TABLE 2

Source	No. of items cited	No. of citations
Journal articles	1,285	1,577
	(in 276 journals)	
Books	486	571
Government publications		
(NLM items in parentheses)	179 (65)	227 (99)
Technical reports	135	161
Conference proceedings	74	82
Other publications	103	108
Unpublished sources	48	50
Total	2,310	2,776

Journal of Medical Education were included; see Table 4.

The six most frequently cited journals, together with *BMLA,* accounted for 43.3% of the total 1,285 journal articles cited. It is also worth noting that a great majority of the articles cited in *BMLA* were less than fifteen years old (72.4% for *BMLA* articles cited and 75.1% for non-*BMLA* articles cited). The mode time-lag for most of the citations was one to two years.

Besides the results of this citation study that are given here, its most useful by-product is probably the author's *Sourcebook on Health Science Librarianship* [2], in Part II of which about 3,000 pertinent citation sources are listed under selected broad subject categories. The *Sourcebook* at-

TABLE 3

Broad subject	No. of journal titles
Library and information sciences	86
Medicine	117
Science	35
Other	37

TABLE 4

Journal	No. of citations
Library Journal	54
Special Libraries	47
Library Resources and Technical Services	35
Science	35
JAMA	34
College and Research Libraries	32
American Documentation	21
Journal of Medical Education	21
Library Quarterly	16

tempts to bring together a great variety of useful source information for health sciences librarians, from about 900 nonjournal publications and 2,000 articles from 276 journal titles.

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Brief Survey of Public Information Services at Privately-Supported Medical School Libraries: Comparison with Publicly-Supported Medical School Libraries

BY CAROL ANN JEUELL, *Reference Librarian*

George F. Smith Library of the Health Sciences
College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
Newark, New Jersey

CECILIA B. FRANCISCO, *Cataloger*

Gustave L. and Janet W. Levy Library
Mt. Sinai School of Medicine
New York, New York

JANE S. PORT, *Associate Librarian for Public Services*

Gustave L. and Janet W. Levy Library
Mt. Sinai School of Medicine
New York, New York

IN an attempt to define the extent to which the College of Medicine and Dentistry of New

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BRIEF COMMUNICATIONS

Jersey's George F. Smith Library of the Health Sciences would offer its resources and public services to the community without neglecting its primary clientele, a public services policy manual was proposed. Although the library had some guidelines of its own, we wanted to consider the range and limitations of services offered to the general public at other publicly-supported medical school libraries before issuing a manual. In April 1975 we surveyed publicly-supported medical school libraries in the U.S. with regard to their reference services policies for the general public [1].

After reviewing the results from the publicly-supported libraries, we were then interested in a comparison with private medical school libraries. Thus, in January 1976, the same questionnaire used in the 1975 survey was sent to forty-four privately-supported medical school libraries listed in the *American Association of Medical Colleges Directory* (1975–76). Thirty-five replies were received (80% response). The results from the private schools are presented in Appendix 1 and are compared to the results of the earlier survey.

DISCUSSION

More than twice as many private school libraries (63%) reported having a written policy as had publicly-supported school libraries (26%) (question 1). The respondents' comments suggest that private school libraries must formally define the type of services they offer to potential and actual users because of the nature of their funding. Such a policy provides the staff with specific guidelines for a more consistent service than is possible with an unwritten policy. It limits variations in service due to differences in individual interpretation of library policy.

Although 94% of the private school libraries are open to some or all of the general public, they usually limit access to specified user groups such as "lawyers, other university students and faculty, health sciences professionals, and subscribing members" (question 2). Ninety-one percent of the publicly-supported libraries are open to all or some of the general public but are less restrictive than the private school libraries in the user groups to whom they will offer their facilities. Most of the libraries, both public and private, which are not open to any members of the general public noted limited staff and facilities as the reasons why this policy prevails.

The following comments are based on figures recorded in the "in person" column. Private medical school libraries offer the same number and types of services that public school libraries offer. Both public and private school libraries are more selective in providing extensive reference than in providing ready reference service (questions 3 and 4). Eighty-two percent of the publicly-supported schools and 63% of the private schools offer ready reference service to all members of the general public, while only 32% of the publicly-supported schools and 23% of the private schools offer extensive reference service to all members of the general public. Two private school libraries did report providing information about their school alumni to the general public. Both public and private schools are more willing to offer computer search services than manual literature search services to all members of the general public (perhaps because of the fees involved) (question 6). Sixty-eight percent of the public schools and 57% of the private schools provide manual literature searches to all or some of the general public, while computerized literature searches for all members of the general public are provided by 88% of the public schools and 83% of the private schools.

