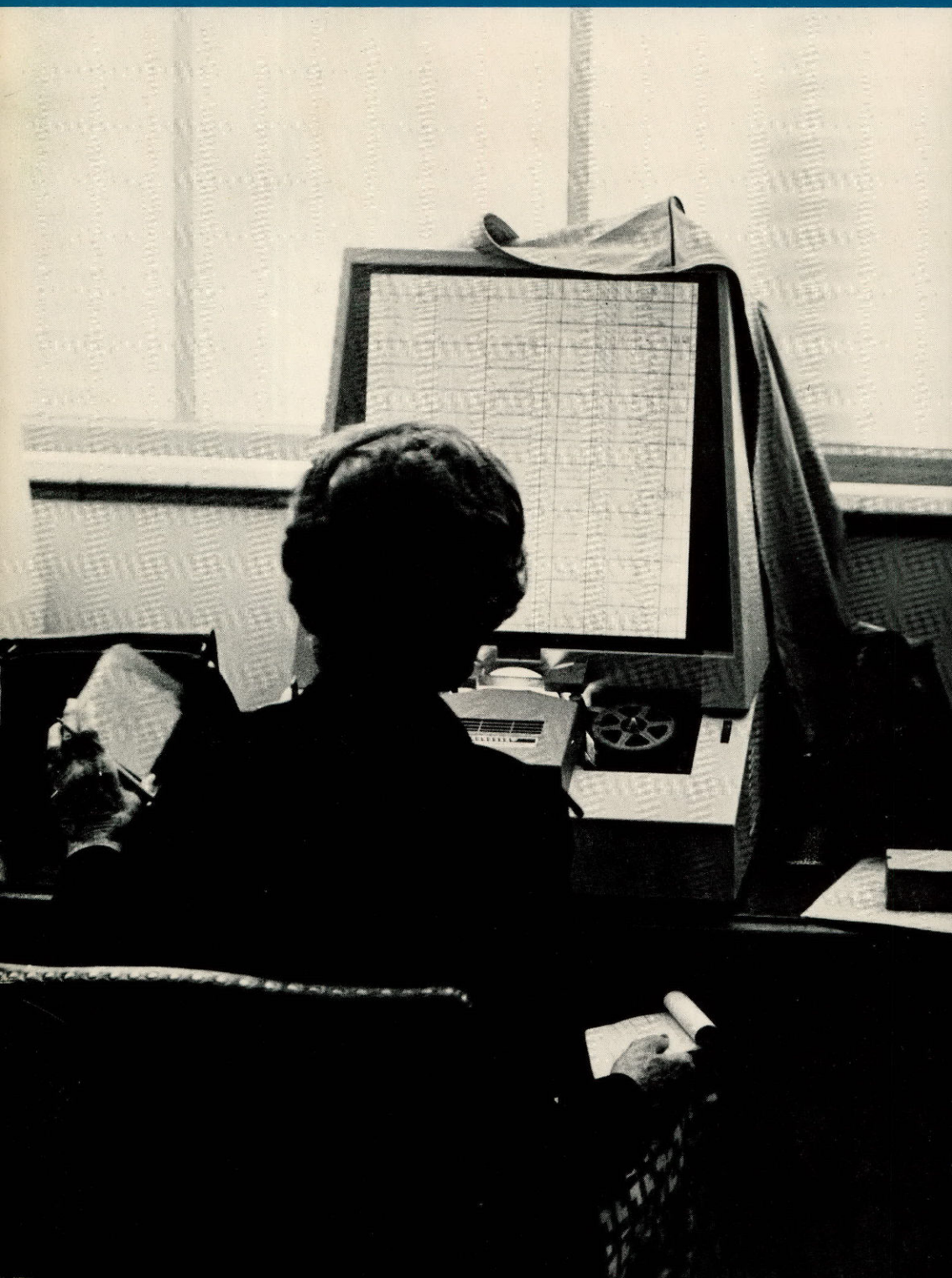


Texas Libraries

Summer 1975

Volume 37

Number 2



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Mary Lynn Hyde, and
Jo Ann Williams

Editor: Millicent Huff

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About the Cover

Using a microfilm reader at the Texas State Library.

A Note of Thanks

Because of limited space and a too-often erratic publication schedule, *Texas Libraries* can only sample what's going on in Texas libraries. And to do this, it must depend upon people who wish to share what is going on in their institutions. For this issue, we want to thank Moira Evans, Henry Alsmeyer, Mary Nell Bullard, Mary Lynn Hyde, and Jo Ann Williams for their bibliographies. Ms. Evans' work is an example of a system service, while the list prepared by Alsmeyer and his three fellow librarians is an example of continuing cooperation between kinds of libraries. Hopefully, the State Library is fulfilling a part of its function by making their lists of materials accessible to a larger audience. Thanks also go to Penny Yost for telling about the Northeast Library System's books-by-mail program and to Gail Tomlinson for spreading the word about the endowment funds for Dallas Public Library's rare book room.

Microfilm Making Available Data on County Tax Rolls

Massive amounts of data on who paid taxes on what in Texas from the time of the Republic until 1910 that were once available only to researchers who could spend long periods of time in Austin are now easily accessible to historians, genealogists, and others everywhere. The major program to microfilm these materials has been underway at the Texas State Library's Records Management Division for more than a year. The original microfilm is being placed in a vault, and copies will be available in the Texas Archives and Library Building at 1201 Brazos. In addition, copies may be purchased at cost by libraries elsewhere.

Filming of the 5792 volumes of tax roles was undertaken in response to a 1965 legislative edict to examine what materials were being stored by agencies, for how long, and for what purpose. Chaired by the State Librarian, the Records Preservation Advisory Committee includes the Secretary of State, Attorney General, Comptroller, and secretary of the Senate and chief clerk of the House of Representatives. Policy decisions concerning the retention, microfilming, and destruction of records are made by this group.

Merely keeping records is not enough. Modern retrieval methods that permit location of individual items are also essential. And difficult decisions must be made about what records should be kept because of their historical interest. No longer needed by the Comptroller's Office, with which the rolls were filed annually, these materials are important primarily for their historical value.

This historical value made it necessary to consider means for the preservation for the future. Originally recorded on generally poor-quality paper, some of the rolls were available only for the



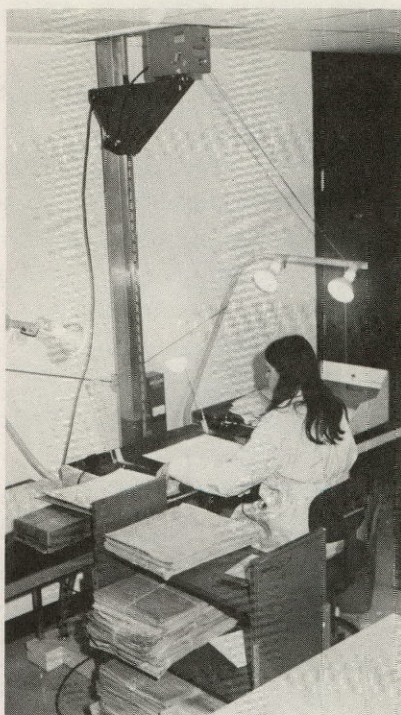
Tax rolls are stacked in preparation for filming. Each page is photographed with a planetary camera.

most urgent research needs. "These tax rolls are particularly significant because they are so nearly complete," said Dr. Dorman H. Winfrey, director of the Texas State Library. "More than 100 county court houses in Texas have been destroyed by fire, and records in others have suffered damage from water, insects and rodents, and the periodic housecleaning of zealous public officials."

Completed in mid-1972, the State Library's Records Center is one of the most modern State facilities in the United States. While the rented warehouse facilities offered inexpensive storage of semi-active records, the always dusty and usually either too-hot or too-cold space made an active records management program impossible. Materials in a well-managed center are constantly shifting. Materials are housed in such a center during their semiactive status. When they are no longer needed by the originating agency, those of historical value—such as the tax rolls—are dealt with as historical archives.

