

stands by itself. There are, however, many weaknesses in the system, chief of which is the practical impossibility of obtaining from it any information as to a given book.

A modification of the Ledger System is known as the Temporary Slip System. The slips may be used in the same way as the pages of the ledger, with the advantage that more than one person may be engaged in charging and discharging books. The slips are arranged in trays or in pigeonholes in any of three ways: (1) with guide cards or blocks for each day, making practically a daybook; (2) by borrower's name or number, making an account with the borrower; or, (3) by call number, making an account with the book. A suggestion has been made that by means of a carbon paper, such as is used by clerks in a dry-goods store, an extra copy of each slip might be made, and thus two records would be possible, one arranged by borrowers and the other by books.

The system most used in American libraries is the Card System. This is a further development of the Temporary Slip System. The record, being on durable cards, is permanent rather than temporary. In other respects the system is substantially the same. As a matter of fact, however, there are two card systems — the Single Card System and the Two Card System. The advantages of the former over the Temporary Slip System are comparatively slight; but the Two Card System has many important advantages. It is, on the whole, the most altogether satisfactory system that has yet been devised. There are two sets of cards — borrowers' and book cards, the latter kept usually in date order. The system is subject to a number of variations, but the arrangement generally used is that in which the borrower's card records the call number and date, and the book card the borrower's number and date. When a book is returned, the dating slip in it and the date of the borrower's card are compared, and if the same, the latter is marked with the date of return and handed back, while the book card is looked up by means of the number in the book, the date of return is noted on it, the card placed in a pocket on the inside cover of the book, or in a card indicator, and the book returned to the shelves.

The indicator, so widely used in English libraries, must also be mentioned among charging systems. There are a number of forms, and a description of the most popular, known as the "Cotgreave," is given elsewhere in this paper.

A feature that is common to some of the indicators as well as the card systems, is the movable date register or tray. The date register of the indicator has eleven columns for books not overdue, and one