RESOURCES FOR INFORMATION ON SHIPPING

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ABSTRACT

Several libraries in the U.S. concentrate in maritime acquisitions, thus offering to the researcher and other interested people a wide range of information particular to shipping. A small number of English language publishers provide an important percentage of books on these subjects. Their efforts are complemented in the serial/periodical and newspaper literatures by an active and aggressive circle of providers. The financial services provide current and retrospective profiles of the publicly held shipping firms as well as timely industry information. There are several maritime organizations, some obscure to the general public, publishing newsletters, house organs, etc., which convey specialized but often not widely announced information. The U.S. Federal Government, through such agencies as the Maritime Administration and the Federal Maritime Commission, offers a continuing flow of shipping data, plus substantial back files useful in historical analyses. Information vendors, such as DIALOG deliver much of the foregoing in computerized formats.

An overview of maritime special collections print sources of shipping information and electronic access to these sources will be presented.

INTRODUCTION

Although the utility of shipping information in the marine science community is admittedly limited, there are certain elements of this body of information which may prove useful to the marine science end user. Pollution control, ocean dumping, handling of certain shipboard wastes, and port development are some of the topics continually addressed by the industry which could have relevance in marine studies and research.

Like many other industries, the supporting print information for the business of shipping ranges from that which is readily accessible through

Sources of shipping information are taken to embrace port data as well as information about those vessels engaged in the transport of people and commodities over water.
the conventional secondary sources, to that which is barely visible--a kind of grey literature.

The book, the serial/periodical, the so-called financial services, the newspaper, the obscure (at least to most of us) newsletter literature, and government documents account for the bulk of the available and semi-available, printed matter on shipping.

BOOKS

In seeking out the monographic literature of shipping in the library setting the chief Library of Congress (LC) subject heading in SHIPPING (HE561-971), followed by International Law,(JX4190). In the Sears List the principal term is again SHIPPING 386, 387 followed by several "see also" terms.

In addition to the five maritime academy libraries, the U.S. Coast Guard library, and the U.S. Naval Academy Library* an excellent source for locating other shipping collections in the United States and Canada is Lee Ash's Subject Collections...** (sixth edition, 1985). Noted that this title is organized, for the most part, by LC Subject Headings.

English language book publishing firm/dealers which concentrate in shipping and related areas are many. Ten of these are (alphabetically):

1. Abbey Books
   9 Gatefield Lane
   Faversham, Kent ME 13 8NX
   England

Shipping, naval and maritime history, yachts and yachting. A second hand service of titles published in Great Britain.

2. Conway Maritime Press, Ltd.
   24 Bride Lane, Fleet Street
   London EC4Y 8DR
   England


   Box 456
   Centreville, MD 21617


4. Drewry Shipping Consultants, Ltd.
   34 Brook Street
   London W1Y 2LL
   England
Shipbuilding forecasts, shipping studies and surveys, liner shipping, bulk carriers, tankers, offshore drilling. Titles tend to be cost prohibitive to the library community—$300 to $500.

5. Fairplay Publications, Ltd.
   52-54 Southwark Street
   London SE1 1UJ
   England

   Several maritime directories, special ship studies, maritime law, economics, historical and general. Over a century in business.

   238 City Road
   London EC1V 2PU
   England

   Also:
   135 West 50th Street
   New York, NY 10020


7. Lloyd's of London Press, Ltd.
   Sheepen Place
   Colchester CO3 3LP
   England

   Also:
   871 Broadway
   New York, NY 10003

   Technical and scientific, legal and parliamentary, commercial, maps and atlases. Long familiar in shipping circles are the various registers; e.g., *Lloyd's Ports of the World, Lloyd's Register of Ships*, etc.

8. Naval Institute Press
   Annapolis, MD 21402

   Naval and maritime subjects, engineering, science, history, technical and trade. 36 titles in 1985. 270 titles in print.

