



League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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regional library systems

Methods of Local Financing

REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEMS

Methods of Local Financing

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PREFACE

This publication is the result of a joint study by the Buffalo-Monticello Area and the St. Cloud Area Leagues of Women Voters. The study was adopted in May, 1981, and reads: "a study of the funding options available at the local governmental level for financing library service offered by regional library systems."

The study was prepared in response to a proposal that Great River Regional Library consider changing the funding method specified in its agreement. During the course of the study, we learned that several systems recently completed similar changes and other systems are considering changes. We provide this publication as an aid to any system considering alternate funding methods.

However, this publication does not recommend a funding method for regional public libraries. The responsibility for this choice rests with the boards and administrations of these regional libraries. The best method may differ from system to system, and perhaps even from time to time.

Using this study, the Leagues of Women Voters of the Buffalo-Monticello Area and the St. Cloud Area will attempt to select what they believe to be the best alternative for their regional library system. We hope other citizen groups will use this publication in the same way.

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INTRODUCTION

Libraries in the United States have a long history. Even in Colonial times there were many private libraries in existence; some of the larger ones were eventually donated to colleges and became academic libraries. The most successful form of community library, a brainchild of Benjamin Franklin in 1731, was the subscription library, to which members subscribed a sum of money for the purchase of books for the use of all members. The first tax-supported libraries got their start in New England in the early 1800's. The idea of tax-support grew slowly. By the centennial year, 1876, there were approximately 188 tax-supported public libraries in the United States. (1) For the most part these public libraries were located in cities with larger populations. Service in smaller cities and some villages was available, but to a lesser degree. The larger libraries generally offered their residents a larger and more accessible collection.

As the idea of tax-support was growing, so also were new concepts of library service. Libraries began the transition from just being storehouses of books to active institutions which offered programs of service. Interlibrary loan, services for the blind, children's programs, and citizenship classes for new immigrants all began around the turn of the century.

Around 1900, traveling libraries were first offered as one of the services of state libraries. And the forerunner of the bookmobile, so much a part of today's regional libraries, made its first appearance in 1898 when a horse-drawn wagon brought books to rural residents of Washington County, Maryland. This was the first countywide service anywhere in the United States, although one state (Indiana) had given counties the authority to levy taxes for county libraries as early as 1816.

By 1920, it had become obvious to the American Library Association (ALA) that rural residents of the United States needed better library services. Hundreds of counties had no libraries at all within their borders. This was true even in states which enabled counties to tax for libraries.

The 1930's were years of economic depression. However, projects under the Works Progress Administration (WPA) permitted the extension of library services to rural areas in many parts of the nation. Some of these projects were the beginning of permanent county libraries: Stearns County provides an example. In 1940, the WPA Library Project allowed the establishment of book stations at various points in the county. This was a joint project of the WPA and the Library Division of the Minnesota Department of Education, and provided funds for books and salaries for book station supervisors. A WPA library operated for only two years. At the end of the two-year demonstration period, Stearns County Commissioners voted the permanent establishment of a county library. (2)

Further expansion of service to rural people was the rationale behind the federal Library Services Act (LSA) of 1956. This legislation, signed by President Eisenhower on June 19, 1956, was the culmination of ten years of effort by the American Library Association and other groups. Without this legislation, rural people might have continued to be excluded from library services.

The LSA provided the impetus for forming Minnesota's regional library systems. "These systems are created by taking the county library idea...

and applying it to a combination of several counties," (3) according to Hannis Smith, a former Director of the Library Division of the Minnesota Department of Education (1957). Such a system could incorporate into one organization all the existing public libraries within a designated area. All residents of the area (rural and urban alike) would be permitted access to these existing municipal collections. The inclusion of the rural tax base, plus state and federal funds, would provide the financial base to include these rural citizens, to upgrade existing collections, and to expand services. As Smith also states, "Reason, efficiency and economy all point toward systems of libraries which serve a large area population as the sensible solution for organizing library service." (4)

CHAPTER ONE

REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEMS

THE DEVELOPMENT PERIOD

The Library Services Act (LSA) of 1956 authorized federal funds totaling \$7,500,000 annually to be spent on public library service to rural areas. However, the first appropriation of \$2,050,000 was less than one-third of the original amount authorized. Forty thousand dollars was given to each state as "start-up" money. The percentage of matching (to be done with state and local funds) was set in the law and was to change every year. In fiscal year 1957 the percentages for Minnesota were 47 percent state and local funds to 53 percent federal funds.

The federal library legislation led directly to Minnesota's 1957 State Aid Law. The Legislature authorized money to match the LSA funds, marking the first time state taxes were allocated to libraries in Minnesota. This state tax money was specifically for rural library services.

