

## RESEARCH MATERIALS AVAILABLE IN THE GEOLOGICAL LIBRARY

A. G. SKELTON, Librarian

Geological Library, University of Oklahoma, Norman

Quite frequently it is the habit on the part of new institutions and organizations to bemoan the fact that the youth of their organization has thrown them behind in the collection of material vital to their existence. Often the age of an institution seems to be the basis for judging its standing. This is true especially of higher institutions of learning. However, this standard of judgment cannot be truly applied to the Geological Library at the University of Oklahoma. Owing to the foresight of the members connected with the state institutions responsible for this library, it now ranks as one of the foremost geological collections in the Southwest.

A library is accurately judged, not only by the amount of material it affords on particular subjects, but also by the availability of this material. The latter point is of great importance in a special technical library, such as the one being discussed.

The Geological Library consists of the collections of the Oklahoma Geological Survey and the School of Geology. The combined collections of these agencies total 35,000 volumes, in addition to a map collection of approximately 10,000 pieces, and a well log collection of about 95,000 logs. Material in this library of a necessity must cover all branches of geology and paleontology, because courses in these fields are offered by the School of Geology. Latest economic and statistical material must also be kept to facilitate services offered by the Oklahoma Geological Survey.

For practical purposes, in analyzing the library collection in the Geological Library from the standpoint of research materials available, the collection can be divided into the following groups: magazines, books, serials, maps, well logs, and miscellaneous material.

*Magazines.* The Library, through subscriptions and gifts, receives all of the latest publications in the field of geology and paleontology. In addition to the magazines that are now published, the Library possesses good files of magazines no longer published, and at all times is active in securing lacking numbers and runs in its periodical sets. At the present time, some foreign publications are not received with regularity.

*Books.* The Library purchases all new books on geology and paleontology. In addition to these purchases, numerous books have been given to the Library. Within the very near future, the Library will receive its fourth private collection. These gifts of private libraries help to improve the library holdings.

*Serials.* Both the Geological Survey and the School of Geology are depositories for most of the state and federal agencies that publish material on geology. The Survey alone carries on exchanges with institutions in 45 different states and Washington, D. C.; and the Library receives publications from approximately twenty foreign countries. Because the Library is rather young in comparison to other libraries of similar nature,

there were certain breaks in early sets, which at first constituted a decided handicap. However, through cooperation with the W. P. A., an elaborate want and exchange list set-up was established and many of these early sets are being completed. Usually this is done at a minimum expense to the Library. Volumes unobtainable in this fashion are purchased from time to time as funds allow.

*Maps.* As an index to the completeness of the map file in the Library, we have made a check against the catalog of "Small-scale Geologic Maps", prepared by the Division of Geology and Geography of the National Research Council of the United States and issued in 1933. We find that of the approximately 1,050 maps listed in this catalog, the Library lacks but few. The Library collection includes all types of maps of interest in geological study. Its collection of topographical maps, published by the U. S. Geological Survey, is probably as complete as any in the country.

Complete listings and catalogs of all of the maps in the Library are available for instant consultation.

*Well Logs.* The Library has two sets of drillers' logs, published by the Oklahoma Corporation Commission. One of these sets is available to the public for use, while the other remains always as a permanent record. Each set contains more than 95,000 well logs. This collection is kept up to date by the addition of all new logs as they are issued. Recently a check was made with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission and several thousand logs needed to complete the set were obtained.

*Miscellaneous.* Numerous manuscripts as well as much ephemeral material is kept on file in the Geological Library to supplement the other types of materials.

Needless to say, any special technical library as large as this one would be impractical for use if the most up-to-date library and bibliographical methods were not followed. The catalog to this collection is complete and in full detail and, as an aid in its use, it has been completely refiled according to the simpler filing rules coming into practice in many large library systems.

The Library also keeps at the disposal of all its users a multitude of the best bibliographies and periodical indexes. Instruction in the use of these bibliographies and indexes is given constantly.

To offset any deficiencies that this Library has in its collection, it arranges interlibrary loans with all libraries in the State, both to aid local users in securing additional material and to make available the material in the Library to users in all corners of the State. Frequent requests are received for interlibrary loans from libraries in other states.