

**AUA Library Physical Facility:** The Library currently occupies a room of approximately 2100 square feet on the first floor of the University's six-story building. One third of the space serves as a reading room which accommodates 15 to 20 readers. One third is expected to have shelving installed, increasing the capacity of library materials by 15,000 volumes. There is an existing reference counter, with under-counter shelving, currently housing runs of various journals; and 14 sections of wall shelving, 6 shelves high, housing approximately 2100 volumes. The quadrant of the room where new shelving is to be installed is currently filled with cartons of books, including donations from various American publishers, permanent loans from California university libraries, and the private collection of a prominent Armenian writer, Antranig Antreassian, now residing in Los Angeles.

With United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funding, a plan for expansion and renovation of the current library facility has been developed by Jane Britt Greenwood, AIA, University Architect. This facility is expected to serve the University for at least the next five years. In addition to increased open shelving for books and periodicals, the plan includes consideration of necessary cabling for automated systems, such as on-line public access catalog, CD-ROM stations. A preliminary architectural drawing of the proposed expansion/renovation plan is attached.

There is in addition to this space, library storage space in the basement of the University building which would provide equal square footage to the present library facility. It is currently equipped with metal shelving. However, the climate of this area is not beneficial to storage of materials, as it is of high humidity and inappropriate temperature control. Until this situation is remedied, it will be inadvisable to utilize it. This will have an effect on the potential growth of the library collection. A much larger library facility is part of the University's master plan for its new campus.

**Library Staff:** The AUA Library is staffed by two para-professional employees. Rouzanna Vartanian is librarian-in-charge and administrative assistant; and Noone Kagramanian, library assistant. Neither woman has any professional training in the field of library and information science, nor is there anyone on staff with a degree in the field. Ms. Kagramanian works from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. Ms. Vartanian works 5.5 hours per day, 5 days per week, from approximately noon to 6:30 p.m., when the Library closes. Four student assistants work 2 hours each day. Their primary duties are data entry of new books into the computer and physical processing. The Library is not open on Saturdays or Sundays.

**Library Collection:** To date approximately 2000 English-language titles have been entered. These are primarily recent imprints on subjects which support the current academic program. The addition of the Antranig Antreassian collection will give more of a humanities base to the Library's resource.

The program for bibliographic data management has been written by Vazgen Hakop-Manukian. The data entry form consists of the following fields: Subject; author, last name; first name and middle name; title; place of publication; publisher; date; pagination; number of copies. There is a thesaurus of general subject headings, determined by staff. The program has just been modified to enable the assignment of multiple subject headings. In-book cataloging is used whenever available to assist in determining name authority and subjects. This rudimentary form of cataloging provides a computerized record of the books held. In addition, the books are arranged by subject, with an abbreviated classification system.

**Circulation of Library Materials:** In general, circulating materials are loaned to students, faculty, and staff for fourteen days. Renewals are possible for an additional fourteen days. Special loans of selected, frequently requested materials for two or three days at a time. These include: GRE, GMAT, and TOEFL study materials. Current periodicals are also extremely popular but are for library use only.

Circulation control is maintained both manually and on computer. Student or other identification is required at the time of the loan.

**Library Consultant:** In October 1992, Ms. Sylva Natalie Manoogian, International Languages Department Manager, Los Angeles Public Library, and Chair of the American Library Association's International Relations Committee/U.S.-Armenian Libraries Subcommittee, was invited by University President, Dr. Mihran Agbabian, to come to Erevan and conduct an on-site assessment of the University's library and make recommendations for its short and long-term future.

Ms. Manoogian spent three weeks in the library, from October 8 to October 27, 1992, assessing its collections and observing delivery of library services, and talking to members of the University community. She met with Dr. George Gibson, U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Officer David Siefkin, and Jane Britt Greenwood to discuss the feasibility of having a shared library facility and program. Mr. Siefkin has already prepared a preliminary report on this concept.

The following are Ms. Manoogian's preliminary recommendations:

1. That a written collection development policy be developed to guide acquisition and maintenance of a relevant collection supporting the academic program of the University and serving the general public's needs for information. That this policy be based on a formal community information needs assessment, including input from the administration, faculty, student body, and service population at large.

2. That the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules and Library of Congress classification system and subject headings be utilized as the standards for cataloging and classification of materials.

3. That an MARC-standard, integrated library automation system be selected and installed.

4. That OCLC be used as the utility to assure bibliographic conformity.

5. That the print-out of existing entries be verified in U.S. bibliographic utilities and that full bibliographic records be transmitted to the University.

6. That the Library's physical facility be based on open access to its current collections to promote the concept of free and easy access to information. That additional existing space be designed for remote storage of less frequently used library materials.

7. That the University give serious consideration to working cooperatively with the United State Information Agency in establishing a shared library facility.

8. That the University make application as a Library/Book Fellow Project site for 1993-94.

9. That the University Library serve as a site for future internships for library professionals from various parts of Armenia, the United States, and other countries of the world.

10. That the University consider establishing a Faculty of Library and Information Science as part of its academic program. That until such time, a continuing education program for Armenia's library professionals offer seminars on topics relevant to the modernization of Armenian libraries.

11. That the University actively recruit and hire a permanent library director with appropriate educational credentials and experiential background. That current Library para-professionals be given the opportunity to take the necessary theoretical courses in library and information science required for the performance of professional library duties.