OLIVE BRANCH JONES:

BORN: OCTOBER 10, 1863

DIED: FEBRUARY 2, 1933

DIED FROM: ACUTE MYOCARDIAL FAILURE
(HEART)

OBTAINED FROM: HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
VITAL STATISTICS, 65 S. Front St.
PHONE: 9/469-2531.
Library of Congress Classification for College Libraries*

By J. C. M. HANSON, Associate Director of the University of Chicago Libraries

As I recall it, the main point in your letter was whether or not I consider the Library of Congress Classification as suitable for college libraries—the smaller as well as the larger institutions. My answer to this question must be "yes" and "no," chiefly "yes," however. My reasons for emphasizing the affirmative is that I know of no other classification system which I could recommend as preferable to the L.C. for a college or university library. The negative is inserted because, like all other classifications, the Library of Congress has its shortcomings and defects, some of them rather serious ones.

Perhaps it will make matters a little clearer if I preface my statement with a brief note on the early development and origin of the L.C. Classification, apologizing at the same time for referring to my own connection with it.

My first practical experience in classification dates back to 1890. It was in connection with the modified Dewey as applied at the Newberry Library. From 1893-1897 I had occasion to work with Cutter's Expansive Classification at the University of Wisconsin. In deciding on Cutter in preference to the Decimal at the University of Wisconsin in 1893, we were influenced largely by Dzietzko's statement in his "Sammlung Bibliotekswissenschaftlicher Arbeiten," particularly his work on Generalkatalogisierung, where he finally sums up his estimate of the D.C. by saying: "For smaller popular libraries, a convenient apparatus—for large and scholarly libraries, an insufferable strait-jacket," also by consideration of the more elastic notation provided by Cutter, and the likelihood that his new classification would avoid some of the serious errors of the D.C., and present a scheme more scientific in its development and more modern in its nomenclature.

Four years with the Expansive Classification convinced me that no mistake had been made by the University of Wisconsin in selecting the Expansive in preference to the D.C. Classification. However, the irregular sequence of letters, the preliminary numbers for form classes, and other features, combined with the slow progress in furnishing additional schedules, proved a serious disadvantage.

During several informal discussions on classification and notation which I had about 1896 with Miss Olive Jones, librarian of the Ohio State University Library, the defects of both the D.C. and E.C. were gone over quite thoroughly. We were both agreed that a new classification with a notation representing a compromise between the two would be desirable, especially for colleges and university libraries. As for notation, we had in mind one or two letters to indicate classes, sub-divisions to be indicated by numerals, either in regular or decimal sequence.

In 1894 Harvard College adopted its own classification, rejecting both the D.C. and the E.C. In 1896 the New York Public Library, then under the directorship of Dr. Billings, did the same. In the following year there began to appear the discussions on the International Scientific Catalog, which resulted in a classification for the pure sciences with a notation resembling in its main features that which Miss Jones and I had discussed a year or two before.

In 1897, therefore, when confronted by the necessity of submitting plans for a classification for the Library of Congress, the rough sketches drawn up on 1895-1896 were again brought out and expanded.

*Letter written in December 1920 in answer to request for an opinion from a member of the Program Committee of the Middle West College Librarians.
PROGRAM

I. Overture Solennelle (1812) .............. Tchaikowsky
   UNIVERSITY CONCERT BAND
   Eugen J. Weigel, Director

II. Crucifixus ...................................... Lotti
   Peaceful Slumb'ring on the Ocean .......... Old English
   Salamaleikum ........................................ Cornelius
   Finale from "The Gondoliers" .............. Sullivan
   UNIVERSITY MEN’S GLEE CLUB
   Herbert Wall, Director

III. Tenebrae factae sunt ......................... Palestrina
    Ave Maria (Double Chorus) ................. Holst
    Twelve Days of Christmas (Double Chorus) English Folk Song
    The Staines Morris ......................... English Folk Song
   UNIVERSITY WOMEN’S GLEE CLUB
   Maude M. Slawson, Director

IV. Overture “Des Teufels Lustschloss” ......... Schubert
    Poème Symphonique, Op. 40 “Danse Macabre” .... Saint-Saëns
   UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
   Eugene J. Weigel, Director

V. Jesus dulcis Memoria ......................... Vittor
    The Virgin’s Plaint ......................... Schindl
    Miracle of St. Raymond .................... Old Span.
    Ballad of the Kremlin ....................... Schindl
   UNIVERSITY CHORUS
   Eugene J. Weigel, Director