After a recent visit to the center to see the current operation, Dr. Joe B. Frantz, director of the Texas State Historical Association, called it outstanding. As both a professor of history

Microfilm copies produced at the Records Center are now available for use at the State Library and may be purchased by other institutions.



and as the association director, he is concerned with both preservation and accessibility of materials.

The decision to film the volumes of county tax rolls resulted from several factors. Of foremost importance was the desire to preserve and make available the materials. Secondly, they had to consider the cost. The original records occupied approximately 2200 cubic feet, or more than 1,000 linear feet of shelf space. The condition of the originals made microfilming or laminating necessary under any circumstances. It was estimated that lamination would cost in excess of \$1 million—more than twice the annual budget for the Records Management and Archives divisions. The lamination would also increase the bulk of the rolls by some 30 percent.

The tax rolls from the period of the Republic are being laminated and will be available in the Archives Division. The limited number of these rolls—coupled with the scarcity of materials on individuals for the period of the Republic—resulted in the decision to retain and laminate these.

“The Texas State Library has a responsibility to all Texans,” said Dr. Winfrey. “During the past several decades microfilm

materials have made research materials of all kinds accessible to those who need to use them. The genealogical research that has become so engrossing to so many Americans would, for example, be totally impossible without the materials made available by the National Archives. The tax rolls can become equally important to anyone doing research on persons who lived in Texas."

"And the tremendous advances that have been made in microfilm cameras, film, and readers in recent years make the film more permanent and more practical to use. Trained personnel and new equipment make the microfilm laboratory at the Records Center modern in every respect. As a final check each reel of film is checked both for chemical stability and for legibility."

Robert Fitzgerald, director of the Records Management Division, has directed the microfilming operation. This has meant arranging the rolls by county and then in chronological order. Missing rolls were identified, but the major problem was developing an index so that researchers are able to locate the proper rolls in spite of changes in county boundaries and the organization of new counties from portions of existing ones. For example, much of what is now West Texas was once in Bexar County.

When complete, the microfilmed tax rolls will provide a massive new source of information for persons doing more research on Texas.

J. Frank Dobie Library Trust To Aid Texas Public Libraries

by Sam G. Whitten

J. Frank Dobie, a great Texan and great writer, who did so much for Texas libraries while he was alive, left a will which set up the J. Frank Dobie Library Trust which will provide funds to help Texas libraries for years to come. The income from the Trust was to go to Mrs. Dobie during her lifetime. Upon her death in December, 1974, the Library Trust was activated and the first income from the Trust will be made available in January, 1976.

Mr. Dobie's will, after naming the Capital National Bank in Austin as Trustee, and specifying certain other bequests, provided that "...all the rest and residue of the said Trust Estate shall be held perpetually by my said Trustee and shall be designated the J. Frank Dobie Library Trust; the net income from such fund is to be devoted to the benefit of the smaller libraries in Texas for the purpose of purchasing books." He created an Award Committee to decide how and to whom the money should be awarded. The initial members of the Award Committee named in his will are Mary Carter Rice, Sam G. Whitten, and James L. Love. His will continued: "The Award Committee shall be self-perpetuating and vacancies in the Committee caused by death, resignation or inactivity of a member for as long a period as a year, shall be filled by an individual selected by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Award Committee and the then president of the Texas Library Association." Mr. Dobie further requested that the announcement of the awards be made at the annual meeting of the Texas Library Association.

For the first year, at least, the Award Committee has defined a small library as a library serving a community of less than 25,000 people (the population criteria specified in the Texas Library Systems Act as a community library). The Committee believes that Mr. Dobie's intent will best be carried out if the libraries chosen to receive the awards are libraries which are in

BOOKS, AND THEREFORE LIBRARIES, contain the inherited wit, wisdom, humor, life, cream of all the jests of all the centuries during which man has left a record of what he's thought and done. The 'immortal residue' of the human race lies in books.

The great reason for reading books and valuing libraries is to have life more abundantly, to think more justly, to be in love more delightfully, and to use the sputniks more wisely when we get them.

J. FRANK DOBIE

On the occasion of National Library Week 1961

need of more books but are also trying hard to improve themselves. Therefore the Committee will try not only to assess need but will also try to assess the degree of community support which the library has in terms of leadership, active boards and friends groups, local tax support, and local gifts.

The Committee will also be interested in knowing if there is someone on the library staff with the training and/or experience necessary to spend the money wisely or if a consultant is available outside the library who would be willing and able to advise the library in spending the award.

There are no restrictions as to the type of books which may be bought: they may be reference books, adult books, children's books, books for a particular minority group, etc. Regardless of type, the books should be serious books of lasting value. The application for an award should explain what kind of books the library proposes to buy and give reasons why.

The amount of money available to be awarded each year will vary but should be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$10,000 to

\$14,000. The Trustees will notify the Committee of the exact amount available shortly after the end of each calendar year. The Committee will decide how many awards are to be made and how much will be awarded to a particular library after they have evaluated the applications. However, no award will be granted in an amount less than \$2,000.00.

The Committee is extremely anxious to locate the most deserving libraries in the State in order to make a real impact on the quality of library service offered in the small cities and towns of Texas as well as to honor the memory of a great Texan who believed that reading can change people's lives.

Applications for an Award from the J. Frank Dobie Library Trust:

Eligibility:

1. A library serving a community of less than 25,000 people.

Information needed:

1. Number of and general description of library staff (including, if significant, volunteer help).
2. Income and sources of income for the preceding two years (including state and federal funds).
3. Kind of books to purchased and reasons why.
4. Indications of activity in the community to improve library service.
5. Number of people in the area served by the library.
6. Number of hours open per week.
7. Any other information which the applying library feels would be helpful to the Committee in making a decision.

Disposition:

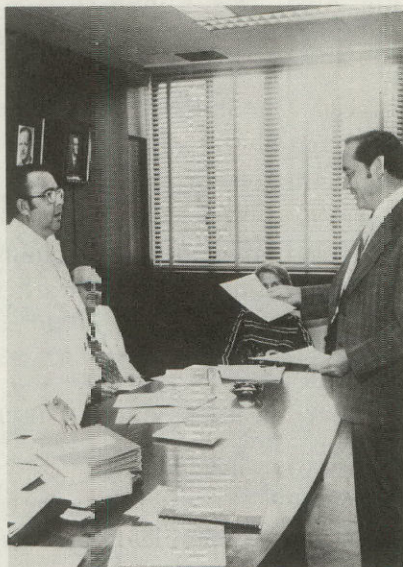
1. Submit by December 15, 1975.
2. Mail to: Sam G. Whitten, Chairman
Award Committee
J. Frank Dobie Library Trust
c/o Graduate School of Library Science
University of Texas at Austin
Box 7576, University Station
Austin, Texas 78712

New Members Named To Systems Advisory Board

Two new members have been appointed to serve on the Texas Library Systems Act Advisory Board for three-year terms beginning September 1, 1975. They are Mrs. Frances Williams, librarian at the Midland County Library, and Alvin C. Cage, librarian at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches.

A graduate of the University of Oklahoma, where she also received Master of Arts in French and Master of Library Science degrees, Mrs. Williams has been director at Midland County Library since 1967.

Cage, who has been library director at Stephen F. Austin State University since 1971, received a Bachelor of Arts at Hunter College and the Master of Library Science degree at Rutgers University. As a high school and college student, he worked in public libraries. More recently, he has served as president of the Friends of the Nacogdoches Public Library, the group that actively spearheaded organization of the library for Nacogdoches.



Chairman of the Texas Library and Historical Commission Robert E. Davis presents Heartsill H. Young a certificate of appreciation for his service on the Advisory Board.

