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CONDUCTED BY
W. BOYD RAYWARD
AT
HARROGATE, ENGLAND
ON
27 JUNE 2000
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MAURICE B. LINE

1928 Born in Bedford, England, on 23 June

Education

1950 B.A., Oxford University
1954 M.A., Oxford University

Professional Experience

1950-1951 Trainee, Bodleian Library, Oxford University
1951-1953 Library Assistant, University of Glasgow
1954-1965 Sub-Librarian, University of Southampton, Southampton, England
1965-1968 Deputy Librarian, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, Newcastle upon Tyne, England
1968-1971 Librarian, University of Bath, Bath, England

British Library
1974-1985 Director General, Lending Division, Wetherby, England

1977-present Professor Associate, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, England
1988-2001 Independent consultant

Honors

1980 D.Litt. from Heriot-Watt University
1985 Honorary Fellow, Library Association
1988 D.Sc., Southampton University
1988 Fellow of Birmingham Polytechnic
1989 IFLA medal
1988 Companion, Chartered Management Institute
1990 President, Library Association
ABSTRACT

Maurice B. Line’s interview begins with a discussion of his education and early career. After high school, Line received a scholarship to attend Oxford University and major in Classics. He began his long career in library institutions at the Bodleian Library as a library trainee. He then moved on to the University of Glasgow as an assistant librarian. While there, he was one of the first to conduct library system studies regarding student’s attitudes towards the library. Line brought his interest in library systems to Southampton University where Beres Bland, the head librarian at Southampton, gave Line the freedom to develop his abilities and focus his ideas about information science. As deputy librarian at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, Line helped create the first automated acquisition system in Britain. When he became a librarian at Bath University, he directed the study of social scientists’ information requirements, named INFROSS, and a further study on the designs of information systems, named DISISS. In 1985, Line became the director general of Science Technology and Industry at the British Library. Line discusses the constraints of working in the public sector, and his desire to create easy access to library collections internationally. In conclusion, he describes the potential obstacles to the international library system in the future, and the importance of technology in making libraries more accessible to users.

INTERVIEWER

W. Boyd Rayward is a research professor in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. He turned to librarianship after graduating in English literature from the University of Sydney. He received his Ph.D. from the Graduate Library School at the University of Chicago in 1973. He has held positions in the University of Chicago (where he became Dean of the Graduate Library School). He served as Professor and Head of the School of Information Library and Archive Studies and Dean of the University’s Faculty of Professional Studies at the University of New South Wales in Sydney where he is now professor emeritus. He has published two books related to Paul Otlet, Belgian documentalist and internationalist, and a great many articles on history of national and international schemes for the organization and dissemination of information.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 Early Education and Career
   Winning a scholarship in Classics to Oxford University. Dealing with a speech impediment. As sub-librarian at Southampton University. Conducting library system studies. As librarian at Bath University. Establishing UKLON. Conducting the INFROSS studies. The DISISS studies. Discussion of gaps in journal coverage.

5 Leaving Bath University
   Working at the Boston Spa while at Bath University. Watching people’s careers develop. Donald J. Urquhart’s personality. Urquhart’s influence on the Boston Spa. The “online revolution.” UK MEDLARS. Establishing the NLST. Competition between libraries. The value of online systems.

14 Working at the British Library

21 Libraries and their Future

26 Modern Library Systems

31 Notes

33 Index
NOTES


INDEX

A
Adonis project. See Reed Elsevier Group plc
American Psychological Association, 6
Anderson, Alexander [Alec], 2, 23
Anglo-Saxon [language], 1
Arms, William Y. [Bill], 5, 16
as operational researcher in DISISS, 5
Aslib, 4, 19, 20
Aslib Proceedings, 4
Automated library systems, 3, 24
introduction of, 2

B
Barr, Keith, 7
Bath University, 3, 6-7, 16
automation of catalog at, 3
Centre for Bibliographic Management, 3
Centre for Catalogue Research, 3
Public Library, 7
Bedford School, 1
Birmingham University, 2
“Black immigrants”, 24
Bland, Beres M., 2, 14
management style of, 2
Blyton, Enid, 19-20
Boston Spa, 3, 6-12, 14, 16, 18
cost recovery at, 10
culture at, 16
decision to serve individuals, 10
delegation of responsibility at, 9
document supply operations of, 10
eyear automation at, 9
Brindley, Lynne, 10
Britain
social services, 24
British Library [BL], 3, 7-8, 10, 12, 14-15, 18, 20, 26, 30
creation of, 16
committee for automation at, 16
digitization at, 11
Document Supply Centre, 12
lending division, 14
Office of International Lending, 18
British Museum, 20
British National Bibliography [BNB], 12
  serving users versus improving the system, 13
Brittain, J. Michael, 6-7
Bryant, Philip, 3, 7

