

# DOCUMENTOS

## NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHICAL CENTRE IN BRAZIL

*Herbert Coblans*  
*Consultor da Unesco*

*Apresentação*  
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### APRESENTAÇÃO

No dia 16 de março de 1953, a bordo do Conte Grande, desembarcava no porto do Rio de Janeiro o bibliotecário sul-africano Herbert Coblans. Vinha como consultor da Unesco junto ao Governo brasileiro para acompanhar o projeto-piloto relativo à criação de um centro bibliográfico nacional. Coblans foi recebido por representantes da Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV) e do Conselho Nacional de Pesquisas (CNPq), as duas instituições que estavam planejando a organização do centro.

A Unesco desejava como consultor uma pessoa possuidora de sólida formação científica e com conhecimentos e experiência no campo da documentação. Deveria possuir, também, personalidade dinâmica, capacidade diplomática para negociações e espírito inovador. Para a escolha do candidato foram contatadas importantes instituições e personalidades da época como Barbara Kyle, do Royal Institute of International Affairs, de Londres, K. C. Harrison, diretor da Escola de Biblioteconomia de Manchester, Inglaterra, Wilfred J. Plumbe e Zeferino Ferreira Paulo. As instituições consultadas foram a Library Association e Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux, de Londres.

Ao ser escolhido, Coblans trabalhava como bibliotecário na Universidade de Natal, na cidade de Durban, África do Sul. Possuía larga experiência no campo da biblioteconomia, tendo exercido o cargo de bibliotecário da própria Unesco.

### RESUMO

*Relatório final da missão de Herbert Coblans como consultor da Unesco junto ao Governo brasileiro para a criação de um centro bibliográfico nacional. O relatório é precedido por uma apresentação onde são enfatizados os méritos e a importância da missão Coblans nos primórdios da organização da Biblioteconomia no Brasil. O documento inclui também três apêndices contendo o decreto de criação do Instituto Brasileiro de Bibliografia e Documentação (IBBD), em 1945; a cronologia da missão e uma seleção de memorandos e bibliografias utilizadas pelo autor.*

*Ao ingressar na área de Documentação já era conhecido como qualificado cientista, sendo possuidor de um doutorado em química.*

*Segundo a Unesco, o centro a ser criado como projeto-piloto deveria ter uma atuação de âmbito regional. Suas ações deveriam ter caráter demonstrativo sobre a importância dos serviços bibliográficos para o Brasil e demais países da América Latina. Deveria ter um caráter inovador, atuando como um laboratório para experimentação de modernos métodos e técnicas bibliográficas.*

*Coblans, instalado no CNPq e na FGV, o que o levava a dividir o seu expediente de trabalho entre duas instituições, procurava, através de contatos frequentes com as pessoas envolvidas com o projeto, manter-se informado das decisões tomadas e das negociações entre os dois órgãos relativas à criação do centro.*

*No CNPq, Coblans chegou a participar de reunião do Conselho Deliberativo, ocorrida em julho de 1953, quando teve oportunidade de apresentar um retrospecto das negociações com a Unesco que resultaram na sua vinda ao Brasil. Também participou de reuniões destinadas a elaboração dos estatutos do centro, contribuindo com uma série de comentários.*

*O rumo dos acontecimentos, porém, distanciou os objetivos do centro das idéias iniciais do projeto-piloto e, de certa forma, esvaziou a finalidade principal da sua consultoria. O centro veio*

a ser o Instituto Brasileiro de Bibliografia e Documentação (IBBD), criado por decreto presidencial em 27 de fevereiro de 1954.

Ao lado desse trabalho, Coblans exerceu uma intensa atividade, com o objetivo de conhecer a situação brasileira no campo da Biblioteconomia e Documentação

Para tanto manteve contatos com bibliotecários, cientistas, educadores, autoridades universitárias e livreiros, e realizou viagens a vários estados do País. Em São Paulo teve oportunidade de participar da elaboração do catálogo coletivo de periódicos que estava sendo organizado na Universidade de São Paulo pelo Dr. Paulo Sawaya. Na Bahia, prestou assistência técnica à Biblioteca Pública, relativa à microfilmagem de jornais antigos, apresentou sugestões sobre o conteúdo do currículo de Biblioteconomia, que estava sendo preparado pela Escola de Biblioteconomia da Bahia e prestou assistência no planejamento do índice Tecnológico, publicado pela Escola Politécnica da Universidade da Bahia e na organização da bibliografia de tuberculose, elaborada pelo Instituto Brasileiro de Investigação de Tuberculose. No Rio de Janeiro, realizou uma série de conferências na Biblioteca Nacional sobre bibliografia e documentação, depois publicadas pelo DASP sob o título de Introdução ao Estudo de Documentação. Ainda na Biblioteca Nacional realizou estudos sobre a situação da catalogação de livros. Naquela oportunidade fez uma análise sobre o Serviço de Intercâmbio de Catalogação (SIC) que estava sendo organizado pelo DASP e a FGV. No Ministério da Educação prestou assistência à organização da biblioteca do Instituto Nacional de Estudos Pedagógicos (INEP) e à elaboração da Bibliografia Brasileira de Educação. Em Pernambuco, teve oportunidade de verificar a implantação do Serviço Central de Bibliotecas, da então Universidade do Recife. Atendendo recomendação específica da Unesco, Coblans promoveu a criação, com o apoio do Instituto Brasileiro de Educação, Ciência e Cultura (IBEC), da Comissão Nacional de Bibliografia, que teve como primeiro presidente o Prof. Lourenço Filho.

