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Bibliographic Control and Guides to Historical Sources, Part I - American Law Library Book Catalogs

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BIBLIOGRAPHIC CONTROL AND GUIDES TO HISTORICAL SOURCES

Part I—American Law Library Book Catalogs

By BETTY W. TAYLOR*

Library catalogs take different forms. Card catalogs, as we know them today, are of relatively recent vintage as the history of libraries goes. Up to 1850 catalogs were unknown in card format and subsequent to that time were not used with any consistency until the turn of the century. Thus, book catalogs were the only tool for effective use of the library in the period of developing library collections and often closed stacks.

A study of printed book catalogs aroused little interest in this country until Jim Ranz undertook an examination of this type of library resource as a dissertation topic in 1960. You may recognize his *Printed Book Catalogue in American Libraries: 1723-1900*,¹ as the recommended reading for this topic. This article is based primarily upon his findings; however, law librarians apparently were too specialized for his study and not mentioned. A search of the literature reveals no published study of law library book catalogs. Frederick C. Hicks mentioned them in his article, "Where are the Law Books?"² but indicates that they are too numerous and of insignificant value to bother citing because of the duplication that is bound to occur among collections. A U.S. Bureau of Education Study of Public Libraries included chapters on law libraries and library catalogues; but this study, too, was limited in scope,³ and did not analyze law catalogs. Accompanying this paper, I have attempted to list the law libraries which published book catalogs in the 19th century and the known dates of the publications; however, I make no guarantee as to the completeness of the list nor its accuracy since I had to rely upon other

printed sources and not personal examination of the vast majority of the catalogs cited.

Library book catalogs have existed almost since the advent of printing. The first printed book catalog was published in 1595 for Leyden University. In the 17th century other university library catalogs were published, including several editions of the Bodleian library catalog. Most American book catalogs followed the style set by the Bodleian library, including the separate identification of law books.

In Colonial America and later, a number of different types of libraries sprung into being: college, social, town, rental or circulating, parish, and private. College libraries were the front runners at the time obtaining regular funding through their institutions and continuing in existence through the support of college officials. The desire for access to books was not limited to those in educational institutions. Individuals among the reading public devised ways to pool finances and book collections to expand their reading opportunities. Libraries available to the public under certain restrictions were the only answer to this need.

The earliest known "public" library, formed by Benjamin Franklin in 1731, was known as the Library Company of Philadelphia. It is not surprising, then, that the first law library established in this country would also be founded in Philadelphia with a similar name: Law Library Company of Philadelphia. Lawyers, probably more than any other group, felt a strong need for access to book collections. Being gregarious persons with daily professional contacts, lawyers were particularly sensitive to the value of a common meeting place for exchange of ideas along with the opportunity to examine law books that were too costly for personal acquisition. The nomenclature of "social" identifying this type of library is one that libraries of the present day still retaining the name are trying hard to overcome, dispelling the notion that they are social in the sense of our current understanding of the term.

In creating a "social" library, lawyers would

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1 J. Ranz, *The Printed Book Catalogue in American Libraries: 1723-1900* (1964).

2 Hicks, "Where Are the Law Books?" 22 *Green Bag* 510 (1910).

3 United States. Bureau of Education. *Public Libraries in the United States of America, Their History, Condition and Management* (1876).

subscribe sums for the development of the library and usually would receive stock certificates in exchange as subscribers, making them members of the newly formed library, with exemption from the requirement of paying for the library use or reduction in annual dues. By pooling resources, lawyers were able to acquire larger libraries than on an individual basis as well as to build or acquire space for a meeting place for conversation and social events. While college libraries of this period were primarily dependent upon gifts, the social libraries tended to build collections of carefully selected books based upon need and accountability to the subscribers.

The Law Library Company of the City of Philadelphia was formed in 1802 by a group of 72 lawyers, each purchasing one share of stock at \$20, and paying annual dues of \$2. Three years later, in 1805, William Rawle prepared a book catalog carrying with it the distinction of being the first law library book catalog printed in this country. It listed 249 volumes, the first and largest of its kind of collection in the United States, a reputation unequalled for many years. Six years later in 1811, a second catalog was published. Others were produced in 1828, 1843, 1872.⁴

Information describing books received in a library was generally recorded in chronological form, probably something similar to what we would visualize as an accessions list, in manuscript form, as typewriters were not produced until the 1870's and utilized in libraries much later. These manuscripts were in the private possession of the librarian, never made available to the borrowers, and for all practical purposes would have been of little value to the patron in its chronological format. Therefore, the book catalog was the only means for informing the public of the contents of the library. More important than serving as a reading list for the library's public, the book catalog's paramount purpose lay in advertising the scope and content of the library collection, hoping to attract contributions of money and books for the library. Generally, book catalogs described gift collections and itemized contents of each, memorializing the donor, hoping to prod more gifts by appealing to potential

benefactors for college libraries or, in the case of social libraries, to attract new members.

