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Letter to Betty Taylor regarding union list of law library holdings, November 8, 1973

William Johnson

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Dear Betty:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 1973, in which you set forth a proposal for compiling a nationwide union list of law library holdings based on the AALL Lists. It is indeed an interesting proposition but a formidable one. I am reasonably certain that most law librarians will respond affirmatively as far as expressing interest in the project. However, I also believe that many law librarians, including myself, will hesitate to commit themselves firmly to participating in the project if the requirement remains to check holdings on the basis of one list per month.

I have a feeling that many accredited law libraries, including some in the Southeastern Region, have not checked their holdings against the AALL Lists either because they do not have the available staff and time or because their libraries are not fully catalogued. It may be a combination of both. Also I question whether many libraries have sufficient holdings in such areas as Russian, Chinese or Islamic law to justify checking those or similar lists. If these assumptions are correct, these same libraries will not make a commitment to check twelve lists per year. On the more positive side these libraries might be willing to participate if the "esoteric" lists were eliminated or made alternatives and if the number of lists to be checked per year were reduced to two or three long or four to six shorter ones per year. These are just some of my own thoughts and should be considered only as such.

If you have a set of checking forms for list number 32 Property, I would appreciate your sending it to me.

Jack Ankrom was here a couple of days ago and asked me to say hello for him.

Very truly yours,

William E. Johnson
Law Librarian and
Associate Professor of Law