A study of master theses submitted by the students of the Atlanta University School of Library Service 1950-1954

Kate McAllister Washington

Atlanta University

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A STUDY OF MASTER THESIS SUBMITTED BY STUDENTS OF THE
ATLANTA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LIBRARY SERVICE
1950 - 1954

A THESIS
SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF ATLANTA UNIVERSITY
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE
IN LIBRARY SERVICE

SCHOOL OF LIBRARY SERVICE

BY

KATIE McALLISTER WASHINGTON

ATLANTA, GEORGIA
AUGUST 1957
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Purpose and Scope

Douglas Waples, in an article in Library Quarterly for 1939, compiled a list of graduate theses accepted by library schools in the United States from July, 1935 to June, 1938. Through this compilation it was hoped by Waples that some student with experience and a lively interest in the ends and values of graduate professional study in this country would be inspired to examine a fair sampling of theses and produce a constructively critical monograph. It was from this article that a similar idea to do an evaluative study of the theses which have been submitted by graduates of the Atlanta University School of Library Service was formulated.

This study aims first, to reveal through statistics types of research which were completed by students of the Atlanta University School of Library Service, from 1950 through 1954, giving particular attention to their up-to-dateness and to the specific areas covered. Secondly, it is hoped that this project will be constructed so that it will promote some thought provoking ideas for future thesis writers.

Douglas Waples, "Graduate Theses Accepted by Library Schools in the United States from July, 1935 to June, 1938." Library Quarterly, IX (January, 1939), 193-203.
An important development in the Atlanta University School of Library Service came in 1949 when the new program of study leading to the Master of Science in Library Service degree was adopted. Prior to this, when the Library School opened in 1911, one could acquire professional library training leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Library Service. This new program consists of thirty-nine hours of course work plus a thesis and other general University requirements.

It is from the origin of the master's program in library service at Atlanta University that this project takes its beginning. It includes the sixty-two theses which have been completed from 1950 through August, 1954. This type of study not only discloses the kinds of research which have been done by students in this library school but it also reveals types, as to whether they are survey, content analysis, historical, evaluative bibliographical, communicative or comparative studies. Since this study is concerned with projects of the graduates of this school, it should prove especially useful to the Atlanta University School of Library Service administration. This study may indicate also topics for instructors to use as guides in suggesting possible types of research which will prove beneficial to the library profession, the library schools, and other related fields of research. Students might therefore be motivated not only toward the acquisition of a topic in order to receive a degree, but at the same time they might broaden the scope of the library school's professional literature and keep it up-to-date. It is hoped that the former students will be made to feel that they, too, have contributed
something of worthwhile significance to the library profession through their research projects.

Methodology

The title and author of each thesis were entered on an index card. Each card also included annotations and the subject category of the respective thesis. Library Literature was the authority used as a guide in assigning subject categories to the theses. These cards were used in compiling data for the following tables: theses by kinds of libraries, states involved and yearly output for the period covered.

The sixty-two theses completed by students in the Atlanta University School of Library Service from 1950 through 1954 were read and examined in order to evaluate them in terms of their coverage. Each thesis is listed and annotated in Chapter II.
CHAPTER II

DESCRIPTION OF THESSES

The sixty-two theses produced by graduates of the Atlanta University School of Library Service have been varied in scope. They not only reflect a variety of interests, but different types of personalities, which all contribute toward making research interesting, as well as informative and challenging. Some students have done work involving situations in which they were employed; others have made studies of their communities or of situations in which they were interested, but not employed; still others had no special interests or ideas with which to start, but merely took subjects which were suggested by others.

Table 1 shows that 32 of the 62 theses completed during 1950-1954 were studies made of four types of libraries: college and university, school, public and special. The remaining 32 theses were

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Libraries</th>
<th>Number of Theses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College and University</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
concerned with a phase of librarianship rather than a type of library.