Just a short time after the Law Library Company of Philadelphia was formed, the Boston Social Law Library commenced operation (1804). Minutes of early meetings of the society describe annual dinner meetings followed by toasts and singing. Although this tradition fell by the wayside, an aura of friendliness still prevails among the library's membership. Initially books were arranged on the shelves in accordance with their size, each assigned a book number which was attached to the book by a label on the spine. Each shelf was numbered to assist in locating books. The librarian was instructed to maintain an alphabetical listing of books for patrons to examine for finding desired titles. The trustees met annually to inventory the book collection to determine the total number and the missing volumes. To meet the imposed requirements, the library published catalogs in 1824, 1849, and 1865. A later attempt to itemize the collection in printed form collapsed upon the discovery of excessive errors in the manuscript copy. Later efforts were diverted toward creation of a card catalog rather than a printed one.⁵

The first law school library to publish a book catalog was Harvard. Founded in 1817, the Harvard Law School allocated funds to purchase law books and at the same time law books in the college library were transferred to the law school. Book donations helped to build its collection for the students and faculty. Based upon the success of the Harvard College Library in soliciting gifts, it was inevitable that the law library undertake publication of its holdings to encourage giving of funds and/or books. As a matter of fact, Harvard holds the distinction of being the first general library to print a book catalog in this country. This reputation originated from a request for copies of its college library catalog to distribute to prospective donors in England. The first Harvard Law Library catalog appeared in 1826 containing 763 titles describing 1,752 volumes. Among the important gifts to the library were 119 volumes presented by the Honorable Christopher Gore. The second catalog was prepared by Charles Sumner in 1834, listing 3,500

⁴ Baxter, "Organization and Administration of Bar Associations," 29 *LLJ* 142, 143 (1936).

⁵ Stebbins, "History of the Social Law Library, Boston," 13 *LLJ* 57-62 (1920).

volumes and enumerating the oldest and rarest works in the library. Seven years later in 1841 a second edition of the catalog appeared for a library now consisting of 6,000 volumes. The fourth edition (1846) counted 12,000 volumes. The next edition was published in 1909 for 111,500 volumes and exemplifies one of the major law library compilations of the present time.⁶

In preparing law library book catalogs, compilers had four options with variations on the theme as examples to follow: (1) alphabetization by author, main entry or title; (2) classed or subject; (3) size; and (4) donor. While it seems rather strange to us today, a number of early catalog classified books only on the basis of size, as for example the 1764 Library Company of Philadelphia catalog of "thirty pages of arbitrarily listed folio titles, sixteen pages of quarto titles, seventy-plus pages of octavo titles, . . . twenty-five pages of duodecimo and smaller titles!"⁷ Remnants of the emphasis upon size were visible in most law library catalogs which continued to list centimeters as the first basic element in the imprint description of books.⁸

Since there was no great proliferation of book catalogs, standardization of format was no primary consideration, although many compilers followed the Bodleian example. Mostly within these different arrangements, books were alphabetized by author or title. Authors were cited by surname in the possessive, sometimes using initials or forenames. Books without authors were entered under "principal or most distinctive word of the title."⁹ Frequently the lengthy titles appearing on the title page were disregarded and abbreviated for convenience. Consultation of law book catalogs quickly emphasizes the critical omissions of key words at the beginning of the titles; i.e.; "A Collection of . . .," "A Treatise on the law of . . .," "A Handbook of . . ."

Imprint information as a general rule included, besides the size of the book, the place and date of publication but rarely identified the publisher. Collation was normally limited

to volume numbers and often omitted pages. Notes usually related to donors, not to a description of the book.

