

## THE EXCHANGE OF "LISTS OF DUPLICATES" AND ITS IMPORTANCE FOR ASTRONOMICAL LIBRARIES

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**ABSTRACT.** Problems of an international exchange and especially of "Lists of Duplicates" which in my opinion are very important for small and not too rich libraries like our Library, are briefly discussed.

Astronomical activities in Torun began in 1945 when the University bearing the name of Nicolaus Copernicus had been organized. Our Library exists in three places: in the Institute of Astronomy in Torun, in the Astronomical Observatory in Piwnice and in the Radio Astronomy Observatory in Piwnice. We have about 8 thousand books and about 6 thousand volumes of journals and publications.

The great part of our collections comes from exchange basis and from gifts sent by other foreign libraries. The reason for this is the inconvertibility of our currency, the Library can not buy individually anything in Western countries. We have only a limited amount of dollars and for that money we can order and buy about 10 books and subscribe 14 Western journals per year. Luckily the most important series in astronomy can be obtained as a continuation of a previous purchase. I think that the above limit is too small for our Library and therefore the exchange is very important for us.

We carry on an exchange with 35 countries. We are sending our *Bulletin of Astronomical Observatory in Torun* to about 200 different astronomical institutions. In return we receive a lot of materials published by these institutions, both small publications and big workshops or reports. Through the kindness of many institutions we receive also some important journals on exchange basis. Of course, it can be seen that in many cases an exchange is not equivalent for both sides. There are many big institutions like NASA or ESA which publish and send to other institutions a lot of publications and workshops.

They are doing this very often free of charge or in return for small and seldom appearing materials. I hope that in spite of such nonequality and of harder financial situation in some astronomical institutions this exchange will be in future as efficient as before. We ought to think here of all small astronomical institutions situated in developing countries, who may not be aware of the possibility of obtaining astronomical publications on exchange basis, and try to help them.

The preparation and sending of library "Search and Duplicate Lists" is a necessary element of the exchange. The "Lists of Duplicates" from other institutions are a important source of supplementing publications and journals missing in the library. I think that in every library some collections are not complete. In our Library, for example, I have no chance to supplement missing materials in other way than from "Lists of Duplicates".

At the beginning of 80s about 10 libraries sent to us such lists. Unfortunately now we receive "Search and Duplicates Lists" only from 2 institutions: NRAO and STScI. A lot of our collections are complete owing to their kindness. Now I have an opportunity to make an appeal to all astronomical librarians to make this effort and publish "Lists of Duplicates" even not too frequently, for instance every two or three years, and send them to others. It will be an occasion both for getting rid of useless materials and for helping libraries in need of these publications.

It must be admitted that an international exchange gives also the possibility for librarians to come into personal contacts and to enter into correspondence with librarians from all over the world. This Colloquium is in a way also the result of such contacts among astronomers and librarians from different institutions. I hope that our meeting will give us the possibility of becoming acquainted which will be helpful in our future work.