Accompanists

Olive Jones
Dorothy Garver
COMMENCEMENT CONCERT
OF THE

COMBINED
MUSIC GROUPS

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

GYMNASIUM
SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 1932
8:15 P.M.
Professor Siebert presented the following memorial on the
life and services of Miss Olive Jones:

Faculty Memorial on the Death of Miss Olive E. Jones

During these recent months the University has been called upon
to mourn the death of six members of this Faculty, including Olive
B. Jones and Joseph Russell Taylor, who were graduates of the Class
of 1887.

Miss Jones entered the University in the autumn of 1885 with
a diploma from the high school of Newark, Ohio, where her father,
the Rev. Edward I. Jones, was the founder and pastor of the Plymouth
Congregational Church, after having ministered to the Third Avenue
Methodist Episcopal Church of Columbus. The University then con­
isted of two departments, the preparatory and the collegiate, the
enrollment of both together numbering about three hundred and fifty
students. During her first and second years Miss Jones took algebra
and physics in the former and her other subjects in the latter.
She had not quite completed her course in 1888, having in the pre­
vious year been appointed Assistant Librarian under Samuel Carroll
Derby, Professor of Latin and Librarian. The Library was then so
small that it was easily accommodated in the large room at the east
end of the third floor of University Hall.

In 1892 Miss Jones was promoted to Librarian and given a
student assistant for one half-day a week. In November of that
year she supervised the removal of the collection of books, then
numbering only thirteen thousand volumes, to Orton Hall. There it
remained a full score of years, during which time it outgrew the
space afforded by the floor and balcony of the room now occupied
by the Orton Memorial Library of Geology, and filled a number of
stacks in the basement. It was during this period that Miss Jones
obtained the last credits necessary for her B.A. degree, which
was voted by the Trustees on January 5, 1907, as of the Class of
1887.

In 1910 the General Assembly appropriated money for our
present Library building through the insistence of Senator Alonzo
K. Tattie, Chairman of this Faculty. Miss Jones had long looked forward
to the time when the University collections would have a suitable
and commodious home of their own. As a member of the American
Library Association she had been an observant visitor at many lib­
raries, and the selection of a suitable architectural firm to build the
new structure and the adequate planning of it were matters of deepest
concern to her. She was authorized by the Board of Trustees to make
trips to study the arrangements of certain notable library buildings,
and was greatly impressed with the admirable plan of the new Public
Library of the City of Boston, which in some of its best features with
necessary modifications and reductions became the model for our
structure. The new building was opened to the University in January
1913.

Miss Jones remained at the head of the Library thirty-four years,
being appointed in July, 1897, Associate Professor of Bibliography.
During her administration our collection of books, periodicals, and
pamphlets increased by more than three hundred thousand and the staff
of librarians and assistants to more than forty, who were well organ­
ized and directed by Miss Jones with a clear understanding of library
technique. During this period nine departmental libraries were in­
 stalled in other buildings on the campus, the supervision of which
formed a large part of her responsibility.

Miss Jones was a charter member of the Ohio Library Association
and its president in 1919. For several years she was an active member
of its legislative committee. She also served as chairman of the
University Librarians' Section of the University Library Association
in 1924.
During the closing years of her service Miss Jones suffered intensely at times from ill-health, but she conducted her classes in bibliography, a subject in which she was always deeply interested, with surprising regularity. She was the fortunate possessor of a friendly and happy disposition, which no suffering could cloud. Among the graduates and students she had many well-wishers, who after an absence from the campus were impelled to call and exchange greetings and reminiscences with her. When they met her colleagues afield, one of the first persons they inquired about was Miss Jones. She kept her University appointments until January, 1933, when her last illness forced her to give up her work. Her death occurred on February 2nd.

Miss Jones held the esteem, loyalty and sincere affection of the members of her staff, who deeply appreciated her personal interest in them. Her high courage, sound judgment, and stimulating counsel were sources of inspiration to them. Those who went from the library to take up their own administrative tasks in public and university libraries elsewhere attribute no small measure of their success to the training they received under her direction. Her counsel was highly valued by her colleagues in the library profession, and her administrative ability and professional attainments were recognized as being of an exceptionally high order.