According to this table only two theses were written on special libraries. This may be attributed to the fact that there was less interest in special libraries among students of the Atlanta University Library School. What has been said of special libraries may be said of both public and school libraries. Persons might have made these studies because of present employment and/or aspirations to become employed in these libraries. However, it is questionable as to whether or not there were sufficient school libraries accessible to students for study. The question might also be raised as to whether the limited number of libraries in Negro schools were of such quality as to justify study. It might also be surmised that because of the proximity of Atlanta University to Clark College, Morris Brown College, Morehouse College and Spelman College, and the fact that these colleges are members of the Atlanta University Center, that more writers chose to do theses on college and university library service.

Table 2 shows that 14 institutions of higher learning were studied 30 times. Institutions in Atlanta, Georgia were studied 20 times. It is significant that only four public institutions of higher learning have been studied. Of the 14 schools listed below one was a school of divinity and five other institutions, notably, Atlanta University, Fisk University, Tennessee State A. and I. University, Hampton Institute and Tuskegee Institute, offer graduate work. It is possible that in these institutions offering graduate
work the breadth and number of volumes in their book collections, types of problems encountered, organization, as well as many other factors, warranted their being studied.

TABLE 2

INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING STUDIED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institutions</th>
<th>Number of Times Studied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta University</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clark College</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelman College</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisk University</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hampton Institute</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morris Brown College</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcorn A. &amp; M. College</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savannah State College</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gammon Theological Seminary</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson College</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morehouse College</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morris College</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee A. &amp; I. State University</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuskegee Institute</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 30

The data for these theses were taken from nine states and the District of Columbia (see Table 3). Eight of these states were in the South, while six of these eight states were located in the deep South. Many of the students were native southerners and might have been interested in determining the efficiencies and inefficiencies in their own place of employment, or in places where employment opportunities were available to them.

Table 4 shows the number of theses completed by students of the Atlanta University School of Library Service for a five-year period. The number of theses increased steadily from 1950 through
1952. After 1952 there was a decline in the number of theses produced.

**TABLE 3**

**STATES IN WHICH STUDIES WERE MADE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>States</th>
<th>Number of Theses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington, D. C.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>39</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TABLE 4**

**COMPLETION OF THeses BY YEAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1952</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>62</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 62 theses cover 21 subject areas (see Table 5). Many of them were concerned with the over-all place and function of the library in a school, institution of higher learning, or a municipality; while two theses were concerned with special libraries. Of the two theses written on special libraries, one determined its
possible utility for selected businessmen while the other thesis was a study of library facilities for patients in selected hospitals.

Of the two theses concerned with reading, one writer was interested in the reading habits of young people, while the other was interested in the reading habits of adults. These studies were made in 1954 reflecting the growing emphasis that is being placed upon reading as a vehicle of communication. Although all librarians are concerned with, and have a general awareness of, the reading problem, it is interesting to note that only two theses were concerned with this problem. Four other theses were concerned not only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Number of Theses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College and University Libraries - Evaluation</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content Analysis</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Libraries</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Libraries</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth's Literature</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cataloging</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibliographies</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Libraries</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catalogs</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classification - Special Subjects</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discarding Books</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Publications</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instruction in Library Use</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Analysis</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Legislation</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periodical Administration</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periodical Indexes</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Literature</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Bulletins</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>62</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
with reading as a means of communication but described the extent
to which radio, television and movies serve as media of communication.

One thesis is listed under the subject heading of "Job Analysis", and it gives data of a follow-up nature on graduates of the Atlanta University School of Library Service.

The remaining topics listed in Table 5 are of more or less general interest to the library profession, and this is reflected in the theses completed by students of the library school.

**Classified List of Theses**

This is an alphabetical subject classification list of the 62 theses completed by students of the Atlanta University School of Library Service. The subject headings found in this list were taken from Library Literature. Under each heading the name, author and a brief description are given for each of these studies.

A. **BIBLIOGRAPHY**


Malval proposes to make a survey of material listed in the bibliography in order to determine what is owned by a selected group of libraries in universities of higher learning in the United States.


