

9/24/92

Memo

From: Virgil

To: Dr. Agbabian & Dr. Gibson

Re: The possibility of cooperation between the libraries of the American Universities: in Cairo, Beirut, Armenia, and Bulgaria

This afternoon Dr. Greenwood was expressing some fear that research theses would be very impractical unless the library suddenly developed some research potential. He has given many periodicals and textbook duplicates as have other professors and I am giving many magazines which I have collected over the years, yet this is all a drop in the ocean compared to the needs: the librarian doesn't even have a 'Library of Congress Categories Guide,' and is using the Dewey-Decimal System although each book has a Library of Congress Number on the reverse of the title-page.

I suggest that the various American Universities, long-running or barely started, cooperate and share their duplicate periodicals, etc. I have three friends teaching this year at the new American University in Bulgaria, Dr. Gibson has close ties to Cairo, and Dr. Agbabian is an alumnus of Beirut; furthermore, all of these universities have easy air access to Yerevan (Charter flights reach out to Sofia, Cairo, Aleppo, and from there the rest of the Middle East). Can we not ask the help of the older institutions for their younger sisters? Can we not ask them to be a source for the regular delivery of the world's major periodicals?

Yerevan would be a convenient depot for duplicate periodicals and texts that could then be shared by the institutions in Yerevan and Bulgaria, which in turn could send their duplicates on whenever appropriate. A computer link between the card catalogues of the older institutions and the younger would be more feasible than a more expensive link with American universities; it would also be more likely that interlibrary-loan materials would actually move successfully from one institution to the other.

There are obviously more difficulties than I have adumbrated, but do they obviate the potentials?