The present Library of the Ohio State University may be truthfully said to be in large part the enduring memorial of the life work of Olive B. Jones.

W.H. Siebert, Chairman
William McPherson
Maud Jeffrey

Professor Siebert moved that this memorial be adopted and spread upon the records of the University Faculty and that a copy be sent to the family of Miss Jones.

The motion was seconded and carried.

The Secretary filed letters of appreciation from the father of Professor Clarence E. Andrews and from Mrs. Joseph Russell Taylor.

The Faculty adjourned at 4:40 P.M.

SECRETARY
Some time ago I suggested to ASC that it might be proper for the Libraries to honor their first Librarian, Miss Olive Jones, with a suitable memorial. From what little research I have already done, I have concluded that Miss Jones was a rather remarkable woman for her times, and that she made an important contribution to the OSU Libraries which should be recognized. Soon after Dr. Branscomb became Director, he made an attempt to establish a tradition of memorializing the Libraries' Directors of the past (and eventually of the future), but the Committee on Portraits and Memorials would have none of it (they claimed there was no precedent in other departments). All that they would allow was the modest memorial to Mr. Manchester, who was the second librarian of OSU (between Miss Jones and Dr. Branscomb). It seems unfortunate that Miss Jones' memory has been thus so abruptly dismissed. It is about 13 years since the initial rejection by the Committee on Portraits and Memorials, and I think it would be worthwhile to try again — first, to provide a suitable memorial for Miss Jones, and second, to establish a tradition (precedent or no) of memorializing the Libraries' Directors in the future. Naturally, this would imply a memorial to Dr. Branscomb at the proper time, and I think we may discount any lack of personal involvement with the idea as due to modesty. You will recall that ASC was generally receptive to my suggestion, and that Dr. Branscomb had indicated his willingness to discuss it further with me. Because of the above mentioned personal stake which Dr. Branscomb might feel, I think it might be best to try to avoid involving him until such time as a pretty solid package has been assembled for his consideration. This will, I hope, spare him of any embarrassment just in case this thing turns out to be a can of worms.

I suggest that you appoint an ad hoc committee of two to look into this matter. I would like to indicate my interest in serving as chairman of this committee, with Mary Ellen Page as the other member. Miss Page has expressed her willingness to accept such a committee assignment. I doubt if this committee work will be unduly time-consuming or interfere with more pressing day-to-day problems.
TO:        Don Deitch
FROM:     Irene Braden
RE: Olive Branch Jones Memorial Committee

Your request of December 8, 1967 to establish a committee to honor Miss Olive Branch Jones with a suitable memorial has been seriously considered. Since this matter is of such import to the tradition of the Libraries, it was a decision which I felt could not be hastily made. The need for this committee is, indeed, obvious, and it cheers me that you have risen to assume this challenging responsibility which others have ignored or shunned.

From your preliminary remarks about Miss Jones, I am convinced of the great contribution she made to The Ohio State University Libraries, and this contribution should be recognized and advertised.

I recommend that this committee function as an ad hoc sub rosa committee for the term it needs to function. It seems that this committee should produce a recommendation as to what would be the most suitable memorial to Miss Jones. It is my suggestion that this committee consider a living memorial such as a collection of her letters, a biography or something of this sort as opposed to a wall plaque or statue. I am very interested in the work of this committee, and I hope that the Committee can complete its charge during the Winter Quarter and present a report at that time.

2 January 1968

IB:mhs

cc: Miss Page
OLIVE BRANCH JONES

Olive Branch Jones, '87, was the first non-academic member of the University staff to attain the directorship of a major campus activity. She became University librarian in 1893 and remained in that capacity until 1927. Until her death on February 2, 1933 she continued as associate professor of bibliography. She saw many changes on the campus and in its personnel in her total connection with it, just short of fifty years.

She was appointed assistant librarian under Professor Samuel Carroll Derby (q.v.) in 1887 while an undergraduate. This interfered with her getting her degree with her class of 1887. She finally earned it in 1907 but "as of the Class of 1887." The library, when she began her long connection with it, was still on a primitive basis. When she took over from Professor Derby, the library was housed in a third-floor room in University Hall. Its collection amounted to 13,000 volumes. In November 1893 it was removed to Orton Hall, occupying the space used later for the Edward Orton Memorial Library. When she was named librarian, to succeed Professor Derby, she was given a student assistant one half day a week. Her original salary was $300 a year, but by 1894 it was $800.