From 1805 to 1856 only three law libraries were printing catalogs and supplements describing their holdings.¹⁰ This may have been due, in part, to the cost involved. Usually, the financing came from the library, and any loss on sales or gifts of the catalogs drained the book funds. Book catalogs rapidly go out of date and frequent sizeable gifts required regular up-dating. Only Harvard could afford the consistent printing schedule necessary to maintain reasonable currency in its published book catalogs; and, in addition, this school was under unique pressure to publish the contents of its treasured, expanding collection. Perhaps, too, Harvard was among the few libraries reaping any substantial benefits from a published book catalog.

In 1840 the Library Company of the Baltimore Bar was proposed for membership use by local barristers. Law students served as librarians until they entered practice; therefore, the library had little consistency in operation. A catalog of the collection was printed in 1860.¹¹

The popularity of bar and law library associations across the country was evident in the next few years as libraries were formed to meet lawyers' needs. Some published one or more book catalogs; others did not. Several were subjected to the calamity of fire but rebuilt their libraries to equal or better quality. Most are still in existence today and in the care of our good friends in AALL.

One of the best known bar associations to produce a book catalog is the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. Incorporated in 1869 the library expanded rapidly through membership dues, fund subscriptions, and donations.

William J. C. Berry, at age 22, was appointed the first librarian in 1870. As a unique fringe benefit of the job, he was furnished an apartment in the association's headquarters so that he could attend to the building's maintenance in addition to the book collection.¹² In the first 2 years, 6,000 volumes were acquired for the

⁶ Harvard University. Law School. Library. *Catalogue of the Library of the Law School of Harvard University* (1909).

⁷ *Supra*, note 1, at 11.

⁸ *Supra*, note 6.

⁹ *Supra*, note 1, at 12.

¹⁰ See appendix, p. 355.

¹¹ *Supra*, note 4, at 145.

¹² G. Martin, *Causes and Conflicts: The Centennial History of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York 1870-1970*, at 320 (1970).

library, with nearly one-third of these donated to the library. Gifts have played a substantial role every year in the major library acquisitions, and the association membership indulges library acquisition almost without question. From the beginning financial resources have been at the disposal of the librarian enabling the assemblage of a library collection that ranked seventh in size in 1968 with a count of 345,448 volumes.¹³

William Berry served as librarian for 26 years. He was a man who loved books and people who loved books; therefore with pride in the library and the quality of its contents he set out, quite naturally, to prepare a descriptive book catalog. Requiring 8 years to complete single-handedly, the *Catalogue*¹⁴ identifies nearly 40,000 volumes owned in 1892. Its format is similar to the 1909 Harvard Catalog which followed. Authors, titles, editors, reporters, etc. are arranged in alphabetical order. Each entry contains the standard citation of author, title, size, place of publication and date. Collation is in volumes only, no pagination is given. The alphabetization is accompanied by a subject index with an alphabetical author listing, place of publication, and date line entry under each subject. The *Catalogue* enjoyed a wide distribution and brought the library considerable fame.

The librarian, in 1929, wrote these comments:

This catalogue still remains a standard American legal bibliography for the period covered, superseded in value only in part by later catalogues issued by other libraries. The Library Committee continues to receive urgent requests for copies from libraries needing it in building up their collections, a fact which points to the thoroughness and discrimination with which the early Committees assembled our valuable collections.¹⁵

The association library contained several noteworthy collections among which were American case law and trials, official documents, law publications from other States, real estate, atlases, and maps, and foreign law.

The foreign law collection, documented in the *Catalogue*, is one that was developed under consultants whose specialties were exploited to round out a useful, working library for the major nations of the world. For most countries, the library has the chief court reports, statutes or session laws, codes, many treatises, and periodicals.¹⁶

The association's library committee has defined the library's acquisitions objectives in acquisitions guidelines published in March 1976, to inform the membership of its continued efforts to maintain its status among the great law libraries in the country "in the face of increasingly burdensome costs."¹⁷

Coincidentally with the development of college and local libraries, official libraries were established at the State level primarily for the use of legislators, State officers, the court, and the bar. By 1872 all State libraries were in full operation and proliferated catalogues of their holdings.¹⁸ The clientele they served determined their content; thus, it is not surprising to note that State libraries were primarily law libraries at the outset. Many State libraries acquired law collections far superior to their college and local counterparts and some were said to be more complete. The fact that they were supported financially by the State taxpayers probably accounts for the excellent collection development and availability of published book catalogs.

