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Place and Space as Presented in English Language Library and Information Science Encyclopedias

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Introduction

Theory is diffused through professional and academic communities by scholarly presentations, articles, monographs, textbooks and finally, by encyclopedias. The term “encyclopedia” is derived from the Greek words “circle” and “learning”, and since antiquity compilers of encyclopedias have attempted to offer a synthesis of what is known in addition to presenting entries on individual topics. This tradition continues even in specialized encyclopedias whose editors frame their work within the theoretical conceptualizations of their respective disciplines. Likewise editors of library and information science encyclopedias have often laid out a broad theoretical framework to guide their selection of what to include, and contributors have expressed their own theoretical perspectives through emphasis on or marginalization of topics within entries. For example, although all LIS encyclopedias have had to give some attention to the library as a place, they have each treated these issues in a different way as a result of theoretical considerations or as a result of a more laissez-faire attitude of the editors, thus allowing individual authors to express their own perspectives.

In this paper I will explore the intersection of space, place and theory in three one-volume English language LIS encyclopedias as well as examining the multivolume *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science* which was issued between 1968 and 1983. The last volume of ELIS coincided with the publication of first one-volume LIS encyclopedia which originally appeared under the title *ALA World Encyclopedia of Library and Information Services* (ALA World); although the American Library Association published all three editions, ALA was dropped from the title in the 3rd edition. Nonetheless, for the sake of clarity, I will refer to all editions of this work as the ALA World Encyclopedia. The first British LIS encyclopedia appeared in 1997 with the title *International Encyclopedia of Information and Library Science* (IEILS), and although its scope was similar to the other two, the approach of the editors was very different—focusing more on *intellectual space* rather than geographic coverage. The fourth work selected for this study, the *Encyclopedia of Library History* (ELH) examines library development over time and across continents.

Aside from ELH, all the other encyclopedias have gone into a second or third edition. The table below shows the dates of the successive editions of these encyclopedias:

Title	Abbreviation	1 st edition	2 nd edition	3 rd edition
<i>Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science</i>	ELIS 1	(BASE SET-- 35 vols.) 1968 -1983 Supplements vol 36 -73 1983 –2002	(BASE SET— 4 vols.) 2003 Supplements: 5 th vol plus online additions 2005	in process 600 articles commissioned (projected for 2010)
<i>ALA World Encyclopedia of Library and Information Service</i>	ALA World	1980	1986	1993
<i>International Encyclopedia of Information & Library Science</i>	IEILS	1997	2003	
<i>Encyclopedia of Library History</i>	ELH	1994		

For the purpose of this study, the focus will be on the first edition of *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science* (ELIS-1), since it affords the most comprehensive coverage; although it offers many more in-depth articles, its scope is more comparable to the three one-volume encyclopedias than ELIS-2 which does not include a set of country or regional articles, and which has an institutional focus directed toward American academic libraries. Although I may occasionally make reference to ELIS-2 (2003), all comparative tables include only data from ELIS-1.

The first section of my paper will deal with the theme of *geographical space and will examine how these encyclopedias deal with the global distribution of libraries* in specific countries and in world regions. The next section will discuss institutional space and will compare articles on library architecture and named institutions in the four encyclopedias. Since both ELIS and the *ALA World Encyclopedia* are illustrated, visual representation of interior space and exterior views will be compared between these two works. The third part of this paper will treat the theme of space, motion and remote access. In that section traveling or “itinerating libraries” will be discussed, followed by bookmobiles, and concluding with a brief discussion of how digital libraries and remote access is presented in the 2003 edition of IEILS, which is the only one of these works to be published after access to the World Wide Web became significant for libraries.

Encyclopedia Making

According to the late J. Periam Danton, “there can hardly be any more demanding literary undertaking than the production of an encyclopedia” (1981, p. 531). Since I whole heartedly agree with Danton, the goal of my paper is not to critique the four titles chosen for study, but rather to analyze and compare how these encyclopedias deal with the issue of space and place. While the *ALA World Encyclopedia* has a far more comprehensive and systematic approach than the other three, none of these works is without certain flaws. Of the four, ELIS-1 was a pioneering work, and one whose slow publication over a decade and a half meant that it was continually evolving. Allen Kent who edited ELIS-1 (from 1965 until 2002) was keenly aware of the problems faced by encyclopedia makers. In 1973 he responded at length to a harsh critique of the first five volumes of the encyclopedia. In his rebuttal he stated “I have prepared this presentation to make sure the lessons of Diderot-d’Alembert are recalled in terms of encyclopedia-making as an exercise in the art of the

possible." (1973, p. 604). Although it has not been verified that "the art of the possible" is a direct quotation from Diderot, the idea, if not the phrase, probably has been circulating among encyclopedia makers for over 200 years.

Among the challenges that Allen Kent commented on was the problem of getting contributors to deliver their manuscripts on time. As he recalled, "Perhaps 25 percent [of authors under contract] will produce the article without further reminders. For the others, from one to twenty letters, phone calls and cables may be required." As the deadline loomed near, the "final technique" that Kent used was to send one last letter in which he enclosed a photograph of himself "on both knees and with a pleading look" (1973, p. 604). The editors of the *Encyclopedia of Library History* echo this lament, noting that the omissions of several articles one might expect to find was due to a variety of reasons: "Some [articles] ... do not appear because suitable contributors could not be identified; still others are missing because an author who agreed to contribute the article simply failed to do so at a late date in the project' (Wiegand and Davis, 1994, p. xi). Since I have contributed articles to all three of these one-volume encyclopedias, I must admit that although that most of my own contributions were submitted before the final deadline, in one case a bit of pleading was done by the editors, who graciously allowed an extension. My sympathy and heartfelt admiration goes to all the editors of the four encyclopedias that I will be discussing today. Since 2005 I have been assisting Professor Emerita Marcia Bates in the preparation of a completely reconceptualized third edition of the *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Sciences*, and this experience has led me to understand all too well the frustration and perils of participating in "encyclopedia-making."