The two new members succeed Heartsill H. Young, chairman of the Advisory Board since its organization in the winter of 1969-1970, and Mrs. Phyllis Burson. Other members of the Board are Mrs. Lillian Bradshaw, director of the Dallas Public Library; Mrs. Mary Lankford, coordinator of Library and Media Service at the Irving Independent School District; and Richard O'Keeffe, director of the Rice University Library.

Rules and Regulations For Third Biennium of Library Systems Act

The Rules and Regulations are arranged in the following order:

- I. Minimum Requirements for Approval of a Major Resource System
 - II. Minimum Requirments for Major Resource System Membership
 - III. Allocation of State Grants-In-Aid
 - IV. System Advisory Council Elections
- I. Minimum Requirements for Approval of a Major Resource System
 - A. Each major resource system must serve a population of 200,000 or more within 4,000 or more square miles. (Derived from the definition of a major resource center, which is the central library in a major resource system, Chapter A, Sec. 2 (7)).
 - B. A plan of service must be submitted as part of the grant application for the major resource system (Chapter C, Sec. 9 (c)). The plan of service must conform to the guidelines set in the annual plan for the development of the system submitted by the State Librarian for review by the State Library Systems Act Advisory Board and approved by the Commission (Chapter B, Section 5). The plan of service must be approved by the Commission before system funding is released by the Texas State Library.
The annual plan must be prepared and submitted to the Texas State Library by the major resource center and must include documentation indicating full participation in the planning process by the system advisory council, system member librarians, and lay representatives.

- C. Services offered to all participating libraries in a major resource system must be included in the system plan of service. Such services may include, but are not limited to centralized purchasing, centralized processing, union catalogs, reciprocal borrowing among libraries, books-by-mail, promotion of library services, provision of library materials in non-print formats, system-wide use of automation equipment, provision of professional specialists as consultants to libraries in the system, and rapid delivery systems. System member libraries may or may not participate in all services offered by the Major Resource System.
 - D. A six-year plan for system service must be annually revised and updated with major accomplishments of previous years cited. Data determining the adequacy of library service and procedures to evaluate the effectiveness of system programs must be included in this plan. The updated six-year plan must be annually prepared and submitted to the Texas State Library by the major resource center and must include documentation indicating full participation in the planning process by the system advisory council, system member libraries and the lay representative.
 - E. The counties served by a major resource system must be contiguous unless permission to vary is granted by the Commission upon recommendation of the Advisory Board and the State Librarian.
 - F. External boundaries of major resource systems must be coterminous with the boundaries of Councils of Government, unless permission to vary is granted by the Governor's Office at the request of the State Librarian.
- II. Minimum Requirements for Major Resource System Membership
- To be eligible for membership in a major resource system, a library must be accredited on the basis of criteria established by the State Library and Historical Commission (Chapter C, Sec. 7 (a)). A major resource system is comprised of public libraries of the following types: major resource centers, area libraries, and community libraries (Chapter A, Sec. 2 (6)). The population served by a public library determines its classification as an area or community library. The population cited in the latest decennial census for the city and/or county appropriating public monies in support of the library.

A municipal library contracting with its county government will be credited with all or a portion of the rural county population depending on whether other municipal libraries in the county also receive county financial support.

To qualify for major resource system membership, a public library must meet certain general requirements, as well as requirements for its designation as a major resource center, area, or community library. Accordingly, membership requirements appear in the following order:

- (A) Minimum Requirements Applying to All Libraries
 - (B) Terms of Conditional Membership Applying to All Libraries
 - (C) Requirements for major resource centers
 - (D) Requirements for area libraries
 - (E) Requirements for community libraries
- A. Minimum Requirements Applying to All Libraries
- To qualify for major resource system membership, a library must:
- (1) Be a legally established public library
 - (2) File a current and complete annual report with the Texas State Library
 - (3) Receive at least 50 percent of its local appropriations required to meet the minimum per capita support (as cited in these Rules and Regulations in II.C (2), II.D (2), and II.E (2)) from local tax sources. Local tax sources shall be defined as monies appropriated by city and county governments from their general revenue monies or from revenue-sharing monies.
- B. Terms of Conditional Membership Applying to All Libraries
- If a library is unable to meet the system membership requirements, the following designations may be granted by the Commission:
- (1) The Commission may designate a library which does not meet one of the requirements in II.C, D, or E, as a provisional member of the major resource system if the library can demonstrate expectation of meeting the requirement within three years from the year of initial designation. Such exception will not be extended beyond the first three years from initial designation.

- (2) The Commission may designate a library as a probational member of the major resource system for one year if the library suffers a decrease in one of the system membership requirements. Probational status will not be granted if the library has dropped below the minimum requirements for per capita support or number of book volumes. Probational status will be granted only to libraries that previously met all system membership requirements.

C. Minimum Requirements for Major Resource System Membership as a Major Resource Center

THE LIBRARY SYSTEMS ACT SETS THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENT (CHAPTER A, SEC. 2 (7)):

- (1) "Major resource center" means a large public library serving a population of 200,000 or more within a 4,000 or more square miles, and designated as the central library of a major resource system for referral from area libraries in the system, for cooperative service with other libraries in the system, and for federated operation with other libraries in the system.

THE STATE LIBRARY AND HISTORICAL COMMISSION SETS THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

- (2) It must have local appropriations accounting to at least \$2.00 per capita.
- (3) In order to continue participation in the major resource system as a fully qualified member, local support must increase each year until current American Library Association standards are met.
- (4) A library designated as a major resource center must have a collection of at least 100,000 volumes and be making annual progress toward meeting current American Library Association standards.
- (5) It must have a staff adequate in training and in number to meet its essential functions, including one full-time professional librarian assigned full-time to major resource system duties with adequate support staff. (For the purposes of these rules and regulations a professional librarian is defined as a librarian holding a fifth-year degree in librarianship from an American Library Association accredited library school).
- (6) It must be open for service not less than 60 hours per

week.

D. Minimum Requirements for Major Resource System Membership as an Area Library.

THE LIBRARY SYSTEMS ACT SETS THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENT

(CHAPTER A, SEC. 2 (8)):

- (1) "Area library" means a medium-size public library serving a population of 25,000 or more, which has been designated as an area library by the Commission and is a member of a library system interrelated to a major resource center.

THE STATE LIBRARY AND HISTORICAL COMMISSION SETS THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

- (2) It must have local appropriations amounting to at least \$1.50 per capita.
 - (3) In order to continue participation in the major resource system as a fully qualified member, local support must increase each year until current American Library Association standards are met.
 - (4) A library designated as an area library must have a collection of at least 25,000 volumes and be making annual progress toward meeting current American Library Association standards.
 - (5) It must have a staff adequate to perform the services specified in its service plan including at least one professional librarian.
 - (6) It must be open for service at least 40 hours per week.
- E. Minimum Requirements for Major Resource System Membership as a Community Library

THE LIBRARY SYSTEMS ACT SETS THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENT

(CHAPTER A, SEC. 2 (9)):

- (1) "Community library" means a small public library serving a population of less than 25,000, which is a member of a library system interrelated to a major resource center.

THE STATE LIBRARY AND HISTORICAL COMMISSION SETS THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

- (2) A Community library must have a local appropriation of at least \$5,000 or \$1.00 per capita, whichever is greater. The minimum budget of \$5,000 is essential

for a library's qualification as a community library in a major resource system.

- (3) In order to continue participation in the major resource system as a fully qualified member, local support must increase each year until current American Library Association standards are met.
- (4) It must have a book collection of at least 10,000 volumes and be making annual progress toward meeting current American Library Association standards.
- (5) It must have a local budget allocation for staff.
- (6) If serving a population of 10,000 to 25,000, it must be open for service at least 30 hours per week. If serving a population of less than 10,000 it must be open for service at least 20 hours per week.
- (7) Libraries serving communities too small to support a library capable of meeting these requirements may qualify for major resource system membership by joining with other libraries on an agreement or on a contractual basis to form a unit large enough to support adequate service. Libraries which join on such a basis to operate and offer services as parts of a single local unit shall be considered as a single library for the purposes of qualifying for participation in a major resource system.