C
Campbell, Sir Colin, 25
  morale issues, 25
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique [CNRS], 10
Chemical Abstracts, 5
Citation
  patterns of books and journals, 13
  studies of, 3
Classics, 1
College of Advanced Technology [CAT], 3
Cornell University, 5
Cox, Nigel, 2

D
Dainton, Frederick S. [Fred], 14-16
  Dainton Report, 15-16
  personality, 15
Delft University of Technology, 9
Dempsey, Lorcan, 3
Design of Information Systems in the Social Sciences [DISISS], 4, 6, 19
  particular proposals, 4
Distance learning, 22
Dusoulier, Nathalie, 10

E
Eccles, Lord David, 14-16, 18
  his promise to the IFLA, 18
  personality, 14
  sculpted bust of, 15
Economy, global
  future disturbances, 24
Engineering Index [EI], 26
Essay collections, 12
  indexing in bibliographies of, 13

F
Farmington Plan, 11

G
Glasgow University Library, 1
H
Harley, Anthony [Tony], 9
Henderson, Marjorie, 2-3, 14
Heriot-Watt University, 2
Higher education, 22, 28
Hill, Michael W., 12, 20
Historical Abstracts, 5
Hookway, Harry, 14
    personality, 14
I
Immigration, 23
Imperial Chemical Industries [ICI], 8
Information Requirements of the Social Sciences [INFROSS], 4, 6, 19
Institute of Information Scientists [IIS], 20-21
    conference, 21
Interlibrary loans, 10
International acquisition systems, 11
    versus national acquisition systems, 11
International Federation of Library Associations [IFLA], 17-19
J
Jewish thought, 30
Johnson, --, 23
Journal of Documentation, 3, 17
L
Leeds University, 12
Librarians versus information scientists, 20-21
Libraries
    access versus holdings, 21
    committees, 25
    designing around users, 4
    future of, 21-23
    government funding for, 26
    individualization of services, 24
    international competition between, 11
    long-term goals for, 24, 27
    profit motive, 24, 28, 30
    public versus academic, 27
    significance of edifices [as meeting places], 28
    system studies, 2
    virtual libraries and museums, 28-29
Library Association [LA], 19-21
annual conference, 21
merger with the IIS, 20
*Life of Boethius*, 1
Lifelong learning, 22, 27
Line, Maurice B.
strict Calvinism in youth, 29
dislike of Margaret Thatcher, 27
family
father, 1
mother, 1
wife, 1
influences on his career, 14, 17
initial interest in library science, 1
learning how to learn, 22
marriage, 1
reasons for writing, 19
stammer [speech], 1
view of God, 29
Loughborough University, 17

M
Manual citation analysis, 4
Meadows, A. Jack, 17
personality, 17
Milton, John, 30

N
National Central Library, 3, 8, 16
National Lending Library [NLL], 8, 16
National Library of Science and Technology [NLST], 10
New South Wales, University of, 28
Newcastle upon Tyne, University of, 6
acquisitions department, 3
automated library catalog of, 2
computing department, 2
Nottingham University, 25

O
“Online revolution”, 9
Open University, 5
Office of Scientific and Technical Information [OSTI], 4
Oxford University, 1, 15
P
Paradise Lost, 30
Politics
  future disturbances, 24
Population shifts, historic, 24
Psychological Abstracts [Psych Abs], 5-6
Public sector, the
  conservatism in, 25-26
  constraints of, 25-26

R
Reed Elsevier Group plc, 11, 26
  Adonis project, 11
Regazzi, John, 26
Remote Document Supply [RDS], 10
Robertson, Keith, 25
Round Table of Editors of Library Journals [RTELJ], 19

S
Sandison, Alexander [Sandy], 3
Saunders, Wilf, 14, 17
  personality of, 17
Scandia Plan, 12
Science Reference and Information Service, 12
Science Reference Library [SRL], 3, 20
Section of National Libraries [SNL], 19
Self-directed learning, 22
Sheffield, University of, 14, 17
Social sciences, 4-5, 12
  relationship between, 4-5
Social-Darwinism, 29
Sociological Abstracts, 5-6
Southampton University, 1, 3, 7, 14, 23
  Library, 1
Spink, Elizabeth, 15
Statistical methods, 3
Standing Committees for
  Bibliographic Control, 19
  Science and Technology Libraries, 19
Stevas, Norman St. John, 15
Students as customers, 28

T
Thatcher, Margaret, 15, 26-27
U
United Kingdom Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System [UK MEDLARS], 9
United Kingdom Office for Library Information Networking [UKLON], 3
Universal Availability of Publications [UAP], 17-18
   successes of, 18
Universal Bibliographic Control [UBC], 17
Urquhart, Donald J., 3, 7-8, 10, 14, 17
   library studies of, 10
   library system at the Boston Spa, 8-9
   personality, 7
   small research unit at Boston Spa, 3
   staff attitudes under, 8

W
Walpole, Horace, 24, 29
Wilson, Alex, 12
World War II, 2

Y
Yorkshire Dales, 15