1963: Record the Holdings of American Libraries for Inclusion in the International Inventory of Musical Sources

Until the 1960s, music had been neglected in national and international bibliographies. In 1963, CLR granted $27,300 to the Music Library Association to record the holdings of American libraries for inclusion in the International Inventory of Musical Sources, a bibliography and finding list of manuscripts and printed works that then extended to 1800. The inventory was compiled under a joint commission sponsored by the International Musicological Society and the International Association of Music Libraries. As a result of this effort, records were also added to the National Union Catalog.

About 150 American institutions cooperated in preparing the bibliography by submitting records of their music holdings to the American secretariat of the Library of Congress, which processed the records and forwarded them to the central secretariats in Europe. As of June 30, 1963, some 30,000 cards, representing holdings in 155 libraries in the US, had been sent to Europe. Altogether, about 1,300 libraries in 25 nations participated in the project.

CLR had given earlier grants to both the Music Library Association (in 1959) and the International Association of Music Libraries (in 1961 and 1962) for planning and supporting work of the inventory.