Segundo Edson Nery da Fonseca "a presença de Coblans no Brasil foi altamente estimulante. Ele viajou por todo o País fazendo contatos com bibliotecários e pesquisadores, inventariando recursos e ouvindo sugestões. O curso que ele deu na Biblioteca Nacional foi um sucesso [...]. Foi o primeiro curso sobre documentação promovido no Brasil com abordagem de problemas da informação

científica, em vez das fastidiosas dissertações sobre bibliotecas, arquivos e museus que caracterizavam cursos anteriores com a mesma denominação". Durante o I Congresso Brasileiro de Biblioteconomia, realizado no Recife, em julho de 1954, foi aprovado um voto de louvor e agradecimento a Coblans pelo "valioso trabalho que realizou no Brasil, especialmente quanto a sua contribuição ao desenvolvimento da Bibliografia no País".

Coblans teve grande preocupação em documentar suas atividades no Brasil, que se estendeu durante o período de março de 1953 a julho de 1954, a ponto de enviar sua primeira carta à Unesco cinco dias após a sua chegada. A missão foi relatada oficialmente em seis relatórios preliminares elaborados a cada dois meses, concluindo com um relatório final da atividade. Essa documentação foi acompanhada por um grande número de cartas, principalmente dirigidas a E. J. Carter, Diretor da Divisão de Bibliotecas da Unesco e seu amigo pessoal. Nessa correspondência, Coblans detalhava a descrição dos fatos contidos nos relatórios, adicionava comentários e procurava interpretar, segundo o seu ponto de vista, o comportamento das pessoas e das instituições. A sua atividade no País também foi documentada por meio de uma farta correspondência com autoridades, bibliotecários, cientistas e livreiros, da qual Coblans tinha o cuidado de conservar cópia das cartas por ele emitidas.

Toda essa documentação faz parte de um dossiê existente no arquivo da Unesco que permaneceu inédito durante cerca de trinta anos.

Quando decidi estudar a ação do Estado na área da informação científica e tecnológica no Brasil, que teve como marco inicial a criação do IBBBD, com a finalidade de cumprir o requisito para a obtenção do título de Mestre em Biblioteconomia na Universidade de Brasília, tornou-se imprescindível consultar a documentação da missão Coblans. Para tanto foram feitas diversas tentativas no sentido de sua localização. Consultado a esse respeito o Centro de Documentação do Programa Geral de Informação da Unesco, fui comunicado não existir registro da documentação.

Um artigo escrito em 1976 por E. J. Carter contém vasto estudo biográfico sobre Coblans e informa que foi realizada uma busca, sem sucesso, dos relatórios da missão Coblans nos arquivos da Unesco.

J. S. Parker no seu livro, Unesco and Library Development Planning, no apêndice onde estão

*relacionados os consultores da Unesco e respectivas missões, não apresenta informação sobre o relatório da missão Coblans.*

*Acreditando na possibilidade da existência dos relatórios, foram tomadas outras iniciativas visando a localização dos documentos, que incluíram uma correspondência com Alice Coblans, viúva de Herbert Coblans.*

*Finalmente, foi encaminhada uma solicitação à Divisão de Cooperação Intelectual (DCINT), do Ministério das Relações Exteriores, no sentido de que fossem realizados contatos com a Unesco para a localização dos relatórios.*

*Decorrente das gestões efetuadas pela DCINT, obtive a cópia do relatório final da missão Coblans. Na cópia desse documento constava o seguinte registro: "Bibliographical and Documentation Centre-Brazil. 002 + 011 a 031(81)". Através desta classificação, foi possível chegar até ao dossiê completo, efetivamente depositado no arquivo da Unesco. O dossiê cobre o período que vai de maio de 1953 a abril de 1954. Nele se encontra arquivada toda a documentação relativa à missão Coblans, que atinge cerca de 1 700 documentos, a qual pode ser agrupada nas seguintes partes:*

- a) documentação oficial da Unesco sobre o assunto, incluindo a correspondência trocada com autoridades brasileiras.*
- b) documentação administrativa da Unesco sobre a missão.*
- c) relatórios oficiais elaborados pelo consultor.*
- d) correspondência pessoal de Coblans.*
- e) correspondência de Coblans trocada com personalidades brasileiras.*

