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Letter to SEAALL members regarding union list of law library holdings, October 16, 1973

Betty Taylor

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UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA GAINESVILLE, FLA, 32611

SPESSARD L. HOLLAND LAW CENTER

October 16, 1973

For your information only

LAW LIBRARY

Dear Colleagues:

The Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries is undertaking the compilation of a Union List of this region's law school libraries' holdings of the AALS <u>Law Books Recommended for Libraries</u>. As Chairman of the Committee delegated the responsibility for the project, I have been authorized by the Chapter to determine if there is an interest among accredited law school libraries in participating in the compilation of a nationwide union list of law library holdings.

Enclosed is a questionnaire for you to indicate if you have an interest in this project. Please answer questions "yes" or "no" and return the form to me at your earliest convenience. If there is sufficient favorable reaction among law librarians, we will develop a proposal to be submitted to the AALL Executive Board and AALS Executive Director and Library Committee for approval. Any comments that you care to make about this project would be welcomed.

The second enclosure is a sample of the form which would be mailed to you for checking holdings in <u>Property</u>, number 32. This data is coded as follows: the first number indicates the page number in the <u>Property</u> list, the second number is the column number, the third number corresponds with the location of the title within the column; and the letter designates the category assigned to it in the <u>List</u>. In checking these you merely note your library's symbol as used in standard union lists. Instructions would be included for citing to serial holdings and variations in treatise editions. In the sample page from the Union List printout of List Number 32 on <u>Property</u>), Puerto Rico does not have the edition listed, but does have the 5th ed., 1967. After the forms are **raturned** to this library, the data would be punched on cards and a printout prepared for each <u>List</u>.

With the information submitted, it would be possible to supply an analysis of holdings in different forms (see enclosure number four). Each library would be furnished the number of titles held in the A, B, or C categories along with the total number held. Also, the A, B, and C categories can be analyzed by the number of titles held by the participating libraries in order of number of libraries holding the titles. A list of titles arranged by frequency of holdings could be prepared as a buying guide for libraries wishing to spend limited sums on collections. For instance, titles held by all of the participating libraries would presumably be the most important titles for purchase. Lastly, a printout of the books not held by any participating library would be made available. These might be divided up among libraries on a subject or regional basis to lay a framework for cooperative acquisitions. Reprint publishers might very well be interested in the lists as a guide to the demand that may be created by publication of the Union List. At the present time we have no way of determining the cost of each printout as it would depend on the number of libraries participating. The Southeastern Union Lists are averaging about \$5 each with holdings from twenty libraries. We are presently experimenting on the format with the computer printing out on special stencils, and an offset printing on both sides of a page. I am hoping that if there is enough interest among the law libraries in this country, we might be able to get some financial support so that individual library costs for the series would not be out of reach.

An affirmative response to this questionnaire does not necessarily commit you to participate in the project; however, estimates would be based upon the favorable responses. We would count on the majority of you who indicate a favorable reaction to participate actively later on this year if it seems worthwhile to proceed on a national basis.

Thank you very much for completing yet another questionnaire to law libraries.

Sincerely,

Betty W. Taylor, Chairman Union List Committee of S.E. Chapter of AALL

BWT:mp

Encs. (4)

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR LAW LIBRARIES SUBSCRIBING TO THE AALS RECOMMENDED LAW BOOKS FOR LIBRARIES LIST

(Yes - No)	 Would you be interested in participating in a Union List of Holdings of the AALS <u>Lists</u> for law libraries in this country?
an an the second se	 Could you actively participate in a Union List by submitting your holdings on forms furnished to you? (Sample enclosed)
A State	3. Have you checked the Lists against your catalog?
a la gara	4. Could you check one List each month to submit holdings?
	5. Do you have access to a key-punch machine so that you could supply punched cards with data not to exceed one card per title?
	6. Would you be interested in statistics indicating:
	A. Your holdings in A, B, or C categories
	B. Analysis of total holdings of participating libraries
	C. Frequency of title holdings in descending order as a measure of evaluation by libraries' purchasing.
	D. A list of titles not held by libraries?
	 Would you be interested in purchasing a Union List printout at approximately \$10 each?
	8. Would you be interested in purchasing a Union List even though you do not participate in the Union Lists?
COMMENTS:	

Encs: Form for reporting holdings Printout of holdings

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