

Publishing for the Library Community

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In general, publishing of any scientific literature means publishing for the library community. A big portion of scientific journals, scientific monographs and even academic text books go to libraries. Therefore publishing companies like Elsevier Science, Wolters-Kluwer, Springer, John Wiley, Academic Press and others are the biggest and surely also the most important suppliers for libraries. Any scientific library spends an extremely high percentage of the acquisition budget on journals from these publishers because of the mostly extraordinary high prices.

In addition to that there are a number of publishers more or less specialized in library information and bibliographic information. This makes them of specific importance to the library community. In particular these are the following companies: H.W. Wilson in New York, R. R. Bowker in New Providence, the Gale Group in Detroit, Libraries Unlimited in Boulder, Colorado, and Oryx Press in Phoenix, Arizona. In Germany there are Otto Harrassowitz Verlag in Wiesbaden, Hiersemann Verlag in Stuttgart, Klostermann Verlag in Frankfurt, K. G. Saur Verlag in Munich and Zeller Verlag in Osnabrück. Then there are Editrice Bibliografica in Milan, Italy, Thorpe in Melbourne, Australia and Whitaker in London, U.K.. Similarly specialised publishing companies don't exist in the remaining countries. Take for example France; Cercle de la Librairie publishes library information and *Livres Disponibles* (The French books in print) but it is actually no publishing company. Presses Universitaires de France publishes the well known textbook of Malclès, *Manuel de bibliographie*. The same situation applies to other countries, where the field of librarianship is only covered for more or less by a few publishers.

Special publishers for librarianship do have a long tradition in most of the cases. R. R. Bowker was founded in New York by the German Frederick Leyboldt from Stuttgart, Germany. Immediately after founding the company he started the magazines *Publishers Weekly*, *Library Journal*, then *Index Medicus* and *Publishers' Trade List Annual* being a preliminary stage for *Books in Print*. In December 1967 Bowker was sold to the Xerox Corporation and in 1985 they sold it to Reed International. Today it is a part of the Reed Elsevier Group. Products like *Books in Print*, *Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory*, *Literary Market Place*, *International Literary Market Place*, *American Men and Women of Science* and numerous other reference works make it one of the most important publishers in this field worldwide. Sales are in book, CD-ROM and online format.

H.W. Wilson, New York, founded in 1898, plays a big role for public libraries. For many years one of its important projects was the *Wilson Library Bulletin* especially developed for use in public libraries. But appropriate development in line with market demands stopped and it had to be discontinued 15 years ago. The *Cumulative book index* an annual listing of all the English language publications in one volume and published by Wilson since 1898 experienced a similar fate after more than a hundred years of existence. Until then this was – long before *Books in Print* came out – the most important reference work on the library market. Today Wilson plays still an important part in librarianship with its bibliographic abstract information.

In 1954 Frederick Ruffner founded Gale Research in Detroit. His idea was to publish a directory of all organizations in the United States. Being a sales representative he realized that these

organizations are good customers but had no corresponding directory. This was the birth hour of the *Encyclopedia of Associations* now available in the 34th edition and still the most important project for the company. Besides that the company developed an extraordinarily high number of biographical and bibliographical reference works. Thomson acquired the company in 1995 and it was integrated into the Gale Group together with other special publishers in the information sector. Today it is the biggest publisher of library information in the USA and with that surely the biggest worldwide. Amongst numerous single acquisitions in the last few years, the famous Scribners Biographical Encyclopedias were bought from Macmillan in New York and outstandingly well-expanded and continued.

Libraries Unlimited, situated in Boulder, Colorado, was founded in 1964 by Bohdan S. Wynar and publishes various textbooks for librarianship as well as the *American reference books annual* and a number of other annuals on reference works. In comparison this is a small but extraordinarily active and productive company not to be missed in the library market.

After leaving Bowker, Jack Neal and Pat Schuman started Neal-Schuman Publishers in New York in 1976. Today this is one of the most important companies for textbooks in librarianship and for special bibliographies.

Oryx Press in Phoenix, Arizona, was founded the same way. Phyllis B. Steckler, former chief editor of *Books in Print* for Bowker founded the company in 1975. Today Oryx Press publishes a number of important reference works for libraries. Amongst a variety of smaller editions the most relevant products are *The Who's Who of Nobel Prize Winners 1901–1995* and *Subject Encyclopedias* or the *Directory of Federal Libraries*.