Of course, our challenges today are different from those faced by Allen Kent who began planning the first edition of ELIS in 1965. At that time, Kent had just recently moved to the University of Pittsburgh to direct the new Center for Knowledge Availability Systems. An information scientist with a background in chemistry, Kent was approached by a Marcel Dekker, whose firm published scientific reference works. Aware of the impact that technology was beginning to have on libraries, Dekker was eager to publish a reference work to meet the needs of this rapidly changing field. The publisher persuaded Allen Kent and Harold Lancour, dean of the Graduate Library School at the University of Pittsburgh, to accept "the challenging opportunity to create a

basic compendium of what has become an integrated library and information science.” (ELIS, vol 1 p.xii) The brief quotation above, which appeared in the preface of the first volume, was the only statement given as to the subject scope and purpose of encyclopedia. A second goal expressed by the editors was to emphasize “depth of treatment.”

Although Kent was especially concerned about integrating the new discipline of information science into the encyclopedia, he used no overarching theoretical framework to shape this ambitious, multivolume set. While ELIS includes many technical articles related to information science as well as photographs of computers that take up an entire room, there are also article on historic libraries and many pictures of 18th and 19th century buildings. How these disparate topics were selected for ELIS was the subject of speculation and criticism among reviewers. Kent later admitted that, rather than creating a classification system to select or to organize the topics for inclusion, he and his colleagues gleaned “candidate terns” from relevant book indexes, and then recorded these terms on index cards. It was through the ‘horrendous task” of reviewing about 50,000 “raw terms” that they selected topics which would appear in alphabetical order, while “an unrecorded, flexible classification [was] kept in the mind of the editor” (Kent, 1973, p. 602).

Kent and Lancour also noted that “While the contributors were urged to stress basic information, they were likewise encouraged to express their evaluative opinions as well and, wherever possible to indicate future trends as they saw them.” (ELIS, vol 1, p. ii). Other than that, the contributors seem to have been given little guidance. Jesse Shera, a noted LIS educator, declared: “I can testify that as a contributor I received no instructions whatever from the editors—no guide to length, style, bibliographic citation, or any other editorial guidelines” (Shera 1973 p. 731) Although this laissez-faire attitude allowed individual authors the freedom to use different perspectives, it also resulted in a lack of consistency that was often criticized by reviewers.

The selection of topics for the *Encyclopedia of Library History* was done in a somewhat similar fashion to the process used by Kent and Lancour. The two ELH editors, Donald G. Davis, Jr. and Wayne Wiegand, (both well known library historians) stated that they gleaned their terms from LIS periodical indexes and reference works--

including ELIS and other English and German dictionaries and encyclopedias. They then created lists which were circulated among the members of the editorial advisory board who offered their best advice as to what topics should be retained. Once the authors for specific topics were chosen, they were given the freedom to take whatever theoretical perspective they chose. In their introduction Davis and Wiegand state that their goal was to “attempt a culturally pluralistic perspective and assume no uniform set of values.” They continue: “The *Encyclopedia of Library History* focuses on the development of the library as an institution. Its contents assume no single theoretical orientation or philosophical perspective, but instead reflect the richly diverse opinions of its many contributors. This is as it should be; the history of the library cannot be reduced to a single theory nor reflect a single philosophy. ...[T]he library’s value to the societies it seeks to serve must always rest with individuals living in those societies ... “ (1994, p. ix). While allowing considerable freedom to the authors, Davis and Wiegand did present a table listing articles by geographical areas as well as a list of entries by subject.

A geographical table of articles arranged by continent was also featured in the first two editions of the *ALA World Encyclopedia* edited by Robert Wedgeworth. During this time Wedgeworth was serving as the executive secretary of the American Library Association, and from that vantage point he had gained a broad view of the issues and developments facing the profession. In contrast to the techniques used for ELIS-1 and for the library history encyclopedia, Wedgeworth chose to take a more systematic approach. In the preface to the first edition he recalls that “a complete outline of the fields of knowledge was constructed to guide the editors and advisors in the initial planning. This approach made it possible to determine the breadth and scope of coverage for each historical topic and technical issue, and ensured even geographical representation. It also produced a map of the scope and limits of each article and that proved useful when provided to contributors. The editors believe that the result is a work that achieves a maximum of coherence with a minimum of duplication.” (1980, p. iv)

Wedgeworth’s stated goals were “to provide an ordered synthesis of library and information services as they have developed throughout the world but with emphasis on North America” and “to explain fundamental ideas, record historical events and activities, and portray those personalities, living and dead. who have shaped the field

(1980, iii). By choosing to use the phrase “library services” instead of library science in the title, Wedgeworth clearly showed that the emphasis was not to be on the technologies of information retrieval but on the library as an institution offering a variety of services to its users. In this study I will focus on issues of space and place as they are dealt in articles on specific countries and on named institutions.

The fourth LIS encyclopedia to appear was the 1997 edition of the *International Encyclopedia of Information and Library Science (IEILS)*, edited by John Feather and Paul Sturges who are both on the faculty of Loughborough University in the UK. Although many of the topics included in IEILS are similar to those found in the *ALA World Encyclopedia*, the British work gives limited attention to geographic coverage and instead focuses on *intellectual space*, mapping the knowledge domain rather than offering in-depth treatment of information services or institutions. Professors Feather and Sturges believe that scholars in the field of information science, have offered theories that are now “underpinning our conceptual understanding of how information is garnered, ordered and delivered, a process that lies at the heart of the librarian’s work.” As a consequence of this trend, they argue that librarianship has become “a subfield of a broader discipline to whose development it made a major contribution; this line of argument suggests that information science, with its strong theoretical base and conceptual framework, now overarches the entire domain” (2003, p. xvii).