In the Miller study, attention is focused on the uniformity or divergence in bibliographic form according to publishers' rules; and the extent to which publishers have left the form for citations to the discretion of authors and editors, or required them to follow "house style."
B. CATALOGING


The Jenkins survey examined the types of books or other library materials comprising arrearages, the provisions, if any, which the libraries had made to eliminate their cataloging arrearages, and the reasons why these libraries have accumulated uncataloged material.

2. Mobley, Eva E. "A Study of the Extent to Which Special Types of Materials Are Cataloged in a Selected Number of Negro College and University Libraries."

The study by Mobley tells of the methods by which special types of material are classified and cataloged in 39 Negro college and university libraries. The influence which the factors had on cataloging policies of libraries were investigated as follows: size of cataloging staff and book collection; enrollment of school; financial support of the library; approach to card catalog and accessibility to stacks.


Morgan studied the general organizational patterns of the catalog departments of Atlanta University, Fisk University and Hampton Institute in order to evaluate and determine the standards of these cataloging departments as represented in printed material on the subject.

C. CARD CATALOGS


The use of the card catalog as studied by Lee is concerned with what items on the catalog card students use; how many items they understand; how they go about finding information and what reasons they give for using the card catalog.
D. CLASSIFICATION--SPECIAL SUBJECTS


This study investigated the methods of arranging and describing historical events and materials on the Civil War, World War I and World War II. A subject heading list, classification schemes, monographs and bibliographies were examined in order to determine what classification patterns seemed most dominant.

E. COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES--EVALUATION


The studies done by Churchwell, Higgins, Moses, Regulus and Williams give an over-all picture of the existing library services. Attention is given to administration, operation, service, holdings and use in each of these libraries in order to determine what has influenced their development and how they have met the needs of their particular colleges.


Gibson gives the quality and quantity of vocational guidance materials in the Atlanta University, Spelman, Morris Brown and Clark College libraries. Special focus is placed upon the degree of correlation between the objectives of the college programs, the libraries' vocational holdings and the usefulness of occupational information to students.

In the Leonard study, the Negro Collection of Atlanta University is described in terms of its scope, function and activities. It is compared with the Schomburg Collection of the New York Public Library; the Moorland Foundation at Howard University and the James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection at Yale University.


McLean discusses and analyzes factors and basic problems relative to growth and development of the reference book collection of the Trevor Arnett Library in order to determine the extent to which the collection meets the standards of national and regional accrediting associations.


The McLemore study is concerned with the strengths, the weaknesses and the adequacy of the fiction collections of the schools affiliated with the Atlanta University Center.

10. White, Eleanor S. "A Study of the Ability of Graduate Students of Atlanta University to Use the Trevor Arnett Library." 1952.

In the White study the motive is to determine whether students of Atlanta University are aware of the resources of the Trevor Arnett Library. If they know how to use its resources and what suggestions they have to offer for improved services.

F. COMMUNICATION


The study by Amos deals with a specific number of senior high school students who were surveyed in order to determine how they utilized the various media of mass communication during one semester. A correlation was made to establish whether there was a relationship between the use of the media and scholastic grades attained by the students during the same period of time.
The studies by Carroll, Pegram and Sanders describe the mass communications behavior of residents twenty-one years of age and over who lived in various sections of Atlanta, Georgia. The extent of utilization of the mass media of the adult population of these communities is revealed.

G. CONTENT ANALYSIS


These two content analysis studies were concerned with two newspapers of Atlanta: the Atlanta Constitution and the Atlanta Journal. Bullock examined them in order to disclose the types of news articles in print about Negroes. In the thesis by Cochran, the political content of editorials was analyzed and correlated with the voting behavior of Georgia citizens during the 1950 gubernatorial campaign.


The study completed by Daughtrey analyzed periodical literature on certification from 1906 to 1952 and traced chronologically the ideas, problems and attitudes relating to the certification of librarians reflected in library literature.


Fiction titles which deal with various aspects of the Colonial and Revolutionary War periods were
examined by Dhypo to determine whether or not they
would be useful as supplementary materials for the
factual presentations found in high-school American
history textbooks.

