Contributed Paper Session I-1

A NEW SETTING FOR THE LIBRARY OF THE FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF UTRECHT, THE NETHERLANDS

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ABSTRACT: After a short overview of the development of the library since its foundation in 1821, the impact of new faculty buildings on the functioning of the library will be elucidated. The integration of twenty departmental collections in the faculty library not only enlarged the scope of the latter, but asked for new ways of interaction between the library and its customers. The strategy is to distribute the access to the information sources to the working areas: by SDI-subscriptions, by connections to the OPC and to databases on CD-ROM. Collection development in accordance with the nearby libraries of the Medical Faculty and of the Departments of Biology, Chemistry and Pharmacy, will be discussed.

This is not to be meant as an historical article, although an attempt will be made to make some lines of development visible. Probably the developments described were not only characteristic for the situation in Utrecht, but occurred also in other universities on the European continent. Urged by the increase in the number of students, the ever growing information needs of researchers, the consequences of post-doctoral follow-up courses, and the money absorbing investments in library automation at the one hand and shrinking funds at the other hand, a transformation of small self-contained library units to larger facilities had become a necessity.

A short description of the long process of organizational change as part of the university library system will be presented as a background, before we turn to the internal changes of the veterinary library after the move into its new premises. Then the consequences for the organization of the collections will be dealt with, and at last some future developments will be touched upon.

Organizational change
The library of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine is one of ten discipline-oriented libraries, that, together with the General Library (founded in 1584), form the library system of Utrecht University. This system grew out of a conglomerate of c. 160 departmental libraries that were still in existence in the seventies. The process of clustering or integration was a difficult one, and it would be a too favorable picture if I declared that all difficulties were overcome.

The change from small specialized libraries for each institute, laboratory or clinic to faculty libraries or even to libraries serving several faculties, was in fact a shift from the German institute-based system to the Anglo-American inspired system. One of the goals was, for instance, to present large parts of the collections in open access and make them available for all who need them, and not only for the privileged users working in the institute to which they happened to belong. Another advantage of enlargement of scale of operation is a better guarantee for continued and professional service.

These changes are very much favoured, and probably only then possible, if the introduction of a new organizational structure coincides with a move to new accommodations. These are always the prerequisite for healthy library development. In any case this holds true for the veterinary library in Utrecht. Till 1980, the library was housed in the same building where it started in 1821. Of course it grew and each square meter that became available in its
neighborhood was occupied. But it would have been impossible to incorporate departmental collections and offer enough reading space for 1200 students and 400 staff members at the old premises. At the time I was appointed as librarian of the Faculty (1967), the building of a new faculty outside the inner town was started already. The question of how to organize the library became urgent. The four clinical buildings were designed already and space for libraries was projected. For the main building with the teaching facilities, and for the two wings, destined for resp. the pre-clinical and the para-clinical disciplinary groups, three separate libraries were planned. My argument that this would be a very costly solution, because of the needed personnel and the maintenance of three catalogues (catalogue automation was not in the picture at that time), persuaded the board of the Faculty to unify the three projected libraries into one faculty library. The realization was delayed because of two building stops declared by the financing body, the Ministry of Education.

We used that period of about 10 years to catalogue, as much as possible, the materials of the 18 departmental libraries, and to unify the administration of the serials. All library provisions were financed since 1969 from a centralized library budget, favouring the coordination of acquisitions and central cataloguing. Since the veterinary library was incorporated into the University Library (in 1925, at the same time as the Veterinary College became a faculty of the university), most of the administrative tasks and the formal cataloguing, as well, were performed by the University Library. I have always appreciated the close cooperation in the framework of a larger library organization. Those contacts helped very much to introduce the faculty to the blessings of modern tools so that we could start a MEDLARS SDI service in 1969, followed by online services in 1973, catalogue automation in 1977, in the first phase with microfiches, and online in 1983.

The new premises
The move to the new library took place in the summer of 1980. There we got: 1,450 square meters of floor space; separate stacks in the form of mobile compact storage for older, less used parts of the collection; seating capacity for 110 readers; separate staff areas; new furniture, etc. The setting was in the immediate neighborhood of the lecture theaters and the teaching building. The personnel was expanded to 7.5 FTE, with extra help from student assistants for special tasks.

The rearrangement of collections could start. These collections consisted of the central faculty collection and the collections of the departments housed in the same building with its annexes (Anatomy, Pathology, Immunology, Virology and Parasitology). The collections of the clinics and the Department of Zootecchnics, moved to new buildings earlier, had to be brought in. In some cases this asked for some persuasion, to say the least. The librarian was assisted in this difficult task by the members of the Library Committee, who argued that a better service could be given after the concentration of the collections. The philosophy was that it is of more importance for staff members to be kept informed about new publications in their sphere of interest than to have a selection of primary publications at their immediate disposal. Therefore all research projects got the support of an SDI-profile and a number of copies of two editions of Current Contents were brought in for circulation among the departments. All new acquisitions would be brought to their attention by publishing their titles in the monthly news bulletin of the Faculty.

