handles 1,000 users daily.

**INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ENERGIA NUCLEAR (INEN).  
DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES AND DOCUMENTATION SERVICES  
(D.F.)**

This department has two libraries: The reference library (founded in 1957) and the library of the Nuclear Center (founded in 1967). Both libraries were created to reinforce the infrastructure of the scientific research at the INEN.

Although the functions of the department are primarily aimed to support the research work because of the national character and the objectives of the institute, the department has become a real national center of information and bibliographical services on nuclear energy and related subjects, whose services are aimed at the universities and institutions of higher education and research in the country. The present collection of both libraries is of 22,509 specialized volumes of monographs and reference books, 123,040 foreign technical reports, and 12,380 volumes of periodicals; 638 subscriptions of periodicals are received regularly. The collection also has seventy-four films on nuclear energy and its peaceful applications. An information file contains 3,250 items of the subject and a collection of 2,675 reprints of articles of periodical publications on the field of interest to the Institution.

The department staff is composed of nine librarians; among them one chemical engineer, one industrial chemical engineer, and one physicist. There are seven B.S. in Library Science and five administrative employees.

### *Objectives and Functions*

1. To provide information and bibliographic service to all the professional staff of the different divisions, departments, laboratories, etc., of the institute, according to their individual needs.

2. Compilation of bibliographical searches according to the demands of the staff.

3. To make editorial work consisting of printing, reprinting, or buying reprints of the research works that have been sponsored or accomplished at the institute. To distribute them as official publications in exchange or gift to the most important and similar foreign institutions, in order to obtain publications in exchange or gift.

4. To inform all the universities and institutions of higher learning and research in the country about the research work accomplished at the INEN, by means of distributing reports and works as gift or exchange (450 works have been distributed).

5. To provide information, bibliographical service, lending of material, films, etc., mainly to the institutions where the INEN has sponsoring collaboration programs or where there exists professional staff who have been trained in the courses of the INEN.

6. To act as a national center of bibliographical services in the Nuclear and technological fields as a consequence of its responsibility of being the official depository institution of the publications of the national centers of nuclear research of Canada, France, Germany, England, Israel, Italy, Sweden, the United States, The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, etc., as well as of international organizations such as CERN, ICNE, EURATOM, JIMR, and IAEA.

7. To establish information-service agreements with Mexican institutions which have similar or related activities, such as the CFE (Federal Commission of Electricity), Centro de Energía Nuclear (Center of Nuclear Studies), the Instituto de Física de la UNAM (Institute of Physics), la Escuela Superior de Física y Matemáticas del IPN (School of Higher Physics and Mathematics) of the Instituto Mexicano del Petróleo (Mexican Petroleum Institute), the CONACYT, etc.

8. To act as the National Distributor Center of the works published by the IAEA, the Comisión Interamericana de Energía Nuclear (Interamerican Nuclear Energy Commission), the theses subventioned by the INEN, etc.

The department offers service of selective dissemination of computerized information to the professional staff of the institute. This service is based mainly on the International Nuclear Information System (INIS). The monthly increase of items registered in the magnetic tapes is approximately 5,400. Besides the INIS, the reference section has fifty-six different indexes and abstract services of periodical publications on nuclear energy and related fields.

#### INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE INVESTIGACIONES PECUARIAS. LIVESTOCK INFORMATION CENTER AND LIBRARY (D.F.)

Recently created, this center is a part of the National Institute of Livestock Research which comes under the Ministry of Agriculture and Stock Raising. In addition to its principle functions as a special library, the unit is in charge of carrying out two further aspects of selective dissemination of information: one, consisting of elaborating index lists of magazines and periodicals for distribution to agencies and experimental stations in the hinterlands of the republic; and the other, of providing a cattle breeding news service which reprints scientific articles important for the national outlook in stock raising.

The center, headed by Eduardo Sales Estrada, jointly with the libraries of the National Institute of Agricultural Research is based upon providing information service about agriculture and stock breeding within the nation.

#### INSTITUTO TECNOLOGICO AUTONOMO DE MEXICO. RAÚL BAILLERES JR. LIBRARY (D.F.)

This institute is a private university specializing in the teaching of administration, accounting, economy, finance, and social sciences. It has approximately 1,020 students enrolled. The library, founded in 1947, has up to date 32,000 volumes and receives 549 periodical publications. The library offers all the ordinary services of information to the institute and is under the directorship of Roberto Gordillo.