*Mediante empenho da Diretoria do IBICT, foi adquirida uma cópia completa do dossiê em microfilme, que se acha disponível para consulta no Centro de Documentação e Informação do Instituto.*

*O arquivo Coblans constitui-se numa fonte de pesquisa obrigatória para os estudos sobre o desenvolvimento da Biblioteconomia no Brasil.*

*Tendo em vista o relatório final da Consultoria*

*representar a primeira visão de um consultor estrangeiro sobre a Biblioteconomia brasileira em fase de organização, publica-se, a seguir, a sua versão integral, na língua original, acompanhada dos anexos.*

## **NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHICAL CENTRE IN BRAZIL**

### **Unesco pilot project of bibliographical service in Latin America**

To: Dr. Luther Evans  
Director General  
Unesco.

From: Herbert Coblans  
Unesco  
Consultant

#### *Final report*

March 16, 1953

July 15, 1954.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

In this report and attempt will be made to summarise and evaluate what has already been described in detail in six preliminary reports, submitted at two monthly intervals until the commencement of the 15th March, 1954 of the Technical Assistance Mission (TA). Since this mission grew out of the pilot project it is difficult to separate the two activities in the general analysis. However the more specialised scope of the TA mission will be considered in a separate section.

#### **TERMS OF REFERENCE AND AIMS**

I was asked to serve "as Consultant to the Brazilian Government in the development... of a national bibliographical centre in the Fundação Getúlio Vargas, Rio de Janeiro. In its function as a pilot project the Centre will be designed to demonstrate the value of this type of bibliographical service in Brazil and other Latin American countries, and to provide a laboratory for experiment in bibliographical methods."

To do this I was commissioned for a six months project in 1953, money being provided for local travel and a sum of 2 000 dollars for equipment including books and periodicals. Actually in July my mission was extended for four months to the 1 5th January, 1 954 and once again in December for a further period of two months.

In accepting the Unesco project in November 1952

on behalf of the Brazilian Government, the Delegate Prof. P. Carneiro, expressed the hope that it would be followed by "un aide financière très large de la part de l'Assistance Technique "(pour)" installer en 1953 une véritable Centre National Bibliographique dans le style et avec les proportions du Centre créé à México." At about this time it was announced in the Brazilian press that a contribution of the order of 50,000 dollars was hoped for through Unesco-Technical Assistance. Actually in December 1952 the TA Board ruled that no money for new projects would be provided for 1953.

### CREATION OF THE CENTRE

During the October and November of 1952 a number of interested groups in Brazil met to discuss the "form and financing of the Centre, with the result that the Conselho Nacional de Pesquisas (CNPq) became identified as a co-sponsor together with the Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV). The Unesco National Commission (IBECC) appointed a representative Comissão to draw up a constitution. This body met the President of the CNPq, Admiral Álvaro Alberto and other officials to explain the purpose of the CNPq. Dr. Octavio Martins (at that time one of the Technical Directors of the CNPq) arranged a meeting through the São Paulo section of IBECC, of 23 organisations to discuss the fundamental objects of the Centre as visualised by the CNPq.

Finally Mr. Penna of the Havana Regional Office met representatives of all the interested parties and reported that both the FGV and the CNPq promised considerable sums of money and accepted in principle the drafts of the statutes and the plan of work for the Centre (I have been informed that sum of 8 million cruzeiros had been earmarked in the CNPq budget for 1953.)

I arrived in Rio de Janeiro on March 16th and found a situation far less favourable than had been reported to Unesco. The two main difficulties at the beginning were:

1. The financial commitments were based on promises made by the Admiral to Dr. Simões Lopes, the President of the FGV. The Admiral left Brazil for 6 months shortly after my arrival. Dr. Octavio Martins, the only senior official of the CNPq who appreciated the need for a national documentation service and understood the aims of the Centre, resigned from the CNPq early in 1953, before my arrival.

- 2) The Comissão appointed by IBECC met only once and there was no agreement whatever on the legal form of the Centre and its financial basis.

Eventually in May after two months of discussions draft statutes for a Centre in the form of a government institution created by Presidential decree, were completed. The draft was submitted by the Acting President to the monthly meeting of the Conselho Deliberativo (CD) of the CNPq. It was referred back for a report by their consultant, Dr. Vianna Dias. His report suggested a considerable reduction of the scope and the cost of the Centre.

Dr. Simões Lopes on behalf of the FGV refused to accept this more limited Centre. As a position of stalemate was thus reached I helped Dr. Vianna Dias and Prof. Costa Ribeiro, the Scientific Director of the CNPq, in drawing up a plan for the Centre as an organ of the CNPq. A resolution on this basis was passed by the CD in July and a sum of 1 million cruzeiros was voted. Subsequently a draft programme and statutes were drawn up in consultation with the legal advisers of the CNPq. Copies of the draft statutes were distributed but not discussed at the monthly meeting of the CD held at the end of September. Shortly afterwards the Admiral returned from abroad and vetoed the project for a Centre within the CNPq.