III. Allocation of State Grants-in-Aid

The Library Systems Act authorized four types of grants-in-aid: system operation, incentive, establishment, and equalization. Below are listed the types of grants as defined by the Act, followed by the Commission rules governing their allocation. Application for these grants shall be included in the annual plan for service submitted by the major resource system.

- A. System operation grants, to strengthen major resource system services to member libraries, including grants to reimburse other libraries for providing specialized services to major resource systems (Chapter E, Sec. 14 (b) (1)). System operation grants are designed to initiate and continue cooperative region-wide services sponsored by the system. Application for a system operation grant may include reimbursement to the major resource center or

- other contracting library for all actual and real expenses incurred in the performance of the service contract.
- B. Incentive grants, to encourage libraries to join together into large units of service in order to meet criteria for major resource system membership (Chapter E, Section 14 (b)). System member libraries may also join together into a county or multi-county library system and may be eligible for incentive grants. By joining together into such a unit by either formal agreement or contract, the governing authority for the county or multi-county unit will be empowered to receive direct cash grants authorized by the major resource system under the provisions of the Library Systems Act, Chapter D. The single unit library system will be eligible for incentive grants in three consecutive years.
 - C. Establishment grants, to help establish libraries which will qualify for major resource system membership in communities without library service. (Chapter E, Sec. 14 (b) (3)). An establishment grant will be a grant to help a community without library service to meet the minimum requirements established by the Commission for system membership, provided the library to be established will serve at least a county. A newly established library may apply for system membership in the year in which the library becomes operational. Such a library may be provisionally accredited as a system member if it fails to meet no more than two requirements as specified in II.D (1-6). Such provisional accreditation will not be extended for more than three years following that library's designation as a community library. For purposes of definition, an unserved county is defined as either a county with no existing public library service or a county that is served by a library that has not expended funds from local city and/or county taxes for a period of three years prior to application for an establishment grant. A period of establishment may not exceed three years.
 - D. Equalization grants, to help libraries in communities with relatively limited taxable resources to meet criteria for major resource system membership. (Chapter E, Sec. 14 (b) (4)). A formula will be devised by the State Library at such time as the Texas legislature standardizes property

assessment practices sufficiently to determine the ability of communities or counties to support library service. If by such formula, as approved by the Commission, it is determined by the State Library that the taxing unit is providing library support to the maximum of its ability to pay, the library will be eligible to receive an equalization grant to enable it to meet requirements for membership in a Major Resource System.

Determination of Bases on Which Grants-in-Aid Are Made to the Major Resource Systems. Chapter E, Sec. 17 (e) defines the distribution of state Library Systems Act funding in the following manner:

Exclusive of the expenditure of funds for administrative expenses as provided in Section 17 (a) of this Act, all funds appropriated pursuant to Section 14 of this Act shall be apportioned among the major resource systems on the following basis:

Twenty-five percent of such funds shall be apportioned equally to the major resource systems and the remaining seventy-five percent shall be apportioned to them on a per capita basis determined by the last decennial census.

The per capita basis as referred to above for the distribution of the remaining seventy-five percent of the state Library Systems Act funds is defined as the per capita membership within the system.

IV. System Advisory Council Elections

THE LIBRARY SYSTEMS ACT SETS THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS

(CHAPTER C, SEC. 10 (a-d)):

- (1) An advisory council for each major resource system is established consisting of six lay members representing the member libraries of the system.
- (2) The governing body of each member library of the system shall elect or appoint a representative for the purpose of electing council members. The representatives shall meet within 10 days following their selection and shall elect the initial council from their group. Thereafter, the representatives in an annual meeting shall elect members of their group to fill council vacancies arising due to expiration of terms of office.
- (3) The term of office of a council member is three years.

- (4) The council shall elect a chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary.

THE STATE LIBRARY AND HISTORICAL COMMISSION SETS THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

- (5) The governing body of each member library of the system shall annually elect or appoint a representative for the purpose of electing council members.
- (6) Broad geographical representation is encouraged on the system advisory council.
- (7) The representative elected to council shall complete his council term of three years even though the council member may be replaced as the official representative of the system member library. If the council member is replaced as the official representative, the new representative may vote in behalf of his library at the annual meeting of representatives to fill council vacancies. No individual library in the system shall have more than one representative on the system advisory council.
- (8) Vacancies on the system advisory councils arising for reasons other than the regular expiration of terms of office may be filled from among the lay representatives for the unexpired term by the remaining members of the council. If the unexpired term is held by an officer elected by the group, the lay representative appointed to fill the unexpired term need not necessarily be that officer. The vacated office can be filled from among the members already on that council.
- (9) The advisory council shall annually elect a chairman, vice chairman, and secretary.
- (10) A county or multi-county library system will be eligible to send to the annual meeting of lay representatives either a citizen to represent the entire county or multi-county library system; or the county or multi-county library system may elect to permit each individual member in that system to send one representative to the lay meeting. Only those county or multi-county system member libraries which could individually qualify for Texas library system membership may be eligible to send a lay representative. No county or multi-county library system may have more than one representative serving on the major resource system advisory council at the same time.

OUTLINE OF CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP

Requirements for All Member Libraries

Be a legally established Library

Must increase per capita support and
size of collection until current ALA
standards are met

File a current and complete annual
report with the Texas State Library

Receive at least 50 percent of the
funds required for system membership
from city and/or county appropriations

	Per Capita Support	Book Collection	Hours of Access	Staff
Major Resource Center	\$2.00	100,000 volumes	60 hours per week	A staff adequate to meet essential functions, includ- ing one professional assign- ed full-time to system du- ties with adequate support staff
Area Library (A library serving more than 25,000 people must qualify as an area library.)	\$1.50	25,000 volumes	40 hours per week	A staff adequate to meet essential functions, includ- ing one professional lib- rarian
Community Library	\$1.00 per capita or \$5,000, which ever is greater	10,000 volumes	30 hours per week if serving more than 10,000 persons; 20 hours per week if serving fewer than 10,000 persons	A local budget allocation for staff

The chart above simply summarizes criteria for system membership. Full explanations for these criteria as well as policy statements on provisional and probational membership are included in the Rules and Regulations.

AMIGOS Holds Organizational Meeting

The Interuniversity Council of North Texas Board of Directors approved the bylaws for the AMIGOS Bibliographic Council, a network of 58 university, college, medical, public, and school libraries in Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arizona at its meeting on June 17, 1975.

The cooperative organization aims at library economics and time-saving through sharing resources among members by use of advanced data processing and communication techniques. Members of the IUC and several other Texas and New Mexico libraries have had OCLC services for a year. The new organization, AMIGOS, is an expansion of the initial system.

At the initial membership meeting of the AMIGOS Bibliographic Council on May 29, 1975, in Dallas, the members ratified and submitted for IUC approval the organization's bylaws and budget. Other future library cooperative projects such as regional catalog card production, generation of microimage catalogs, user studies, on-line searching of other data bases, and facsimile reproduction transmission were discussed. Also, the 9-member AMIGOS Executive Board was elected.

The AMIGOS staff and executive director, James H. Kennedy, are headquartered at the University of Texas at Dallas. They will be training the staffs of the libraries in the use of the on-line shared-cataloging, serials check-in and acquisition systems of the Ohio College Library Center (OCLC). The initial effort will be to implement the OCLC system in 35 libraries in by December.

Executive Director Kennedy has come from being the technical director of SOLINET, the Southeastern Library Network based in Atlanta. Formerly associated with Richard Abel and Company, Director Kennedy established the on-site book processing center for the University of Houston's Clear Lake City upper-level

component. The task involved processing of 250,000 volumes in 18 months.