Besides, the departments were not left without any books. The concept of so-called working collections was introduced, containing the books necessary for daily use. A fixed sum would be reserved from the library budget for the updating of these collections, that were not meant, however, to grow to new departmental libraries. They would have a fixed size, proportional with the number of staff members. We managed to bring together all periodical volumes and also the books, of which some 4,000 were returned to the departments with new call numbers, including the note that they were not available for lending. Only in 1988, the last departments which were still at their old premises, moved to their new quarters. Also these libraries (of the Departments of Biochemistry, Physiology, Pharmacology & Toxicology, Protozoology and Foodstuffs of Animal Origin) were incorporated.

As about 80% of the demand in our type of library is for periodical literature, it was logical to handle the periodical volumes first. Next to changes in the catalogue (call numbers and holdings) and spine labeling, since 1983 also barcode labeling had to be performed, because in that year the automated circulation system (of GEAC) became available. The periodicals subscribed to (about 800) and the volumes of the last ten years were placed in open access. The serials publishing reviews, however, were classified with the monographs. The periodicals of the most recent ten year period may not be borrowed out, but the serials and books can be borrowed.
Book and serial collection (B+S)
In order to accommodate the specialities that were not, or to a lesser degree, covered by the faculty library before, a new classification system for the open access collection had to be devised. Taking as point of departure the pattern of questioning the customers, it was decided to develop a polyhierarchical system, arranging resp. after discipline, organ system and group of animals or (domestic) animal species. To classify the books themselves, preference is given to use these categories in reverse order. The classification is rather articulated, and inside each subclass a further division is made in order to keep together certain types of literature (e.g., textbooks, congress proceedings, serials, methodology, atlases, bibliography and history) or to place them in chronological order after the decade of their imprint. In the call number, the edition number, the copy number, or the serial number can be included.

Analysis of the open access collection
After finishing the recategorisation of about 15,000 books, it seemed of interest to gain insight into their quantitative distribution over the main categories. First of all, there was the question of how far a veterinary library, serving a wide range of research projects, had still a typical veterinary character. In other words, in how far were we relying on the large surrounding fields of literature from biology, medicine and agriculture? As the answer very much depends on the local situation, no universal significance can be attributed to the ratio found.

Next to this theoretical question, two reasons of a practical nature made the analysis worthwhile. As the collection, representing about 25 years of acquisitions, was selected partly by the librarian, partly by the staff members of the departments, one could learn from an analysis which fields were relatively strong against others, and which perhaps needed to be strengthened. The second reason had to do with our university context in which sharing of resources has become a necessity in this time of shrinking budgets. An earlier investigation of the biomedical journals subscribed to by the several faculty libraries and the General Library (not to be reported here) has already led to arrangements for a division of responsibilities.

Methods
After classifying the books and serials according to our own classification scheme, the titles (not the volumes) were counted in the index of the call numbers in the online catalogue. Multi-volume works covered by one title were thus counted for one. But a serial with separate titles for each volume (e.g., Veterinary Clinics of North America) yielded a score in proportion to the number of volumes it has produced. For each subclass the number of titles was recorded. In order to determine the distribution of titles according to imprint year, tallying by decade was performed. The handwritten shelf lists, used for assigning shelf numbers, were here used as source.

Results
By April 1, 1992, the open access collection consisted of 14,910 titles. The distribution over the main categories in absolute numbers and in rounded percentages was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Titles</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) General works</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Pre-clinical sciences</td>
<td>5039</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Para-clinical sciences</td>
<td>2728</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) Clinical sciences</td>
<td>1246</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) Organ specialities</td>
<td>2248</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6) Applied sciences</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(zootechnics; food sci.)</td>
<td>1284</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7) Animal groups</td>
<td>1635</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To find out the precise contribution of the veterinary titles, these were counted separately from categories 1-5.

It appeared that 20% of the titles belonged to specific veterinary subclasses (from veterinary encyclopedias to veterinary dermatology). If we proclaim all titles belonging to zootechnics, food sciences and animal groups to be of a specifically veterinary nature, the total percentage of veterinary materials in this library is 40.

(Histograms of the distribution of titles over disciplines, organ systems and animal species, and examples of the distribution over imprint years are to be found in the appendix).

Discussion
For the provision of monographs to the needs of a veterinary faculty, a large selection has to be made from the offer produced in related fields. This holds especially true for the pre- and para-clinical sciences. As these sciences are also studied in other faculties, decisions have to be made as to which subjects will be the special responsibility of which faculty library. The difficulty here is to find an equilibrium between the aim for continuity at the librarian's side and the changing interests of the faculties in connection with their research programs. In my view, most users will best be served if a library uses its resources by concentrating on certain topics after agreement is reached with the representatives of the users (e.g.,
the library committee) and with the colleagues of allied libraries, who are willing to take responsibility for supplemental subjects. In most cases, it will be more beneficial for a user to find his field of interest nicely covered in a neighboring library than to have an incomplete collection in his own. Of course, there will always be overlapping fields. In our case, for instance, the field of pathology needs to be collected by both the medical and the veterinary libraries. Here a certain degree of overlap is unavoidable and has to be accepted. Also, duplication of textbooks and important reference works will be a necessity. To avoid unnecessary duplication, an important new tool can be the newly installed acquisition module in the library network, that offers the opportunity to consult the order file of other libraries, after which consultation, an intended order can be withheld.