It was at this point that I had my first meetings with the Admiral: He was very emphatic that the CNPq had not asked for Unesco help for the creation of a Centre and therefore was not committed to take action in 1953. Dr. Simões Lopes continued to make efforts to persuade the Admiral to agree to the original scheme. A new impetus was given in November when the Brazilian project reappeared in the Unesco submissions to the TA Board.

By the middle of December I was informed by Dr. Simões Lopes that there had been a dramatic improvement as the Admiral had agreed to the preparation of a decree for early submission to President Vargas, with the understanding that there would be generous financial support from the CNPq. At this stage M. Laurentie, the Resident TA Representative, was able to report the TA offer of one expert for a Scientific and Technical Documentation Centre. Very strong disappointment was voiced by Dr. Simões Lopes at the small scale of the offer and the condition of limitation to science and technology.

Finally in January the President of the CNPq and the

FGV presented the decree to President Vargas. In principle it did not differ much from the original decree mentioned above. The CNPq and the FGV were equal sponsoring bodies and there was no limitation as to scope. As is customary in Brazil such decrees are studied by the Departamento Administrativo do Serviço Público (DASP). On this occasion DASP made a number of fundamental changes and the representatives of the FGV were very surprised when the final version appeared as law (Diário Oficial, 4th March — a rough translation is given in Appendix I). The basic changes are:

1. The Instituto Brasileiro de Bibliografia e Documentação (IBBD) is not an autonomous body run by 2 equal partners, the FGV and CNPq. It is now an organ within the CNPq and the FGV takes a secondary position DASP was introduced as a third partner at the level of the FGV.
2. The emphasis was shifted from the field of knowledge to science and technology.

In terms of the Decree the following appointments were made:

President Sra. L de Sambaquy. (also Director of IBBB)  
Vice-Pres. Dr. M. Vianna Dias. (also Vice-Director of IBBB).

With money supplied by the CNPq a well furnished and spacious Institute (on two floors of a new building still under construction) is being established and will probably start working in August or September.

#### TA PROJECT- SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION CENTRE. *In December 1953*

I was asked by Dr. Adiseshiah to consider the continuation of my work in the capacity of a TA expert for 1954. Because of the already mentioned strong feeling of Brazilian disappointment in the Unesco-TA offer and above all my own scepticism, at that time, with regard to the creation of a Centre in 1954, I suggested an alternative course. There should be no TA expert in 1954 and instead in 1955 the project should be expanded to include two experts and to provide a substantial sum of money for equipment.

The 1955 grant would be conditional on the active functioning of the Institute by end of 1954. For obvious reasons on the desirability of continuity and the difficulty of pre-judging new projects for 1955, this procedure was not adopted.

M. Laurentie received firm assurances from Dr. Cleanto Leite (President Comissão Nacional de Assistência Técnica), the Admiral and Dr. Simões Lopes, that they wished the Unesco Consultant to stay as the TA expert. Under the circumstance I waived my doubts and accepted the cabled offer of appointment. My briefing instructions stated "that the work involved (should) be related specifically to scientific and technical documentation and not to the broader field of a Bibliographic Centre"... It is essential that the work you undertake in Brazil follow the pattern already established for Scientific Documentation Centre in Mexico and other parts of the world". These conditions had already been mentioned by M. Laurentie in discussions with Dr. Simões Lopes, who objected strongly to these limitations. However I felt reasonably optimistic that in practice I would be able to arrive at a *modus Vivendi*.

A few weeks after the commencement of the TA Mission I was informed by M. Laurentie that a breakdown of the project was imminent as the CNPq had decided that Unesco-TA help was no longer needed. Although no specific reasons were given, M. Laurentie thought that a part explanation might be the fact that the IBBB in its new form became in effect subservient to the CNPq. This is an autonomous body under the Presidency of an Admiral and is not likely to accept the norms of an international organisation like Unesco. Under the circumstances it became necessary to terminate the TA mission, which had in reality barely been started.

#### OTHER ACTIVITIES

During my period of briefing in Paris in February 1953 the main lines of my work were indicated as being.

1. to survey the Brazilian needs in bibliography and documentation
2. to help in the creation of a Centre and to initiate a Brazilian director into the work of such a Centre.

The conditions for 2) turned out to be quite different from what the Libraries Division had been led to believe and negotiations were slow and cumbersome for reasons explicated above. Therefore in agreement with Unesco Headquarters I spent as much time as possible on 1). In the course of finding out what Brazilian librarians, scientists, educators and universities wanted and needed I became a sort of roving consultant, helping individuals and institutions at all levels of librarianship. However I

attempt to relate this work to the future activities of the Centre and to ensure co-operation in all the most important States of Brazil. A selection of these activities is described below.