5. Grant III, Jason C. "A Content Analysis of Serial Publi-
cations in English Philology for a Four-Year Liberal
Arts College Library." 1952.

Grant analyzed certain serial publications to deter-
mine the extent to which they could be used to supplement
the materials for a course in English philology presented
in an accredited four-year liberal arts college.

6. Jordan, Casper L. "A Content Analysis and Cumulative Index,
Annotated of Phylon, 1940-1949." 1951.

The Jordan study was made in response to a need
for a cumulative index for Phylon. It is divided
into three sections: a history of Phylon; a content
analysis of the quarterly publication for the period
1940-1949; and an annotated cumulative index which
includes author, title and subject entries arranged
in dictionary form for the same period.

7. Miller, Jr., James S. "A Comparison of a Selected Number
of Book Reviews Appearing in Both the Saturday Review
of Literature and the New York Times Book Review With

Miller proposes to ascertain the extent to which
book reviews appearing in the Saturday Review of Literature
and the New York Times Book Review conform to these cri-
teria; utility for determining the value of books by
Haines; the comparison of a selected number of reviews
of books. He also attempts to draw conclusions con-
cerning the adequacy of the book reviewing media as
guides in the selection of books for libraries.

8. Shelton, Jaynie M. "A Comparative Study of the Treatment of
Education in the Pittsburgh Courier and the Norfolk

Shelton has made a study to determine and compare
the treatment of educational news in Carolina editions
of the Pittsburgh Courier and the Norfolk Journal and
Guide.

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1Phylon: The Atlanta University Review of Race and Culture,

2Helen E. Haines, Living With Books. (New York: Columbia

The treatment of the Negro during slavery, Civil War, and Reconstruction periods in state adopted textbooks is the concern of the Washington study. Textbook content is compared with research studies on the Negro, and the extent to which important events taken from research studies concerning the Negro have been incorporated in these texts is discussed.

H. DISCARDING BOOKS


This survey evaluates various practices of weeding found in a selected number of theological libraries in order to formulate some bases for weeding and disposing of obsolescent material from theological libraries.

I. GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS


This is a continuation study of Lacy's "United States Government Publications on the American Negro, 1916-1937." Through these publications the extent of government interest in the Negro has been revealed.

J. INSTRUCTION IN LIBRARY USE


A comparative study of the Ford Foundation Fellows and a controlled group of Freshmen at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia during the school year 1952-1953 was made to determine whether there is any difference in their ability to use the Trevor Arnett Library.

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K. JOB ANALYSIS


This study examined the job histories of 96 Atlanta University School of Library Service graduates in order to determine their personal characteristics and professional activities.

L. LIBRARY LEGISLATION


The purposes of this study were to make a survey of the literature on library legislation, and to summarize the developments and trends in library legislation literature during the stipulated period.

M. PERIODICAL ADMINISTRATION


The periodicals collections of the Atlanta University Center are discussed in terms of their holdings, administration and cost.

N. PERIODICAL INDEXES


A cumulative index to the Journal of Negro History for a twenty-five year period was compiled by this writer. The purpose was to make contents of the Journal more easily accessible.

O. PROFESSIONAL LITERATURE


This is a study of 519 articles on librarianship published in non-library periodicals. Types of periodicals in which the articles occurred and the phases of librarianship treated were discussed.
P. PUBLIC LIBRARIES


   The Adkins study contains the basic, legal information relative to establishing a Negro branch library in Atlanta. The objectives of the thesis were to trace the origin and development of the first Negro branch and to give an account of the growth of the two additional Negro branches in Atlanta.


   The existing library services, clientele served, accomplishments and new developments of the three counties which make up the West Georgia Region were studied by Edwards.


   The Jolly study gives the historical background of a selected number of public libraries of cities in the state of Maryland. It points up the factors involved in the origin, development and growth of these libraries and evaluates them against standards approved by the American Library Association.


   Levi's study was limited to library service which the public libraries of Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, D. C., provide for youth below the college level in the field of fine arts.