Since we did not collect data regarding lending policies for primary users, we could not ascertain if the circulation policies reflected a more restrictive policy for the general public than for primary clientele. The variation between public and private medical school libraries with regard to fees for lending (9% of public and 31% of private school libraries charged a fee) may be due to the differences in their funding sources (question 8). More publicly-supported libraries (76%) photocopied material for interlibrary loan (ILL) for all of the general public than did private school libraries (37%). Fifty-one percent of the private school libraries provided ILL photocopy service to restricted user groups, which indicates that they are more selective with regard to this service. The comments indicated consideration for restrictions related to library network agreements and copyright limitations (question 9).

CONCLUSION

Many respondents from private school libraries stated that they felt some responsibility to the general public, but would rather deal with public or university libraries as intermediaries, rather than directly with individuals, as far as reference services are concerned. A few stated that because their schools did receive some federal funds, they felt that they should offer at least basic reference

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services to the general public. Some noted that their facilities are available to the public to use materials which are rare or of historical value. Many libraries in both public and private medical schools do not give out information to patients about their illnesses without a physician's note. However, one private school library respondent reported an interest in collecting information, in print and audiovisual formats, for the health education of patients.

Whether or not publicly-supported libraries are actually better equipped financially than private school libraries to meet the health information needs of the general public, the former did report greater attempts to meet these needs, apparently because their source of funding is from the general public.

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APPENDIX 1
REFERENCE POLICY QUESTIONNAIRE
Privately-supported Medical School Libraries

Name of institution _____ Address _____

The following questions apply only to your reference services policy to the *general public.*

1. Is your reference services policy:
   (Please check one)

Written?	22 (63%)
Understood or implied?	13 (37%)

Check the appropriate column for each of the following questions. Check *only one column* for each question.

Column A—Check this column if your policy applies to *all members of the general public* with no exceptions.

Column B—Check this column if your policy applies only to a *restricted user population* from the general public. Please also specify for which user groups you provide the service. Mark this column for any distinction you make in services to nonaffiliated individuals, such as nonhealth professionals vs. health professionals, graduate students vs. undergraduate students, etc.

Column C—Check this column if your policy *does not apply to any member of the general public.*

2. Is your library open to:

	A All	B Some	C None
	21 (60%)	12 (34%)	2 (6%)

   If B is checked, please specify. _____

3. Do you provide ready reference service (directory, dictionary, handbook, look up, etc.) for requests received:

	A	B	C
By telephone?	23 (66%)	8 (23%)	3 (9%)
(Not answered: 1 [3%])			
By mail?	21 (60%)	10 (29%)	2 (6%)
(Not answered: 2 [6%])			
In person?	22 (63%)	10 (29%)	3 (9%)

   If B is checked, please specify. _____

4. Do you provide extensive reference services (excluding bibliographies) for requests received:

	A	B	C
By telephone?	8 (23%)	14 (40%)	10 (29%)
(Not answered: 3 [9%])			
By mail?	8 (23%)	15 (43%)	8 (23%)
(Not answered: 4 [11%])			

	A All	B Some	C None
	21 (60%)	12 (34%)	2 (6%)
In person?	8 (23%)	16 (46%)	9 (26%)
(Not answered: 2 [6%])			

5. Do you provide manual literature searches for requests received:

	A	B	C
By telephone?	6 (17%)	14 (40%)	13 (37%)
(Not answered: 2 [6%])			
By mail?	6 (17%)	14 (40%)	11 (31%)
(Not answered: 4 [11%])			
In person?	5 (14%)	15 (43%)	12 (34%)
(Not answered: 3 [9%])			

6. Do you provide computerized literature searches for requests received:

	A	B	C
By telephone?	15 (43%)	8 (23%)	11 (31%)
(Not answered: 1 [3%])			
By mail?	17 (49%)	8 (23%)	9 (26%)
In person?	19 (54%)	10 (29%)	6 (17%)

If B is checked, please specify. _____

It is understood that members of the general public, who do not have library cards from your library, must work through another library to obtain materials from your medical library.

7. Do you lend original materials?

	A	B	C
Monographs	21 (60%)	9 (26%)	4 (11%)
(Not answered: 1 [3%])			
Bound journals	5 (14%)	8 (23%)	18 (51%)
(Not answered: 4 [11%])			
Unbound journals	1 (3%)	6 (17%)	21 (60%)
(Not answered: 7 [20%])			

If B is checked, please specify. _____

8. If columns A or B were checked in question 7, is there a charge for this service?

Yes   11 (31%)

No   19 (54%)

(Not answered: 5 [14%])

9. Do you photocopy materials for interlibrary loan?

	A	B	C
	13 (37%)	18 (51%)	1 (3%)

(Not answered: 3 [9%])

10. If columns A or B were checked in question 9, is there a charge for this service?

Yes   24 (69%)

No   8 (23%)

(Not answered: 3 [9%])

(If you would like to make any further comments on the following questions, we would appreciate it, but it is not a necessary part of the questionnaire.)

Do you feel that you have any responsibility to the general public? If so, what is the basis for this decision?