The general purpose of these libraries was to: "obtain a collection of such books as may directly assist the legislature, State officers, and the courts to an intelligent discharge of their public trusts. They should be sufficiently full to enable the bench and the bar to verify all the authorities cited in the reports and treatises, and furnish the means of tracing the progress of jurisprudence. In short, they should be as complete as it is possible to make them."¹⁹ To implement this philosophy most libraries devoted from one quarter to one half of all funds to law materials which, joined with

¹³ *Id.* at 319.

¹⁴ Association of the Bar of the City of New York Library. *Catalog of the Library of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York* (1892).

¹⁵ *Supra*, note 4, at 149.

¹⁶ Association of the Bar of the City of New York. Library Committee. *Handbook of the Library* (1921).

¹⁷ "The Library: Acquisition Guidelines," 31 *Record of N.Y.C.B.A.* 202 (1976).

¹⁸ See appendix p. 356.

¹⁹ *Supra*, note 3, at 164.

exchange materials, formed libraries of more than half law books even as late as 1876.²⁰

Early in the game exchange agreements aided in collection building, providing access to other States' reports, session laws, and official documents. By 1876 agreements among States had been perfected and functioned well. The collections of some of the State libraries, particularly in the northeast, rank among the finest law library collections in the country today in terms of original State documents.²¹

Pennsylvania and New York represent two of the finest State library collections owning a nucleus of law materials and describing their holdings in printed form. Pennsylvania traces its origin back to 1777, but the formal establishment of the library took place in 1816.²² In the beginning the library concentrated upon the acquisition of books in the law and government fields and the library was the resource for State officials. The size of the collection in 1816 is unknown; however, a librarian was appointed to oversee the consolidated library and its development. The first catalog of the library was published in 1829 for 4,838 volumes, the second in 1839 for 11,577 volumes, the third in 1859 for 21,923 volumes, the fourth in 1873 for approximately 28,000 volumes, the fifth in 1878 for 34,000 volumes, and the sixth in 1899 containing the law books in a library of 105,159 volumes. Efforts after this date were directed toward the establishment and maintenance of the card catalog with issuance of some special publications rather than an entire book catalog.

The 1859 *Catalogue* was divided into two parts: Part One—Law; and Part Two—Miscellaneous Books. The books were arranged alphabetically by author, and for anonymous works under key word or popular title. Titles were given in full, if at all possible, and contents notes added when the title insufficiently described the book. A note at the beginning of the *Catalogue* indicated all books were octavo size unless otherwise stated. All works were classified under general subject headings so that anyone could "ascertain what books it con-

tains on a particular subject."²³ Maps, charts and prints were found at the end of Part Two. The maps belonged to the Surveyor General's Department.

In the next 14 years the library added 10,000 volumes so another *Catalogue* was timely in 1873.²⁴ The new one followed the general format of the earlier ones with the exception that miscellaneous books were featured by both titles and subjects. The next *Catalogue* was published in 1878 for 34,000 volumes.²⁵ This *Catalogue* was arranged in dictionary style: Alphabetical by author, title, and subject.

In 1899 the law library book catalog was published.²⁶ Since the law collection increased considerably over the 20 year interim, the Legislature desired a *Catalogue* of its contents and authorized the publication for that portion of the State Library's collection which then numbered 105,159 volumes. One of the primary purposes for producing this *Catalogue* was to provide the legal population with a printed index to the paper books of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. These briefs and records were bound and labeled by volume numbers assigned by the library; therefore an index was essential for access to the records. The card catalog served the purpose for those in the library, but for citation referrals for those away from the premises an authoritative source was essential. This collection is still cited as one of the most unique of its kind.

The library is rich in historical legal materials that have been accumulated over the years for Pennsylvania, Federal, and English law. Combined with its document collection, the Pennsylvania State Library law collection ranks among the leading law libraries in the country.²⁷

New York established a State library in 1818, "declaring that its object was to found 'a public library for the use of the government and

²³ Pennsylvania State Library, *Catalogue of the Pennsylvania State Library* (1859).

²⁴ Pennsylvania State Library, *Catalogue of the Pennsylvania State Library* (1873).

²⁵ Pennsylvania State Library, *Catalogue of the Pennsylvania State Library, January 1, 1878* (1878).

²⁶ Pennsylvania State Library, *Catalogue of the Law Books of the Pennsylvania State Library* (1899).

²⁷ Pennsylvania. Dept. of Public Instruction. *The State Library: Its Divisions and Services* 13-17 (1954).

