

Manitoba Health
Libraries Association

NEWS

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News is a publication of the Manitoba Health Libraries Association. The opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily the official policy of the Manitoba Health Libraries Association.

ASSOCIATION NEWS...

MHLA WINTER MEETING

The winter meeting of the Manitoba Health Libraries Association will be held Wednesday, January 23rd, 1:00 p.m. at the School of Nursing, St. Boniface General Hospital. Mr. Ralph Schilling of Smith-Carter Associates will be our guest speaker. Mr. Schilling has been involved in the planning of both the new School of Nursing Library, and the Carolyn Sifton Research Library at the St. Boniface Hospital and will be discussing the steps involved in planning and designing libraries both from the ground up, and the outside in! This promises to be a very interesting and informative session, so plan to attend.

THE MHLA ONLINE USERS GROUP....

Will have its first meeting Wednesday, January 23rd at 10:30 a.m. in the St. Boniface General Hospital School of Nursing Library. Michael Tennenhouse will be demonstrating "Paperchase" a very user friendly Medline search system which has recently become commercially available. We'll also have a problem-solving session - so bring along any questions you've had difficulty with. For further information contact Judy Inglis at 786-4342.

Brandon General Hospital is now a Medlars Centre. Kathy tells me that it will be some time before she gives it "a go".





The University of Manitoba
Neilson
Dental Library

780 Bannatyne Avenue
Winnipeg, Canada R3E OW3

NEILSON DENTAL LIBRARY

DEDICATION, NOVEMBER 9, 1984

The Dental Library was honored recently when it was dedicated to Dr. John W. Neilson, founding dean of the Faculty of Dentistry.

At a meeting of the Dental Faculty Council, the following tribute was paid to Dr. Neilson: Dr. Neilson was the Dental Library's great friend and mentor and responsible for its inception. Because of his determination to have a separate dental library for the newly-founded Faculty of Dentistry, one of the first appointments he made after becoming dean was to select a librarian. By establishing a generous capital fund he insured that the library would grow to become an asset to the school and the university, as well as an additional attraction for many of the applicants to faculty positions. As a member of the faculty, the librarian reported to him directly until 1966, when the University established the Libraries System. He regretted this change but continued his keen interest in the development of the library. He was Chairman of the Library Committee at the time of his retirement, and during his tenure the Committee was successful in its request for additional space for which it was shown that there was an acute need.

Whereas John Warrington Neilson has demonstrated by his involvement and wise counsel his keen interest in the Dental Library, be it resolved that the Dental Library shall be named the Neilson Dental Library.

- Doris Pritchard



PEOPLE

The new Library Technician at Brandon General Hospital is Lorraine Finch. Lorraine worked in cataloguing with Love from 1967 to 1971, and lately worked at Edmonton Public Library. Lorraine is married, with 2 boys.

Congratulations to Lynn Hardy on the birth of a son on November 13th. Greg Wilton is holding the fort at the Victoria General Hospital until Lynn returns.

Rita Shreiber has changed jobs. After several years at Concordia Hospital, Rita has moved over to the Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba Library.

Donna Chornenki is the new librarian at the Cancer Centre Library. Donna has spent the last five years at Community Therapy Services of Manitoba, starting at the Cancer Centre on November 26th.



EVENTS

NEWS FROM THE UNION LIST OF SERIALS COMMITTEE

A new edition of the Union List of Serials will be ready in 1985. This year's edition will feature over 900 titles. It will appear in an 8½" by 11" laser-printed format.

Cost is \$10.00 for contributors and \$20.00 for non-contributors. Union List contributors will be sent a copy of the list with an invoice. Non-contributors can obtain an order form from Helene Proteau, Extension Librarian, University of Manitoba Medical Library 770 Bannatyne Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3E 0W3. Telephone: 786-4342.

CBC TV DRAMA

On January 13 and 14, 1985 at 8 p.m., the CBC English Language Network presents THE OTHER KINGDOM. The account of one woman's experience with breast cancer stars Leueen Willoughby. Jeannine Locke has written and produced the drama.

FOCUS ON...