#### **A. Union catalogue of scientific periodicals.**

There was general agreement among scientists and librarians that this was an important priority. Prof. Sawaya of the Dept. of Zoology of the University of São Paulo obtained a grant from the Ministry of Education for its production. I assisted a group of libraries working with Prof. Sawaya to establish the procedures and the libraries to be included outside of São Paulo. Wherever possible in my travels and especially in Rio de Janeiro I arranged with libraries to supply lists of their holdings. The published volume is due to appear in a few months time. Eventually the cards for the holdings will be passed on to the Union Catalogue of the IBBD, which should be able to publish the corresponding volume of the non-scientific periodicals.

#### **B. Documentation.**

At the request of the National Librarian I gave a course of 10 lectures on this subject at the Library School attached to the Biblioteca Nacional. As there is very little material on this subject available in Portuguese I agreed at the request of the Director of the Serviço de Documentação of DASP to write a book based on the lectures. Under the title of *Introduction to the study of Documentation* it has been translated into Portuguese under my supervision and it is being printed in an edition of 1 000 copies by DASP for free distribution to libraries.

#### **C. Microfilming of newspapers.**

While visiting the Biblioteca Publica of the State of Bahia I advised the librarian on the possibilities of microfilming valuable newspapers, that were disintegrating. As a result the Ministry of Education, Rio de Janeiro, provide a sum of money for a survey to establish priorities and to undertake some microfilming. I chose an able young Brazilian librarian and briefed him for this job. His report was well received and the microfilming of selected newspapers is now being undertaken.

#### **D. Training of librarians.**

There is a growing movement in Brazil to incorporate library schools into University faculties. For the diplomas to be officially recognised syllabuses must be approved by the Ministry of Education. Srta. Bernadette Neves, the Director of the School in Salvador, Bahia, submitted a proposed new

syllabus to me for criticism and additions. In the same way I discussed plans for the starting of a new Library School within the Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro. I reported in detail on the proposed syllabuses.

#### **E. Biblioteca Nacional.**

At the request of the Head of the Cataloguing Department I made a brief study of their problem of handling a backlog of 200 000 books, at present in rough author order but not recorded in any way. A report outlining some possible procedures was submitted.

#### **F. New bibliographical projects.**

1. *Bibliografia Brasileira de Educação*. With the help of Dr. Octavio Martins a memorandum was on the scope and techniques for publishing a comprehensive bibliography of Brazilian education. This was accepted by Dr. Anisio Teixeira, the Director of the Instituto Nacional de Estudos Pedagógicos (INEP). Sra. Irene Doria was appointed to re-organise the library services of INEP along the lines of a documentation centre. The first number of the above bibliography for 1953 appeared in June. It is published monthly in mimeographed form and will be cumulated quarterly and annually in *the Revista Brasileira de Estudos Pedagógicos*.

2. *Índice tecnológico*. The Librarian of the Escola Politécnica of the University of Bahia, on the basis of a grant from INEP, asked for help in establishing the techniques for publishing a quarterly index of Brazilian articles in engineering and technology. I spent time on two different occasions in Bahia in carrying out this project. The first volume for 1953 is due to appear before the end of 1954.

3. Tuberculosis research in Latin America. The Instituto Brasileiro para Investigação da Tuberculose in Bahia is exceptionally rich in medical literature. At the request of the Director, Dr. Silveira, I prepared a plan of work for the publication of a quarterly index of articles on tuberculosis in Latin American periodicals and an annual select bibliography with abstracts on Brazilian work in tuberculosis.

4. Translations into foreign languages. Arising from discussions with Minister J. S. Chermont, head of the Cultural Division of the Ministry of Foreign Relations, I prepared a survey of translations of Brazilian literature. Enough translations of important works exist to warrant an annotated bibliography, which be published in French and English by the Division as part of its cultural programme.

### G. Specific request from Unesco Headquarters

1. National Bibliographical Group. After some initial difficulties the Council of IBECC accepted the principle of such a group and constituted it as one of its permanent Commissions (Comissão Nacional de Bibliografia) with President Lourenço Filho as Chairman and Sra. Irene Doria as Corresponding Member. At its first meeting in February there were present representatives from most of the larger States and important libraries, thus constituting a truly national body. In addition to its routine duties in relation to the International Advisory Committee on Bibliography, the Commission is undertaking certain national tasks such as considering ways of achieving an agreed code for the entry of Brazilian names in bibliographical listing. Also it will publish the Brazilian edition of the *Vocabularium bibliothecarii* by adding the Portuguese equivalent for the present three languages. I have already checked and commented on most of the translated terms (provided by Sra. Irene Doria) from the point of view of the interpretation of the foreign languages. Before publication the present draft will be submitted to librarians in the various States for agreement on the best Portuguese term or permissible variations. Another task of this Commission is the stimulation of the publication of standards in documentation. The need for this is very real as I had repeated requests for this type of guide. The Associação Brasileira de Normas Técnicas (ABNT) is a foundation member of ISO and its energetic President, Dr. Paulo Sá, is prepared to print Portuguese adaptations of the standards recommended by ISO Technical Committee 46. The Comissão in collaboration with the IBBD should be able to prepare Portuguese versions of the standards for publication by the ABNT.