Kennedy is also a former associate director for library and information systems at the University of Massachusetts. There, he was responsible for design and management of a \$4.5 million central computer-based book acquisition and cataloging system for 28 libraries. A graduate of Oberlin College in mathematics and physics, Kennedy has the master's degree in Documentation and Library Science from Case-Western Reserve University.

AMIGOS BIBLIOGRAPHIC COUNCIL

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University of Houston—Victoria
Center
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Arlington
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University of Texas at Dallas
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El Paso, Texas

University of Texas Health
Science Center
Dallas, Texas

University of Texas at Permian
Basin
Odessa, Texas

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Antonio
San Antonio, Texas

Waco-McLennan County Library
Waco, Texas

Among the services offered in systems organized under provisions of the Texas Library Systems Act are newsletters. The following article by Moira Evans was published in the newsletter produced by the Fort Worth Major Resource System. Although originally written for persons who are responsible for such collections but have little formal training for doing so, we feel that the article will also be of interest to persons who have been involved in children's programs but are not at the present time.

This also provides a sample of the basic, down-to-earth assistance that system offices can provide. Throughout Texas system staff members are working with librarians throughout their areas on a wide variety of nuts-and-bolts problems.

Selection Tools for Building A Children's Literature Collection

by Moira Evans

Children's literature has finally come into its own, but the need still exists to improve the quality of existing collections. Too many librarians tend to build collections in a random fashion. Today, when there are many fine contemporary works which can be chosen through the review media, there is no reason to buy anything poorly written or substandard. The following bibliographic essay is designed as a current guide for those librarians who wish to update their juvenile collections.

General

Selection Aids

A good comprehensive introduction is May H. Arbuthnot's recent *Children and Books*. It introduces readers to major authors of the past and present, and provides useful bibliographies in the areas of fable, fantasy, poetry, realistic and modern fiction, historical fiction, biography and non-fiction. It is an excellent

source book, and can be used as a buying guide for a representative collection of children's material.

Another useful source book is George W. Norvell's *The Reading Interests of Young Children*. Norvell was a pioneer in advocating the pupil-interest approach to the teaching of reading, and in this work he has tabulated students' own selections of fiction, non-fiction and periodicals for Grades 7-9 and 10-12.

Still a standard tool for many is the Wilson *Children's Catalog* and its supplements. This follows a classified arrangement, followed by fiction, short stories, and easy books. Care should be taken to note the source of reviews quoted, but it proves especially useful as a checklist when weeding the children's collection. The eighth edition of Mary V. Gaver's *The Elementary School Library Collection* includes media as well as books. There are three phases of titles cited here; Phase I titles would be useful initial acquisitions.

Two titles provide a representative selection from the excellent reviewing magazine, "*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*": Mary Eakins *Good Books for Children* lists and annotates 1,400 titles from 1950-1968; Zena Sutherland's *The Best in Children's Books* covers the following seven years.

Grouping by ages "books suggested as an irreducible minimum," May Arbuthnot's *Children's Books Too Good to Miss* is, although not recent, an excellent selection. One recent compilation should prove a useful acquisition guide for librarians: in "Choice" for December, 1974, is Rosemary's Weber's article "Building a Children's Literature Collection." This lists basic titles in: fiction; picture and easy books; folk literature; biography; poetry; and non-fiction.

Specialized

Selection Aids

As the body of literature for children has grown in quantity, variety, and quality, so too have the subject selection aids. In the field of science and mathematics, two titles are outstanding: the third edition of Deason's *AAAS Science Book List for Children*; and the *AAAS Science Booklist*, which is an annotated list of science and math books for secondary school up. Both works are updated by the AAAS quarterly publication, "Science Books."

With the bicentennial approaching, Hotchkiss' *American Historical Fiction and Biography for Children and Young People* should prove to be a useful source.

Librarians make their selections based on the needs of

children, needs which are determined by interests, background, abilities and reading level. There are several resources available to help select for those with reading difficulties: Spache's *Good Reading for Poor Readers* has chapters on selecting, help with problem solving, and estimating readability; *Gateways to Readable Books*, by Ruth Strang, provides a varied, graded list for young people with reading difficulties; and ALA's *I Read, You Read, We Read...* recommends titles for the reluctant reader.

Books provide an effective avenue for children to learn of other life styles, cultures, and beliefs, and Spache's *Good Reading for the Disadvantaged Reader* can help the librarian with book selection. Also useful are D. Broderick's *Image of the Black in Children's Fiction*, which discusses 100 of the titles popular from 1909 to 1968; Stensland's *Literature by and about the American Indian*; and Reid's *Reading Ladders for Human Relations*, which has titles recommended by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) for the role of reading in developing children's self-knowledge and social awareness.

To aid in selecting for the elementary and junior high school child, the NCTE has compiled *Adventuring with Books*. This has subject categories and interest-level groupings, and can be used by the children themselves.

To select for the teenage reader, Carlsen's *Books and the Teenage Reader* is an essential tool. It has very useful bibliographies, which cover a variety of subject areas: hobbies, sports, minority groups, biography, etc. On a more contemporary note, the New York Public Library's annual and inexpensive compilation *Books for the Teen Age* is a worthwhile checklist, covering all topics which have been popular. I also found a useful annotated booklist for young people in Palmer's recent *Read for Your Life*. Elinor Walker's *Book Bait* provides useful notes on 100 books popular with young people. Ideas for book talks and follow-up titles are suggested, and this should prove useful for the school-age.

At a time when many library budgets are cut and pennies have to be counted, the paperback is often a useful addition to the collection. The ALA *Paperback Books for Children* could be a worthwhile purchase.

A final trio sheds light on the multimedia approach now being taken by many libraries: Greene's selective list, *A Multimedia Approach to Children's Literature*; *Aids to Media Selection for*

Students and Teachers, from the U.S. Office of Education, which combines a variety of materials in subject areas; and August Baker's *The Black Experience in Children's Audio-visual Materials*.

An excellent aid to Texas collection development is *Texas in Children's Books*, by Kay Pinckney Braziel and Dorothy Brand Smith. This is an annotated bibliography of books for Grade 1-8, which provide information about our state. Coverage involves fiction, non-fiction, A/V sources, and a basic reference collection. Two appendices list titles in print in 1972 from *The Southwest in Children's Books*, and titles from that list no longer in print, which should be carefully preserved.

Annual Lists

These are available from many sources and are worthy of consideration. Outstanding are two compiled by the Library of Congress, *Children's Books*, and *Outstanding Science Books for Children*; and ALA's *Notable Young Adult Books*. Other lists are available from Bowker, NCTE, and the National Council for the Social Studies. The Children's Book Council also publishes annually *Children's Books: Awards and Prizes*, which calls attention to some of the year's best titles.

Professional Reviewing Magazines

For acquisition of current titles, the magazines which should be consulted include "Booklist," "School Library Journal," and "Bulletin of the Center for Children's Studies," which gives detailed, graded reviews on new titles. "Horn Book" magazine is invaluable, and includes a section on books for young adults ("Outlook Tower") and one on science books. Its annual honor list is usually published in October (Fanfare 197-). "Top of the News," a quarterly periodical of the Children's and Young Adult Services Division of ALA, outlines outstanding titles; and the Kirkus service reviews new titles about 3 months prior to publication. The "Wilson Library Bulletin" reviews reference works, regularly has a column, "Picturely books for children," and devotes the October issue to children's literature. "Science Books," a quarterly review by AAAS, gives specialists' reviews of about 100 science and math books for elementary through college students. Of note in the area of multimedia reviews, besides "Booklist," is the Bowker publication "Previews."

A child's needs, though initially personal, gradually become more socialized. Books may, directly or indirectly, help this

process, particularly if they are accurate and significant. We must sort out these "goodies" from the unreliable and sometimes trashy mess. Hopefully this bibliography will facilitate the process.

