State Board Proposes 50% Increase in State Aid

The State Library Board, in making its budget request for 1952-53, is asking for an appropriation of $100,000. The increase in the appropriation would be used to increase State Aid to county libraries by 50%. The increase is designed to assist county libraries in establishing or extending library service to all residents of the counties or to allow county libraries, employing a professionally trained librarian, to supplement this salary in order to retain or employ qualified personnel.

The increase in State Aid would bring the total amount available to each qualifying county library in the state up to $1,500. Each qualifying county would receive a basic grant of $500 as a direct cash allotment or in books. The State Aid would in addition match up to $1,000 of funds locally appropriated for the purchase of books.

Library trustees, librarians, and citizens interested in the improvement of county library service are urged to see the members of the Delegation before the opening of the next session of the General Assembly in support of the State Library Board's budget request and the proposed increase in State Aid to county libraries.

Federal Legislation Affecting Libraries

Libraries included in final Defense Housing and Community Facilities Act: Libraries are specifically included in the Defense Housing and Community Facilities Act passed by both houses of Congress in August. This is the first time libraries have been recognized as one of the vital community facilities along with water supply, sewage treatment, health, recreation and police protection.

The passage of this Bill will not provide huge sums of money to the libraries in impacted areas, but it will help. $100,000,000 is provided for community facilities — which includes libraries. This is not a large sum of money for all the areas affected. Librarians, friends of libraries and trustees will need to present a well documented case for an expansion of the library program in their area.

Library Service Bill (S. 1452): The Library Service Bill was introduced in the Senate last May by Senator Lister Hill (D) of Alabama, Senator Aiken (R) of Vermont and Senator Douglas (D) of Illinois. It was referred to the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare which reported the Bill favorably in August.

On August 17, eight Library Service Bills were introduced in the House. The Bills are identical and are similar to the Senate Bill (S. 1452). The Bills were referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.

Sales Tax Does Not Affect School and College Libraries

According to the policy determination issued by the South Carolina Tax Commission, sales tax will not affect school and college libraries. The following excerpt from the policy determination is quoted in full.

**TEXTBOOKS**

"There are exempted from the provisions of the Sales and Use Tax Law and from the computations of the amount of tax levied, assessed or payable, the gross proceeds of the sales of textbooks used in elementary schools, high schools, and institutions of higher learning.

The term "textbook" as herein used means a textbook for use in and actually used in elementary schools, high schools, or institutions of higher learning, and shall include books purchased for and used in elementary school libraries, high school libraries, and the libraries of institutions of higher learning when such books are especially designed for use in connection with the course of instruction being pursued by the student or which because of their nature have been generally adopted for use in connection with the student's course of instruction.

'Elementary schools, high schools and institutions of higher learning' is construed to mean any private or public institution, which has as its primary purpose or function the education of students in recognized courses of study academic, technical, or in skilled trades.'

**Bulletin!**

Mr. Alfred Rawlinson, Librarian of the McKissick Memorial Library, University of South Carolina, has been elected as the South Carolina representative on the Executive Board of the Southeastern Library Association by members of the Association in the State.

**Conferences**

Miss Nancy Jane Day, supervisor of school library services, took part in a panel discussion of "The Availability and Distribution of Good Reading Material" at the Conference on Rural Reading held in Washington September 24-26.

Miss Estellene Walker, Librarian and Executive Secretary of the State Library Board, will speak on "Securing Financial Support from the State Legislature" at the meeting of the New England Library Association in Swampscott, Massachusetts, October 11-13.
Library Service Bill

The success in keeping libraries in the Defense Housing and Community Facilities Act, improves the possibility for getting the Library Services Bill passed by Congress. This Bill is designed to promote the strengthening and extension of library service to people in need of additional informational, technical, and morale building library materials.

The need in South Carolina: 591,360 people in South Carolina are without any form of public library service. Many others must depend on libraries inadequately staffed and equipped to give even minimum service. The total book collections in the public libraries amount to little more than ½ book per capita. There is need for the extension of library service to people in underserved areas and for improvement in every branch of public library service. Additional professional librarians, librarians trained to meet the reading needs of children and young people and of business and professional people are badly needed. More books of every kind, and especially books of reference and technical information, are needed.

What passage of the Bill will mean in South Carolina: South Carolina would be eligible for the initial allotment of $40,000, plus $131,214 on the basis of rural population, or a total of $171,214 from federal funds. The State Library Board would submit a plan for the use of the funds to the Commissioner of Education, and the program would be administered by the State Library Board.

To get this Bill passed as soon as possible, do this now: Write to your Senator and Representative in Congress and ask for a copy of the Bill. Ask for his opinion of the Bill and let him know what its passage will mean to South Carolina libraries — more books, more service, more trained librarians and better library service throughout the State.