9. UNIPUB
   345 Park Avenue
   New York, NY 10010

   Maritime law, ports and markets, the marine environment, fisheries.
It is emphasized the foregoing is representative only of English language book providers. For more comprehensive treatments, interested parties should review such services as the Literary Market Place, the International Literary Market Place, British Books in Print, Verzeichnis Lieferbarer Bücher, Les Livres Disponibles, etc.

Finally, as is seen from this list, one may guardedly conclude the United Kingdom holds a leading place in maritime publication.

SERIALS/PERIODICALS

Access to the serial and periodical literature for shipping is most effectively done by using certain directories and indexes.

Irregular Serials and Annuals: An International Directory (tenth edition, 1985) is indispensable. In the Dewey 387 section "Transportation--Ships and Shipping" there are listed, with ordering information, over 250 titles. Coverage is from the obscure to the well known, e.g., the Canary Islands Shipping Handbook is obviously devoted to that group of Spanish Islands off Western Africa while the Fairplay World Shipping Year Book, although British in origin, covers the spectrum of world shipping. Another useful source for shipping directories is The Directory of Directories (second edition, 1983). About sixty titles are listed with accompanying brief descriptions; by strict definition coverage is international, but the English language restriction limits its scope.

The leading English language periodical indexes carrying shipping information are:

1. Business Periodicals Index, 1985-

2. Current Literature in Traffic and Transportation, 1960-

3. Predicasts F & S Index United States, 1960-

4. Marine Affairs Bibliography, 1980

1. The Business Periodicals Index indexes by subject about 300 English language periodicals. It is structured in the traditional Wilson format.

In the 1984-1985 cumulative volume beginning with the word SHIP there are some twenty-five subsequent shipping terms. Under one of these--SHIPPING LINES there are forty-two "see also" references plus nineteen subheadings. The indexing is apparently near exhaustive. Many critics consider this to be the premier English language index for articles about business and industry activities.

2. Current Literature... is published by the Northwestern University Transportation Center. The bi-monthly, soft back pieces do not cumulate nor is there any kind of volume-end indexing. There is, however, a classification schedule printed on the inside front cover of every issue which provides fairly good subject access. About 300 periodicals (mostly
U.S.) are selectively indexed. A little less than twenty percent of each issue is devoted to maritime activities. The lead term is WATER TRANSPORTATION followed by such subheadings as PORTS, CARGO HANDLING, and INLAND WATER TRANSPORTATION. It is unfortunate that this service has been forever plagued with funding difficulties. A little more money would go a long way in improving and expanding this valuable title.

3. The Predicasts F & S United States is uniquely organized. It is a weekly index (cumulating monthly, quarterly, and annually) of corporate and industry activity. There are two sections within one cover: white pages are arranged by company name; colored pages are arranged by industry using the U.S. Dept. of Commerce Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) scheme for business organization. Shipping industry activities are listed under SIC code numbers 4400 and its subdivisions.

4. The Marine Affairs Bibliography is concentrated in marine law and policy. A classification scheme provides the subject organization. It is organized in three parts: General Works, Law of the Sea, and Maritime Transportation and Communication. Carriage of Goods, Marine Insurance, and navigation are representative of the sections in Part Three. The final volume of this quarterly is cumulative. Indexing is extensive with author, corporate, series, conference, and geographical references appearing in every issue.

A small, but important, part of the shipping periodical literature are the port magazines. Many of these are available at no cost. Even though they tend to be promotional in nature they are professionally done and do carry several concise articles on the activities and services of each port. Occasionally, an article on the history of the port appears. The Ports of Virginia Monthly Log, Port of Houston and Port of Baltimore are examples. A worthwhile acquisition for interested groups; consult Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory, latest edition for individual titles.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

John Moody, late of New York City, first offered his now famous financial analyses services in 1909 when he introduced the Analyses of Railroad Investments. Today this title is called Moody's Transportation Manual. It, like the rest of this annual multi-volume set, is kept current on a bi-weekly schedule (Tuesday and Friday). The section on steamship companies gives historical and current financial information on several publicly held firms. The entry for American President Companies, Ltd. (parent of American President Lines, Ltd.) is eight pages, three columns each, in small type. Comprehensiveness and timeliness are the orders of the day. Illustrative of an industry financial service is Moody's Investors Fact Sheets: Industry Review covering some 4,000 companies
operating in about 145 industries. In the freight transportation section, several shipping firms are ranked by various financial criteria.