2. National committee for documentation in the natural sciences. At the request of Dr. Holmstrom I tried to arrange for the formation of such a committee. The consensus of opinion of the leading scientists to whom I sent questionnaires was that work should be done by the Centre when it starts to function. However I started to work on one of the tasks of such a committee, the compilation of a list of Brazilian scientific periodicals. It arose partly from the request of the Mexican Centre for checking the list of Brazilian periodicals, which are indexed in the "Boletim". I was able to supplement their list by the addition of 73 scientific periodicals of value.

3. Brazilian bibliography, 1952-1953. At the request of Mile Malclés I prepared the Brazilian report for

inclusion in the Second Annual Report of "Bibliographical services throughout the world".

### SOME VIEWS AND CONCLUSIONS

Although it is clearly unwise to generalise about a country so vast and complex administratively as Brazil, I shall hazard some comment based on my own experience of 16 months and my observation of TA and other international projects. In the first place there are the aspects in which the mission failed to achieve its aim.

The concept of the Centre as a pilot project for Latin America soon showed itself to be an entirely visionary hope. In Brazil there is surprisingly little bibliographical interest in the rest of Latin America. Partly due to the slowness of communications there is little enough knowledge in one State of Brazil of what is happening in another. (The practical difficulties of enforcing legal deposit makes comprehensive national bibliography a some that vain hope.) For specific jobs like a pilot project or a clearly defined bibliographical undertaking, it would be wiser for Unesco to send its own independent team working on a precise agreement with the Government as to the local clerical staff and accommodation to be provided. In terms of national and international bibliography it is a serious deficiency, that there is so little co-operation in Latin America. This typically a field for Unesco help. Perhaps the area could be divided into four or five working regions each it acted as a unit. Brazil must certainly be considered as one such region. Some of the co-ordination and the bibliographical work can be undertaken in agreement with the Organisation of American States.

A second failures that, with the creation of the IBBD in its present form the all round character originally hoped for does not exist. Since it is mainly financed and controlled by the CNPq, its emphasis is naturally on science and technology. In its present structure it has no formal links with the two bodies with statutory responsibility for national bibliography the Biblioteca Nacional and the Instituto Nacional do Livro. Fortunately during the last few years these bodies have greatly improved their work in national bibliography. However the IBBD can play a significant national role in producing subject bibliographies in its fields and co-ordinating the work in other subjects, in maintaining (and publishing where possible) union catalogues for periodicals and books, in centralising microfilm work for the Federal capital and acting as a microfilm clearing house for foreign

acquisitions for the whole country. The co-operation of the IBBD with the Comissão Nacional de Bibliografia, which is a body much more representative of Brazil as a whole, could ensure many of the advantages hoped for in the originally planned National Bibliographical Centre.

Lastly the CNPq decision (after the creation of the IBBD) not to take advantage of the Unesco-TA offer is partly a reflection of the disappointment at the smallness of the Unesco contribution in relation to the anticipation. This type of misunderstanding, confusing hopes expressed in 1952 with promises is an ever present difficulty in Unesco work. This suggests that perhaps the functions of an Unesco expert in this field should be more limited. It is clearly difficulties a foreign consultant to stir local groups to action in a setting where administrative procedures are so fundamentally different. At best, and there is undoubtedly some value in it, a consultant can make an independent survey, act as a peripatetic adviser and judge the extent of professional and official support for a specific project. The situation in Brazil in the library field is not like that in some under-developed areas. Broadly speaking there are enough highly trained and competent Brazilian librarians, who can undertake surveys and organise the services needed. Unfortunately there is not enough co-operation and co-ordination to enable them to carry out their plans on a national scale.

However, there is one field in which foreign aid can have an important stimulative effect — the education and training of librarians and documentalists. There is a widespread realisation in Brazil that standards must be raised. It is hoped to achieve this partly by closer association with university faculties. I would like to make the following suggestion. Visiting lectures, who are specialists in a group of related subjects, could be sent to give the same three months course at three or four of the important library schools. Subsequently in the light of an understanding of Brazilian needs these lectures could provide the basis of textbooks in the Portuguese language for general use on library schools. Ultimately what is needed is a model library school in the form of a pilot project starting with a fair number of foreign lectures, gradually giving place to local staff.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In the first place i wish to thank the President, Prof. Lourenço Filho and the staff of the National Commission (IBECC) for their kindness and the

facilities they placed at my disposal at the Ministry of Foreign Relations. My day to day work was made possible through the clerical assistance and the office accommodation so generously provided by the Executive Directors, Dr. Rafael Xavier (at the FGV) and Dr. Ibany Ribeiro (at the CNPq).