DEER LODGE CENTRE

New changes for the better have been taking place at Deer Lodge Centre Library.

The beginning of September Mrs. Angie Gallop commenced working as a Library Aide in our Library. This enabled us to change the library hours and we are pleased to announce we are open:

MONDAY to FRIDAY 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Also, by the end of September we employed Ms. Laurie Scott, Library Consultant. She has been very busy classifying and cataloguing our collection, taking inventory of the smaller departmental libraries within our institution. Also, a new procedure for interlibrary loans and acquisitions is being established. Laurie is also exploring new directions for our Library and hopefully by the end of this year, or early beginning of next, our Library will be standardized and operating in top efficient manner. We feel this will be a benefit to our local users as well as our participation in the M.H.L.A. operation.

Janice Saunders

ST. BONIFACE GENERAL HOSPITAL

A new nursing library was officially opened at St. Boniface General Hospital, Wednesday, November 21. The new facility, located in the Nursing Education Building, will serve as a resource centre for nursing students and staff.

Dignitaries on hand for the occasion were Dr. Pat Doyle, chairman of the board St. Boniface General Hospital, Sister Marie Bonin, Provincial Superior, Grey Nuns of Manitoba; Mrs. Jan Dick, vice-president of nursing, Robert Bockstaal, former MP for St. Boniface, Bud Sherman, former MLA and health minister province of Manitoba. St. Boniface artist Tony Tascona and many other civic and hospital officials.

Funding for the facility was obtained from

the Government of Canada and the Helene Fuld Health Trust. The \$250,000 federal government grant paid for the construction.

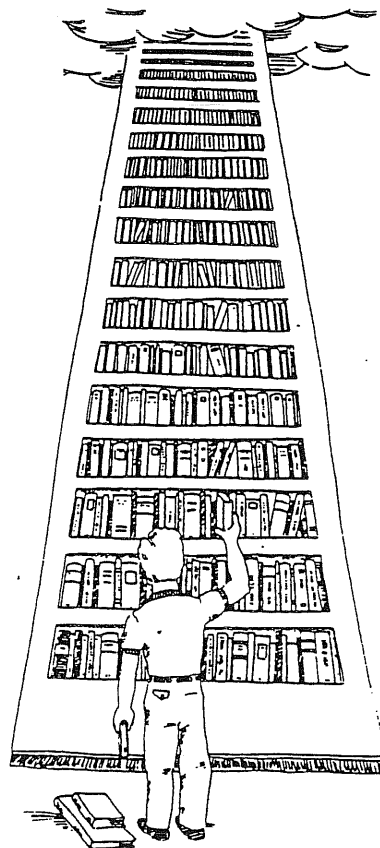
Furnishing and equipment were provided by a \$90,000 grant from the Helene Fuld Health Trust. The Trust has been established by Dr. Leonard F. Fuld in memory of his mother Helene who was an active crusader for better health standards in the 1880's. It provides financial support to over 178 schools of nursing. St. Boniface General Hospital is the only Canadian school presently receiving assistance.

In November, Ms. Francine Kloosterman commenced working as our Library Assistant. Francine has enabled our Library to be opened on the weekends.

SATURDAY 1200 hrs. to 1700 hrs.

SUNDAY 1300 hrs. to 1700 hrs.

Leone Banks



MHO/MHLA CONFERENCE NEWS...

CONFERENCE THEME: Mental
Health - Rethinking the Options

MHLA THEME: Mental Health
Information Services--Suicide
Information and Education
Centre, Calgary, Alberta

DATE: Wednesday, April 10, 1985
1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Plans are underway to have
Dr. Bryan Tanney of the
Suicide Information and
Education Centre in Calgary
as guest speaker.