For the first edition of IEILS, Feather and Sturges developed a list of nine very broad topics (such as communication, economics of information, informatics) and for these articles they commissioned lengthy manuscripts from scholars. For the second edition in 2003, Feather and Sturges added four new foundational articles: information professions, information society, information systems and knowledge management. All the other major articles were retained except for the article by Maurice Line entitled “Library Institutions and Systems.” However the decision to eliminate this article did not mean that the editors had come to believe in the end of the library as an institution. In the revision of a long article entitled “Libraries,” the editors assert that the growing access “to a universal virtual library” does not necessarily “presage the ‘death of the library.’” They then declare that “As a concept—an organized and accessible collection of information resources—[the library] remains central to human activity” (p. 374).

IEILS contains a number of “type of library” articles, but these also tend to focus on the conceptual and the functional aspects of the library rather than its existence as a physical entity. However, in his article on “National Libraries” Peter Lor does comment on the “significant investments in national library buildings during the 1990s. These include not only the striking and controversial building of the British Library and the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, but also those of national libraries in countries ranging from Denmark to Estonia, Mexico and Namibia” (p. 446-447). In this article Lor discusses the development of national libraries in different parts of the world, and includes examples from developing countries as well as Europe and North America. However, many other IEILS articles on types of libraries (e.g. Academic Libraries, University Libraries) focus almost exclusively on Britain. The articles on Public Libraries and on School Libraries do refer to the relevant IFLA / UNESCO library manifestos, but they do not draw examples from specific countries, nor do they deal with library buildings or the use of space.

Geographical Space and the Global Distribution of Libraries

Since all four encyclopedias claim their scope to be international, it was interesting to compare the amount of coverage each work gave to libraries in different regions of the world. The 35 volume first edition of ELIS offered only a few regional articles (on libraries in Africa, Central Asia, East Africa, West Africa and the West Indies as well as a long article on Latin America librarianship). Instead of trying to give balanced coverage to all regions, Kent and Lancour commissioned 114 articles on individual countries. In contrast, Feather and Sturges solicited no country articles for IEILS, but featured 15 regional articles plus a short article on the European Union Information Policy. Some IEILS articles that address library development in specific world areas offer short profiles on individual countries (e.g. the article on South Asia offers a brief overview of library development in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh). Some authors take a “type of library” approach, drawing examples from different countries (e.g. the Middle East, Central America). In other cases the focus is on trends and issues. This is the approach taken in the article on Russia and the Former Soviet States by Ekaterina Genieva who offers a very good overview of post-Soviet changes and then discusses current issues in patterns of provision, funding, and automation; however, she seldom offers examples from specific countries within the federation. The IEILS article on Africa

written by Paul Sturges takes a hybrid approach that addresses trends and type of libraries. After focusing on the information environment and on generic, widespread “problems of information service in Africa,” Sturges discusses types of library and archive services; here he does draw examples from specific countries—but does not deal with physical space or with the general distribution of libraries across the sparsely served continent. (p. 9-14). Likewise, the other regional articles in IEILS seldom discuss the geographic distribution of library services, and none give any attention to buildings or use of space.

The *Encyclopedia of Library History* also featured number of regional articles, but these were meant to complement the 77 country articles offered in this volume. Nonetheless the regional articles, in some cases, attempt to provide at least minimal coverage of library development in areas where there are few if any country articles; this is especially true in the case of Africa and the Near East. The ELH features historical articles on Islamic Libraries and Jewish Libraries in addition to including a regional article to deal with libraries in the Near East since 1920; however the only other article treating this region is on Israel. The ELH editors Wiegand and Davis wisely chose to commission linguistically based article for sub-Saharan Africa. Because the model of library development implanted during the late colonial period has affected subsequent development, it is apparent that, regardless of whether they are in East or West Africa, the Anglophone countries have more in common with each other than with either the Francophone or Lusophone countries. While relationships between former colonial powers and their African successor states was varied, in many cases these newly independent countries received some aid, technical assistance and books from their former “mother country” which also provided opportunities for professional training or certification. Later library and information professionals from African states also formed associations that were sometimes based on the linguistic ties rather than geography.

In addition to being different in scope and presentation, the regional articles featured in the three encyclopedias also vary as to the selection of what regions to include and how to name them. Table 2 below shows an alphabetical list of the regional articles grouped by world area or continent.

TABLE 2 REGIONAL ARTICLES APPEARING IN LIS ENCYCLOPEDIAS

WORLD REGION OR CONTINENT	SUB REGION	ENCYCLPEDIAS
AFRICA		ELIS-1; IEILS-2
	ANGLOPHONE AFRICA	ELH
	EAST AFRICA	ELIS-1
	FRANCOPHONE AFRICA	ELH
	LUSOPHONE AFRICA	ELH
	WEST AFRICA	ELIS-1
ASIA		
	EAST ASIA	IEILS-2
	SOUTH ASIA	IEILS-2
	SOUTHEAST ASIA	IEILS-2
CARIBBEAN / WEST INDIES		ELIS-1; IEILS-2; ELH
CENTRAL AMERICA		IEILS-2
EUROPE		
	BALTIC STATES	ELH
	CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE	IEILS-2
	NORDIC COUNTRIES	IEILS-2
	SOUTHERN EUROPE	IEILS-2
FORMER SOVIET REPUBLICS		ELH; IEILS-2
NEAR EAST / MIDDLE EAST		ELH; IEILS-2
	ISLAMIC LIBRARIE	ELH; IEILS-2;
NORTH AMERICA		IEILS-2
OCEANA		
	SOUTH PACIFIC	ELH
SOUTH AMERICA		ELH; IEILS-2

It is apparent that certain groupings of countries can be justified by shared cultural or linguistic ties, (Baltic States, Central America, Nordic Countries) a common colonial past (Lusophone Africa), or being part of the communist block (Former Soviet Republics, Central and Eastern Europe). Geographic proximity, on the other hand, does not necessarily lend itself to writing a coherent regional overview. Under the heading "Asia" in the first volume of ELIS-1, Nasser Sharify wrote: "The pattern of librarianship in Asia is not uniform, each region having developed its own particular individuality. ... A general article on library development in the continent of Asia is therefore unrealistic." (ELIS-1, vol 1,1968 p.666).