For a number of short periods I also enjoyed the hospitality offered by Dr. Eugênio Gomes at the Biblioteca Nacional, Sra. Lúcia Sambaquy at the Serviço de Intercâmbio de Catalogação and Dr. Octavio Martins at INEP. Among the administrators and scientists whom I met, I would like to refer particularly to Dr. Simões Lopes (Pres. FGV), Prof. Costa Ribeiro (Scientific Director, CNPq) and Dr. Arthur Moses (Pres. Academia Brasileira de Ciências), whose courtesy and understanding were an important help at various stages of the negotiations. To the body of librarians and friends, who so lavishly provided that traditional hospitality I enjoyed everywhere in Brazil, I can only express an omnibus thanks.

Finally I would like to record my appreciation of the Unesco services in Rio de Janeiro. The reception and the practical help I received from the Unesco Information Centre, directed by Dr. Shaw, greatly eased my initial adjustment in a new country. To M. Laurentie, the Resident Representative of the TA Board, with whom I had the privilege very closely throughout my stay, I owe a great debt of gratitude for his assistance, stimulation and encouragement.

Paris. 27/8/54.

#### APPENDIX I

##### **A ROUGH UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF THE DECREE CREATING THE IBBD**

Decree n° 35124 of 27th February, 1 954 creates the Brazilian Institute of Bibliography and Documentation according to Law n° 1310 of 15/1/51.

The President of the Republic exercising the authority conferred upon him by article 87, Item 1 of the Constitution and having in mind the joint proposal of the CNPq and FGV and the Law n° 1310 of 15/1/51 decrees.

Art. 1° The IBBD is thus created within the CNPq with the following aims



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- a) to promote the creation and development of specialised services in bibliography and documentation;
- b) to stimulate the exchange between libraries and documentation centres of national and international scope;
- c) to stimulate and co-ordinate the better use of the country's bibliographical resources, aiming particularly at their utilisation in scientific and technical information for research workers.

Paragraph 1. The IBBD will fulfil its programme of activities in agreement with the objectives and the interests of the CNPq, DASP and the FGV, keeping in mind mainly:

- a) publication of bibliographical bulletins.
- b) supply of specialised references,
- c) maintenance of a service of co-operative cataloguing,
- d) organisation of a Union Catalogue of the country's bibliographical resources,
- e) preparation of special bibliographies asked for by the CNPq, by the FGV by DASP and by organisations collaborating with the Institute,
- f) the publication of general guides to the sources of bibliographical research,
- g) the co-operation in the fields of research by exchange of bibliographies and documentation with specialised groups within the country and abroad,
- h) the maintenance of a service of photo-reproduction,
- i) the development of courses for the training of personnel in librarianship and documentation.

Art. 2°. In order to achieve full realisation of the fundamental objectives of the IBBD, the CNPq will be able to sign agreements and contracts with public and private organisations.

Art. 3°. The organisation and functioning of the IBBD shall be guided by regulations to be worked out by the Conselho Diretor and submitted for approval to the President of the Republic within 60 days.

Art. 4°. The IBBD shall be administered by a Conselho Diretor composed of representatives from the CNPq, FGV, DASP and other collaborating groups, which contribute in a financial technical or material way to the maintenance of its services.

Paragraph 1. The members of the Conselho Diretor

shall be appointed by the Presidente of the CNPq after the names have been submitted by the collaborating organisations.

Paragraph 2. The Conselho Diretor shall have a President and a Vice-President, who will substitute for the former in his absence. Both will be appointed by the President of the CNPq.

Art. 5°. The IBBD shall be maintained by donations and contributions allotted by the CNPq, the FGV and other member organisations according to agreements as foreseen in Art. 2.

Art. 6f. The property and rights of the IBBD can be used only for the realisation of the specific objects of the organisation.

Art. 7°. The utilisation of the resources, subventions, subsidies, contributions and endowments given to the IBBD will have to be accounted for to the member organisations every year.

Art. 8°. Every year by the last working day of January, the Conselho Diretor shall present to the Presidents of the CNPq and the FGV a detailed report of the activities of the Institute during the preceding year.

Art. 9°. The IBBD shall have all the privileges and advantages belonging to the CNPq, according to Law n° 1310 of 15/1/51 and by its regulations, approved by Decree n° 29433 of the 4th April, 1951.

Art. 10°. This decree will be valid as from the date of its publication, superseding any previous ones.

Rio de Janeiro, 27th February, 1954, 133° of Independence and 66° of the Republic.