²⁰ *Id.* at 296.

²¹ See table in U.S. Bureau of Education, *Study*, p. 309 in which every State library describes its collection first as law, then some other miscellaneous books.

²² *Supra*, note 3, at 292-93.

the people of the State.'"²⁸ "It was among the first libraries of its type to be established in the United States, and the first reference library in New York State."²⁹

Half of the books initially purchased for the library consisted of law books. Upon publication of the first catalog in 1820, the library collection numbered 756 volumes. A second catalog was published in 1839 in two parts for 6,700 volumes. The *Catalogue of Law Books* was arranged both alphabetically and by subject. The third catalog appeared in 1844 for a library of 9,912 volumes of which 4,760 volumes were law books. Defects in this catalog were so numerous that an immediate revision was ordered with a proviso that new editions be published every 5 years. 1846 marked the arrival of the corrected catalog, with 2 parts again, for law and miscellaneous, listing 14,233 volumes. Each title was entered twice, once under author and once under subject. Catalogs were published with regularity over the next 40 years.

The goal in book collecting was to perfect the law collection and this aim was preserved even as the miscellaneous collection surpassed the law collection in numbers. The State depository law exchange agreements, and extensive gifts played substantial roles in assuring the prominence of the law collection.

By 1889 the catalog numbered 42,379 volumes. In 1894 a supplement to the 1889 catalog brought the law library up to 55,000 volumes. In 1904 the number reported reached 73,700 volumes. Melville Dewey, then librarian, reported to the trustees that the law library "is considered the best general law library in the country . . . and is one of the largest common and statute law collections in the world."³⁰ In 1911 the entire law collection was destroyed by fire, but since that time has been virtually rebuilt to its former quality.

The New York State Library has authored many publications listing accessions, bibliographies, indices, and the like but has not duplicated its book catalog efforts. Some work involving a *Checklist in the Social Sciences*, with punched cards and abbreviated information on one-line as in a telephone directory format, was

the subject of experimentation in 1956; however, law was not a participant in this project.

The New York State Library is currently a member of OCLC and once more the bibliographic description of its extensive law library collection will become available to all.

In 150 years of library book catalog printing, four catalogs stand out exemplifying the finest concepts of design for effective use of library materials.

The four major library catalogs analyzed today represent entirely different concepts in catalog production:

1. Pure author alphabetization with abbreviated titles, size as the first notation in the imprint, no publishers, and some analytics and cross references;
2. classed arrangement and alphabetical by author within;
3. dictionary catalog of authors, titles, and subjects;
4. author catalog combining two libraries' holdings with emphasis upon technical content.

The *Catalogue of the Library of the Law School of Harvard University*,³¹ published in 1909 in two volumes, is the oldest catalog among the four. The library numbered 119,000 volumes at publication date but only American and English common law books were included. Projections for publication contemplated a third volume of subject index but it never came into fruition. Volume 1 contained authors from A to L and the second volume from M to Z in addition to an appended bibliography of the collection of trials and peerage claims. Another volume of foreign or continental law was begun but not completed for publication at that time.

The compiler stated that the collection was rich in old and rare works, containing many editions of the most famous legal treatises, but enumeration of editions other than Coke's First Institute and Blackstone's Commentaries must be omitted. Therefore, most standard legal treatises were listed in only one or two editions, not every one published and owned. The library contained several complete collections which were described in their entirety in the *Catalogue: Local Personal Acts of Great*

²⁸ *Supra*, note 3, at 293.

²⁹ H. Vloebergh, *A History of the New York State Library from 1815 to 1905* vi (1955).

³⁰ *Id.* at 55.

³¹ *Supra* note 6.

Britain from 1817 to 1906 and the Private Acts, 1831 to 1906; as well as several other great collections of civil and criminal trials: Old Bailey Sessions Papers, Central Criminal Court Reports, 1729 to date, early printed yearbooks of reports and the peerage claims. Several major gifts were singled out in the preface.³²

The arrangement was alphabetical by author interspersed with additional entries under editors, compilers, or corporate names and/or cross references. Acceptable practice at the time permitted abbreviation of book titles which tended to hamper bibliographical verification. For instance, Austin Abbott's book on Evidence is listed in the Harvard Catalogue as *Rules of Evidence*, but the official L. C. entry used by other library catalogs incorporates into the title: *Trial Evidence, Rules of Evidence. . . .* When all other words in the title, pagination, and dates of publication agree, it must be assumed that titles are identical. Sometimes, similar titles are not so easily recognized when a good deal of the title is omitted, as for instance, "A Brief for the Argument of," etc.