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- "Booklist." American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, Ill. 60611 Semi-monthly except Monthly Aug. \$15.00.
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- Broderick, Dorothy. *Image of the black in children's fiction*. Bowker, 1973. \$12.75.
- "Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books." U. of Chicago Pr., 5801 Ellis Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60637. Monthly except Aug. \$8.00.
- Carlsen, G. R. *Books and the teenage reader; a guide for teachers, librarians and parents*. rev. ed. Harper, 1972. \$7.95; pap. \$0.95.
- Children's Catalog*. 12th ed. incl. Suppl. 1972-75. Wilson. \$25.00.
- Deason, H. J. *AAAS science booklist*. 3rd ed. AAAS, 1970. \$10.00.
- Deason, H. J. *AAAS science book list for children; a selected and annotated list of science and mathematics books for children in elementary schools, and for children's collections in public libraries*. 3rd ed. AAAS, 1972. \$8.95.
- Eakin, Mary *Good books for children: a selection, 1950-1965*. U. of Chicago Pr., 1966. Pap. \$2.95.



From "The Bantu Civilization of Southern Africa"

RECOMMENDED PAPERBACKS

A list of paperback issues of the classics of children's literature and of books reviewed in "The Horn Book Magazine." Illustrators of the original books will be mentioned if their illustrations have been used. For comments or qualifications, please check the reviews.

PICTURE BOOKS

LEO LIONNI, Author-Illustrator *Tico and the Golden Wings*
30 pp. 7" x 9" Pinwheel 1.25

Reviewed February 1965.

FOLK TALES

ARTHUR RANSOME *Old Peter's Russian Tales*
254 pp. Puffin 1.50

Illustrated by Faith Jaques.

Gaver, Mary V. *The elementary school library collection*, 8th ed. Brodart, 1973. \$19.50.

Greene, Ellin, *A multimedia approach to children's literature: a selective list to films, filmstrips and recordings based on children's books*. ALA, 1972. Pap. \$3.75.

"Horn Book Magazine." Horn Book, Inc., 585 Boylston St., Boston, Mass., 02116. Bimonthly. \$8.50.

Hotchkiss, J. *American historical fiction and biography for children and young people*. Scarecrow, 1973. \$7.50.

"Kirkus Reviews." The Kirkus Service, Inc., 60 W. 13th St., New York 10011. Service basis.

National Council of Teachers of English. *Adventuring with books: 2,240 titles for Pre-K-Grade 8*. 2nd ed. Scholastic Book Service, 1973. Pap. \$1.95.

New York Public Library. *Books for the teen age*. \$2.00. Annual.

Norvell, George W., *The reading interests of young children*. Michigan State University Pr., 1974. \$10.00.

Palmer, J. R. *Read for your life: two successful efforts to help people read and an annotated list of books that make them want to*. Scarecrow, 1974. \$15.00.

Paperback books for children. Comp. by ALA, Committee of American Association of School Librarians. Schol. Book Serv., 1972. Pap. \$0.95.

- "Previews." R. R. Bowker, 1180 Ave. of the Americas, New York, 10036. Monthly, \$5.00.
- Reid, Virginia. *Reading ladders for human relations*. NCTE, 1972. \$9.00, pap. \$3.95.
- "School Library Journal." R. R. Bowker, 1180 Ave. of the Americas, New York 10036. Monthly Sept.-May. \$10.80.
- "Science Books." American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005. Quarterly \$12.00.
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- Stensland, Anna Lee. *Literature by and about the American Indian: an annotated bibliography for junior and senior high school students*. NCTE, 1973. Pap. \$3.95.
- Strang, Ruth. *Gateways to readable books: an annotated graded list of books in many fields for adolescents who find reading difficult*. 4th ed. Wilson, 1966. \$7.00.
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- "Top of the News." American Library Association, Children's Services Division and Young Adults Services Division, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, Ill. 60611. \$2.00 (Free to division members).
- U.S. Office of Education. *Aids to media selection for students and teachers*. Washington, D.C., 1971. Suppl. 1973.
- Walker, Elinor. *Book bait; detailed notes on adult books popular with young people*. 2nd ed. ALA, 1968. Pap. \$2.25.
- Weber, Rosemary. "Building a children's literature collection: a suggested basic collection of children's books." "Choice," December, 1974, pp. 1425-1442.
- "Wilson Library Bulletin." H. W. Wilson Co., 950 University Ave., Bronx, N.Y. 10452. Monthly Sept.-June. \$11.00.

News Notes

List of General Bibliographies Published By Dallas Public Library

The 52 page *Checklist of General Bibliographies Held by the Central Library, Dallas Public Library*, is now available. The checklist and first supplement contain nearly 400 entries for the Library's holdings, as of December 1974, of universal, national, and trade bibliographies; published general library catalogs; and bibliographies of bibliographies, manuscripts, and rare books. The checklist is a project of the Library's two year old Bibliographic Center. Additional supplements will be issued as the Center grows. To order, send \$4.50 to: Dallas Public Library, 1954 Commerce Street, Dallas, Texas 75201, Attention: Publications.

Documents Workshop Set for January 9-10

A regional workshop (Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana) on Federal Documents will be held at the University of Houston, January 9-10, 1976. The workshop is sponsored by the Texas Library Association Documents

Roundtable and endorsed by the Government Documents Roundtable of the American Library Association.

Program highlights include reference materials available from GPO and commercial agencies; automated retrieval of documents; collection development, maintenance and management; the depository program; and speakers from NTIS and GPO. The registration fee of about \$30 includes three meals.

Further information may be obtained from Barbara Kile, Documents Division, Fondren Library, Rice University, Box 1892, Houston, Texas 77001.

Institute Planned At UT-Austin for '76

Dr. W. B. Lukenbill, assistant professor of library science at The University of Texas, has received a \$36,000 grant from the U.S. Office of Education to conduct an institute for professional librarians next summer. The grant will be administered through the UT Graduate School of Library Science. The institute, which will meet June 6-19, 1976, at UT Austin, will be designed for 30 practicing librarians and library

educators from across the country. "The purpose of the institute is to help the librarians understand intercultural communication processes and strategies to apply to teaching and library work situations," Dr. Lukenbill explains. "The participants will represent varied minority and majority groups. To be eligible for the institute applicants must be employed librarians or library educators with appropriate credentials."

For further information and application forms, write Dr. Lukenbill, Graduate School of Library Science, The University of Texas, P.O. Box 7576, Austin, Texas 78712.

SAA Announces Major Security Program

The Society of American Archivists has begun a comprehensive archival security program. Major facets of the project will be supported by a \$99,690 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Ann Morgan Campbell, executive director of the SAA, will direct the project and Timothy G. Walch has joined the Society's Chicago staff as associate director of the program. He will assume primary responsibility for implementation of various phases of the work plan. Kathryn M. Nelson will be

project program assistant.

The staff is now involved in a large-scale investigation of the nature and extent of the archival security problem and of possible solutions. Legal and technical experts, manuscript dealers, as well as archivists and manuscript curators, will be consulted.

The agenda for the program is as follows. A registry of missing manuscripts will be established by spring 1976. A format will be devised within the next few months and solicitation of listings will begin by the end of this year. A special section of the *SAA Newsletter* will be devoted to security developments. Eventually, distribution of security news will be broadened to include non-member, interested parties. By fall 1976, a consultant service will make competent experts available to archival institutions to advise them in the areas of security systems, internal archival procedures, legal problems, and other aspects of archival security. The project will culminate in 1977 with the publication of an archival security manual.

For further information, please write to the Associate Director, SAA Archival Security Program, Society of American Archivists, Box 8198, University of Illinois, Chicago Circle, Chicago, Illinois 60680.

