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Topics of interest in the SLA sessions were "The Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography at the Newberry Library: progress and prospects", "Nature and value of cartographic records in archives", and "Map microfilming feasibility study".

Past conferences have contained many interesting topics including map librarianship, and proceedings are available from the National Map Collection. Two other publications of the National Map Collection of general interest are *List of Gazetteers in the Foreign Section*, and *List of Map Series in the Foreign Section (including their locations in other map collections)*. Both are free. Other activities of the ACML include working towards a National Union Catalogue of Maps, and are discussed in the Association's Newsletter.

THE NORTHERN LIBRARIES COLLOQUY:

A BRIEF HISTORY*

Geraldine A. Cooke

The Northern Libraries Colloquies are the result of a casual conversation between two librarians some five to six years ago. Garth Graham in charge of a library giving services to the Yukon, and Nora Corley Murchison, then in charge of a library giving services to researchers and others interested in northern regions, but from a library *not* located in a northern region, (namely, the Arctic Institute of North America in Montreal) thought it would be a good idea for librarians whose libraries were oriented towards northern regions to get together to exchange ideas and information about each others' collections and needs.

Shortly after, Garth Graham visited Professor J. J. Bond, then Director of the Boreal Institute for Northern Studies in Edmonton. Professor Bond agreed that such a meeting would be beneficial and offered the Boreal Institute as the conference site. Thus the first Colloquy on Northern Library Resources was held in Edmonton at the University of Alberta in June, 1971. It was jointly sponsored by the Boreal Institute for Northern Studies and the Arctic Institute of North America. From the outset it was agreed that these meetings would be invitational and limited to those librarians whose collections were either physically in the circumpolar north or whose libraries served as a major resource for researchers and others interested in the north. The idea was that numbers should be limited so as to allow the greatest possible informal exchange between participants.

The first colloquy was exploratory, — was it a good idea? would these librarians have anything in common to discuss? — and was planned by a committee under the chairmanship of Mr. R. S. Jamieson, Assistant Director of the Boreal Institute for Northern Studies. The committee included representatives from both sponsoring Institutes, the Librarian of the University of Alberta, B. Peel, and a representative from the School of Library Science, H. Newsom. Invitations were sent to representative librarians enclosing a questionnaire to be completed regarding their library's

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resources. The questionnaires returned now form the basis of a Northern Libraries Directory. The responses indicated that the idea was viable and twenty-five librarians were able to attend. All the delegates were from North America with one notable exception; Harry King, librarian of the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge, England. As the two days of sessions were very fruitful, it was decided to continue the meetings and to begin a newsletter. Phyllis Nottingham, of the Alaska State Library in Juneau, volunteered to be responsible for the newsletter and has remained as editor and coordinator ever since.

The second meeting was held the following June at the CRREL (U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory) facility in Hanover, New Hampshire. Again, the only non-North American participant was Harry King from England. However the third meeting (June, 1973) saw more European involvement as it was held at the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge, England. Participants from Norway, Finland, Denmark, England, Germany and France attended as well as those from Canada, Alaska and mainland United States. The fourth meeting held last June was at the Arctic Institute of North America in Montreal. The fifth is already being planned for late May 1975 in Rovaniemi, Finland, where, for the first time, the site will actually be in the region of mutual interest. At this meeting, it is hoped to gain more Scandinavian and some Russian involvement as there are important northern library collections in these regions.

Each meeting is hosted by a library with significant northern resources; one of the aims is to acquaint the librarians with the resources of the host Institute and the surrounding area. Thus the colloquy at CRREL in Hanover included a visit to the Stefansson Collection at Dartmouth College, in England the participants were made aware of the facilities of the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich and other British library resources, and the latest meeting in Montreal included a visit to Ottawa.

Though initially the official title for the colloquies was *Colloquy on Northern Library Resources*, it was soon evident that *Northern Libraries Colloquy* was the remembered title. Thus, with the third meeting, the official title has become *Northern Libraries Colloquy*. Proceedings have been published from all but the first meeting, and are the responsibility of the host Institute. A list of those to date is shown at the end of the article. The term "colloquy" was chosen over "seminar", "symposium", "conference", etc., in that its definition — a conversational exchange; dialogue — most aptly described the purpose of the meetings.

The scope and interest in the colloquies has grown steadily, and several projects have already resulted. As mentioned above, a newsletter — *Northern Libraries Bulletin* — is circulated by the Alaska State Library and owes its success to the foresight and work of Phyllis Nottingham. A state-of-the-art review of northern bibliographies, published and unpublished, is being undertaken by a committee of representative librarians from each country. An inventory of archival material with a view to compiling a directory is being coordinated by Alan Cooke, Curator of Manuscripts at the Scott Polar Research Institute, and a directory of northern library resources is being

compiled by Nora Corley Murchison using the questionnaire circulated for the first meeting as a basis.

From the outset, there has tended to be a dichotomy between those whose libraries are physically in the north and who are giving library service on the spot, *vis à vis* those whose libraries are physically in the more southerly latitudes but whose collections are oriented to the north. (And then there are those who urge everyone to think "polar" since many collections also have material on the Antarctic!) The "southern" libraries tend to be exclusively research-oriented, whereas those in the north are of all types. Many of the topics that come up for discussion, (e.g. bibliographies, directories) reflect this research bias. No doubt next year's meeting and the succeeding one scheduled for Fairbanks, Alaska, will help achieve a more equitable balance. The Boreal Institute for Northern Studies as one of the "southern" libraries, keep abreast of what other resources exist so that the Institute can fulfil one function for which it was established; that is, to serve as an information centre for the north. With the current intense interest in the north, particularly with oil exploration in the Western Canada Arctic and the proposed pipelines, the contacts made and the knowledge gained at the colloquies is invaluable.

Proceedings from the Northern Libraries Colloquy.

- 1st. No proceedings were published. Notes taken at the sessions were mimeographed and circulated to the participants only.
- 2nd. 2nd Colloquy on northern library resources: Hanover, New Hampshire, 31 May - 2 June 1972. Hanover, New Hampshire, Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, [1973.]
- 3rd. King, H.G.R., ed. *3rd Northern Libraries Colloquy*. Cambridge, England, 25-29 June 1973. Cambridge, Scott Polar Research Institute, [1974.]
- 4th. In press. Arctic Institute of North America, Montreal.