

used in the Library are excellent tools in the hands of catalogers working on a subject catalog.

The Stadtbibliothek of Zürich seems to be the first among the large libraries in German speaking countries which introduced the alphabetical »Schlagwort-Katalog». The rules were published by Wilhelm von Wyss in 1909. Zürich has been followed by the University libraries of Vienna and Graz, the state libraries of Wiesbaden and Stuttgart, and the Nationalbibliothek in Vienna. The rules of these libraries have been published in *Zentralblatt für Bibliothekswesen*.

The primary purpose of the alphabetical subject catalog is to enable the student to find the literature he desires with the least possible expenditure of time and effort. The catalog must be arranged in a way that will prevent the reader from going through a large number of cards to find the specific material for which he is searching.

The fundamental principle of the subject-catalog consequently must be the »specific entry», that is, each book must be entered in the catalog under that heading which most exactly expresses its subject-content.

This principle of specific entry is theoretically accepted by all the various rules for subject catalogs, which I have had occasion to examine. But in the application of the principle we find the most striking differences between American and German practice.

The American subject-catalog adheres most faithfully to the norm, the exceptions being relatively few. In the Dictionary catalog, one will find subjects such as *Fox-terrier*, *Castle of Ambras*, *Siege of Strasbourg in 1870*, the *Ortler Mountains*, *Fermat's theory*, the *Eclipse of the Sun in 1927*, *The counting horse »Hans»* etc., directly under these specific subjects. The fact that the headings are modified in some cases, by inversion for example, or some other way, in order to obtain a fixed and concise caption, does not violate the principle any more than the conventional inversion of personal names change their individual character.

In the German rules we also find the specific entry as the norm; but fearing the consequences of a too literal adherence to the rule, some of them advise »grouping in the right places», as the expression goes. To attain this purpose indirect headings are used to a large extent, by which special subjects are subordinated with correlated general headings.

It is the rules of Zürich which first indicated this way. Mr von Wyss has deliberately abandoned the principle in many cases in favour of more general headings with a system of subheadings in various degrees »Neben-