CLA SEMINARS

Conference-on-wheels

Two Workshops

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES FOR LIBRARIES

Halifax Ottawa
London Regina

RESEARCH METHODS

Winnipeg Edmonton

THE RESEARCH METHODS WORKSHOP WILL SHOW YOU HOW TO:

- determine the types of research methods you can use to collect data
- design a data collection system (questionnaire, interview, etc.) that works
- choose the right wording, organization, appearance, form timing, and follow-up to use in data collection for the largest response rate
- determine the minimum sample size for the maximum results
- design survey instruments, cover letters, and follow-up strategies that result in maximum response rates
- distinguish between dependant and independent variables as well as manipulable and nonmanipulable variables
- understand the difference between research and statistical hypotheses, nondirectional and directional hypotheses, survey and experimental studies, and correlation and causation
- identify the four levels of measurement (nominal, ordinal, interval and ratio)
- write the following types of questions: open-ended, dichotomous, checklist, raking, rating and filter
- determine the appropriate size for your study

Join Us for the Research Methods Workshop in...

WINNIPEG (January 15)

Co-sponsored by MLA and Manitoba CASLIS

Charter House Hotel

For more details phone:

Ruth Reedman - (204) 949-3437

(A Talk given at the Manitoba Health Libraries Association 1984 Fall meeting)

Egypt is a little larger than British Columbia in size, and stretches about 900 miles from north to south. Geographically it is divided into two parts. The Nile valley south of Cairo is referred to as Upper Egypt, and the area north of Cairo to the Mediterranean is known as Lower Egypt. The Nile River runs like a narrow ribbon from south to north, dividing into two branches about 20 miles north of Cairo. The Rossetta branch on the west, and the Damietta on the east form the great Delta, a name given to it by the Greeks because it takes the shape of a triangle. Poetically, Egyptians refer to the river and the delta as a flower, with the Upper Nile the stem and the fertile Delta the lotus blossom.

Tanta, where I spent my leave, is situated in the middle of the Delta, half-way between Cairo and Alexandria, which are about 135 miles apart. About 45 million people make up the population of Egypt. With 95% of them living in close proximity to the Nile, and with an average of about 5000 persons per square mile, the density in this area is one of the highest in the world. Cairo's population is close to 12 million, and Alexandria's is about 4 million. Tanta's population is about 1 million. While I was there, the newspapers reported that the total population had increased by 1 million in the previous eight months. The explosive increase in population is one of Egypt's biggest problems.

The country is about 65% rural, and 35% urban, with a continuing shift from rural to urban. The large majority of Egyptians are Moslem; the Coptic Christians number about 14%, and less than 2% are Europeans, Turkish, and other middle eastern races. The language is Arabic, with well-educated Egyptians speaking at least one or two other languages, usually French or English.

Egypt has a long educational history. Al-Azhar University, established over one thousand years ago, is still the world centre of Islamic studies. The Egyptian ministry of education, established in 1836, was influenced by the French method of education first, and later, after the British occupation, by the British until 1922. In 1923, the ministry of education went into Egyptian hands, and a law was passed providing compulsory education between the ages of 7 and 12. However, it was not until after the revolution of 1952 that plans for a modern education system were realized, and all state education since then became free. This has led to a steadily increasing enrolment, not only in primary and secondary schools, but also in preparatory and technical schools. In higher education there are 13 universities. The largest, Cairo University, has over 113,000 students enrolled, and several others, including the University of Alexandria, have over 90,000.

Tanta University was founded in 1972. It has 12 faculties, including dentistry, pharmacy, medicine, and science, and a Higher Institute of Nursing. The enrolment is over 30,000, and the language of instruction in the health sciences is English.

My three month leave at Tanta was made at the request of the Dean, Dr. Halhouli. Its purpose was to advise on the establishment of policies and procedures for the library, and to provide guidance to the staff, in order to enable them to perform the library functions, and follow the guidelines established under the recommended policies.

Dr. Halhoul is a graduate in dentistry of Alexandria University. He has a Master's degree from the University of Michigan, and a Ph.D. from the University of Manitoba. He had been away from Egypt for about 20 years when he was invited to return, and was appointed dean about two years ago. Having been exposed to North American libraries he was aware of the deficiencies and the needs that existed at Tanta.