   Parker describes the main public library facilities that have been integrated to serve white and Negro citizens in cities and towns in 13 southern states.

The historical facts relating to the development of public library service to Negroes in the city of Little Rock, Arkansas, and the events and factors which determined the integration of library service in Little Rock in 1951 has been the concern of this study by Tillman.


A study of the types of juvenile patrons of two branches of the Atlanta public library in terms of the distance they live from the library, sex, age, school, grade, frequency of library use, type of books and magazines in the home, reading interests and certain socio-economic factors relative to their parents.

Q. READING


The purpose of the Cruzat study is to determine whether there is a correlation between the reading interests of a selected number of children who patronize the public library and their interest in certain types of television programs.


The purpose of the Dixon thesis is to report on the history of the movement for the publication of materials, to study some of the agencies which promote the publication of readable materials, and to collect available bibliographies of materials for adults of low reading levels.

R. SCHOOL LIBRARIES


The theses by Bennett, Dillard, Miller, Neely and Reeves describe and evaluate library facilities and services of various school libraries. The evaluations were made in the light of the curricula and extra-curricula performances and needs of the teachers and pupils and the extent to which the libraries of these schools meet the national, regional and state standards.


A study of the reference practices of 52 top ranking seniors in one of the high schools in Atlanta giving particular attention to how well they know reference tools and the actual use they make of them.


Quivers was primarily concerned with making a comparison of high school library experiences and certain basic library skills of a selected group of freshman students at Fort Valley State College and Clark College, Fisk University and Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial State University.

S. SPECIAL LIBRARIES


Davis investigated the extent to which there is a need for collections that contain a reasonably exhaustive coverage of books, magazines, pamphlets and other ephemeral material for each of the 115 types of businesses selected for the study.

Gatliff describes library service given to patients in 23 general hospitals in the United States, excluding general hospitals operated by the federal government under the supervision of the Veteran's Administration.

T. STAFF BULLETINS


Checklists, accession lists, monthly, annual and bi-annual reports, handbooks for students, faculty and library staff and miscellaneous publications of a selected number of college and university libraries were analyzed to disclose the kind of materials published, and to reveal the library services and resources.

U. YOUTH'S LITERATURE


Chenault, Gray, Greene and Jackson have studied juvenile fiction books to determine how accurately life and customs of the countries which they chose are portrayed in books for children from pre-school through 12 years of age.

5. Fain, Susan E. "A Study of the Treatment of Teaching, Journalism and Librarianship in a Selected Group of Vocational Fiction Books Published, 1941-1951."

Thirteen vocational fiction books were examined by Fain in order to show how the facts on the professions, teaching, journalism and librarianship were presented.
SUMMARY

This is a summary of the total number of theses written by students and librarians of the Atlanta University School of Library Service. The Atlanta University School of Library Service began its master's program in 1950 and the theses from that date to 1954 reveal the following facts:

1. A total of 62 theses were completed during a five-year period.

2. College and university libraries were most frequently studied.

3. Most of the institutions studied were private undergraduate colleges.

4. Five institutions which offer graduate work were studied.

5. The majority of studies were made either in Georgia or in adjacent states, with the exception of Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C.

6. The theses produced by students of the Atlanta University School of Library Service increased in number from 1950 through 1952; from 1952 to 1954 the number of theses of the library school declined.

7. Of the 62 theses written, 21 subject areas in the field of librarianship were covered.
CHAPTER III

COMPARISONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The listing of theses and dissertations accepted by library schools in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the master's or doctor's degree in library service first appeared in Library Quarterly in 1933. The purpose of this listing is to make more generally available to the library profession the results of student investigations. The theses given in these lists are on file in the libraries of the various library schools and some of them may be borrowed on inter-library loan. In some cases microfilm copies may be obtained.