Standard and Poor's looseleaf *Standard Stock Reports* provides one sheet write-ups on about 4,500 publicly traded companies listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), American Stock Exchange (ASE), and in the Over The Counter (OTC) Market. The updating is quarterly. Each sheet gives a business summary, per-share data, income and balance sheet data plus much more. Many U.S. shipping companies are included.

**NEWSPAPERS**

No other widely distributed and readily available ($1.00/copy) newspaper in the United States covers shipping as does the *Journal of Commerce and Commercial*. It is published on all business days. Since 1827 it has provided the shipping community with timely reports on recent developments in the industry. The entire second section, averaging twenty pages, is devoted to shipping movements. The Friday tabloid supplement *Weekly Shipping Timetable to World Ports* shows scheduled sailings from all coasts of the United States, Canada and Mexico.

It is interesting to note that the founder of this newspaper was S.F.B. Morse, a person who obviously had a keen interest in the development of communications. The impact of his efforts in the newspaper world may not have been as widespread as that resulting from his invention of the telegraph, but to the shipping community the *Journal of Commerce*... leaves little to be desired.

Newspapers serving large coastal and riverine urban centers usually carry the local ship arrivals and departures plus occasional reports affecting the local shipping communities. As revealed in a search of their 1984 annual cumulative indexes, the *London Times* and the *New York Times* go beyond this. In *The Times Index* five full pages are devoted to the subject; the listing of shipping accidents is extensive, and the treatment of shipbuilding is international and lengthy. Many articles on marine policy are also cited. The effort in *The New York Times Index* devoted to the subject appears to be even greater. Shipbuilding, ships and shipping are the two principal headings. In excess of 500 articles are cited, many with abstracts.

**NEWSLETTERS**

Good starting points when searching for the organization report, society bulletin, club news and the like are the *Encyclopedia of Associations* (20th edition, 1986, v. 1-4) and the *Yearbook of International Organizations*. Most of the entries in the former list the association's publications. In addition to the thousands of U.S. associations described in volume one, volume four is entirely given over to international associations. The *Yearbook*... now in its 22nd edition, 1985/86, is also a multivolume work. Its genealogy and development is so checkered that the editors now provide a full page in the front matter called "publication history."
The awkwardness of the arrangement of the work aside, all entries are uniformly organized and thoroughly treated. Many list the publications of the organization.

Some house organs are irregularly "published" and bear no bibliographic identifiers. Their appearance of informality does not mean they convey unimportant information. Here can be found much of which is pertinent and timely. One of these, prepared by Todd Shipyards Corporation even lacks a title. It is in effect a clipping service carrying articles from the Wall Street Journal, the Journal of Commerce, foreign sources and the like. Communicating directly with the originators of these kinds of materials seems to be the best (possibly the only) way of ensuring receipt.

**U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS**

Much (certainly not all) of what is published by the U.S. federal government is made available to us through the Government Printing Office (GPO). Some materials are available directly and only from the originating agencies. The GPO materials are announced through the *Monthly Catalog of United States Government Publications*. Other proven finding tools are the *American Statistics Index*, the *CIS Index* and the *Federal Government Publications Catalog*. The last one is on 16mm film (updated monthly); the others are available in paper format.