Robert Wedgeworth, the editor of the ALA World Encyclopedia was also adamant on this point. In a generally positive review of the first edition of *International Encyclopedia of Information and Library Science* he noted that the authors of the series of regional articles "faced a daunting task". Wedgeworth then argued that "regional concepts such as Eastern Europe, South America and sub-Saharan Africa obscure the richness, diversity and vast disparities that characterize the information and library activities within the separate countries within each region. Generalizations on the characteristics of information and library activities across these geographical regions are of limited usefulness" (1999, p.115). In preparing the three editions of the ALA World Encyclopedia, Wedgeworth had aimed to be as comprehensive and inclusive as possible in commissioning country articles. Contributors were sent a sample article, and were expected to organize their manuscripts according to an outline that included type of library subheadings (national, public, school and special libraries) to be followed by a section dealing with the profession. Each contributor was also asked to include a statistical table listing the number of volumes in different types of libraries, the populations served, the number of professional staff, and the amount of funding. Not all contributors were able to provide the kind of statistical information requested, but most did attempt to follow the editor's outline for their text. While this allowed for a high degree of consistency not found in any of the other encyclopedias, one reviewer remarked that the "sample article supplied by the editors seem to have fostered a similarity in many of the country articles and a lack of imaginative creativity that might otherwise have been present" (Danton, 1981, p. 535). However, from Wedgeworth's perspective, comparability was far more important than creativity. In the preface to both the second and third editions he expressed personal satisfaction that the first edition of

the ALA World Encyclopedia had “brought to fulfillment my long-term objective ...to establish a firm basis for the comparative study of librarianship. Efforts to analyze the respective circumstances of librarianship in countries around the world are limited by the lack of factual data as a starting point for more in-depth study. For many countries there exists no readily available information on major institutions that educate librarians and provide library and information services ...”(1993, p. ix).

What is especially significant about the *ALA World Encyclopedia* is the fact that all three editions include articles on over 150 countries. Recruiting authors from across the globe must have been an enormous challenge, and reviewers commented favorably on the wide participation of contributors from developing countries. As the table below indicates, the *ALA World Encyclopedia* has the most comprehensive coverage of countries, with over twice the number in the library history encyclopedia and 43 more country articles than can be found in the 35 volume base set of ELIS -1.

TABLE 3 –Comparison of Coverage of Countries in Three LIS Encyclopedias

	ELIS -1	ALA World 3	ELH
Africa	24	50	2
Asia	17	23	23
Central America*	15	18	2
Europe	28	33	31
Middle East	9	13	1
North America**	1	2	2
Oceania	5	6	3
South America	10	12	12
Total number of countries represented	114	157	77

* Mexico is included with Central

**There is no separate article on the United States in ELIS;

Even though the ELIS-1 country coverage was not as comprehensive as that of the *ALA World Encyclopedia*, because of the in-depth articles it offered, this multi-volume set makes three important contribution to the literature. First, it provides a substantive overview of library development for many countries on which almost no other English language books or articles could be found during the years when ELIS-1 was published; examples include a 13 page article on Bulgaria (1970); a 20 page

article on the Congo (1971); a 38 page article on Hungary (1974) a 92 page article on Poland (1978) and an 80 page article on Yugoslavia (1982). Second, since ELIS-1 was produced at the height of the Cold War, these country articles bear witness to the state of library development at a unique moment in history, and offer important information on the ideology and practice in a number of Eastern block countries which were under communist rule. Third, because the editors did not set limits on the amount of space allotted to contributors, ELIS-1 contained a number of articles that could almost stand alone as monographs, had they been separately published. For example there are three articles of over 100 pages: Canada, 115 pages. (1969); Germany, 150 pages (1971); South Africa. 130 pages (1981). In addition several more country articles occupy over 50 pages: Brazil, 71 pages (1970); India, 80 pages (1970); Korea, 61 pages (1974); Nigeria, 50 pages (1977); the USSR, 65 pages (1979); Sweden, 64 pages (1980).

Reviewers of ELIS-1 remarked on the extent of international coverage, but they also pointed out the lack of articles on certain countries with a significant level of library development (such as Austria and Czechoslovakia). In addition there was criticism that the length of the articles in a number of cases did not reflect the size of the country or the extent of its influence on international library development. One review of the first five volumes of ELIS-1 commented on the "bewildering variety" among the country articles and compared the 70 page article on Brazil to an article on Belgium that took up "half the space." (Rosenberg and Detlefsen, 1973, p.600). In response to this criticism, Kent explained the role of the contributors. He wrote: "The author ... has provided what he or she is able to do, no more, no less. If another, later, author of an analogous article does more or less, there is no way to go back and change already published articles. It would make little sense to reduce all future articles to a common denominator (based on whatever criteria) in the search for an unrealizable consistency" (Kent, 1973, p.603). Given this editorial stance, the issue of imbalance can be seen throughout the volumes of ELIS-1 and its supplements. While an article of 150 pages on Germany might seem justified, one wonders why contributors from Italy produced just 17 pages, or why the article on Japan is comprised of only 8 pages.

While clearer guidelines from the editors (including a suggested length) could certainly have resulted in greater consistency and balance among the ELIS-1 articles,

even the *ALA World Encyclopedia*, which aimed at publishing a coherent set of country articles of appropriate length and depth, did not escape criticism. When the second edition appeared in 1986 reviewers commented on the fact that “sometimes undue emphasis is given to one country over another that might have a larger population and larger collections;” examples were a four pages on Cuba compared to two pages on Brazil and an article of five pages on East Germany but only three pages allotted to West Germany. (Cammack and Davis, 1987, p. 114). Perhaps Allen Kent still deserves the last word—encyclopedia making is the art of the possible.

Visual Representation of the Library as Space and Place : Country Articles

Both ELIS-1 and the *ALA World Encyclopedia* provide black and white illustrations for many of their country articles. It is through these visual images that we can best understand the way that the library as place and space was SEEN by the editors and contributors of these two encyclopedias. My research assistant, Stasa Milocevic, and I counted and coded the photographs in these two works, and we found some striking similarities between them as well as marked differences. Of course, certain contrasts were due to the relative size of the two works (one volume vs 35 volumes)—but I believe that the extent of control exercised by the editors was an equally important factor in the visual presentation of space and place.