#### INSTITUTO TECNOLOGICO Y DE ESTUDIOS SUPERIORES DE MONTERREY LIBRARY (MONTERREY, N.L.)

The Technological Institute of Monterrey, chartered in 1943 as a privately endowed educational institute of higher learning, offers doctorate and master's curricula, undergraduate and preparatory programs, and non-degree courses in highly specialized technical subjects in the following fields: engineering, architecture, administration, social sciences, marine biology, agriculture, and livestock, and in sciences and humanities. It has a present enrollment of 5,000 students.

In 1944 the institute libraries were inaugurated and in 1968 they became centralized and were housed in the institute library building.

With the purchase of the Pedro Robredo Collection of works on the history of Mexico and Mexican literature in 1945, a special section known as the Cervantina

Library was given a room in the library building to house this and other private collections acquired through purchase, donations, and gifts. Private collections other than the Pedro Robredo now found in the Cervantina Library are the following: Carlos Prieto Collection of rare editions of Quijote and works of and about Cervantes; Salvador Ugarte Collection of works on the history of Mexico and of Mexican indigenous languages (the latter is perhaps the best such collection in the world); George Cornway Collection of works on Mexican history; Castro Leal Collection specialized in Mexican history; Méndez Plancarte Collection, of religious works, history, and literature.

The volumes in the institute's Central Library, which operates on an open-stacks principle, are classified under the two broad headings of science and engineering, and humanities and sciences. At the present time the library has a shelf-list of 110,000 volumes, 500 rolls of microfilm of the archives of the state of Nuevo León, 3,000 microfilms, 6,000 student theses, 1,000 maps, and sundry other materials, and receives 1,780 titles of periodical publications. The library, which offers all the services of a university library, uses a decimal system of classification.

Since 1973 the library's director has been Artemio Benavides. Those who preceded him were Luis Astey Vázquez and Rolando Espinosa. At present the library has on its staff three professionals with master's degrees in library science, and three graduates from schools of library science.

#### SERVICIO NACIONAL ARMO. INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION CENTER (D.F.)

The National Service for Rapid Training of Industrial Labor (ARMO), which has as its goal the creation of a national consciousness of the need for systematic technical training, has been building up an Information and Documentation Center. This center serves as an instrument for information retrieval on scientific and technical developments published in the labor training field and in related areas.

At present the three divisions of the Information and Documentation Center are the library, the Documentation Department, and the Audiovisual Department. It offers support to the courses given by the institution by gathering documentary materials in such areas as technical training, adult education, human resources development, industrial technology, human relations, electricity, electronics, machines, tools, etc. Besides, it compiles and distributes bibliographies and abstracts. Additional services include interlibrary loan, photocopying, and microfilming.

The center has a specialized collection of 8,000 volumes, receives 800 periodical subscriptions and has 150 motion pictures. Since 1972 the center has received the microfiches of the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC).

The Information and Documentation Center edits an *Indice de Revistas Semanal* (Weekly periodicals index) in three sections: education and communication, science and technology, and humanities and the social sciences. It also puts out an *Indice de Artículos sobre Educación y Adiestramiento* (Index of articles on education and

training) and an *Indice bibliográfico* (Bibliographical Index). Gilberto Díaz Santana is in charge of the center.

#### UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA. LIBRARIES (D.F.)

The Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana (UAM) was created by presidential decree in December 1973. It is the country's newest university. In contrast with conventional systems of education, the UAM emphasizes independent study which implies intensive use of library information and documentation services. As a result, the library serves primarily as a documentation and information center for the university community as well as providing for its cultural and recreational needs.

The three UAM units began operating in 1974, each with its own centralized library services, acquiring basic reference collections for teaching and research. From the beginning a Library Coordination Committee was formed, with one representative from each unit and one from the Rectoría General to unify administrative and policy criteria for library services. This committee agreed on the use of the Library of Congress Classification and the ALA Cataloguing Rules with modifications according to local needs. A single set of regulations was elaborated for the three libraries, fixing hours, loan services, reference, reserve, photoreproduction, processing and control of books, periodicals, nonbook and audiovisual materials, and interlibrary loan between the units and with other libraries covering rules, rights, and responsibilities of users.

