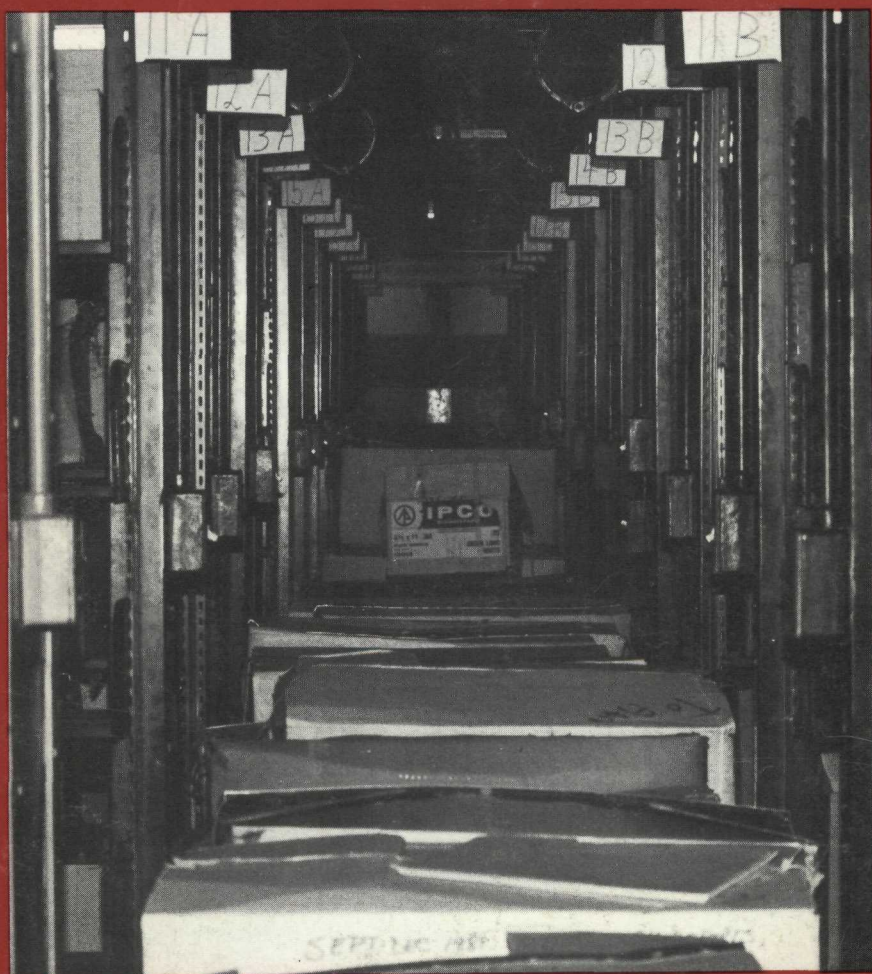


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The Forum

FROM THE EDITOR:

On a few occasions in the twenty years during which I have been a member of the Society of American Archivists, there have been issues of the *American Archivist* devoted more or less to a single topic or issue. Such issues are difficult to put together for an organization of the diversity of interests within SAA. There has been a strong feeling, however, among some members that efforts should be made to produce single topic issues from time to time. This winter issue is centered on the concept of collection management, a relatively new idea among archivists.

In the past most archivists were concerned primarily with collection development, which is usually defined as the continuous acquisition of more and more materials, as though more always equals better. As archival stacks have been filled to capacity, budget cuts have resulted in fewer staff members to process materials, and prospects for funds for expanded facilities have become remote, some archivists have turned to the newer concept of collection management. Collection management involves the development of a formal written collecting policy, selection of only those

items that are included in the policy, ongoing evaluation and analysis of collections, and cooperative collecting and resource sharing. One or more of these concepts is addressed in each of the four major articles as well as in the shorter feature.

The literature for collection development or collection building is relatively sparse; that for collection management is virtually nonexistent. Leonard Rapport truly broke new ground in his article "No Grandfather Clause: Reappraising Accessioned Records" (*American Archivist* 44). Sessions on this or similar topics have been offered at several archival meetings since then, and Rapport's has become one of the most frequently cited articles in the past two years. The articles in this issue are intended to fill a small portion of one void in archival literature. It is not expected that this one effort will solve any problems, but it is hoped that at least some archival repositories will be led to discuss, plan, and cooperate. If this happens, this modest effort will be counted a success.

CHARLES R. SCHULTZ
Editor