During my stay I visited the Medical, Pharmacy, Science, and Commerce libraries, and also had interviews with the following: David Curry, on a six-month assignment as a Fulbright Lecturer with the Bi-national Fulbright Commission, who is the Health Sciences Librarian at the University of Iowa; Mr. Jesse Duggan, Library Director of American University in Cairo; Miss Jayme Spencer, Cataloguer, also at American University; Mr. George Giurguis, Librarian, World Health Organization, at Alexandria; and Mr. Hassan Abdullah, Dental Librarian, Alexandria University. Through these visits and interviews I felt that I got a fairly clear picture of the library situation in Egypt, and the way the education system operates.

Not only is all education free, the state guarantees jobs to those graduates not going into private enterprise, and universities are required to find work for those put on their payrolls. Because employees' salaries are tied to academic qualifications, students enroll in the most prestigious faculties for which they can qualify. Medicine, engineering, and dentistry are at the top of the list. Librarianship is low in status, with low wages, making the library profession unattractive to higher qualified students. Also, and this applied specifically to Tanta, the smaller centres are not attractive to graduates who prefer to work in Cairo or Alexandria. Because wages are low, many Egyptians go to oil rich Arab countries to earn fabulous salaries with the resulting drain from Egypt of the better qualified workers. For example, Saudi Arabia pays the equivalent of 5000 Egyptian pounds per month to professors who would earn 150 pounds in Egypt.

As I relate my experiences at the Dental Library at Tanta, I am reminded of what was said to me by an Englishman who was the consultant for Churchill Livingstone in Egypt, and who visited the library about a month after I arrived. He felt that there was a positive approach, although it would take some time for the results to become apparent; that Egypt's tradition of education is centuries old, and a force to be reckoned with; that it was supplying the intellectual resources for the Arab nations who have no tradition of education; and that the biggest obstacle was the economy and the value of the Egyptian pound. I used to think about his comments during some of my frustrating moments, realizing that my being in Tanta was part of the positive approach he referred to.

When I left Winnipeg, I flew directly to Cairo carrying, in addition to my luggage, five boxes as excess baggage, each weighing 70 pounds, which cost \$580.00 in shipping charges. These boxes contained not only gift journals and books but also my cataloguing tools and a Bro-Dart catalogue. They were addressed to the University of Tanta, and because I was carrying them with me, I had put my name on them, which was a great mistake. I was detained for several hours in customs, explaining to officials, who did not understand English too well, and who were also quite suspicious, that they were scientific

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journals, and not subversive literature, and that I wasn't planning to make a profit by selling them. After I signed my name numerous times I was allowed to leave, but my boxes stayed behind, and I wondered if I would ever see them again.

While waiting for them to be released, I had time to become familiar with the local library situation. I visited the Medical and Pharmacy libraries, which were located on the same campus, and found them to be basically similar to the Dental Library. Books were arranged under broad subject headings on the shelves, and with no books ends the volumes leaned on each other. The journals were arranged alphabetically. Very few volumes were bound. There was no separate reference section in the libraries I visited. The only Index Medicus I saw was a 1978 volume shelved among the journals in the Pharmacy Library. The Medical Library had a fairly extensive book collection, much of it fairly old, and a reasonable number of current subscriptions, but its space was so limited that many of its journals were stored in boxes. I saw no catalogue in any library.

All of the libraries operated independently of each other, and seemed to be unaware of the resources of their neighbors. The librarians and staff were really only custodians, with no sense of library service as we know it. Students studied from textbooks or their lecture notes. Professors lived in either Cairo or Alexandria and commuted to Tanta to deliver their lectures and would then leave, which meant that they were not at the school on a daily basis. Very few came to the library.

Later I discovered that the Faculty of Commerce building which was about a half-mile from the Health Sciences housed the Central Microfilm Facility, which was a gift from the United States, and was updated annually. There were many titles on microfilm, but no libraries knew what they were. I managed to get a copy of the medical and dental titles before I left, and found there were 20 dental titles, some dating from 1950. However, the Microfilm Facility didn't make copies, because of the cost of paper, and the time and effort it would take students and staff to go to the Commerce Building to read the film there meant that the service would not be used.