In recent years some changes have been made by library schools relative to the thesis requirement. Some schools which formerly made the thesis a condition for receiving the master's degree have now waived this requirement; others now confer the master's degree in place of the bachelor's degree but do not require the writing of a thesis. Of the 36 accredited library schools in 1951, 13 have no thesis requirement for the master's degree and eight make the thesis optional; five others require a research report in lieu of the thesis. Only 10 of the 36 accredited schools still require a thesis.

The Atlanta University School of Library Service, the Emory University Division of Librarianship, and the George Peabody Collage
for Teachers Library School are among the 10 schools which still require a thesis before fulfilling the requirements for a master's degree. All three of these institutions are private schools, located in the South. They have similar curricula, and they are all accredited by recognized educational agencies. Since these schools have similar characteristics it seems justifiable to compare their thesis production.

In Library Quarterly for the five-year period 1950-1954, of these three schools with similar characteristics, Atlanta University leads in the number of theses completed (see Table 6).

### TABLE 6
**NUMBER OF THESSES LISTED IN LIBRARY QUARTERLY FOR THREE LIBRARY SCHOOLS, 1950-1954**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library School</th>
<th>1950</th>
<th>1951</th>
<th>1952</th>
<th>1953</th>
<th>1954</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta University</td>
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All three schools - Atlanta University, Emory University and George Peabody College - have theses on eight similar areas of librarianship. They are: bibliography, college and university libraries, content analysis, discarding books, government publications, reading, public libraries and school libraries. The differences noted in the subjects in comparison with the Atlanta University
holdings are these: Emory has a thesis on church libraries and one on printing in Georgia. A university press and the periodical indexing of religious literature were studied by Peabody students. Atlanta University students did not produce anything in these areas.

Recommendations For Future Thesis Writers of the Atlanta University School of Library Service

Some persons in attempting to choose subjects of interest to them discover that most of the subjects they like or would like to develop have already been done. This presents a problem, and in order to solve it they may sometimes resort to follow-up studies. For example, the thesis written by Mrs. Velma S. Lowe\(^1\) brings up-to-date the thesis written by Dr. Virginia Lacy Jones.\(^2\) Dr. Jones' thesis covers the period from 1916-1937 on United States Government Publications on the American Negro. Mrs. Lowe's thesis brings up to date the changes that have been made in United States Government on the American Negro from 1938 to 1952.

There are some persons who have difficulty in finding subjects worthy of treatment. To alleviate this problem, subjects parallel to interesting ones that have already been developed may be resorted to. As William W. Bennett\(^3\) made a study of library facilities and services in 10 county training schools in Alabama, others could make similar


studies involving training schools or selected colleges for their states, depending upon where their interests lie.

A comparative evaluation of master's theses done by students in a selected number of library schools, and available literature produced by Negro librarians during the last decade may be made. This may reveal a number of helpful and interesting facts which are not now known by the general public and which could only be produced by such a study.

Reading has and is of great concern to the entire educational system. Many types of remedial reading courses may be considered. What may prove to be aids in helping to improve this situation may be presented in many ways through surveying a selected number of reading programs in educational institutions to see what is being done, and recommending what could be done.

Counties and parishes of states are responsible for many government publications. Persons interested in this area could compile a list of such government publications for their states.

Many recommendations have been suggested by writers of theses in the Atlanta University School of Library Service, and it would be interesting to find out whether the recommendations have been followed. This, too, could provide a series of follow-up studies. Some of these theses, in their summarizing chapters offer possible topics. Since so little can be adequately and succinctly covered in a thesis, a continuation study is almost imperative.

Since most of the facilities which the city of Atlanta, and adjacent areas have afforded for study have been explored, other situations and areas should be examined more extensively.
### APPENDIX A

**ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF AUTHORS OF THESIS**

Listed below are the names of persons who have completed theses at the Atlanta University School of Library Service from 1950-1954. The page, subject classification and citation numbers are given beside each author's name.

<table>
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Miller, James S., Jr. (14 -G - 7)
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Williams, Avery W. (11 -E - 5)
Williams, Gwendolyn (16 -M - 1)
Wilson, Eunice C.
Yates, Ella G. (16 -N - 1)
BIBLIOGRAPHY


