

## ABSTRACTS

## UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES 1985

**WALLESHAUSEN Gyula: Introduction to the thematic issue.** – University libraries are important pillars of librarianship. In addition to serving the university, they are very suitable for contributing to the national information services based upon professional literature; it is less expensive to develop them than to establish new libraries. The majority of university libraries have still not overcome the previous false view that the university is only responsible for teaching, while the function of its library is to support this activity. Considerable steps have been taken to restore the unity of university teaching and research, but the rehabilitation of the library is making little progress – because of the economic troubles occurring. The computerization of university libraries has been spared, which has resulted in a situation awkward in many aspects. The legal status of university libraries within the university is still unsettled. Belonging to the university and at the same time to the national library system is a source of a lot of problems. It is also a trouble that the legal status, pay and the length of holidays, etc. of librarians and of the teaching staff are not the same (unfavourably to the librarians). – The guest editor presents the thematic issue. (pp. 463–466.)

**DÖMÖTÖR Lajosné: The role of university libraries in the national information system based upon professional literature.** – 27 university libraries work in Hungary, which is 3.1% of special libraries, but 23.3% of the professional books and 17% of scientific journals are concentrated in them. Figures are presented in relation with the participation of individual university libraries in the national information system (broken down by size of stock, subscribed periodicals, money spent on acquisition, staff, as well as volume of inter-library requests). The majority of them takes, in addition to their traditional functions, a significant role in the provision of a region or a discipline with scientific literature, often to a greater extent than their potentials, expressible also in figures, would permit. Several university libraries also offer on-line searching facilities or an SDI service on magnetic tapes from the major internationally available data bases. (pp. 467–474.)

**MADER Béla: The university and its library.** – University libraries serve the teaching and education activities of the university, but they also are places for research, as well as they provide information to external specialists and external institutions. Still, the management of the university only considers the library one scene of teaching and education. The status of university libraries within the university is unclear, the relationships between the main library and other libraries belonging to the network are problematic. The forms of the scientific research being made in university libraries are obscure, there is a sharp difference between the pay of university workers and that of library workers. Although the management of the library the management of the university are mostly well connected, university libraries expect a greater role, a greater say and more respect from the universities. (pp. 475–485.)

**FÉNYES Miklós: The providedness of university libraries with literature.** – The author has compared the augmentation of stock, the material and technical equippedness, accommodation and staffing with data from 1974. The holdings of libraries in higher education indicate a downward trend as compared with data relating to special libraries. Although moneys spent on the stock grew continuously between 1974 and 1983, this increase could not counterbalance the increase in book

prices, which led to the decrease in the volume of buying western books and periodicals. Libraries increasingly make use of the possibilities offered by inter-library lending as well as reprography. This latter was, however, hindered by the poor technological facilities in libraries and the outdated equipment. The telephone network is functioning insufficiently, teletype is rare, there are few tape-perforating automatic typewriters, microfilm cameras and readers, computer peripheral devices, etc. The majority of university library buildings need a reconstruction, their basic areas do not meet the standards. It was some improvement to the situation that six new, or remodelled, university library buildings have been completed in recent years. The staffing of university libraries is insufficient, too. (pp. 486-498.)

**NÉMETH Zsófia: Reader services of university libraries and the undergraduate students.** – An important task of reader services in university libraries is to develop the students' skills in using independently the literature. The formation of a user-oriented organization of the university library provides a favourable environment for all this. The system of subject specialists has been working already for two decades in Hungarian university libraries. The regularly held introductory sessions into library use and the teaching of the knowledge of professional literature help a lot in the preparation of university students. In informing university students, the elements of information seeking and giving should be combined. This allows for a more direct and purposeful contact between the user and the librarian. Other favourable factors (such as an ample choice of open-shelf stock, sufficient quantities of lecture notes, a flexible policy of lending or a consultation service beside the catalogues) can all contribute to the effect of user education. (pp. 499-507.)

**HILLER István: University-history collections of university libraries.** – The problem of preserving university-history collections damaged during the war was raised in the late Fifties. Parallel with researches into the history of higher education, collecting the material and written documents related to the functioning of universities as well as the exploration and use of resources also began. A few universities also gained the status of specialized archives in order to preserve internal documents. In the Seventies the requirement of collecting materials related to the history of higher education was expressed for the whole network of higher education institutions. University-history collections were surveyed by questionnaires, including their accommodation, the methods of gathering, indexing and cataloguing the materials. It was found that most academic libraries considered performing this task important. (pp. 508-513.)

**GOMBA Szabolcsné: International relations of university libraries.** – The author deals with two traditional and a new form of inter-library relations (international lending and exchange of publications on the one hand, and on-line contacts on the other). Hungarian university libraries have extensive international relations; exchange relations have declined in recent years, but they still enable a currency-saving policy to be adopted. The volume of inter-library lending has considerably increased, but for the delivery of documents the traditional channels are still used, which lengthens access time very much. The need for introducing on-line contacts is more and more urgent. A few university libraries (the University of Chemical Industries at Veszprém, the Technical University of Miskolc or the University of Debrecen) have already established their contacts to some foreign data bases, but the establishment of contacts to social sciences data bases still remain to be developed. University libraries are expected to need still more co-operation, at the regional, national and international levels. (pp. 514-517.)

**CHOLNOKY Győző: On the troubles and the future of university libraries.** – The directions of developing university libraries should be integrated with a general picture of the future as well as with the expected development trends in higher education. Three critical areas are: problems concerning the growth of holdings (protection and accommodation), the necessity of technological development, and the provision of these libraries with professionally qualified staff. The growth rate of holdings has slowed down because of the capital-intensive acquisition, a slow worsening is taking place in the