As shown in Table 4 below, the *ALA World Encyclopedia* (3rd edition) had many more country articles than ELIS-1, but 23 fewer photographs were used to illustrate these articles. Although approximately 20% of the country articles in the *ALA World Encyclopedia* had no pictures, quite a few longer articles featured two or more photos. The three major English speaking countries had the most illustrations: Canada, with 7, United Kingdom with 6 and the US with 12. There were 4 photos from Japan, and three photos appeared in the articles on Cuba, Germany, Italy, and Pakistan. The number of photographs published in ELIS articles showed even greater variation. It would appear that Kent and Lancour did not request authors to include illustrations, since there are no photographs in several articles on major countries (the USSR, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Pakistan and Australia) and there are none in articles on a number of countries from Asia and Africa. At the other extreme, some contributors

supplied five or more photos that were reproduced in ELIS-1; for example, 20 photos are featured in the article on Belgium, 17 on Brazil, 6 on Iran, and 7 on Yugoslavia.

Despite the differences in the way that photographs were distributed among the country articles in these two encyclopedias, in both works views of the exterior of library buildings were represented almost three times as often as interior views (approximately 72% of the illustrations featured exteriors in both cases). This emphasis on the exterior of the library buildings makes a statement about the library as PLACE, a destination and a cultural symbol. Not surprisingly, the national library was often chosen as the one to include with a country article--30 instances in ELIS-1 (17.6% of all country photos) and 52 instances in the ALA World Encyclopedia (35% of all country photos). Academic library buildings were the other subject most frequently pictured in both encyclopedias. If we consider both of these kinds of institutions as research libraries, then as a broad category research libraries represent 47.6% of all country photos in ELIS-1 and 64.5% of the country photos in the ALA encyclopedia. Thus the visual presentation of the library as place is strongly biased toward large, prestigious institutions which are often found near seats of power (especially the national libraries). Since most academic and research users are drawn from a highly educated segment of the population, these libraries could also be thought of as places of privilege and affluence.

In both encyclopedias, interior photos of libraries generally feature reading rooms rather than stacks or work areas, and most emphasize the aesthetics of architectural space and not the USE of the space by readers. Photographs of public libraries are shown in only 12% of the country articles in the *ALA World Encyclopedia*, but represent nearly 30% of the illustrations in the ELIS-1 articles. Although public library exteriors are most often pictured, these sometimes show small branch libraries, rural libraries, village libraries, or bookmobiles. It was often contributors from the Eastern block or from developing countries who chose such illustrations. These small libraries may have served as gathering places, and in the caption of a picture showing a village library in Hungary it was noted that the "library and espresso bar housed in the same building" (ELIS-1, vol 11, 1974, p. 105)

Whatever the type of library, the majority of photos chosen tend to be of recent buildings. As shown by Table 4 below, illustrations featuring historic buildings account only one quarter of the photos in ELIS-1 and just under 30% in the *ALA World Encyclopedia*. In both encyclopedias the visual emphasis is on modernity, regardless of whether interior or exterior views are shown, and many of the buildings featured were constructed in the 1960s or later. The typical illustrated article in the ALA encyclopedia would have one or two exterior shots of 20th century buildings, while the analogous article in ELIS-1 would have several photographs, but most would also be modern, exterior views. The overwhelming visual impression one gets browsing either encyclopedia is that the library holds an important place in the city, on the campus and in the country – a place significant enough to merit a recent building—often by a notable architect. Interior shots in both encyclopedias frequently feature views showing clean lines, high ceilings, and sweeping expanses of windows. While readers are shown in a number of photos, they are not usually the main focus of the picture.

TABLE 4 Photographs from Country Articles i

	ELIS-1	ALA World--3
Total number of countries	114	157
Total photos in country articles	170	147
Heritage vs Modernity		
Historic photos	42 (24.7%)	44 (29.3%)
Modern photos	128 (75.3%)	103 (70.5%)
Inside vs Outside		
Exterior views	123 (72.3%)	106 (72.1%)
Interior views	47 (27.6%)	41 (27.9%)
Types of Libraries Shown		
National	30 (17.6%)	52 (35.3%)
University	50 (29.4%)	43 (29.2%)
Public	50 (29.4%)	17 (29.4%)

Visual Representation of Institutional Space

In its 3rd edition, the *ALA World Encyclopedia* features a new section of color plates entitled “A Portfolio of Great Libraries.” These photographs feature the five named institutions included in the encyclopedia: the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, the British Library in London, the Library of Congress (Washington, DC) and Harvard University Libraries (Cambridge, MA) as well as the New York Public Library (NYPL). Each of these libraries is also discussed in the text where there are additional black and white illustrations, which I will occasionally refer to. Given the historic importance of these five research libraries, it is not surprising that the overwhelming impression gleaned from the color plates is one of institutions that are the representatives of as well as repositories for cultural and symbolic heritage. In contrast to the black and white photos throughout the text--where modern buildings dominate--in the color portfolio, four of the five institutions include historic exteriors and historic reading rooms more often than contemporary architecture; the plates showing the British Library are the only ones where modernity predominates. However, even in this case, the first color photo presents a wonderful image showing light streaming through the windows of Panizzi’s Round Reading Room where researchers as diverse as Karl Marx, Thomas Carlyle and Virginia Woolf once sat at oaken desks. A symbol of the scholarly research that has shaped the intellectual life of Britain and the world, this iconic space is the only color photo that represents the architectural heritage of the Britain. In addition to two exterior photos of 20th century British Library facilities, (one in Colindale and one Boston Spa) there are sketches of the new British Library at St. Pancras; these show three views of reading rooms that were still under construction when the encyclopedia went to press in 1993. There is also one photo featuring a computer, which according to the caption, is being used to search the Eighteenth Century Short Title Catalogue. These images of the British Library seem to foreshadow the symbolic role of the new building as a destination for 21st century readers and scholars as well as a place where technology and heritage intersect.