Librarians Should Seize this Opportunity

The Fulbright awards available for 1952-53 have just been announced. Approximately 230 awards in a variety of fields will be made to university lecturers and advanced research scholars to go to Europe and the Near East. Specific requests by the countries for the services of librarians under this program include:

United Kingdom — “Opportunities for specialists in library service fall mostly into three broad groups (1) research in the British university libraries for librarians of scholarly interest and experience, (2) observation and study in the public library system, and (3) study tours in which research and survey facilities at numerous centers would be available to individuals interested in such specialized subjects as research library resources and technical information services to commerce and industry”.

Egypt — “Librarian with specialization in use of visual aids. Library is equipped to serve as model for other institutions”. American College for Girls, Cairo.

Iran — “Specialists in training of library personnel”. University of Tehran.

In addition, it is stressed in almost every country’s program that consideration will be given to applications in fields not specifically listed. Therefore, potential grants in the field of library science exist for the following additional countries: Norway, Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg, France, Austria, Italy, Greece, Turkey, and colonial dependencies of the UK.

Applications must be mailed by October 15. Address them to: The Executive Secretary, Conference Board of Associated Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington 25, D. C.

Student Aid Program

Purpose of the plan: To help South Carolina libraries obtain professionally trained librarians and assistants.

When effective: 1 July 1951.

Scope: College graduates and non-college graduates employed in the public libraries of South Carolina.

Extent of assistance: $25.00 per graduate credit in library science not to exceed $200 during any one fiscal year.

$12.50 per under-graduate credit in library science not to exceed $100 in any one year.

Basis of payment: An increase in State Aid to the county or regional library participating in the program to cover the amount of Student Aid earned by its employees. The increase will be granted by the State Library Board upon receipt of a certificate from the registrar of the college or university attended stating the number of credits successfully earned. Payment will be made to the county library which will then reimburse the student.

Requirements: Persons participating in this program must be employees of a public library in South Carolina. Local library boards must have agreed to give the participant leave of absence (with or without pay) for study.

The participant must agree to continue to work in a South Carolina library for two years following completion of the graduate degree in library science. Should the participant wish to retire from the profession or accept employment outside of the state before the expiration of the two year period, he or she would be required to repay to the county library board a sum of money based upon length of service in the state. Money repaid to the county library board would be used to send another member of the staff to library school.
How to make application for Student Aid:

1. Participant will apply to local library board for leave of absence for study and for participation in Student Aid.

2. County Library Board will inform State Library Board that they have received an application for Student Aid. The name, age, education and present position now held in the library must be given for each applicant together with the name of the school where the work will be done.

3. Upon approval by the State Board, the county library board will be informed and the applicant may then register for study in school of choice.

Libraries and the H Bomb

The Savannah River Project in South Carolina will affect from five to nine counties in the area. The counties which will be directly and immediately affected are Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, and Edgefield. Others which will probably be included in the area are McCormick, Colleton, Hampton, and Orangeburg. Whether officially included or not these counties will be affected by the H Bomb project.

Among those counties directly affected, only Aiken and Allendale Counties have county-wide library service. Four counties out of the nine counties in the state still without county-wide library service are in this area. The State Library Board and the people in all of the counties concerned have been working since the announcement of the project toward some form of financial assistance which will allow library service to be established or extended to the unserved people in the area and to the new people coming into the area in connection with the H Bomb project.

The librarians, trustees, members of the delegation, and interested citizens in each county have been kept fully informed of developments both at state and national level affecting libraries in the H Bomb area. A report of library conditions in each county and of anticipated needs was made and submitted to the Federal Security Agency in all counties concerned. Plans are nearing completion for either an addition to present library buildings or for completely new library buildings which will be constructed if Federal funds become available. At the same time statements concerning the need of additional personnel, equipment, and books have been prepared.

In Aiken county, where funds had already been appropriated for the extension and renovation of the present library building to house county wide library service before the H Bomb project was announced, plans for the work on the library building have been completed.

Since libraries are specifically named as an essential community facility in the Defense Housing and Community Facilities Act passed by Congress in August, there is reason to hope that Federal funds will be allocated to libraries in the areas if library boards are able to present a well documented case in support of their request.

Dilemma of College Libraries

The majority of college and university libraries in this country are not providing sufficient books and other reading materials for their students. Twenty per cent of the libraries are inadequate for the courses offered at the colleges.

These conclusions are reached in a nation-wide study of America's college libraries conducted by Dr. Charles F. Gosnell, New York State librarian. The study, which sampled fifty-four institutions of higher learning, was conducted with the cooperation of Frederie W. Stewart and Miss Virginia L. Moran of the Hunter College library.

Many libraries reported that funds were not available to employ personnel to bring their book collections up to date. The study noted that college library budgets during the past five years have been "shamefully neglected"...

The urgent problem reported by most librarians is lack of space... Forty-two per cent report that the collection has been split up and parts stored in places remote from the main library...

The survey found that librarians are badly underpaid...

More than 50 per cent of the libraries reached in the survey were understaffed, either professionally or clerically...

The college library presents a serious problem to all educators. If the college library is to be a teaching aid of genuine value to the faculty and students, and if it is to provide an intellectual atmosphere for study, it must receive a larger share of the budget. [From Benjamin Fine, "Education in Review," The New York Times, July 29, 1951.]

