

PAPERS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE 28TH ANNUAL MEETING

of the
AMERICAN MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION
and the
FLORIDA ANTI-MOSQUITO ASSOCIATION

Miami Beach, Florida, April 23-26, 1972

Part II

MOSQUITO LITERATURE ALERT

HELEN SOLLERS-RIEDEL¹

P. O. Box 19009, Washington, D.C. 20036 U.S.A.

INTRODUCTION. Despite the staggering amount of literature coming off the presses daily concerning mosquitoes, there is always something new and exciting. One has to be alert to many items buried in little-known journals, rare oriental and Soviet monographs and articles, the titles of which do not even mention mosquitoes or diseases carried by them. All this makes the search a highly fascinating one.

Literature researching for the Bibliography Section of *Mosquito News* 10 years ago seemed relatively easy for one person in unofficial duty hours. Now it has become a complex operation requiring full time for me and part time personnel for nearly 2 months to research over 500 different references. The title of the section, "Literature References to Mosquitoes and Mosquito-Borne Diseases," remains the same except that each issue now has a part number.

SOURCE MATERIAL. How does one become alert to over 500 new items every 3

months? In order to research the literature in more than 800 current periodicals a year, I start with the publications coming directly to me. The American Mosquito Control Association has an exchange program involving about 30 different journals from many parts of the world. I belong to 12 scientific societies from which I receive current periodicals. In addition, the most heavily used and difficult to obtain foreign ones are purchased. Reprints come to me from many areas but are still too few in number.

In addition to these sources, "Current Contents" (the life sciences and agricultural sections) are scanned once a week. Others scanned on a monthly basis include "Tropical Diseases Bulletin," "Index Medicus," "Entomology Abstracts," "Review of Applied Entomology (Series B)" and the "Bibliography of Agriculture." A French bibliography, "Bulletin Analytique d'Entomologie Médicale et Vétérinaire," and additional abstracting bulletins are checked to see if any important articles are missed. I also keep a list of journals which I regularly scan in the libraries because these seem never to appear in other bibliographies.

Articles about mosquitoes and the dis-

¹This work was supported in part by grants LM00087 and LM00755 from the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, U. S. DHEW.

eases which they carry sometimes appear in the most unusual publications. One would not suspect anything about mosquitoes to be in "Chest," "American Heart Journal," "Journal of Cardiovascular Surgery," "Biken Journal," "Pediatrics" or "Tebiwa." But this is where sleuthing tactics must be applied.

When scanning, I keep about 1,000 key words in my own computer, namely, my head. One must be sensitive to articles which give only the barest hint that an article contains something on mosquitoes. At times, the author's name might be the only clue.

LIBRARIES. Good scientific libraries are an absolute necessity in this work. Fortunately, I am surrounded by spectacular libraries. The best two for my interests are the National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health Library. Other libraries, located in the U. S. National Museum, Pan American Health Organization, and Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, are valuable as are the National Agricultural Library and the Library of Congress.

CHECKING. Once the massive data from non-original sources are collected, the next step is the precise checking with the original material. About 99 percent of all references are checked with the original. The one percent comes from the "Tropical Diseases Bulletin," a highly accurate British journal; references which appear as exact duplicates in two different bibliographies or abstracting journals; and sometimes a book reviewed in a scientific journal.

If the title gives me enough information, it is not necessary to read or scan the entire article. I am able to cope with most of the foreign languages but occasionally I do need help in Russian and other Slavic tongues.

The checking takes a tremendous amount of time in libraries. What if the material is not on the shelf or in libraries in the Washington, D.C. area? The hunt is on. The Institute for Scientific Information has a wonderful system called

OATS stamps by which one can buy a copy of any article appearing in "Current Contents." Fine as this is, many of the rare things are not there. Next my assistants and I try the embassies libraries out of town, the author himself, if we are lucky enough to get his address, and even scientists in the Soviet Union for Russian papers.

Although the 3 x 5 card may be the acceptable vehicle to check references in the library, I use a different system. I put the names of all journals on paper about half that size, punch a hole in the bottom and put a two-way clasp through the whole alphabetized list. The packet never gets out of order as long as the clasp is attached. This organizes the running up and down the library aisles to locate periodicals. I also take "Current Contents," photocopies of the references from the non-original sources, and sometimes bibliographies or abstracting journals with me to the library. This saves much hand writing or photocopying in the library.

PREPARATION OF THE MANUSCRIPT. Once the material is checked, it is ready for typing on a 3 x 5 card. This card not only carries the reference but the subject category for *Mosquito News* Bibliography. I use a few symbols such as *o* which means I have seen the original, and *xx* that I have the reprint. If not checked with the original, the source from which it comes is noted. Each card is dated as to when it appears in *Mosquito News*. Also, "mention" or "to be" may be placed on the card so that I will be alerted to this item when I prepare an annual world review of mosquito activities.

Following the typing, the cards are sorted as to subject matter in about 43 categories and the manuscript is typed by 3 people simultaneously. Proofing of the material and galley follow.

STORAGE. What happens to the over 50 journals which I receive? About 25 metal cabinets house the material, but I keep track of the contents in a notebook. Reprints are filed alphabetically by au-

thors before 1960, then by subject matter.

The 3 x 5 cards are filed by year and then alphabetically by author. These cards become a working tool as I must continually check to locate any duplication.

MOSQUITO ANNUAL REVIEW. I briefly mentioned another paper I write. This is an annual global review of mosquito activities and diseases carried by them. It consists of abstracts and reviews of important and high interest articles in scientific journals from many parts of the world. The review, launched in 1921 by Dr. L. O. Howard, has appeared in the "Proceedings of the New Jersey Mosquito Extermination Association" since that time. Following Dr. Howard, Dr. F. C. Bishopp and associates continued the paper mostly on an annual basis for over 20 years.

After I inherited the review, I wrote it in my non-official duty hours for over 10 years. Because of the scientific literature explosion in recent years, it has not been possible for me to do this since 1966. The last annual review printed was for 1967 and came off the press in 1970. I am happy to report, however, that because of the NIH grant funds, the 1970 review is written and should come off the press in the fall of 1972. This review, containing about 200 abstracts and reviews, will be published as a supplement

to the "Proceedings of the New Jersey Mosquito Extermination Association." Please write me if you wish a free copy. Following the 1970 review, there will be a nominal charge for subsequent ones.

CONCLUSION. The Bibliography in *Mosquito News*, therefore is the base from which articles are selected for inclusion in the mosquito annual review. The aim of both of these papers is to keep mosquito workers over the world alert to recent developments in mosquito research and control as well as new data on mosquito-borne diseases. Otherwise, every worker must spend hours upon hours just trying to keep up with recent literature and still miss a great deal. As I have noted, pertinent articles are literally buried in massive numbers of journals both common and rare.

Scientific literature continues to pour out. How long will it be before we have 600 references per issue in *Mosquito News* Bibliography and over 250 abstracts in the annual review? I do not know, but I welcome the challenge!

SUMMARY. In this article I have outlined the methods employed to keep alert to current scientific literature for both the Bibliography Section of *Mosquito News*, and the annual world review of mosquito activities and mosquito-borne diseases in the "Proceedings of the New Jersey Mosquito Extermination Association."

BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

The book *Mosquitoes of Indiana* by Russell E. Siverly, published by the Indiana State Board of Health, is available without charge from Dr. Siverly. Address: Dr. R. E. Siverly, Director, Public Health Entomology Laboratory, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana 47306.

This book is much more than a "state list" of mosquitoes. Its 126 pages (8½" x 11") include dozens of drawings of significant key characters, many habitat photographs and more than 80 references.