The Dental School was already offering a graduate program, with four students enrolled. Some came to the library for help, but there was so little for them that was useful, and they had to go to Alexandria or Cairo for their references. The Dental Library at Alexandria had quite a good collection of journals, but interlibrary loan was unheard of, and students had to go in person to find what they needed. When they did go, there was usually little assistance from the staff. The World Health Organization in Alexandria offered library services on Tuesday evenings to outside users. They had access to Medline and gave five day turnaround service for a small fee.

The Dental Library staff at Tanta included the librarian, Mr. Mohamed Nada, and two assistants, Madam Nagwa Saad, and Miss Zeinab Ahmad. There were also two general helpers, a cheerful youngwoman who brought me tea twice a day - incidentally, one is always offered tea, turkish coffee, or a soft drink, before any business is transacted, and it is considered impolite to refuse. The other helper, also called Mohamed, did janitorial duties, and acted as a runner when needed. Telephones were not always reliable, and messages were usually sent in this manner.

The librarian, Mr. Mohamed, as I shall refer to him, had a law degree from Ain Shams University. Madam Nagwa had a degree in commerce from Tanta, and did the accounting and bookkeeping. Zeinab had graduated from high school with commercial standing and did the typing and shelving, and both women shared the circulation duties, such as they were. None of the library staff had any library education or previous library experience.

Since the language of instruction is English, and all except a handful of books in the library were in English, the staff was at a distinct disadvantage because none was competent in it. Mr. Mohamed spoke it poorly, Madam Nagwa rarely, and Zeinab didn't attempt it at all. Both women could understand simple directions, especially when "show and tell" was the method of instruction. English is taught as a compulsory subject in the schools, but the result would appear to be comparable to French instruction in many Canadian schools before French immersion became popular.

The library was located on the fifth floor of the dental building, and consisted of an office and a large pleasant reading room, with wall shelving and stacks in the middle of the room separating the nine study tables, each of which seated six readers. At the entrance to the reading room a large steel secretarial desk served as the Circulation Desk. There was no workroom, but the office had shelving and counters and was big enough to hold one of the study tables which became my "headquarters". With many windows in both the office and reading room I found the physical facilities comfortable and attractive.

Madam Nagwa's and Zeinab's hours were from 8 a.m. to about a quarter to 2. Mr. Mohamed would arrive around 10 a.m., and stayed until 3. On days when he was absent the library would close before 2 o'clock. I soon asked for a key and was able to stay after the library closed. In the morning about 9, Mohamed the runner would go to a nearby food stand and buy food, the women would light a spirit lamp under the desk, and boil water and prepare the tea, and everyone would gather round the circulation desk for "chaay". Friday was the day of rest, and was the only day off in the week. As there was no lunch period, the weekly hours were about 35 for the staff and 30 for Mr. Mohamed.

In the Dental School, Mr. Mohamed reported directly to the Dean, who approved all purchases of materials. The Academic Book Store in Cairo holds a huge book fair in January, which lasts about a week, and many libraries place their orders at that time. Also, book sellers appeared with bundles of books for the librarian to examine. If he recommended any of the books, the dean would become involved with the transaction as well. The main journal agent was El Ahram, a large news agency. This agent allowed credit, and made personal delivery of the journals in bulk shipment. Mail service was not reliable, and this insured all issues would be received. The disadvantage to this method was a much higher cost for each subscription. The service was also slow. At the end of April, not all 1983 subscriptions had arrived, and no 1984 issues had been received.

The 59 journal titles which were held included a good basic list of dental titles. However, most started with 1983 subscriptions, and only 4 dental titles were held from 1978, when the school was established. Among the current journals received, there were 14 duplicate titles. Their cost amounted to a substantial percentage of the total budget and since under library policy the journals didn't circulate, their use didn't warrant a second subscription.

There were also nine non-dental journals, including the following: Applied and environmental microbiology, the British journals of anaesthesia, cancer, and haematology, the Journal and the Bulletin of the American Ceramic Society, and Ceramic Abstracts. All of these titles were held from 1978 to 1981. It appeared that the dental collection had been part of the Medical Library when the dental school was started, and when a separate library was established in 1981 these, plus the four dental journals, were sent from the Medical Library to form the nucleus of the collection. When I suggested that the non-dental titles should be discarded, I discovered there was a great reluctance to discard anything in print. It was the volume on the shelf which was important, not necessarily the contents.