By 1993 the French also had a project underway to build a very large and technologically sophisticated facility to house their national collections—but surprisingly, no architectural plans or sketches of the proposed “très grande bibliothèque” (TGB) are included here. Instead all the images of the BN show the historic building on the rue de

Richelieu, including one view of the main entrance seen from the across park where a lovely fountain stands in the foreground. Aside from one picture of a conservator at work, the remaining images of the BN show treasures from the collections and views of reading rooms or galleries. In the text there is also one black and white engraving from 1868 that shows the opening of the famous domed reading room designed by Henri Labrouste. This magnificent room soon became a symbol of scholarship and heritage for thousands of visitors and researchers. Two additional color photos also feature Labrouste's masterpiece—one looking upward at details of the dome, and the other showing the graceful colonnades that tower high above readers sitting at their tables. In all the interior views of the BN, readers, are either absent, dwarfed by the grandeur of the setting, or simply out of focus--thus leading the viewer to look at the architecture or at the well lighted book shelves. One is left with the overall impression that these grand spaces and bibliographic treasures represent a rich, enduring heritage that must be transmitted to future generations who will come here to be inspired by the achievements of the past.

Library of Congress' color plates offer a mixture of illustrations showing historic exteriors (2) and historic reading rooms (4) along with an exterior view of the Madison Building (opened in 1980) and three close up of views of staff. In this set of seven photographs, three show computers in the foreground. In the first of these, a staff member uses a computer to work on the American Memory digitization project; in the second a Congressional Research Service librarian is shown at a computer answering a reference question. The third photo foregrounds a researcher with a laptop sitting in the Main Reading Room where high arched windows throw sunlight onto the desks. This last photo is perhaps the most emblematic of the moment, since the early 1990s were a time when the Library of Congress was investing heavily in digitization of its collections and in the restoration of the 1897 Jefferson Building which was approaching its centennial.

The selection of images from the Harvard University puts an emphasis on neo-classical buildings and on the historic reading rooms and stacks at the Widener Library; only one of these photo features computers. Likewise the set of images from New York Public Library has just one photograph with computers, but here modern buildings are represented in two exterior shots showing research facilities at Lincoln

Center and in Harlem. There are two interior photos of the historic main library; one shows readers bent over their work in the main reading room, and the second is of the beautiful catalog room with its arched windows, crystal chandelier, and long desks that are empty of readers. There is also a picture of an auditorium, and an exhibition hall, as well as a night view of the Fifth Avenue entrance with its iconic lions. For millions of New Yorkers and visitors, these kindly guardians of knowledge have symbolized free access to information and have stood for the place which the library has occupied at the center of Manhattan.

ELIS-1 also contains lengthy articles on the five institutions discussed above. However, no photographs are included with the articles on the New York Public Library, the Library of Congress or the Bibliothèque Nationale and there are only two pictures of the British Museum—an exterior shot and an aerial view of the library and the surrounding Bloomsbury neighborhood. In contrast, the article on Harvard has several photographs, including one of the historic Widener building. In addition there are four exterior views of recently built Harvard facilities such as the Lamont library and the Science Library. Although there are no interior shots, the text does make a point of mentioning that Harvard has “the largest library in the world that provides users access to its stacks.” (p. 331) In addition to covering these five major institutions discussed above, ELIS-1 includes articles on an additional 174 named institutions. In this set of articles, exterior photos also predominate (133 photos), and photos of modern facilities are almost twice as numerous as those of historic buildings. The type of institution most frequently shown is an academic library (62 articles—mostly on American institutions). Only 15 national libraries are featured whereas public libraries which are represented by 23 institutions spread across North America from Toronto to San Diego, from New Orleans to Minneapolis.

The two encyclopedias that are not illustrated also include articles on named institutions, but in the case of the *International Encyclopedia of Information and Library Science* only three major institutions are covered: the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, the British Library in London, the Library of Congress (Washington, DC). Given the encyclopedia's focus on information rather than institutions, major digitization projects of briefly discussed in all three articles. The British Library article is barely 3 columns in length and deals with its history, collections, and funding; although the move to the new

building at St. Pancras is mentioned, there is no description of this spacious new facility that opened in 1997. In contrast, Martine Poulain's article on the Bibliothèque Nationale not only mentions the "tumultuous discussions" surrounding the new building, but also describes the architectural plan that features four towers symbolizing "four books open to the city". Poulain then discusses the two levels of reading rooms—the upper garden level open to a broader public and the lower garden which is restricted to researchers. (2003, p.39). In the short article on the Library of Congress, John Cole mentions that "service is provided in three massive structures on Capitol Hill, the Thomas Jefferson Building (1897), the John Adams building (1939) and the Madison Memorial Building" (1980)" 2001, p 384). The article ends with a brief discussion of the National Digital Library Project.

Published nearly a decade earlier than IELIS, the *Encyclopedia of Library History* also contains an article on Harvard and articles on the Library of Congress and the national libraries of Britain and France. These articles generally all offer a discussion of the building woven into a narrative that follows the growth of collections and the periodic restructuring of these complex institutions. In his discussion of the British Library, P. R. Harris alludes to the controversies over the site for the new building and mentions that the construction project located near the St. Pancras station was begun in 1983. Likewise, Alix Chevalier's article on the Bibliothèque Nationale de France ends with a paragraph on plans for a new library which were announced by President Mitterand on July 14, 1988, with a projected opening in 1995. All together, ELH contains over sixty articles on named institutions, including 44 research libraries:

- 22 National Libraries-- institutions in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Russia, the UK & US
- 10 Private Research Institutions. such as the Newberry Library in Chicago, the Huntington Library in San Marino, California, and the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC.
- 12 Major University Libraries, including the Sorbonne in Paris; Oslo University Library, Sweden; Salamanca Library, Spain; Cambridge and Oxford in Britain and Harvard in the US)

The geographic distribution of institutions covered in the *Encyclopedia of Library History* is heavily weighted toward Europe (32 libraries) followed by North America (16).