Probably, the outcome of our deliberations of how to best coordinate our acquisitions in the biomedical field will follow the lines decided upon for the collection of periodicals. Here we reached an agreement that signified for the veterinary library cancellations of subscriptions in the fields of molecular biology, cytology and genetics. Also a number of medical specialty journals could be cancelled in the knowledge that they would be kept by the Medical Library. An equal partitioning of subscriptions on pharmacology journals could be reaching the library of the Faculty of Pharmacy. Next to these negative decisions for the Veterinary Library, it was decided that we would strengthen our periodical collections in the fields of immunology, infectious diseases, parasitology and toxicology. As a matter of fact, we will continue to collect the relevant veterinary publications in the Western languages as completely as possible, because we are the only general veterinary library in the Netherlands.

The Dutch university libraries are in the process of developing a coordinated acquisition policy together with four libraries with special task assignments in a national context. Two of these (the library of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences in Amsterdam, and the library of the Agricultural University in Wageningen) are important back-up libraries for our faculty. To tune into this national framework, the developments in this area have to be followed closely.

To conclude: in order to keep a sound equilibrium between the periodical and the book collection, and to prevent the aging of the latter (and the tallies per decade are indicating already a tendency that the growth is slowed down) further agreements locally, as well as nationally, will be unavoidable.

Future developments
1. As in most universities, the University of Utrecht is implementing its electronic network based on fibre optics. The library network already in existence must interface with this local area network in order to give access to the catalogue, and possibly to other files at all work places. The next step will be to integrate access to CD-ROMs and CCOD (Current Contents On Diskette) into this network.

2. The more sophisticated the tools for information gathering become, the more instruction has to be given to the users of the library. In the new curriculum under preparation now, training in the use of the library and the scientific literature will be scheduled. These skills will be a prerequisite if programs in veterinary education are more and more oriented to increase the problem-oriented capacities of students.

3. Not only students, but also alumni need to be informed how to handle modern information tools. Talks with their professional organization, the Royal Netherlands Veterinary Association, have begun as to the achievement of this goal (e.g., by extension of SDI services to practitioners and by CE-courses).

4. As veterinary education is no longer directed to train students to be able to practice their skills in a narrow local area but worldwide, international cooperation between veterinary schools has come into being. Also, quality assessment by foreign accreditation committees gives alumni a wider range of action. Next to internationalization of research, as old as organized scientific research itself, we experience now through the ERASMUS and TEMPUS programs of the European Community, a revival of the age-old internationalization of university education. And participation in development programs outside Europe open up still wider horizons.

Next to bilateral and tripartite schemes, the veterinary schools of Europe have united themselves in an association called the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE). As European veterinary librarians are not well organized, neither in IAALD (International Association of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists), nor in EAHIL (European Association for Health Information and Libraries), cooperation could possibly come off inside this new association.

Under their auspices, the library of the Veterinary Faculty at Utrecht, in cooperation with a veterinary publisher, EUROSCIENCE, started this year the
publication of the *Current Bibliography of European Veterinary Dissertations*. The bibliography is based on the dissertations received by the library.

We possess a fairly complete collection of dissertations from French, German, Scandinavian, and Swiss schools acquired through international exchange since 1918, when the Veterinary College got its ius promovendi. A disadvantage of this system is that it generally works very slowly. As it is the aim of the aforementioned bibliography to be current and as comprehensive as possible, we should like to receive the dissertations as soon as they are published, and from all European countries where veterinary dissertations for academic degrees are upheld.

Cooperating schools will receive two copies without charge. Also, diskettes in CARDBOX format can be made available. We would appreciate the cooperation of the colleagues of the European veterinary libraries very much, and we ask for comments on the lay-out and usefulness of this new tool.

To end
After an existence of 170 years, the Utrecht Veterinary Library looks to a challenging future, which will not change its essential functions, the support of teaching, research, and care for animal health. But new tools and a better organization will help to ameliorate these functions and to expand services and resources to a wider range of users.
Distribution after disciplines
Preclinical sciences

[Bar chart showing distribution of titles across various disciplines.
Series 1: All titles; Series 2: Veterinary]

Distribution after disciplines
Paraclinical sciences

[Bar chart showing distribution of titles across various disciplines.
Series 1: All titles; Series 2: Veterinary]
Distribution after disciplines
Clinical sciences

Ser. 1: All titles; Ser. 2: Veterinary

Distribution after disciplines
Zootechnics; Food sciences
Distribution after organ system

Ser.1: All titles; Ser.2: Veterinary

Distribution after animal groups/species
Number of titles/ decade
Class: Toxicology

N=603; Except 1990-99: 170

Number of titles/ decade
Class: Lab. Animals