One of the chief values of this *Catalogue*, other than as an index to this rich collection of Anglo-American legal materials, is the excellent official State documents sections for each State. These provide a source and verification for the existence of historical documents. Also valuable is the checklist of publications of associations and societies listed. I have used this *Catalogue* on a number of occasions for cites to publications dated prior to 1900.

The practice of publishing library book catalogs fell into disuse during the first half of the 20th century. Card catalogs became public catalogs, providing the vehicle for constant revision and update, with maintenance cheaper than printed book catalogs and their supplementation. Subjects and added entries could be included at little extra cost; whereas, in printed book form, these added entries shot up the cost of publication double or triple in accordance with the increase in volume. Card catalogs readily adapted to the variety of patron requests as to authors, titles, subjects, and form that were not so easily handled nor economical in book form. No longer was arrangement of primary concern.

After a period of 44 years without the publi-

cation of a major law library catalog, Julius Marke compiled and edited *A Catalogue of the Law Collection at New York University with Selected Annotations*, in 1953.³³ The purpose of producing a classified, annotated catalog was "to entice and escort the students, alumni and faculty of the school of law into the 'sacred cities, palaces and temples' to be found in the books of the law collection at New York University and to unlock the treasures hidden there."³⁴

The New York University Library was about the same size as the Harvard Law Library in 1909, but the contents of the two libraries were considerably different. The NYU *Catalogue* reflects more current acquisitions and the classed arrangement with annotations offers an entirely different approach to the collection. This catalogue, too, excludes foreign law with the expressed intent of issuing a separate bibliography for that collection.

Not all editions of works were identified, only the latest one. Since the purpose of the *Catalogue* was to offer a guide to the working collection, a complete bibliographical description of the works was not its aim. Thus, the entries include the place and date of publication, but no publisher. Pagination or number of volumes is listed. Titles are often abbreviated.

Annotations are the unique aspect of this *Catalogue*. These have been gathered from many sources. Law reviews comprise the vast majority of references for the annotations along with prefaces to books and other basic works. A "Key to the Abbreviations Cited" is listed in the front of the *Catalogue*.

The *Catalogue* is divided into 11 major sections: Sources of the Law, History of Law and Its Institutions, Public and Private Law, Comparative Law, Jurisprudence and Philosophy of Law, Political and Economic Theory, Biography (containing 8,000 volumes), Law and Literature, Periodicals and Other Serial Publications, and Reference Material. Most are subdivided, i.e., Public and Private Law has 124 subsections, most of which again are subdivided.

³³ New York University. Law Center. *A Catalogue of the Law Collection at New York University with Selected Annotations* (1953).

³⁴ *Id.* at xiii.

³² *Id.* at Preface.

In a classed arrangement an author index is essential. A very fine author index forms easy access to the *Catalogue* proper.

At the University of Florida, we have checked our holdings against this *Catalogue* and use it as a source for guidance in acquisitions and analysis of our collection. Formerly, we identified books in this *Catalogue* that we could find in no other source.

In 1969, 16 years later, Columbia University reproduced its monumental card catalog consisting of over 700,000 cards for a collection of about 470,000 volumes. *The Dictionary Catalog of the Columbia University Law Library*,³⁵ in 28 volumes and 7 supplementary volumes, is what its title implies: an alphabetical listing of authors, titles, subjects, and added entries for its collection which originated in 1859, and became a separate entity in 1910. This catalog is the most meritorious production undertaken in the history of law library book catalog publication.

Generally, Library of Congress entries are used as authority for main entries but some are altered; however, substantial modification of the Library of Congress subject headings resulted in a separate system of Columbia Subject Headings for Law Libraries, diluting the value of past entries in this day of standardization. Another drawback of this catalogue as a librarian's working tool, probably forced by the economic necessity for conserving space, is the overlapping of the catalog cards obscuring the tracings on the lower half of the cards, including subject headings, and L.C. classification and card numbers.

In spite of these handicaps for catalogers, this *Catalog* serves as an excellent bibliographic tool for American and English law. It is the first one in some time to list foreign law, which is exceptionally fortunate as Columbia has substantial holdings in foreign law particularly Roman and medieval law, African law, Russian law, and law of European countries. Published by G. K. Hall, this *Catalog* in printed form affords all libraries the unique opportunity of owning a copy of the card catalog of one of the foremost law libraries in the country.