In contrast, coverage of individual institutions in ELIS-1 is heavily weighted toward the United States and toward academic libraries. Out of a total of 179 articles on named institutions, 62 are devoted to university libraries, 23 to public libraries and 15 to National Libraries. The remaining institution articles in this set include several specialized scientific libraries and documentation centers, a few private research libraries, and some libraries of US or international government agencies.

Space, Place and Architecture

In addition to articles on institutions and countries, all four encyclopedias also feature at least one article on library buildings. The article by David Kaser in the *Encyclopedia of Library History* offers the broadest international coverage. Kaser opens his overview with the aphorism “form follows function” (p.348). Using this as his theme, he discusses how building structures evolved over time in order to house changing formats-- from cuneiform tablets to papyrus scrolls, codex books, and even stone stele used to convey sacred texts in ancient Myanmar. David Kaser also wrote the text for the article on “Library Buildings” in both the second and third editions of the *ALA World Encyclopedia*. In his ALA article, a short historical overview is followed by a discussion of the planning and construction process as well as design considerations such as efficiency, economy, and effectiveness. Aside from concern that the layout of the building should facilitate the movement of patrons though it, most of the article focuses on design of library space as it relates to the administration of the library rather than its use by the public. Illustrations for this article include views of three historic reading rooms, an exterior view and an architectural plan of a small Carnegie building, and three pictures of recently constructed libraries in Canada and Austria. These photos are not referred to in the text, and it was interesting to note that although the text had little change between the two editions, all the illustrations were different.

In the short article on library buildings in IELIS, K. C. Harrison also takes a pragmatic approach, discussing the design plans and multimedia needs as well as the relationship between the librarian and the architect. Several noted contemporary architects are mentioned here, including Colin St John Wilson who is praised for planning the new British Library at St Pancras “so as not to be overpowering to the

millions of scholars and general readers” who will be its users. (p.379). In ELIS-1 the article on library buildings by H. B. Schell also stresses contemporary architecture, although there a brief historical introduction. Like Kaser, Schell is concerned about form and function, but he emphasizes that the plan of the building must follow the storage and retrieval function. A total of 39 figures accompany the text, and all but five photographs are of very recently constructed buildings. Despite the fact that the first volume of ELIS featured an article on library architecture that focused exclusively on academic libraries, Schell includes many academic libraries as examples of current trends and issues. However he also includes a high school library and a few public libraries.

What is striking about all the articles that deal with library architecture is their lack of discussion of the library as meeting place, a forum for discussion, a place where cultural programs could bring people together and help to create a sense of community. The focus of these five articles is on storage and retrieval functions – and none hint at the importance of reading rooms as “the commons” where people can gather. In the two illustrated encyclopedias, photos of exteriors tend show monumental buildings, mostly representing the newest architectural trends. Reading rooms are sometimes shown with researchers at work, but often they are empty or nearly empty.

The ALA World Encyclopedia (1993) contained the only photo that we were able to locate that featured a meeting space; this was of the Celest Barnes Forum at NYPL—a beautiful auditorium with over 100 red upholstered seats—all empty.

While the country photos and institutional photos in the ALA encyclopedia showcase the monumentality of the library as PLACE, elsewhere in the volume there are a few articles whose illustrations convey the sense that libraries are meant to be spaces where people can interact with each other, as well as read silently or check out books and other materials. One example is the article on children’s services which features a photo of a story time in Britain, another of children watching chicks hatch at a regional library in Chicago, and a third showing an African-American woman reading to her pre-schools children in Pittsburgh. The article on Public Libraries also features photos of children and adults library users from various countries, but the only photographs that feature programs show California children at story time, children at a library chess tournament in Cuba, a girl lighting a Kwanza candle in Newark, and

several teenage girls who appear to be studying together in Puerto Rico. While the text on public library services includes statements from Britain on the library's cultural role, this idea is given limited treatment, and there is no representation of adult programs in the illustrations.

Space, Motion and Remote Access

In addition to dealing with the library as a fixed place to which readers must come, all four encyclopedias also feature articles on taking collections and services to areas where books are not easily available. In an article on the "Mobile Library" for the *International Encyclopedia of Information and Library Science*, Bill Webb writes that many forms of transportation have been used to deliver books, including "book boats for remote coastal communities in Scandinavia, a railway coach in Mali, a donkey cart in Zimbabwe, ..pack camels in Kenya, ...pack mules in the Andes and bicycle bags in Mozambique" (p.427). By the late 19th century librarians organized "traveling libraries" consisting of book boxes that were sent out to designated hosts, such as schools or general stores. In an article entitled "Itinerating Libraries" in the *Encyclopedia of Library History*, Joanne Passet traces such services back to the 19th century Britain, and then discusses the role of state library agencies in providing such services for rural American communities in the early 1900s. The history of this type of work is also discussed in the *ALA World Encyclopedia* under the heading "Extension Services." The ALA encyclopedia does not have a separate article on bookmobiles, but in the index there are 21 references to bookmobiles in countries around the world; although most references are from Africa and Latin America, mobile services are also discussed in articles on Israel, Japan, France and the United Kingdom.

The 57 page article on bookmobiles in ELIS-1 provides illustrations of historic book wagons and early automobiles fitted with shelves that could be accessed from outside the vehicle; in addition there are photos of large "state of the art" vehicles that could accommodate several readers as well as a desk for the librarian. In this article Harold Bently describes bookmobile service as "a two-way bridge leading from the library to potential readers." He also believes that the role of the book mobile is not just to lend books, but to provide an important link with the community. He writes "Bookmobile service is at once the least formal, and, for many, the most rewarding type

of library service. It often takes on the characteristics of a visit across a backyard fence. Bookmobile personnel and their readers discuss and recommend books to each other. The Bookmobile Lady generally knows when the next baby is due, how Junior is doing away at school, or even how the puppies are responding to the book's instruction for training. In rural areas she may receive bouquets of garden flowers or a sampling of the first spring onions" (vol 3, p. 3).

