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RESEARCH NOTES

Committee of University Industrial Relations Libraries

CONTINUING 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 (CUIRL) 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 cooperation on library facilities. Upon the recommendation of Helen Baker, John W. Riegel, Phillips 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 librarians 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 University Industrial Relations Librarians." The librarian of the U.S. Department of Labor serves as an advisory member. With the support of their directors, the librarians have managed successfully to maintain the entity of CUIRL 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 exchange 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 Industrial and Labor Relations published for CUIRL *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 indispensable 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 Relations 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. Benjamin of Princeton, compiled a composite list based on these early lists and, after consulting authorities in special fields, composed 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 Subcommittee on Subject Headings, was published 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 frequent 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 Bibliography* series have been reproduced and dis-

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.

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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.

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 for labor studies be set up in the following functions as defined in the recommendation from Stockholm University, character as a national body, however, by the proposal that the institute be directly responsible to the Swedish Universities, although the accounts and premises it was to have were to be provided by Stockholm University.

The Riksdag accepted the entirety, and the Institute for Labor Studies was formally established on July 1, 1966. It did not start operations until the end of that year.

In contrast to regular universities, the activities of the Institute are directed by a special board appointed by the government. The present chairman is Carl Olsson, Director General of the National Labor Market Board; other members represent labor and management, industry, and Stockholm University. An advisory committee is also appointed by the Institute, with the responsibility for the development of that education in labor market questions. The labor market research are supported and formulated. The members of the committee include representatives from a number of scientific disciplines: business administration, sociology, labor law, political science, geography, occupational health, and medicine.

The Institute's directives define its functions: to organize and coordinate educational programs relating to labor market questions, to conduct manpower research, and to coordinate such educational programs. A particularly important activity is the development of courses at home and abroad in the sphere of activity, as well as the conduct of advanced labor studies for the training of staffs of labor market authorities and organizations.

Apart from its permanent staff, the Institute has no resources of its own. Its research or educational projects must be financed by the government, from research funds; from the case of education, from the Swedish Universities. These have made it necessary to carry out a small number of projects.