The Departments of Commerce and Transportation, plus what may be documented in the congress, are the chief sources of shipping information coming from the U.S. Government. A few of the more popular and continuing titles are:

*Merchant Vessels of the United States*. Department of Transportation. Annual directory of merchant vessels and yachts providing dimensions, tonnage, home port, etc.

*Marine Accident Report*. National Transportation Safety Board. Detailed analysis of major ship accidents; e.g., fire, explosion, grounding, etc. These reports are about fifty pages with lengthy sections addressing an investigation of the particulars, conclusions, and recommendations.

*Mariners Weather Log*. A quarterly periodical from the Department of Commerce carries several articles covering worldwide weather, hurricane and other storm tracts, regional weather reviews, etc. An entire section provides climatological data. Recorded by the at-sea components of the National Data Buoy Center.

*Safety Aboard Ship, Shipboard Guide to Pollution-Free Operations, National Port Assessment 1980/1990* are representative of the titles prepared by the Maritime Administration, a part of the Department of Commerce.
COMPUTERIZED DATA BASE SEARCHING

Much of the foregoing information/data has been retrievable on-line for several years. Information vendors such as DIALOG, Information Services, Inc. of Palo Alto, CA make available through various subject files an ever increasing amount of information. Most is in the form of bibliographic citations to journal articles; some is numeric in nature, this being delivered in column/row or graph presentations. Shipping is extensively covered. Of the two hundred plus files in the DIALOG inventory well over twenty hold a high percentage of shipping information. See ALA’s Computer Readable Databases v. 2 for detailed description of those data files devoted to shipping.

Conclusion

Two points in closing--

1. The literature on shipping is, for the most part, well documented in the secondary sources. It is recognized however that a certain portion of this literature is "insider" or at least not in the mainstream; aggressive and innovative searching is the key to acquiring it.

2. Shipping is a competitive business facing threatening obstacles every day. This does not mean there is a lack of sensitivity for the environment. Like a growing number of industries shipping is concerned with things natural. A manifestation of this is the high interest taken by the industry to improve the technologies involved in oil pollution control and in the prevention of all maritime accidents.
APPENDIX

LIBRARIES

California Maritime Academy
Vallejo, CA 94590

Maine Maritime Academy
Castine, ME 04420

Massachusetts Maritime Academy
Buzzards Bay, MA 02532

Northwestern Michigan State College
Traverse City, MI

State University of New York Maritime College
Bronx, NY 10465

Texas A&M University at Galveston
Galveston, TX 77553

United States Coast Guard Academy
New London, CT 06320

United States Merchant Marine Academy
Kings Point, NY 11024

United States Naval Academy
Annapolis, MD 21402

NOTE: For full data on each library, consult the American Library Directory.

SECONDARY SOURCES

American Statistics Index. Monthly. Prices varies (ISSN 0091-1658).
Congressional Information Service, Bethesda, MD.

British Books in Print. 1986. 100.00, est. (ISSN 0068-1350). J. Whitaker
and Sons Ltd., London. R.R. Bowker, New York, NY, dist.

Business Periodicals Index. Monthly except August. Price varies (ISSN

Current Literature in Traffic and Transportation. Monthly. 15.00 (ISSN 0011-3654). Northwestern University Transportation Library, Evanston, IL.


Encyclopedia of Associations, 4 vol., 19th edition. 1985. 700.00 est. (ISSN 0071-0202). Gale Research Co., Detroit, MI.


International Literary Market Place. 1986. 75.00 (ISSN 0074-6827). R.R. Bowker, New York, NY.


Marine Affairs Bibliography. Quarterly. 65.00 (ISSN 0226-8361). Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS.


New York Times Index. Semi-monthly. 495.00. (ISSN 0147-538X). University Microfilms International, Ann Arbor, MI.

Predicates F & S Index United States. Weekly. 600.00. (ISSN 0270-4544). Predicates, Inc., Cleveland, OH.


The Times Index. Monthly. 250.00 (ISSN 0260-0668). Research Publications, Inc., Woodbridge, CT.

