

Preface

This volume now supplants its predecessor as the latest in a long line. The first volume of *The year's work in librarianship* covered 1928 and was published in 1929. Coverage was international, and the intention was chiefly to provide a review of the literature rather than an account of events. With some disruption to the sequence during the Second World War, the annual volumes continued until v. 17, which covered 1950. From 1951 the plan changed, largely because of the inception of *Library science abstracts*: the intention became the recording of major trends and developments, though still with a focus on publications, and the volumes covered five years at a time, under the title *Five years' work in librarianship*. The first of these, for 1951–1955, was published in 1958. After three such compilations the focus changed again and the field was narrowed to Britain, the title becoming *British librarianship and information science*. From 1976–1980 onwards the book was divided into two volumes and was called *British librarianship and information work*. The five-yearly publication schedule continued and the last pair of volumes, covering 1986–1990, was published in 1993.

All those volumes were published by the Library Association. Its successor CILIP, however, did not wish to continue them, and it was therefore a great delight to find that Ashgate were willing to take them up. It was an added delight that they wished not only to catch up with a 1991–2000 volume but to continue the series with the present one.

As in the last volume, it is necessary to point out that inclusions of subjects have always varied from volume to volume and that this one is no exception. Regrettably, a few authors found that when the time came they were unable to furnish their contributions. There are therefore no chapters on industrial and commercial libraries, management, medical and health libraries, or multimedia, all of which had been originally agreed. On the other hand, some subjects, such as community information, colleges of further education, children's services, and library buildings, make a welcome return this time; information literacy replaces user education and user studies.

Contributors were given the same word limit as in the previous volumes, namely 7,500 words, but were encouraged to include as many bibliographic references as possible, so that readers may follow up topics that interest them. I have made no attempt to impose a uniform style on their writing, but I have tried to standardize spelling and have done my best to impose a uniform system of citation, though I have not tried to standardize every entry across all the chapters. This

period particularly saw a very large number of government initiatives, projects and frameworks, many of which originated as reports, and I have again agonized repeatedly over capital letters and italics. I know that I have not achieved total consistency.

Contributors were asked to provide any post-nominal letters that they wanted included. Some specifically asked for such letters to be omitted, but I can assure readers that they nevertheless possess appropriate qualifications.

It is perhaps worth referring again to a body which appears many times in these pages. In April 2000 an organization was formed which was fleetingly called the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLAC). Within less than a month it had changed its name to Resource: The Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries, and remained so until February 2004 when it took again the name Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (now abbreviated as MLA). I have usually retained the form used by the author wherever it occurs. *Re:source* often appeared thus, with a colon, but I have taken the liberty of removing it.

In conclusion I should like to thank my head of department, Professor David Nicholas, for his continued encouragement in this project, and to reiterate my thanks to all the contributors for providing material of such quality and for making it all such fun, and such an education.

J.H.B.