While bookmobiles and other traveling library services often created a place is that is not a place and reinforced community interaction, digital libraries leave readers isolated from one another, and most often, individuals access these collections with no assistance from information professionals. In his article on digital libraries in the 2003 edition of *the International Encyclopedia of Information and Library Sciences*, Cliff McKnight states that a digital library is constructed, collected and organized for and by a "community of users." McKnight offers no elaboration as to what kind of community this might be, or the nature of their virtual interactions, nor does he mention the impact that digital libraries could have for the use of space, collections and services in existing institutions. Even though digital libraries that are not restricted to people affiliated with a particular organization or institution should, in theory, be accessible to anyone anywhere at any time, McKnight does point out that because the majority of the world's population lacks access to high-end computer technology, "the digital library could actually widen the gap between the information rich and the information poor" (2003, p.136-137).

Conclusion

Today libraries are engaged in providing books for readers in remote areas AND in providing remote access to users who live or work in close proximity to the library; the latter group of users may also want to come to library to check out picture books, to attend programs, to find a quiet place to read, or to study with a group of friends. As these various functions accumulate, the place of the library in the community, and the use of space within the library, is being vigorously debated among librarians. Such debates further intensified after the Google books project was launched in December 2004, making digitized books much more available than could have been envisioned five or ten years ago. Because the editors and contributors

to the four encyclopedias discussed here could not fully imagine the magnitude and rapidity of these changes, their attitudes toward the library as place were, of necessity, a product of a time when remote access was either not available or in an incipient stage. Nonetheless, in his article on library buildings in the *Encyclopedia of Library History*, David Kaser observes that there are continuities in the ongoing evolution in the design, construction and use of library space. Looking toward the future, Kaser concludes that the history of library buildings “has demonstrated that they must always be responsive to changes in the format of human records as well as the way in which those records are used by society”(p.356).

Even as the distinction between civic space and cyberspace becomes harder to untangle, we will continue to enjoy the historic buildings and the monumental late 20th century structures presented in these encyclopedias. While their place as a symbol of learning and ordered access to information will remain, they will also be put to new uses. In an article on recent library buildings in the US and Canada, Shill and Tonner state that between 1995 and 2002 “more than 390 academic institutions have constructed new libraries or have expanded, renovated, or reconfigured an existing library” (2004, p. 123). Some of these reconfigurations may well have occurred in the 1970s buildings pictured in the volumes of ELIS-1. In the preface to the *Encyclopedia of Library History*, Davis and Wiegand observe that “the information which the library has contained over the centuries has been put to thousands of uses (often for purposes not intended by the authors of the texts represented in the library’s collections)” (1994, p. ix). By the same token, library buildings as places have been and will be put to uses not intended by the original architects and not envisioned by those librarians who oversaw the planning, design and construction.

As Gloria Leckie and John Buschman point out, “Libraries, as a component of cultural space, are ubiquitous to almost every society during almost every time period. However, as places of cultural, symbolic and intellectual meaning, libraries have varied greatly” (2007, p.1) The four encyclopedias analyzed in this paper certainly provide evidence of this variety, even if little of the discussion in the text directly addresses the issues of space and place as we think of them today. Each encyclopedia not only records the state of professional knowledge, it also reflects the ethos as well as the preoccupations of the field at the time when it was produced. Because ELIS-1 was

compiled during a 15 year span, the early articles reflect a time when impact of automation and online services was just beginning to be felt by the largest institutions. When the last volumes appeared in 1983, the changes in the interior space in libraries was affected mainly by the presence of computers which were used for searching the newly minted OPACs or accessing OCLC. By the time that the 1993 edition of the ALA World Encyclopedia appeared, computers were becoming more ubiquitous, and their presence could be seen in illustrations of users searching card catalogs or taking notes on a laptop. Among the encyclopedias analyzed, only the 2003 edition of IEILS was produced at a time when cyberspace was a common term and remote access to bibliographic information, catalogs, and a growing body of digitized resources was possible through the Internet.

As the idea of “computer literacy” emerged at the end of the 20th century, librarians, teachers and scholars were forced to confront and rethink the fundamental concepts and practices that defined “literacy.” By the same token, the idea of cyberspace and the pervasiveness of the internet as an information provider is forcing librarians to rethink the nature of space and place in libraries. Future encyclopedia makers in the LIS field will therefore need to directly acknowledge the changing dimensions of space and place as they affect the theory and practice of librarianship. For ELIS-3 we have commissioned articles on “the library as place” and on “the museum as place”; we also hope that many contributors will address these issues from different perspectives in their articles on institutions and on countries.

FULL TITLES AND PUBLICATION INFORMATION ON THE FOUR ENCYCLOPEDIAS

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Mary Niles Maack holds a professorship in the Department of Information Studies at the University of California at Los Angeles. She earned her BA degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana and holds both a master's degree and a doctorate from Columbia University in New York. Dr. Maack has conducted research on the history of libraries and librarianship in Africa, Europe and the United States. She has published two books: *Libraries in Senegal*, (Chicago, American Library Association, 1981) and *Aspirations and Mentoring in an Academic Environment*, co-authored with Joanne Passet, (Greenwood, 1994) as well as many articles and book chapters. *Her research has appeared in the Journal of Library and Information Science Education, IFLA Journal, Libraries & Culture, Library Trends, and Library Quarterly.* She currently serves on the editorial board of *Libraries & the Cultural Record* and for five years was a member of the editorial board of *Library Quarterly*. In 1982-83 Professor Maack was awarded a Fulbright lectureship at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Bibliothèques in France; in 2007 she returned to France as a guest lecturer and visiting scholar at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Sciences de l'Information et des Bibliothèques (ENSSIB). She is currently serving as Associate Editor of the 3rd Edition of the *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Sciences* which is now under the editorial direction of Dr. Marcia Bates.