Books are for use: Ranganathan centennial year

During the 19th and 20th centuries, two great librarians—Melvil Dewey (1851–1931) of the United States and S. R. Ranganathan (1892–1972) of India—were responsible for the development of library and information science. In this centennial year of Ranganathan’s birth it is important to recall his many contributions.

Born on August 9, 1892, Ranganathan may most commonly be remembered for his formulation of laws. In 1929 he felt that librarianship lacked a set of unifying, guiding principles and set down the following: books are for use; every reader has his book, every book its reader; save the time of the reader, save the time of library staff; and the library is a growing organism.

In 1925 he introduced the Colon Classification, a radical departure from the Dewey Decimal and Library of Congress Classification systems. In 1934 he published the Classified Catalogue code which showed that an analytico-synthetic approach is useful irrespective of what scheme for classification is used for developing a structured subject index.

Dewey would subscribe by sending the following message: SUBSCRIBE ALA-WO Melvil Dewey. Newsline is available through Internet, CompuServe, MCI Mail, and any other e-mail service that can receive Internet messages. Note that this is a newsletter and not a discussion group. Questions or comments should be sent to NU_ALAWASH@CUA or NU_ALAWASH@CUAVAX.DNET.CUA.EDU.

Proposals in BI and preservation sought

Proposals are needed for the poster sessions at ACRL’s Bibliographic Instruction Section Conference Program, on Sunday, June 27, 1993, in New Orleans. The program, entitled “Coping with Chaos, Thriving on Change,” needs poster sessions dealing with practical suggestions for successful and innovative responses to change. For example, how has the BI program adapted to new technologies, changing student populations, budget constraints, staffing changes, new teaching methods, new instructional media. Proposals consisting of a 250-word abstract describing your project or research and how you will communicate your ideas should be submitted by January 8, 1993, to: Susan Miller, Coordinator of Library Instruction, Milner Library, Illinois State University, Normal, IL 61761.

Proposals for contributions to volume 2 of Advances in Preservation and Access, a Meckler publication, are being sought by editor Barbra Buckner Higginbotham. Papers are wanted on current topics in library preservation, conservation, and related access issues, particularly in the areas of special materials and disciplines (music, theatre, dance, film, recorded sound), curator/conservator relationships, education and training, preventive measures, surveys and collection assessment, mass deacidification, international efforts, and automation applications for program management.