Open shelving with direct access to the books makes for optimum use of the collection. To make known to library users the complete holdings of the UAM, each unit provides the others with information on recent acquisitions with cards filed into their respective card catalogs.

When classes started, a publicity campaign was begun among students and faculty which included an orientation program on better utilization of printed and audiovisual library resources. This type of campaign will be continued regularly, forming a part of the university curriculum.

At present the ISIS computer program available through the International Labor Office is being adapted to the specific requirements of the UAM to automate technical services (acquisitions and cataloging) of the three libraries and provide for rapid information retrieval.

The libraries are opened in general to the public of the neighboring communities of each of the three units, providing, as far as possible, an extension service with the same services offered to the university community.

University programs cover all areas of study with the exception of medicine, agriculture, and humanities. The Unidad Azcapotzalco, with the Coordination of Information Services, under the direction of Rosa María F. de Zamora, is building a collection in physics, chemistry, mathematics, engineering, social sciences, architecture, environmental sciences, and graphic and industrial design.

The Library Department in the Unidad Iztapalapa, under Vicente Sáenz, is forming a collection on physics, chemistry, mathematics, biology, and social sciences.

The Documentary Services of the Unidad Xochimilco, with Ramón Nadurille in



charge, is specializing in biological sciences, dentistry, veterinary medicine, zootechnics, business administration, library science, communications, economics, psychology, and educational technology. In the Rectoría General the Educational Documentation Center, under Elke Solm, is building an audiovisual and book collection in university education.

#### UNIVERSIDAD DE LAS AMERICAS. LIBRARY OF THE LEARNING RESOURCES CENTER (CHOLULA, PUEBLA)

The Library of the Learning Resources Center of the Universidad de las Américas (formerly Mexico City College), on the ex-Hacienda of Santa Catarina Mártir, San Andrés, Cholula, Puebla, houses over 100,000 volumes and 2,000 periodical publications, representing the disciplines of humanities and sciences covered in its academic program.

The faculty, students, and those engaged in research find open shelves of reference and general works as well as Mexican, Latin American, and European periodicals. Among the publications of interest which can be found are Dr. Lorna Lavery Stafford's collection on literary and historic criticism of Spain, México, and Latin America; the collection of Pablo and Guadalupe Herrera Carrillo on the history of Mexican, Spanish, and Latin American literature; the economics collection of Dr. Redvers Opie; Professor James Washington Bell's collection on finance; and materials on the economic development of Mexico and its petroleum crisis from the Ing. Manuel A. Hernández collection.

The three most important archives that can be found in the library are: a set of papers collected by the brothers Pablo and Guadalupe Herrera Carrillo consisting of articles, notes, and news clippings on outstanding aspects of the social history of Mexico, including Mexican-American relations, and the role of Mexicans living in the border states; the Barlow Collection on Mesoamerican anthropology; and the Porfirio Díaz microfilm collection of more than a million letters and documents.

The library has established extensive exchange programs with international and national institutions; these receive the following university publications: *Mesoamerican notes*, *Boletín de estudios oaxaqueños*, and *Tlatelolco economic monographs*. The library and the audio-visual department are located in the same building in keeping with the most recent trends on education, and thus constitute the Learning Resources Center.

The library was founded in 1940 and the former head librarians were Alice Dugas, John Barroco, Mary Parsons, and Roberto Gordillo. At present Dr. Manuel de Ezcurdia is dean of the Learning Resources Center and Elsa Barberena B. is the associate librarian.

#### UNIVERSIDAD IBEROAMERICANA. ACADEMIC INFORMATION CENTER (D.F.)

The campus of Universidad Iberoamericana was built in 1962. Before that year the different schools were scattered in different parts of the city. As the schools

moved into the new campus a whole wing of classrooms was used to house the library.

Universidad Iberoamericana is a private university with a student body of 7,000 and 944 faculty members. It has twenty-eight departments, which cover all areas of knowledge except agriculture, medicine, veterinary medicine, nursing, and dentistry, and which offer both undergraduate and graduate courses leading to B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees. There are eight centers and two institutes dedicated to service and research.