In Germany publishing for the library community has the longest tradition. It is represented in particular by the following publishing houses:

Harrassowitz Verlag, nowadays in Wiesbaden, was founded in 1872 in Leipzig in connection with the antiquarian and export book shop. Up to today Otto Harrassowitz publishes the *Jahrbuch der Deutschen Bibliotheken* (Yearbook of German libraries) and until 1945 the *Zentralblatt für Bibliothekswesen* (German journal for librarianship), the first big scientific magazine for the whole library world. Presently its main field is

the publication of extensive historical library catalogues, manuscript collections, indices to incunables and other reference works.

Anton Hiersemann Verlag, Stuttgart, also developed from an antiquarian book shop established in Leipzig in 1884. Amongst other projects the company publishes the *Gesamtkatalog der Wiegendrucke* (Union catalogue of incunables) and the so called VD 16, the *Verzeichnis der im deutschen Sprachbereich erschienenen Drucke des 16. Jahrhunderts* (Index of 16th century imprints in the German language area) and numerous other bibliographic historical reference works. Tied to them is Dr. Ernst Hauswedell Verlag, particularly responsible for the publications of the State and University Library Carl von Ossietzky in Hamburg and the *Jahrbuch der Auktionspreise* (Yearbook of auction prices) as well as a number of other publications on book and library studies.

Besides philosophical and scientific publications Vittorio Klostermann brings publications on librarianship. Founded in 1930 in Frankfurt/Main the company publishes since 1954 the *Zeitschrift für Bibliothekswesen und Bibliographie* (Magazine for librarianship and bibliography) since 1991 jointly with the *Zentralblatt für Bibliothekswesen* (German journal for librarianship). Other projects are the *Bibliographie der deutschen Sprach- und Literaturwissenschaft* (Bibliography of German language and literature research), the *Bibliographie der deutschsprachigen psychologischen Literatur* (Bibliography of German language psychologic literature) and further essential information material for librarianship world wide.

Originally founded in Leipzig as well at the turn of last century Zeller Verlag is situated in Osnabrück. The well known *Dietrich, Internationale Bibliographie der Zeitschriftenliteratur* (Dietrich, International bibliography of scientific periodicals literature) complemented by the *Internationale Jahresbibliographie der Rezensionen wissenschaftlicher Literatur* (International annual bibliography of reviews of scientific literature) and the *Internationale Jahresbibliographie der Kongreßberichte* (International annual bibliography of conference proceedings) comes from this company. In addition to a number of other bibliographical and biographical reference works it publishes the *Index Philosophicus*.

K. G. Saur Verlag in Munich was established in 1949 making it the “youngster” amongst German

library publishers. It is the home of such well known works like *Publishers' International ISBN Directory* firstly published in 1964, the *World Guide to Libraries* since 1966, the *German Books in Print* since 1971, the *Gesamtverzeichnis des deutschsprachigen Schrifttums* (Bibliography of German-language publications) to date in app. 400 volumes since 1975 and the *British Library General Catalogue of Printed Books* with the *Catalogue of Printed Music in the British Library* in app. 1000 volumes.

Today K. G. Saur is the biggest special publisher in the book and library sector in Europe. It was acquired by Reed International in London in 1987 and belongs now to the Reed Elsevier Group. The company's flagship is the *World Biographical Information System* containing about ten million biographical articles. This system is complemented by the *World Bibliographies on CD-ROM* published in ten different languages.

In Great Britain there is only one publishing company directly involved in the book and li-

brary market. This is J. Whitaker & Sons, founded in 1841, publisher of the *Bookseller* since 1858, the *British Books in Print* since 1965 and of other titles for the booktrade. The publishing house was sold to Verenigde Nederlandse Uitgeversbedrijven-VNU in the Netherlands in 1998.

Italy also got only one company specialized in this field. Founded in 1974 by the family Costa Editrice Bibliografica in Milan publishes the *Catalogo dei Libri in commercio* (Italian books in print), numerous bibliographical reference works, text books and handbooks for the library market. Until today the family is still in charge of the company.

D.W. Thorpe in Melbourne, Australia, established in 1921 is the only special publisher with a branche in New Zealand. The *Australian and New Zealand Books in Print*, the *Australian Bookseller* and a variety of other reference works for the book and library market are published under it's name. It belongs to the Reed Elsevier Group since 1988.