The library had two large accession books in which the holdings were recorded. In the journals register the titles were not listed in any order, and from the method of recording, one couldn't be certain as to what issues had been received. In the accession book for monographs, those titles in more than one volume were all given the same accession number.

An attempt had been made at cataloguing, with an author, title and subject card made for each book, classified in the Dewey system, with the number written on the title page of the book. These cards were 4 by 6 inches, and each group was a different color. Mr. M's handwriting was poor, and as he hadn't revised the cards, there was some very imaginative spelling when the typist guessed at the letters. After all the work that had been done on them, the cards had been tossed into a cupboard, where they lay in no particular order. Also, the classification numbers weren't used since the books were arranged in broad subject headings on the shelves.

Our first project was to get the journals organized. We recorded all the holdings, and later when I got my boxes out of customs (3 weeks after I arrived) those journals were also processed and Zeinab typed a titles list and put the holdings on cards. I had the titles list photocopied and told Mr. M that we would send copies to the other health libraries. He became quite alarmed at the suggestion, and said we mustn't send the list, as they might want to borrow our journals! I made samples of journal check-in cards and invoice record cards, and had brought samples of catalogue cards, borrowers' cards, and various other cards that would be needed. These were to be produced by the university printing office. The library had started to receive the Index to dental literature and I tried to explain its format and usefulness to Mr. M who had difficulty in understanding just what it was for.

I had begun to have some real reservations about what I was supposed to be doing at Tanta, and had a talk with the Dean about Mr. M's ability. His lack of adequate English and basic medical and dental terminology, and his apparent lack of interest in the library concerned me. Arranging and recording the journals was an easy task, but should I proceed with plans to catalogue the books using NLM classification and subject headings as the Dean had requested. He was aware that Mr. M was not up to much, but wanted me to carry on, and arranged for a graduate student who was fluent in English to come to the library on a regular basis to assist Mr. M with the subject headings and classification, and who would continue to do so after I left.

There were several other obstacles which also had to be faced. We had only an ancient manual typewriter with no way of reproducing the main cards; there was no card catalogue cabinet; and book labels were unobtainable.

At the beginning of April I went to Upper Egypt for five days, and while I was in Cairo I had my first meeting with Jayme Spencer, who is a cataloguer at American University. She had been referred to me by Dallas, and proved to be a godsend. When I told her about some of my problems, she said that her library owned a photocopy machine which copied 3 by 5 catalogue cards. It was a Japanese product, imported from Germany, and not available in the U.S.A. It was a neat machine about 12 by 18 inches that was placed on a table, and cost the incredible sum of 6000 Egyptian pounds. The American University library obviously thought it was worth the cost, since they had ordered another. Mr. Duggan, the Director, agreed that we could have our cards photocopied on condition that the Gaylord cards, which had to be used and were imported at a very high duty, would be replaced. As there were some 500 titles in the dental collection, we decided that 3000 cards would be sufficient. Replacing them was a small price to pay for the enormous benefit we would receive.

When I got back from U.Egypt I found that the Dean had a new Continental typewriter for the library. It was a sturdy, self-correcting ball model and it was beautiful. It typed in English letters from left to right, and with the flick of a switch typed from right to left in Arabic. The cards and forms I had designed and which had been ordered from the university printing office had arrived while I was away. The quality was quite adequate, and the speed at which they had been produced impressed me enormously.

With the help of the Bro-dart catalogue we prepared a want list of supplies. Finding supplies was one of the most frustrating problems I encountered. The library had practically nothing when I arrived. Pencils were sharpened with a razor blade, there was no ruler, and when scissors were needed someone was sent to the hospital to borrow a pair. Some of these supplies were held in the faculty's own stores department, unbeknownst to Mr. M. In Cairo, we shopped for a day and managed to find a date stamp and two file boxes for the 4 by 6 journal check-in and invoice record cards. In the meantime, I nagged the poor dean that we needed a 15-drawer catalogue and he thought it could be made by the university's carpenters.