The Academic Information Center has at the present moment a collection of 61,145 books covering all areas of knowledge, most important collections being psychology, history, and law. A slide collection has 40,000 slides, mostly in the art field. A periodicals department includes approximately 700 current titles, mainly in the technical field. It has a Circulation Department, a Reference and Bibliography Department, interlibrary loan, photocopying services, and Slide Lending Library. There are fifteen professionals holding academic degrees and twenty non-professionals.

As of August 1974 the Academic Information Center is going through a reorganization process of all its different services and departments. This includes the building of a modern and functional library building, the training of personnel, the planning of an Audiovisual Department, the organizing and cataloging of the rare book collection, and, tentatively, going into computerized systems.

The library is under the direction of Carmen Esteva de Garcia Moreno.

## UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL AUTONOMA DE MEXICO

### *General Department of Libraries (D.F.)*

In 1929 the National University of Mexico became autonomous. With the change to self-government the university libraries and the Cataloging and Bibliographic Library were grouped under the office known thereafter as the Technical Libraries Department, with central offices in Justo Sierra street in downtown Mexico City. When the buildings of University City were completed, the Technical Libraries moved to a location in the Central Library, in quarters originally designed to serve the National Library. In 1966 the Technical Libraries Department underwent alterations through which the General Department of Libraries was formed.

The goals of the new department are to strengthen the course curricula and research projects of the National University through selection, gathering, and retrieval of bibliographic and documental material. Among its responsibilities are those of maintaining and coordinating its library system, containing seventy special departmental collections; planning library services; outlining a general policy of library procedures; and evaluating human and material resources so as to improve the National University's libraries operations.

The department has within it the following sections: Planning, Technical Processes, Public Services, Documentation Center, Historical Archives, and the Administrative Unit. The Technical Processing section is the most important with

respect to the centralizing activities which the department undertakes, and has in its charge receiving, recording, cataloging, and classifying all the acquisitions of the university libraries which it serves. The Library of Congress Classification System was adopted in 1954. The Exchange Section offers interchange of the works published by the National Autonomous University to national and foreign institutions.

The department serves the National University community and the general public through a central library, a Documentation Center, and its Historical Archives. In addition to the usual services, the library has taken on the responsibility of organizing conferences and exhibits of interest to the public. The department also contains a laboratory for the restoration and preservation of documents and a photographic laboratory, and is now editing a union catalog of periodical publications which the university has in its possession. The Documentation Center renders assistance in the location of information to students, especially to those working in the master's and doctorate programs of the university. The Historical Archives Section preserves those historical documents pertaining to the National University. The collection is made of old and new documents and of copies of documents of the university in the colonial period.

Of world-wide fame is the building which the department occupies, opened to the public on April 5, 1956, for the magnificent murals covering its exterior completely on all four sides. Executed in multicolored stones by the muralist and architect Juan O'Gorman, they interpret pictorially the prehispanic, colonial, and contemporary cultural history of Mexico. The murals were done in the years 1950 to 1953.

The seventy university libraries have a collection of approximately one million volumes. Among these libraries, that of the Graduate Studies Division in Engineering is outstanding for its services and collections. During the period of 1968 to 1970, this library indexed all of its book volumes, magazines, films, and other manuscripts and materials by the KWIC system.

The department has been headed by Tobias Chávez, Armando Sandoval, Alicia Perales de Mercado, and Adolfo Rodríguez Gallardo, the present director. From the years 1969 to 1971 the department published the *Anuario de Bibliotecología y Archivología*.

#### *Scientific and Humanistic Information Center (D.F.)*

The UNAM (National Autonomous University of México) has been traditionally the major research center of the country.

During the latter part of the 1960s and the beginning of the 1970s, as a result of the population explosion, the UNAM underwent a sharp increase in its student population and consequently of its entire faculty and research structure. The university faced the problem of this rapid increase by coordinating its efforts. Special centers were organized to aid the existing research institutes and graduate divisions and which would, among other activities, coordinate the highly abundant but diverse university resources, including the bibliographic ones.

