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Chapter II.

Background Through 1952

A. Previous Histories

There are two papers basic to an understanding of the early history of the Office of Collection and Dissemination (OCD). The first, ~~which was noted above~~, is Chapter V: Development of a Reference Center, part of the ten-chapter Organizational History of Central Intelligence Agency, 1950-53, prepared by the Historical Staff, C/DCI, in 1957. Although Chapter V uses 1950 as the beginning date of the history, about the first third is devoted to the period 1946-1950 and treats the origin of OCD in detail.¹

The second paper is a draft of the story of the development of OCD, prepared by 25X1A9a, temporarily attached to the Historical Staff.² Compiled probably early in 1952, the draft carries the following endorsement by the Assistant Director, OCD (Andrews): "I think the content of this draft is probably quite satisfactory for a summary history."

B. Basic OCD Functions

OCD had assigned to it in the years 1946-47 three primary functions: requirements (what was needed by the requester to fulfill his mission);

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needs was an evolutionary process. In 1951, for example, a new division, the Special Register, was established to provide indexing and reference services for special intelligence materials on a compartmented basis,

but integrated as far as feasible with the standards used in OCD. ⁴

Further details on the development of the central reference concept are described in Chapter VII.

The Office had moved portions of the OCD operations to the

Riverside Stadium during 1952, relieving temporarily the crowded quarters in M Building, but receiving in turn a building in sad condition as far as health and safety standards were concerned. ⁵ Yet OCD had to occupy this patched-up former skating rink for the next nine years, until the move to the new building in 1961.

During the first five years, 1947-1952, OCD had developed a unique central intelligence reference service in support of current operations and was building a storehouse of information to meet the varied needs of the future. Into this system OCD endeavored to build the same finding controls for classified documents and information that a researcher was accustomed to using in unclassified research work. ⁶

C. OCD Organization

To carry out its assigned responsibilities in 1953, OCD was organized into seven divisions (See ^{Figure} ~~Chart~~ #1). The total number of OCD personnel had been increased from about ^{25X9A2} [redacted] in 1950 to ^{25X9A2} [redacted] in mid-1953. ⁷ Annual budget and manpower statistics are listed in

Appendix C.

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