Librarians are familiar with the havoc that rising costs of subscriptions are raising with their budgets. This news release from the University of Texas at Austin probes the other side of the coin—rising costs for producing journals.

Journal Publishers Facing Money Crunch

“Rising costs on all fronts” are putting the squeeze on scholarly journals, causing them to make certain policy changes in the face of economic imperatives. Among those journals is the *Social Science Quarterly*, a joint publication of the Southwestern Social Science Association and The University of Texas.

The SSQ editor, Dr. Charles Bonjean, Hogg Professor of sociology, noted in a recent issue that “an operating deficit of \$21,000 for the most recent fiscal year will direct our policies during the coming year more than economic exigencies have influenced SSQ operations at any time since World War II.” Other journals and their sponsoring academic societies, he reports, have lost as much as \$200,000. “Ours is not the only journal finding it necessary to take such measures,” he says.

The measures he has recommended include:

- No longer offering free reprints of articles to authors.
- A 20 per cent reduction in the size of SSQ—from an average of 1,000 pages in the last four volumes to 800 pages this next year.
- Denying the privilege of making changes at the galley proof stage to authors unless they are willing to bear the expense of the changes.
- Raising the fee from \$6 to \$10 per page for publishers who reprint SSQ articles in anthologies.

Dr. Bonjean explains in his editorial note that the implementation of these four policies could reduce SSQ expenses by as much as \$5,500 for the coming year. Subscription rates have

been increased from \$8 to \$12 per year, and under investigation is a system of competitive bidding from printers. The UT Printing Division presently prints SSQ. "If we found some printer less expensive, we would not use the UT Printing Division, but the rate must be enough to offset the convenience of having a printer nearby," he adds.

"In late August there will be a meeting of all sociology journal editors, called to discuss problems similar to those of SSQ and the possibility of cooperative endeavors," he says. Such endeavors might include the exchange of information on cost savings, the possibilities of publishing joint indices instead of a separate one for each journal, information on different printers and their costs and information on securing more advertising for journals. Political science journal editors also will be meeting soon, he continues, to discuss the same problems.

Charging authors a submission fee, a current practice of some journals, is one suggestion which has been made, Dr. Bonjean says. SSQ also will be making an effort to achieve a greater balance among academic disciplines in the articles it publishes, the editor notes. In the past, more topics from certain areas have been published because more manuscripts have been received than from other areas. "In spite of the concern with disciplinary balance, it should be emphasized that our preference continues to be for that kind of article that would have appeal to readers in more than one discipline," his editorial note explains.

Plans for SSQ in the coming year include a topical issue dealing with "Scarcity and Society" and a special Bicentennial issue for June, 1976. The latter issue will feature "an outstanding panel of social scientists...discuss[ing] the major contributions by U.S. scholars in their discipline, explain[ing] how these contributions have enabled us to better understand American society and indicat[ing] whether or not these contributions have made for any changes in our society." Contributors will include Dr. William Goetzmann, UT Stiles Professor of history and director of the American Studies program.

Also adds Dr. Bonjean, "we will be trying to increase subscriptions next year with a vigorous circulation campaign." We never intend to make a profit; we're not a profit-making organization," he adds. "But because of expenses last year we were sending the journal to subscribers at a rate less than it cost us to publish it."

Texas List To Convert To Computer-Based System

With the publication of the 1974 annual supplement *The Texas List* moved into a new phase of development. The data is being converted into a computer-based system to allow for greater ease and speed in updating and publishing the statewide union list of serials. In order to avoid the high cost of doing the conversion as one huge project, the conversion will be done over a period of two years as supplements are published. The 1974 edition, published in August, 1974, was the last issue compiled using the Foto-List system.

The Texas List is continuing to expand. Libraries which are current participants are being urged to update their holdings, including all subject areas. Additional libraries are being invited to report their holdings. All subject areas are now included.

All librarians and users are encouraged to make suggestions to the editorial advisory committee: Lois Bebout, chairman, Austin; Aphrodite Mamoulides, Houston; Yvonne Greer, El Paso; Maxine Johnston, Beaumont; and Sarabeth Sullivan, Dallas.

Inquiries and suggestions should be addressed to *The Texas List*, Wilson Publishing Company, 1939 West Gray Street, Houston, Texas 77019.

Although the Northeast Texas Library System headquarters in Dallas serves nearly 2,000,000 people and includes Dallas County, the most densely populated county in the state, it also includes sizeable rural areas and three counties that have no public library.

In an effort to provide library service in Cass, Franklin, and Rains counties, the system included in its plan of service a books-by-mail program. The plan seemed economically feasible, and it appeared to be more practical to set up a central collection for all three counties than to establish contractual arrangements by which neighboring counties would provide service.

Books By Mail Extending Library Use

by Penny Yost

Once again, the popularity of how-to books has shown that Americans, particularly East Texans, are a practical bunch.

A study of titles requested for loan from the Books By Mail program of the Northeast Texas Library System has shown that readers prefer how-to books over all other types of reading material.

The Books By Mail program was designed as a free service for the three counties in east Texas that are without public libraries. A new program for the area, the first catalogs describing books available were mailed in February, 1975, to all post office and rural box holders in Cass, Franklin, and Rains counties. Statistics were gathered from over 1000 order cards during the first four weeks of operation.



Penny Yost extracts a selection of books from a mailbox.

A number of interesting observations were gleaned from this study of the reading habits of a mostly rural population. For example:

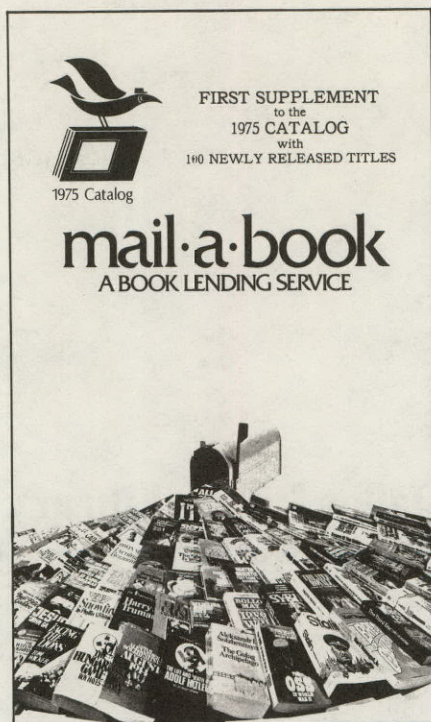
- Next to how-to books, readers most often requested romances, reflecting perhaps a desire to get away from it all once the day's how-to projects were complete. A hard core of devoted readers keep the romantic novels in constant circulation.

- On the other hand, these readers seem tired of hearing about the world's problems because political novels were among the least often requested titles.

- Back to nature is a slogan that has not been lost on East Texans if their requests for *The Foxfire Book* and *The Standard Book of Quilt Making and Collecting* are any evidence.

- Teenagers may be getting tired of the current rash of "problem" books since the teenagers using the Books By Mail program were extremely interested in problem-solving books such as *Ann Landers Talks to Teenagers About Sex and How to Get a Teenage Boy and What to Do with Him When You Get Him*.

- Children, however, seemed to be too busy in school to request many books during February and March. Or possibly, their mothers were too busy reading romances to fill out order cards for them since this group included pre-schooler's picture



books. Requests for books at this level have picked up remarkably since school was out, proving that kids do do something during the summer besides watch TV.

- Some unfortunate readers probably thought that it really took "amazing grace" to get a copy of Anita Bryant's *Amazing Grace* sent to them. There was a deluge of requests for a very few popular religious titles, such as *Two Stars for God* and *Two From Galilee*.

- The A-Number-1 Most Requested Book was *The Cheerleader*, by Ruth D. MacDougall, a novel about teenage life in the '50's. What this says about the reading public in east Texas is open to debate, but it does *not* say that Alexander Solzhenitsyn is likely to be recognized walking down the street in Emory, Texas.