The Centro de Información Científica y Humanística (CICH) (Scientific and

Humanistic Information Center) was founded in June 1971 as part of the Coordination of Scientific Research. Its objectives are to provide the academic staff of the university's institutes, centers, and research divisions with specialized information services that might stimulate new ideas and novel views for the university's scientific and humanistic research, an important factor in the development of the country. The CICH's initial task was to identify its functions and organization within an institution of such magnitude and complexity as the UNAM, as well as to recruit and train its specialized professional staff.

During the first quarter of 1975 the CICH had the following academic staff: twelve full-time and three part-time academic employees plus twenty-four more for administrative purposes. Its organization is essentially based on two departments plus the director and subdirectors' offices and an administrative office. The two departments are Documents and Information.

A library, and a subscription and document section, constitute the Documents Department, which provides reference, indexing and abstracting services in all areas of university study. The subscriptions section has developed an automated system to coordinate requests, renewals, and payments of all subscriptions to serials received in over seventy specialized department libraries of the UNAM. The CICH acquired this responsibility in 1972. At that time the task was performed for approximately 800 titles of twenty-eight department libraries. A partially automated system was later developed which in 1973 handled 2,919 titles for forty-eight libraries. This system was implemented for the 1973 subscriptions and is now in its second year of operation.

The master file currently includes:

1. Serial titles with over 4,300 entries
2. Vendors (over 1,300 entries)
3. Department libraries including addresses, plus two smaller files that include countries and foreign currency exchange

The first immediate goals of the automated subscription system have been met, offering timely check lists, control of all details regarding payments, awareness of duplications, and centralized coordination of the serials departments. Nevertheless the system is still partial and shall be modified and expanded in 1976 to include automated claims and serials recording. As one of the several outputs of the system a serials list was published in November 1974 under the heading "*Subscripciones 1974-1975.*"

The Documentation section obtains copies of documents upon request. The service is offered to university and off-campus users. The service is first of all based on the bibliographic resources of the seventy UNAM department libraries. These resources fulfill 29% of the total requests. Another 35% is obtained from about sixty different libraries in Mexico City. The remaining 36% is imported from foreign resources.

The Information Department offers the following services: retrospective searches, current awareness, and dissemination of information.

The CICH publishes a biweekly journal, *ALERTA (Información Multidisciplinaria en la Universidad)*, with nine regular sections in each issue:

1. Basic Bibliography
2. Mexican Bibliography
3. Latin American Bibliography
4. Higher Education and Research
5. Developing Countries
6. Updating
7. Materials, Instruments and Methods
8. New Serials and Book Reviews
9. Future Meetings

Dr. Armando Sandoval is in charge of the CICH.

### **Future Prospects**

Since 1970 a number of important new programs have been put in operation, sponsored largely by the Federal Government, with special attention to information services in support of Mexican scientific and technological development. An important element of these programs, aimed at more effective information retrieval, has been the use of computers. Various public institutions have initiated internal automated information services as well as the use of automated information systems in operation abroad.

For example, the Secretaría de la Presidencia utilizes the ISIS information system, developed by the International Labour Organization (ILO). The Secretaría automates data gathered especially by CETENAL (Comisión de Estudios del Territorio Nacional). Petroleos Mexicanos not only automates information generated in its own centers, but also has direct terminals with the data banks of the *New York Times*, the Lockheed Retrieval Services, and the Palo Alto Systems Development Corporation. In cooperation with CONACYT plans are afoot to use these services in other Mexican research centers and universities. The automation, coordination, and development of specialized information networks will continue to receive the necessary financial support especially from the Federal Government.

Nonetheless, the great majority of Mexicans are still without the most elementary library service, with the lack of public, school, and popular libraries throughout the country perhaps due in part to a library service centralized in Mexico City for the benefit of an elite class, inherited from colonial times. The presidential decree of April 9, 1975 appears to reflect this situation. Tucked into the text of this law providing for the creation of a committee to develop Mexican book industries and trade, Article 20 states: "A permanent National Library Plan is hereby established, for the support of libraries and library collections, for the improvement of book acquisition systems, cataloging and use of materials, and to assist in the preparation of personnel for libraries and bookstores. The execution of the National Library Plan is the responsibility of the Committee in cooperation with the Secretaría de

Educación Pública, the State governments, interested cultural and educational organizations and the national book industry."

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