By the middle of April we had begun to catalogue the books. My tools consisted of the MESH headings, the NLM classification schedules, and the photocopied Cutter-Sanborn tables. Although there were only 500 titles, the library held over 2600 volumes, with as many as 20 to 30 volumes for some titles. This became rather a bother when the book cards had to be typed for all those copies. We started with the anatomy books, and the procedure began with the women listing all of the accession numbers for each title on the back of the 4 by 6 author cards. The volume having the first accession number was brought into the workroom to be catalogued. We used the original author card, with its corrected entry, as the authority card. A temporary file in call number order was begun which was to become the shelflist.

Mr. M did show some interest in cataloguing. Dr. Ali, the graduate student, began to come quite regularly to help with the classification and subject headings. After the first session, he announced "Cataloguing is harder than working in the clinic." He was a very personable young man, and when he told Mr. M that his handwriting was terrible, it really improved! I think he gave Mr. M a new respect for library work, since he was serious about the task that he had been given. He was aware how valuable this catalogue would be to the students when it was ready to be used. The women loved the new typewriter and competed to use it and soon produced cards with very few mistakes. I had begun to write my report, and was preparing guidelines for every procedure being done in the library.

On May 8, Mr. M and I went to Cairo to leave 165 main cards at American University, and to borrow a catalogue drawer as a sample for the carpenters. When the dean saw the drawer, he realized that it would be rather more complex to build a card cabinet than he had thought. He had previously mentioned that he'd heard the U.S. Agency for International Development had sent the University some library equipment shortly before he had come to Tanta. After several false leads he finally asked his secretary to search her files, where the list was found. When he read out the items I could hardly believe my ears. The first item listed was a 60-drawer card cabinet which could hold 78,000 cards. There were 4,6,9,12 and 15 drawer units. There was an electric Gaylord card duplicating machine, with 70,000 stencils, and there were 35,000 Gaylord cards. There was enough equipment to stock an average sized library. A Deans' meeting was held a few days later, where the dean requested and received a 15-drawer catalogue, 2 6-drawer units, 5000 cards, and 2 book trucks. All were to be sent to the library within the next few days. I saw some of the AID equipment later in the Science Library. The librarian asked me what some of it was for, and I in turn asked when they would use the card duplicating machine which was stored in a cupboard. She said that they would catalogue all of the books before any of the cards were duplicated!

The label problem was solved, after a fashion, by improvising. I had taken some sheets of 1" by 3" address labels with me, and we cut these into strips, typed the call numbers on them, stuck them on the book spine, and covered them with scotch tape.

On May 9, the typewriter broke. It was exam time, the dean was very busy, and no one had time to try to have it fixed. After a week we decided to use the old manual typewriter to prepare book cards and labels, and the girls were kept busy typing cards for all those duplicate copies. When I went to American University to get the added entry cards I found that the photocopy machine had also broken, after only 50 of our cards had been duplicated, and no one had yet come to repair it. We used the old typewriter to complete the 50 cards, and the card files began to take shape. On May 28 I returned to Cairo, the photocopy machine had just been fixed, and I copied a large number of the cards that still had to be done. On May 29, repair men came from Cairo and fixed the typewriter, and we typed added entries for the remainder of the day. On May 30, I packed my bags, and on the 31st I flew to Amsterdam - my leave was over.

For three months I was challenged as I'd never been challenged before. There were frustrations but also real accomplishments. I had extended my stay in Egypt by six days - those last few days turned out to be crucial, but in the end everything didn't come together in a neat package with no loose ends. The card cabinet and other equipment which we had expected every day for ten days arrived 48 hours after I left. The typewriter sat idle for three weeks, but now the staff knew they could phone the agent and a repair man would be out within two days. I had prepared a report with numerous guidelines and appendixes for all procedures in the library. Two-thirds of the books were catalogued, although many were waiting for the cards to be typed. The journals were being checked in properly, and Sh'Allah (God willing), the library's feeble beginnings would take shape and grow.