## B. Coding Form

The coding form that evolved succeeded in providing space for each of the desired bits of information concerning each paragraph from either a journal article or an annual report. The designation for a journal article is J; the designation for an annual report is R. Many of the explanations that follow are of the obvious; certain others may clarify the otherwise obscure.

The coding unit is the unit of measure that is encoded. The determination of the coding unit was one of the more troublesome phases of the analysis until the paragraph was decided on as the coding unit, regardless of length.

The context unit is the larger body of content in which the coding unit is contained. The researcher tried to provide for the indication of a context unit, the larger subject of which the paragraph being encoded was a part, but oftentimes, the context units could not be so defined quantitatively as to be encoded. Thus, definitions of the context units could not be made in such a way that they could be uniformly applied.

The encoded data were:

- (1) <u>Director-author</u>. A two-digit code sufficed to provide all authors with unique identification.\*
- (2) Article number or year of annual report. Articles by each author were put in alphabetical order and a two-digit number was assigned to each.

  Since the most prolific author wrote fewer than

thirty depression-related articles, it was sufficient for recording purposes to begin numbering annual reports with the years for which they were written within the number of the author who wrote them. Thus, an annual report of the Enoch Pratt Library for 1939 would have been written by Joseph Wheeler, its director, and would have been coded 5639, the "56" being Wheeler's number and "39" being the year of the report.

- (3) Journal number. Items that were journal articles were given numbers assigned to the journals.\*\*

  Annual reports used the number 10. Thus, for certain purposes, it was possible to sort by information source.
- (4) Article date. This duplicates information in the list of articles, but allows for sorting by date of article when necessary.\*\*\*
- (5) Level of article. It was assumed that knowing the characteristics of an item would be of value in the study. Therefore, the following designations were made: contributed article, speech text, editorial, attributed comment, letter to the editor, book review, brief signed note, committee report, or some other form. The research did not support this assumption.

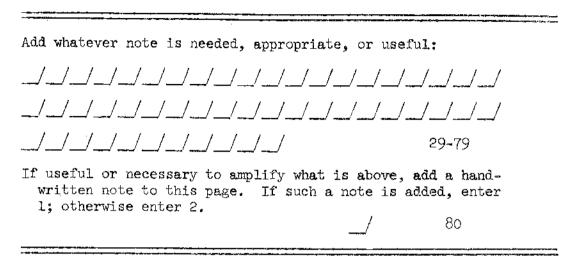
- (6) Objectives. A series of questions answerable with yes or no were asked. For recording purposes, a "yes" was coded 1, a "no" coded 0. The pattern of "ls" and "Os" produced by any set of questions could be translated into a letter for compressed recording purposes. The translation is provided in the enclosed sample of the coding form.
- (7) Coding category. Each paragraph was coded into its category.+
- (8) Context category. As was explained above, the effort to encode contexts was abandoned.
- (9) Length of treatment of category. Especially detailed treatment of a category could be drawned to the researcher's attention by a note here. This was not frequently useful, as most comments were one or two brief paragraphs.
- (10) Explanatory note. The item served to describe specialized content such that reading of the article, once it was encoded, proved unnecessary.

The sample of the coding form, which follows, may serve to answer the questions these explanations leave unclear.

## Sample of Coding Form

		Assigned Numbers	Tab. Card Column No.
Author	• • • • •		1-2
Article or year		/_/	3-4
Periodical or annu	ual report		5-6
02 Journa 03 Libra 04 Libra 05 Libra 06 Publi 07 School 08 Wilson 09 Specia	al of Adult ries ry Journal ry Quarterly shers' Weekl L and Societ	/ Ly ty for Librarians	
Date Level			712 13-14
of AL outsi Libra Comme speec 03 Attri 04 Lette 05 Other 06 Book 07 Brief 08 Edito	A presidents de the confe ry Associats nt in publis h texts not buted commes r to the ed letter review signed not	е	when published of the American neetings, including

	Assigned Numbers	Tab. Card . Column No.
Objectives Section 0/1		
I. Concern with internal operations With library organization With library administration With effects of budget reduction		15
II. Concern with services  Mentions service reduction .  Mentions extent of reduction .  Discusses service increase .  Mentions service inauguration .		16
III. Recommendations on policy Discusses temporary employment Discusses expansion of adult ed Discusses book selection policy Discusses other policy area  IV. Reactions to depression		17
Coding category		18 <b>-2</b> 0 21 <b>-</b> 23
Worsens		2 <sup>1</sup> 4
Affects		25
Does the author attribute a change, a problem, or an activity to the depression?		
Change		26
Number of paragraphs in this article on this category		27 <b>-</b> 28



### Translation of Binary Code

From Numbers to Letters: Columns 15-17; 24-26

0000 - A 0001 - B 0010 - C 0011 - D 0100 - E 0101 - F 0110 - G

0111 - H 1000 - I 1001 - J

1010 - K

1011 - L

1100 - M

1101 - N

1110 - 0

1111 - P

\*Appendix I-B, pp. 149-51.

\*\*See sample of coding form, p. 178.

\*\*\*Appendix I-D, pp. 160-72

+Appendix II-A, pp. 173-74.