

Another question was the duplication of titles. It was decided that a title should appear only once under a subject, but that the same book might appear any number of times in different appropriate subject divisions. That is, a given title should not appear under "Psychology--reference books" and "Psychology--genetic." A title might, however, appear four times--once each in the economics, history, political science, and sociology sections.

Another difficulty was a decision to change horses in midstream. The list was originally conceived of as only a list of holdings, that is, the fact that a given title might be out of print or that it might now be costly was not regarded as debarring it from the list. Later it was realized that the publication would probably have considerable use as a buying list. Because of this probable use it was decided that it would be best in many instances to substitute an available book for an out-of-print title and to be concerned with the question of cost. This shift, after the compilation had been started, has probably led to some inconsistencies in the inclusions. Many out-of-print books are listed and a few expensive titles are shown. It has been suggested that publishers may be moved to reprint some of the titles.

No one, least of all the compiler, regards it as a perfect list. It is the hope of those who are responsible for it that it is a reasonably good list. Any individual consulting it will find favorite titles omitted and what he will regard as poor selections included. On the other hand, it must be remembered that a second person is more likely than not to disagree with the first's disagreements. A list of the magnitude of this and to be used to meet as many varying needs as there are institutions to consult it is necessarily a bit off the bull's eye for each one of the users.

Copies of the preliminary edition have been sent by the Carnegie Corporation to two hundred and fifty or more institutions. Librarians are now at work checking it with their holdings. Misprints, old editions, inadvertent duplications, undeserving inclusions, unintentional omissions--most of the various sorts of inconsistencies, inaccuracies, questionable decisions, and errors that have crept in should be revealed in this process of checking. It is hoped that they will be reported promptly to the compiler. A correct edition, incorporating the appropriate information received from such reports and including an Author Index, will be issued later and made available probably through the agency of the American Library Association.

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