A year later, 1970, Mortimer Schwartz and

Dan Henke published their *Combined Catalog, Anglo-American Law Collections, University of California Law Libraries, Berkeley and Davis with Library of Congress Class K Added*,³⁶ printed by Fred Rothman in 10 volumes. This is the first library book catalog combining holdings of two libraries to serve as a bibliographic tool of Anglo-American law as well as a working tool for law librarians.

Prompted by the birth of the Library of Congress Class K schedule for law library materials and the announced intent to build a library collection at Davis similar to the quality of that at Berkeley, at that time 250,000 volumes in strength, the two libraries collaborated to produce a single library book catalog containing all the titles from both law libraries with the additional cards furnished by the Library of Congress retrospective cataloging for books. L.C. classification numbers are lettered upon every card for the convenience of the librarian-users of the catalog.

Again this *Catalog* covers only those titles which would appropriately fall into the KF schedule with some additional titles in JX and K. The *Catalog* shows some evidence of the philosophy of forcing titles with assigned L.C. numbers outside of the K fields into the K classification scheme. Books in foreign languages about Anglo-American law are included, but books on foreign law regardless of language are not included. Arranged in a strict alphabetical order by main entry, this *Catalog* serves as a valuable bibliographical as well as library tool.

With the exception of the library catalogs noted, publication of book catalogs in this century has generally been nonexistent because of costs, necessity for frequent updates, and also probably due to mobility of researchers and ease of communications, tending to negate the requirement for published book catalogs. However, modern technology again presents the means for producing catalogs of holdings inexpensively and frequently.

Moreover, many of the problems incurred by librarians of yesteryear in establishing policy and procedure for constructing book catalogs

³⁵ Columbia University, New York. *Dictionary Catalog of the Columbia University Law Library* (1969).

³⁶ M. Schwartz & D. Henke, *Combined Catalog Anglo-American Law Collections: University of California Law Libraries, Berkeley and Davis with Library of Congress Class K Added* (1970).

are again being confronted by those attempting to develop computer printed book catalogs or computer output on microfiche catalogs. Questions of multiplication of entries increasing the size of the production, how to enter information other than by main entry (by key words in the title, or strictly in alphabetical order by the first word in the title) what subject classification to use, and how to indicate the physical arrangement of the books in the collection are but a few of the current considerations faced also in the last century by those undertaking the preparation of a public holdings list.

One of the benefits to be derived from delving into history is to study practices and procedures of those who have gone before us and determine which ones worked well and which ones failed so that we can apply these techniques to present day practices. I am struck by the similarity of questions that must have faced Charles Sumner, for example, in 1834, when he compiled the *Harvard Law Library Catalogue*, with the problems we are facing today in automating library catalogues for output in a form convenient to our users and other libraries who may desire a listing of our library collections. We would do well to study commentaries on library book catalogs published in the 19th century, heed their advice, avoid their mistakes, and measure the value of their output before plunging headlong and blindly into the new technology.

C. A. Cutter, librarian of the Boston Athenaeum, author of one chapter in the U.S. Bureau of Education study on Public Libraries in 1876 wrote:

The ideal catalogue would give under every subject its complete bibliography, not only mentioning all the monographs on that subject, but all works which in any way illustrate it, including all parts of books, magazine articles, and the best encyclopaedias that treat of it; in short, the catalogue would lay out just that course of reading which a man who thoroughly studied the subject, with a view not only to learn it, but to master the history of its treatment by others, would be obliged to pass through. This can rarely be done, because it is beyond the ability of librarians and the means of libraries. . .³⁷

Here we are today, 100 years later, talking about library book catalogs and still have not achieved this goal set out by Librarian Cutter; and furthermore, we spend hours talking about feasibility, utility, and costs in producing the ideal catalog and have not yet figured out a way to accomplish this millennium in library catalogs.

There is a glimmer of hope, though, in this Bicentennial year, as a group of law librarians representing the major law libraries in the country has begun to tackle the perimeter of these problems and come up with some suggestions and solutions toward the bibliographical union of law library resources in the United States. Perhaps one day we shall be able to say that we law librarians accepted Cutter's challenge, we met it, and we conquered it, proving once and for all that law librarians are capable of doing the impossible!