A recent study of America's college libraries points out that the majority of college and university libraries in this country are not providing sufficient books and other reading materials for their students. The reasons for the existence of this situation begin with the important one of insufficient funds appropriated to library uses...

The library is the heart of the university, for it is the library that holds the materials to aid both student and instructor in properly pursuing their work. A university without a library is not a university. A university without a properly supported library is not performing its function of providing the necessary tools for adequate educational endeavor...

The college library that supplies the basic tools of learning and research is the first bulwark of the educational pattern on the higher level... [From editorial in The New York Times, August 6, 1951.]

What Does Your Library Look Like?

What is a visitor's first impression of your library? It is only natural for one to form a first and lasting impression of a person or a place after only a few moments contact, and that impression is generally broadened to include all similar persons and places. Far too many people already have a preconceived opinion of libraries and librarians, which in many instances would only be confirmed by a visit to many of our libraries.

Why don't you take a moment now to look at your library as a stranger would? As he walks through the
door, what would he see? What would be his first impression?

“Very nice! The library is an attractive, colorful and well lighted place. There are comfortable chairs for the casual reader; the shelves are filled with neatly arranged books in bright bindings; and there’s an attractive librarian who looks like she’d be willing to assist you . . .”

Or, would he think:

“Let’s get out of here! This dark, drab place gives me the creeps. Can’t they afford any lights? Nothing but QUIET signs. The books are so dirty and torn, I wouldn’t want to handle them even if there was something I wanted to read. That gal behind the desk doesn’t look like she’d get up to see an earthquake. Let’s go.”

There is little one can do about the interior or the exterior design if the library is located in an architectural monstrosity, and most libraries have the problem of space and inadequate staffs. The important thing is to do the best with what you have. A library can’t encourage public support unless it is offering the public service in an atmosphere which is conducive to their reading pleasure.

The librarian is there to be of service to the patrons, to tenet potential patrons when we point at that large wooden case and then offer them the services that they want in an efficient manner and in an abnosphere where they can feel that they belong.

Reprinted from “Show-Me Libraries” (Missouri State Library)

What Is Happening to the Fiction Reader?

According to statistics on circulation now being received by the State Library Board from the public libraries of the state, the reading of fiction is taking second place to the reading of non-fiction. Fiction still exceeds the non-fiction in actual number but the increase in circulation is in non-fiction and not in fiction. What has become of the fiction reader? Maybe he is becoming a more serious reader in these more serious times, or perhaps he is entertaining himself with the radio, television or the family automobile.

The seeker after information, the reader of serious books, is in the ascendency at the public library. This fact is not confined to the public library but is reflected in the publishing business itself. The best-seller lists include more and more non-fiction titles. From 1900 to 1909, of 21 best-sellers only 2 of them were non-fiction.

From 1940 to 1945, out of 22 best-sellers, 9 of them were non-fiction.

The increased demand for non-fiction is being reflected in the purchases of public libraries. County bookmobiles now carry well-rounded collections of non-fiction covering a great variety of subjects and even then are unable to fill all the requests for information which they receive.

Libraries and the National Emergency

Addressing a recent meeting of the American Library Association Council, C. R. Graham, former President of the American Library Association urged the adoption of the following pledge and challenge to librarians in the present emergency:

“The peace and security of the world being threatened by despotism and aggression, the librarians and friends of libraries of the United States, speaking through the American Library Association, pledge themselves:

1. To strengthen and extend the services of their libraries to meet the needs of national defense and world security.
2. To conserve their resources for the national welfare.
3. To sacrifice, economize, and improvise wherever possible and necessary.
4. To meet the increasing need for information, knowledge, and education on which the future world depends for peace and prosperity.
5. To preserve the open market of ideas which libraries represent as a symbol and guarantee of freedom.
6. To lift the morale of a mobilized world through provision of the greatest recorded thoughts of men of all the ages.
7. To cooperate with all agencies seeking to establish a world of decency, security, and human dignity.

In urging adoption of the “pledge”, Mr. Graham said, “Let us realize anew the power which we librarians hold and its basic role in the present world conflict. Our weapons — free ideas, freely expressed — are the strongest weapons and therefore are not only the first but the ultimate target of our enemies. Let us cast off modesty, timidity and fear, and wield these weapons with full confidence in victory.”

Attention A. L. A. Members!

You have an opportunity to vote on the proposed increase of A. L. A. dues. The next A. L. A. Bulletin will carry a ballot which should be marked and sent in immediately.

Book Exhibits for Your Library

The South Carolina State Library Board is furnished by the Publishers’ Liaison Committee with the best of the children’s books coming out each year. These books are for exhibit purposes and may be borrowed by any library in the state for displays and other publicity purposes. If you would like to borrow a collection for use in your library, you have only to drop a card to the State Library Board mentioning the number of books you wish and the period you wish to keep them. The books will be sent to you express prepaid.