With the completion of the new library in 1913 this major activity had a home of its own for the first time although it shared some of its seminar rooms on the third floor with academic departments. Miss Jones even had a hand in the planning of the new structure which, in some respects, in its original form, bore some resemblance to the Boston Public Library. Miss Jones visited various other college and university libraries in search of ideas for the new building which was built with state money thanks in large
part to the influence of State Senator Alonzo H. Tuttle, who was also a member of the law faculty.

During Miss Jones's librarianship the University's collection of books and periodicals increased by more than 300,000. Her staff, meanwhile, grew from the one part-time assistant to more than forty full-time. In that time also nine departmental libraries were set up elsewhere on the campus and she was responsible for these also. This was regarded as major progress at the time but was dwarfed with the expansion of the 'Fifties and 'Sixties.

Upon her death, February 2, 1933, the customary faculty memorial was adopted. "During the closing years of her service," it pointed out, Miss Jones "suffered intensely at times from ill-health, but conducted her classes in bibliography, . . . , with surprising regularity. She was the fortunate possessor of a friendly and happy disposition. Among the graduates and students she had many well-wishers, . . ." In those later years she had to use a cane and her chronic illness made her less outgoing.

The memorial closed on this note: "Miss Jones held the esteem, loyalty and sincere affection of the members of her staff, who deeply appreciated her personal interest in them. Her high courage, sound judgment, and stimulating counsel were sources of inspiration. . . . Her counsel was highly valued by her colleagues in the library profession, and her administrative ability and professional attainments were recognized as being of an exceptionally high order. The present library of the Ohio State University may be truthfully said to be in large part the enduring memorial of the life work of Olive B. Jones." This was true to a degree but with the enormous expansion of the library during the Bevis administration, it was deemed appropriate to name it
O.B.J.

as the "William Oxley Thompson Memorial Library," in honor of the University's fifth president.

Miss Jones was born October 10, 1863. Her father was a minister who served both Congregational and Methodist churches in Newark and Columbus. She was barely thirty when she was named University librarian. She was not quite seventy at the time of her death.
Olive Branch Jones was born October 10, 1863 in Jackson County, Ohio. She received her diploma from Newark High School and the B.A. degree from The Ohio State University, entering in 1883 when enrollment was 350 students. In 1887 she was appointed Assistant Librarian at her alma mater under a part-time professor-librarian and in 1893 she was named Librarian at Ohio State, thus becoming the first full-time library head at that institution and one of very few women heads of large universities in the nation.

Miss Jones was an innovator. Early in her administration the first classification of the collection was begun. She rejected the Dewey and Cutter classifications, feeling that they were not appropriate for academic libraries and instead adapted for Ohio State's use the Harvard and California classification schedules. However, she ordered Library of Congress catalog cards in 1902, two months after they were first issued. Simultaneously, Ohio State began receiving and utilizing the Library of Congress classification schemes, thus becoming one of the first libraries to begin cataloging and classifying under LC.

Miss Jones also had innovative ideas with respect to staff organization. She adopted a thirty-six-and-a-half-hour work week for the professional staff. Support staff members worked forty-one-and-a-half hours. She was ahead of her time in maintaining that professional librarians had responsibilities beyond five o'clock in the afternoon and she expected them to keep up with library developments after library hours. During her tenure she worked to attract more men to the library profession to give it better balance. She strongly advocated the establishment of a library school at Ohio State University since the only one at that time in the state was at Western Reserve University in
Olive B. Jones (cont'd)

the northeast.

Active in professional associations, she was a charter member of the Ohio Library Association and served as its president in 1918-1919. During World War I she had all members of the library staff assist in the collection of books for the Army Camp Libraries, and simultaneously established special funds to purchase books and documents related to the war.

Always interested in bibliography and having taught it informally for a number of years at Ohio State, on July 1, 1927 she was appointed Associate Professor of Bibliography. That same year she relinquished her duties as librarian due to poor health, but retained her professorship and taught her classes until her death in 1933. Miss Jones had served the University for forty-six years, one of the longest periods of tenure ever held by a woman at Ohio State. The book collection had grown from 13,000 volumes in 1893 to more than 300,000 in 1933.

This biography was prepared in connection with the naming of Olive Branch to the Ohio Library Association Hall of Fame in 1980.