What Penny Yost, who is in charge of the Books By Mail program, says is "While our study did not turn up any surprising trends in the reading habits of our patrons, we were happy to confirm our own conclusions and to have some concrete facts on which to base selection of titles for future Books By Mail catalogs."

More detailed information about the study is available from the Northeast Texas Library System office, Dallas Public Library, 1954 Commerce, Dallas, Texas 75201.

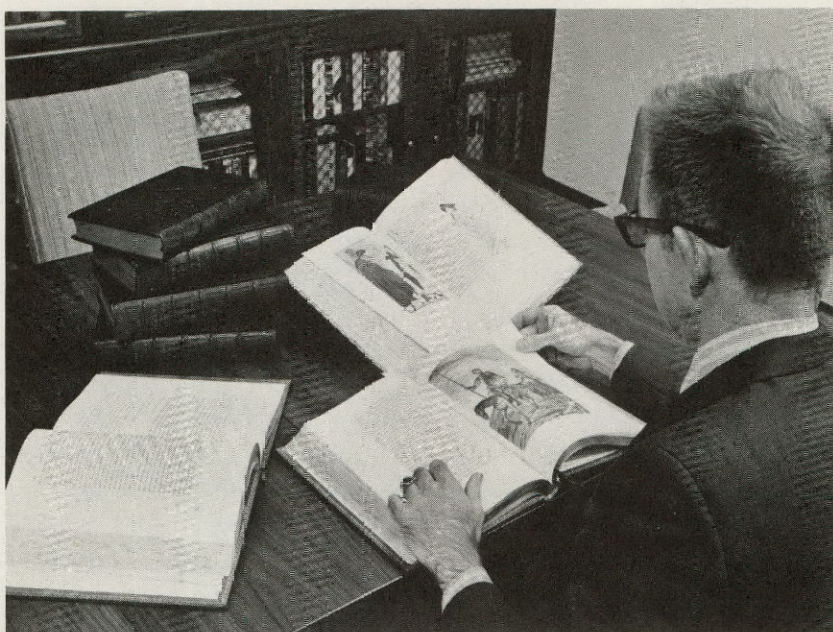
Dallas Public Library Benefits From Rare Book Gifts

by Gail Tomlinson

"I give, devise and bequeath all the rest and residue to my property and estate unto the charities hereinafter named. . . The Dallas Public Library in Dallas, Texas, to be used in building, and furnishing a new room in any new building which the City of Dallas may build for a library with such new room to bear my name and to house and contain rare books and manuscripts." With these words, the Dallas Public Library became the recipient of 1.8 million dollars from the estate of Dr. Pepper heiress, Mrs. Virginia Lazenby O'Hara.

The funds from her bequest will be used to build the Rare Book Room she envisioned for Dallas. Her dream was planted in the reality of the present day Rare Book Room in the Dallas Public Library. The contents of the room reflect the history of the book both before and after printing. Marvin Stone, Special Collections Coordinator, explained the need for a Rare Book Room in a public library by explaining that, "It is important to have many of the great idea books that changed the world represented in a library because by seeing these books, reading them—we can get a feel for what people centuries before felt and read."

Why can't a reprint of the original suffice? It simply does not provide the same information. In fact, those who study rare books are often looking for information not merely found in the books' contents. They need to know what the book looked like before



being edited and reprinted. The printing or hand lettering, the illustrations, even the binding, can tell much about the period in which the book was written. "The original can give you an understanding of why the book was received the way it was in its own time," concludes Stone.

But many donors of rare books have something besides scholars in mind when they donate books to libraries. They are often interested in the book as a piece of art. "An artistically made book with fine illustrations, typography, handmade papers, or fine binding can be as educational and as legitimate a form of art as a gift to a university or art museum of a piece of art, and we should seek gifts on that basis," the Special Collections Coordinator of the Dallas Public Library noted.

The Dallas Public Library has competed for donations with just such institutions as museums and universities and has been very successful. There has never been a lack of people interested in contributing rare books to the Dallas Public Library. Whether they donate first edition copies of influential books or beautiful books as pieces of art, Dallas citizens have seen the need for and developed an appreciation for rare books. The Friends of the Library have contributed most of the volumes in the Rare Book Room and have furnished it as well. Tax money is not available for purchases or upkeep of the room.

What makes people interested in contributing rare books? Donors are often individual members of the Friends of the Library, who have become interested in the room through the gifts of the Friends. The Library is an appealing place for many people who wish to give something to an institution whose purposes they believe in and trust. "People need to see how the gift will be used, that it will be taken care of, that there is some central theme or need, and that the library receiving the gift has attainable goals," notes Marvin Stone. Stone contends that it is far better to establish a theme, such as the one at the Dallas Public Library, "The History of Books," and then stick to that theme, rather than merely accepting anything of value. The fact that the gift books will be cared for indefinitely and made available to qualified researchers is usually important to a potential donor. For a library not accustomed to receiving sizable and prestigious gifts, getting started is slow and sometimes difficult. The momentum of giving increases with passing time, since people like to give to institutions which already have a prestigious collection and which take care of and appreciate fine gifts.

But good care, a prestigious collection, and a central theme are not the only considerations. Most donors are people who grew up with access to a library, who appreciate books, and learned to appreciate them at an early age. Rare book donors are often people who would not consider a donation merely to buy general books or aid the library's upkeep. They are interested in doing what cannot be done by tax money. They are people, like Virginia Lazenby O'Hara, who have a dream for their Library and go an extra mile to make it a reality.

A Brief, 'Field Tested' Agricultural Bibliography for Texas Libraries

by

*Henry L. Alsmeyer, Jr., Texas A&M University,
Mary Nell Bullard, Scurry County Library,
Mary Lynn Hyde, Texas A&M University,
and Jo Williams, Texas A&M University*

A brief, basic list of agricultural books suggested for a Texas county library has resulted from the request of Mary Nell Bullard, Scurry County librarian. Three members of the Texas A&M University Library faculty and staff compiled the listing which she then "field tested" by seeking the evaluations by selected users of the county library.

Experimental test plots for new crop varieties is routine, but this approach to compiling and evaluating an agricultural bibliography may be somewhat different in librarianship. Good news coverage in *The Snyder (Tex.) Daily News* through the "field test" approach was secured.

The comments of the evaluators were generally good, but one item was removed from the listing following because of age. Unfortunately, a replacement has not been identified. Copies of the comments of the evaluators reflected naturally the agricultural interests of the Scurry County area, while the basic bibliography approach is to reflect agricultural interests statewide. Some counties are primarily ranching, others are field crop areas, and still other counties blend fruit and cattle or crops or other combinations of agricultural interests. Thus, the local review mechanism should prove beneficial if the list is used elsewhere.

The compilers of the bibliography brought quite different backgrounds to the task. This fact appears responsible for whatever strengths the list does have. These persons include Dr.

Henry L. Alsmeyer, Jr., associate director of libraries and for several years the teacher of agricultural students enrolled for "use-of-the-library" courses; Mary Lynn Hyde, documents librarian, as U.S. Department of Agriculture publications are inexpensive sources of useful information; and Jo Ann Williams, a junior librarian in the Cataloging Department and the holder of a master's degree in agriculture.

Mary Nell Bullard made the initial request for assistance in locating a bibliography of agricultural materials appropriate for strengthening her library's collection. Neither her search nor that of TAMU librarians identified such a listing appropriate now for a Texas public library.

Details concerning the evaluation and subsequent use of these materials can be obtained from Ms. Bullard at the Scurry County Library, 1916 23rd Street, Snyder, Texas 79549. Other questions can be directed to the TAMU librarians.

Suggestions concerning similar bibliographical projects that may be undertaken beneficially by Texas librarians working with TAMU librarians are invited. These inquiries may be directed to Dr. Henry Alsmeyer, Jr., Associate Director, University Library, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843.

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