Signed GETÚLIO VARGAS

Tancredo de Almeida Neves

## APPENDIX II

### CHRONOLOGY

1953

- February 1. Arrival in Paris for briefing.
- March 16. Arrival in Rio de Janeiro.
- March 27. First and only meeting of IBECC Commission on the CBBD,
- April 4-9. Introductory visit to São Paulo.

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- May 29. Draft decree discussed by Conselho Deliberativo of CNPq.
- June 9-11. Visit to São Paulo. Meeting with Prof. Sawaya and group of librarians on Union catalogue of scientific periodicals.
- June 17-19. Visit to State of Minas Gerais. Discussions on bibliographical resources of Belo Horizonte and Ouro Preto.
- July 17. Meeting of representatives of FGV and CNPq to discuss rejection of draft decree. Ended in deadlock.
- July 30. Resolution for modified centre within CNPq and grant of 1 million cruzeiros accepted by Conselho Diretor. On this occasion Unesco consultant spoke in Committee on need for documentation services.
- August 28. Statutes distributed but not discussed at monthly meeting of the Conselho Diretor.
- September 14. to October 5. Away from Rio on trip to North East. Concentrated on university and official libraries in Recife and Salvador, Bahia. Lectured in both centres on work of Unesco and aims of IBBD.
- October 14. Started series of 10 weekly lectures on "Documentation" at Library School of the Biblioteca Nacional.
- November 2-4. Trip to São Paulo mainly to assist in establishing production methods for the Union catalogue. Gave public lecture on "Documentation in our time" under auspices of Associação Paulista de Bibliotecários (subsequently published in *Ciência e Cultura*).
- November 25. Council of National Commission (IBECC) accepted principle of a National Bibliographical Group in the form of a Comissão Nacional de Bibliografia. Sra. Doria appointed Secretary and in that capacity the Corresponding Member for the Group.
- December 7. Received letter from Dr. Adiseshiah proposing TA project.
- December 11. Interview with Admiral Álvaro Alberto, who indicated that the CNPq would not implement resolution of July 30th in 1953.
- December 26. to January 2. On vacation in Buenos Aires and Montevideo. Had discussions in

Buenos Aires with Snr. Fino and Snr. Giets. director of Instituto Bibliotecológico; in Montevideo with Drs. Establier and Garrido, the National Librarian and the Director of the Library School.

## 1954

- January 15. Decree presented to President Vargas by Dr. Simões Lopes and the Admiral.
- February 5. Inaugural meeting of the Comissão Nacional de Bibliografia.
- February 10. Received cable offering appointment as TA expert.
- February 27. Date of decree creating the IBBD.
- March 10-12. Trip to São Paulo at request of Director of CUA in connection with the "Rencontres internationales".
- March 15. Termination of Unesco appointment and commencement of Unesco-TA mission.
- April 30. Received cable announcing termination of Mission.
- July 1. Left Rio de Janeiro for Salvador, Bahia.
- July 3-16. Salvador. Advised on índice Tecnológico at Escola Politécnica on Latin American tuberculosis bibliography and on the routines of the Central Bibliographical Service of the University of Bahia. Lectured on medical bibliography and documentary reproduction methods.
- July 28. Arrived Paris.

## APPENDIX III

### A SELECTION OF MEMORANDA ETC

"Brazilian centre of bibliography and documentation" (Bulletin for libraries v. 7, n°s 8-9, E 104-6, 1953).

Questionnaire to scientists on the formation of a Brazilian National Committee for Documentation in the Natural Sciences.

Union catalogue of scientific periodicals. List of Brazilian libraries to be included. A documentation service for the Instituto Nacional de Estudos Pedagógicos.

"A note on some translations from Brazilian literature".

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"O trabalho bibliográfico da Unesco" (Revista do Serviço Público, DASP. Ano 7. v. 1, nos 2, 148-151, 1954).

Some notes on the Serviço de Intercâmbio de Catalogação

Select list of microfilm sources.

List of recommended material for central research libraries in the natural sciences and technology.

Brazilian bibliography, 1952-1953.

"Técnica de documentação na organização da literatura científica" (Ciência e Cultura v. 5, n.º 4, 189-193, 1953).

Address at inaugural meeting of Comissão Nacional de Bibliografia.

Proposal for arriving at an agreement on the entry of Brazilian names.

List of Brazilian scientific periodicals (for Mexican Centre).

Preparation of a Latin American bibliography in the field of tuberculosis.

"Introdução ao estudo de documentação." Rio de Janeiro, DASP. (in the press).

## **NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHICAL CENTRE IN BRAZIL: FINAL REPORT**

### ABSTRACT

Final report of Herbert Coblans as Unesco consultant attached to the Brazilian Government in order to develop an national bibliographical centre. The report is preceded by a presentation where are emphasised the merits and the efforts carried out by Coblans mission in the beginning of Librarianship organization in Brazil. The historical document also includes three appendix with the decree creating the Brazilian Institute of Bibliography and Documentation (IBBD), the chronology of the mission and a selection of memoranda.