APPENDIX

AMERICAN LAW LIBRARIES AND STATE LIBRARIES
WHICH PUBLISHED BOOK CATALOGS IN THE
19TH CENTURY

<i>Law Libraries</i>	<i>Date of Catalog</i>	<i>Number of Volumes</i>
Law Library Company of Philadelphia	1805	
Law Library Company of Philadelphia	1811	
Boston, Social Law Library	1824	1,473
Harvard University, Law School Library	1826	1,752
Law Library Company of Philadelphia	1828	
Harvard University, Law School, Library (Supplement)	1833	
Harvard University, Law School, Library	1834	3,500
Harvard University, Law School, Library (Supplement)	1835	
Harvard University, Law School, Library (2d ed.)	1841	6,000
New York Law Institute	1842, 1843	
Philadelphia Law Association	1843	3,000
Harvard University, Law School, Library	1846	12,000
Boston, Social Law Library	1849	4,077
Philadelphia Law Association Library Company of the Baltimore Bar	1860	
Library of Congress, Law Department	1860	15,939
Norfolk Law Library, Va.	1863	

³⁷ *Supra*, note 3, at 549.

Worcester County Law Library, Mass.	1864		New York State Library. Law Library.	1849	
Boston, Social Law Library (3d ed.) (the last one)	1865	8,269	Virginia State Library	1849	
Law Library Association of St. Louis	1870		New York State Library	1850	23,274
Leavenworth Law Library, Kansas	1870		Vermont State Library	1850	
Law Library Company of Philadelphia	1872		Wisconsin State Library	1850	
New York Law Institute	1874		New York State Law Library	1855	13,623
Chicago Law Institute	1881		Tennessee State Library	1855	
Law Library Association of St. Louis	1881		New York State Law Library	1856	
Louisiana State Bar Association Library, New Orleans	1881		Massachusetts State Library	1858	12,000
Memphis Bar and Law Library Association	1882		Wisconsin State Library	1858	
Chicago Law Institute	1885		Georgia State Library	1859	
Chicago Law Institute	1887		Pennsylvania State Library	1859	
San Francisco Law Library	1888		California State Library	1860	
Association of the Bar of the City of New York	1892	40,000	Maine State Library	1862	
Chicago Law Institute	1892		New York State Library. Law Library.	1865	
Law Library Association of St. Louis	1895		Maine State Library	1867	
			Ohio State Library	1867	
<i>State Libraries</i>			Michigan State Library	1868	
New York State Library	1820	758	Oregon State Library	1868	
Massachusetts General Court Library (State)	1831	2,102	Georgia State Library	1869	
Maryland State Library	1837		Indiana State Library	1869	
New Jersey State Library	1838		California State Library	1870	
Maine State Library	1839		New York State Library	1870	
Massachusetts General Court Library	1839		Louisiana State Library	1871	
Mississippi State Library	1839		Missouri State Library	1871	
Pennsylvania State Library	1839		Nebraska State Library	1871	
Virginia State Library	1839		Tennessee State Library	1871	18,500
New York State Library	1839	6,700	Indiana State Library	1872	
Indiana State Library	1841		Iowa State Library	1872	
Mississippi State Library	1841		Kentucky State Library	1872	
Maine State Library	1843		Mississippi State Library	1872	
New York State Library	1844	9,912	Vermont State Library	1872	
Iowa State Library	1845		Wisconsin State Library	1872	
Mississippi State Library	1845		Kansas State Library	1873	
Maine State Library	1846	5,764	Michigan State Library	1873	
Massachusetts General Court Library (State)	1846		North Carolina Law Library	1873	
New Hampshire State Library	1846		Pennsylvania State Library	1873	30,000
New York State Library	1846	14,233	Maryland State Library	1874	
Mississippi State Library	1847		Minnesota State Library	1874	
New York State Library	1847	20,000	Nevada State Library	1874	
Illinois State Library	1848		Michigan State Library	1875	
Mississippi State Library	1849		Massachusetts State Library	1880	
			New York State Library. Law Library.	1883	24,000
			California State Library	1886	
			Iowa State Library	1889	
			New York State Library	1889	42,379
			Illinois State Library	1894	
			New York State Library. Law Library. (1883-1893)	1894	12,600
			Pennsylvania State Library	1829	4,838
				1839	11,577
				1859	21,923
				1878	34,000
				1899	105,159