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comparative labor studies.

Benjamin Martin

RESEARCH NOTES

Committee of University
Industrial Relations Libraries

CONTINUEING the celebration of its twenty-
fifth anniversary into a second year, the New
York State School of Industrial and Labor
Relations at Cornell University will play host
to the Committee of University Industrial
Relations Librarians celebrating its twenty-
fifth anniversary at an annual conference on
May 28-29, 1971. The Committee (CUURL) was
launched as a result of discussions by a
group of directors of university industrial
relations centers, who met in 1946 to explore
the possibilities for interuniversity cooper-
ation on library facilities. Upon the recom-
mandation of Helen Baker, John W. Riegel,
Phillis Bradley, Frederick Harbison, and
Robert Gray, representing the universities of
Princeton, Michigan, Illinois, and Chicago,
and the California Institute of Technology,
respectively, four directors and sixteen librari-
ans from thirteen centers met the following
year to consider proposals for cooperative
endeavor.

By the time a fifth conference was held in
1951, this group of librarians from the
United States and Canada agreed that they
needed a title and chose “Committee of Uni-
versity Industrial Relations Librarians.” The
librarian of the U.S. Department of Labor
serves as an advisory member. With the sup-
port of their directors, the librarians have
managed successfully to maintain the entity
of CUURL without benefit of constitution,
by-laws, or dues. Usually, but not always,
they meet at the industrial relations center
which is closest to the meeting place of the
annual convention of the Special Libraries
Association. The librarian of that center is
host and chairman of the meeting, being
responsible for arranging the agenda and
preparing minutes of the conference.

Of the seven proposals presented at the
first meeting in 1947 three continue in opera-
tion today. These include an exchange of
publications issued by the centers, an ex-
change of bibliographies prepared for the
patrons of the various centers, and a standard
list of subject headings. A fourth proposal,
to compile a composite list of holdings of
labor union periodicals, bore fruit in 1956,
when the New York State School of Indus-
trial and Labor Relations published for
CUURL American Labor Union Periodicals;
a Guide to Their Location, compiled by
Bernard G. Naas and Carmelita S. Sakr.
Sales figures indicate that this attractively
bound hard-covered volume is an indispen-
sable resource in the field.

As far as is known, the first published list
of industrial relations subject headings was
that issued by the Princeton Industrial Rela-
tions Section in December 1927, but several
libraries later issued their own lists or
adapted the published lists to their needs.
A study committee on subject headings,
under the chairmanship of Hazel C. Ben-
jamin of Princeton, compiled a composite
list based on these early lists and, after
consulting authorities in special fields, com-
posed definitions for the headings chosen
for the new list. In 1952, the first edition
of A Standard List of Subject Headings in
Industrial Relations, prepared by the Sub-
Committee on Subject Headings, was pub-
lished by the Industrial Relations Section of
Princeton University. Both the first edition
and the second, issued in 1963 in loose-leaf
binder, have been kept up to date by fre-
quently supplementation. The Standard List,
still frequently referred to as “The Princeton
List,” is used widely by librarians, scholars,
and practitioners in the field and served as
the basis for the original List of Descriptors
prepared by the International Labor Office
Library for use in its subject analysis of
books, pamphlets, and periodical articles.

Bibliographies in the Exchange Bibliog-
raphy series have been reproduced and dis-

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tributed for CUIRL by the Labor and Industrial Relations Institute of the University of Illinois since the first was issued in 1947, and cumulative indexes have been compiled periodically by the librarian of the Institute of Management and Labor Relations, Rutgers University. Several members of the Committee are working on the consolidation and updating of a number of these bibliographies, whose subjects continue to be of major interest today.

Less than a year after its authorization by the Committee, the first list of Industrial Relations Theses and Dissertations Accepted at Universities, compiled under the direction of Gwendolyn Lloyd, was issued in 1951 by the Institute of Industrial Relations, University of California at Berkeley. Another early proposal resulted in the publication of the Michigan Index to Labor Union Periodicals, under the managing editorship of Eleanor Scanlan, by the Bureau of Industrial Relations, University of Michigan. The Index was issued in monthly parts with annual cumulations from December 1960 through February 1969. Efforts are being made to find a new publisher to revive this important resource. For a number of years, Miss Scanlan also has prepared and distributed for the Committee a biennial listing of industrial relations centers under the title: Information Regarding Industrial Relations Sections in Colleges and Universities in North America. The latest issue of this directory appeared in January 1970.

A project to compile a union list of holdings of labor union convention proceedings and constitutions was started in 1958 under the chairmanship of the librarian of the U.S. Department of Labor, and in 1965 the Library of the School of Labor and Industrial Relations, Michigan State University issued a Preliminary Union List of American Trade Union Constitutions and Proceedings. The list reports the holdings of these documents for seventeen of the country’s major libraries.

Like the directors of their centers, the members of CUIRL long have been aware of the need for better bibliographic control and have been intrigued by the possibilities for improvement which appear to be offered through mechanical means of information retrieval. A subcommittee served as advisors to a consultant who presented the results of a survey in Final Report on a Feasibility Study of Centralized Information Services in Industrial Relations to the directors in 1968. The directors and CUIRL continue their sponsorship and support for a further investigation of the subject by the Librarian of the Information Systems Clearinghouse, Cornell University Libraries. A successful resolution of the problems involved in Industrial Relations Information Systems (IRIS) might well point the way toward a much wider application of computers in the effective retrieval of information for scholars and practitioners as well.

Grace Horton
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The Institute for Labour Studies
Stockholm, Sweden

In January 1965, both houses of the Riksdag were presented with identical bills regarding the establishment of special faculties or institutions for education and research in labor market questions. This education was to be accessible to all interested persons, particularly those active in the popular movements: the trade union and political labor movements, the cooperative movement, irrespective of formal merits. This education was to be accessible to all interested persons, particularly those active in the popular movements: the trade union and political labor movements, the cooperative movement, irrespective of formal merits.

In June 1965, the Council of Stockholm University recommended to the Chancellor of Swedish Universities that an institute for labor studies be established. Among its functions would be the coordination and development of education in labor market questions at the lower university levels, the creation of common labor market courses which could be incorporated in the curriculum of several subjects, and the encouragement of higher studies among those active in the labor market institutions. This body would act as a kind of scientific point of contact for manpower research and would, among other things, promote cross-disciplinary cooperation, maintain contact with foreign research institutions in this field, and bring together university graduates and persons professionally engaged in labor market questions.

In his Bill No. 1966:52, relating to manpower policy, the Minister for Labour and Housing proposed that an institute be set up in the following functions as defined: a national board as a national board, and an institution to be directly responsible to the Swedish Universities, although accounts and premises it was to Stockholm University.

The Riksdag accepted the entirety, and the Institute for Labour Studies was formally established in 1964. It did not start operations until that year.

In contrast to regular universities, the activities of the institute are directed by a special board of government. The present chairman is Olsson, Director General of the Institute; other members represent labor and management, industry, and Stockholms. An advisory committee is attached to the Institute, with the responsibility for education in labor market research, and for conducting research in labor market research. It is composed of representatives of the number of scientific disciplines and professions, business administration, sociology, labor law, political geography, occupational health, and medicine.

The Institute's directives are based on the following functions: to organize and educational programs relating to labor market questions, to conduct manpower research, and to coordinate such educational activities. In particular, it is important to develop institutions which can be used by the center for higher studies of staffs of labor market authorities or organizations.

Apart from its permanent staff, the Swedish Universities and the Case of Education, from the Swedish Universities. These have made it necessary to a small number of projects.