The State Aid Law originally provided that state funding would be given to eligible rural library systems having a population of at least 20,000 people. Single counties with at least 20,000 citizens could apply for funds, but priority would be given to multi-county systems. Later the law required that two or more contiguous counties band together before funding would be considered. Since 1978 the law has required at least three contiguous counties. This provides a stimulus to regionalization.

Besides matching funds, the federal law further required a long range plan from each state. Minnesota's long range plan was developed by the Library Division of the State Department of Education (now Office of Public Library and Interlibrary Cooperation — OPLIC) and the plan is periodically updated. Minnesota's plan requires that members agree to resource-sharing, which includes reciprocal borrowing, interlibrary lending, and reference services. This resource-sharing helps avoid costly duplication. It also means that anyone whose local library belongs to a regional system may obtain materials from any other library which belongs to any regional system. This expands the size of the collection available to each borrower.

Regional systems operate more efficiently than do individual city libraries. They do so by centralizing administration and decentralizing services. There are many activities performed in libraries which can be described as preparing to give service: these include purchasing, processing, and cataloging books and other materials. Freeing the local librarian of such duties provides more time for actual service to the patron. The money saved by centralizing these activities is used to open new libraries and operate bookmobiles, making services more convenient for rural and small-town patrons. (5)

Thirteen regional library systems developed in Minnesota between 1958 and 1977. See Figures 1, 2, and 3 (centerfold map).

These systems serve almost the whole of Minnesota's population. At the end of 1980, 96.6 percent of the state's population was served by a tax-supported library; of this population with public library service, 97.8 percent was served by regional library systems. In 1970, 85.5 percent of Minnesota's

Figure 1

MINNESOTA CONSOLIDATED REGIONAL
LIBRARY SYSTEMS

Name	Establishment Date	Headquarters	Counties Served	Branches (As of 1/82)
Crow River	1972	Willmar	3†	15
East Central	1959	Cambridge	6	10
Great River	1969	St. Cloud	6	19
Kitchigami	1969	Pine River	4	7
Lake Agassiz	1961	Moorhead	4‡	10
Northwest	1968	Thief River Falls	5	6
Western Plains	1977	Montevideo	3§	10

† Crow River has two city libraries in one additional county.

‡ Lake Agassiz has a city library in one additional county.

§ Western Plains has three city libraries in one additional county.

Source: OPLIC

Figure 2

MINNESOTA FEDERATED REGIONAL
LIBRARY SYSTEMS

Name	Establishment Date	Headquarters	Counties Served	Members & Branches (As of 1/82)
Arrowhead	1966	Virginia	7	32
Metropolitan Library Service Agency (MELSA)	1969	St. Paul	7	91
Plum Creek	1974	Worthington	6†	17
Southeastern Libraries Cooperating (SELCO)	1971	Rochester	8‡	29
Traverse des Sioux	1974	Mankato	8§	39
Viking	1976	Fergus Falls	5*	10

† Three member libraries are located in three additional counties.

‡ Seven member libraries are located in two additional counties.

§ Four member libraries are located in one additional county.

* Two member libraries are located in one additional county.

Source: OPLIC

population was served by tax-supported libraries, but only 62.7 percent of that population was served by regional systems. (6)

During the past two decades, more and more Minnesota counties have joined regional systems. In 1960, two regional systems served five counties; in 1970, eight systems served twenty-nine counties. But by 1980, thirteen systems were serving seventy-one counties. (7) Regional libraries have been instrumental in bringing library service to rural Minnesota.

CONSOLIDATED AND FEDERATED SYSTEMS

There are two basic kinds of regional library systems in Minnesota: consolidated and federated. The differences between them are not readily apparent to the library user because these differences occur primarily at the governing board and administrative levels. However, the differences are significant.

A consolidated system is a regional system in which member libraries operate under a single board and central administration. In a consolidated system, any previously existing libraries, provided they wish to join, become branches of the system. A consolidated system can extend services by creating branches in interested cities. Branches have no independent authority or decision-making power.

In a consolidated system, tax revenues from member cities and counties are added to the system's share of state and federal funds, making one unified budget. The governing board, appointed by the contracting boards of county commissioners and city councils, decides jointly on expenditures and policies for the entire system. These policies are intended to treat all branches equally and to result in uniform operating procedures throughout the system.

Local control of local tax dollars is relinquished in a consolidated system, which some city councils and county boards see as a disadvantage. The local library board loses the authority to do such things as set salaries and hours of operation. But local officials do gain a voice in the decision-making procedure of the entire system through representation on the regional library board.

There are seven consolidated regional systems in Minnesota. See Appendix A for descriptions and Figure 3 for geographic locations of the systems.

Areas with previously existing libraries have generally formed federated systems. A federated system is a union of city and county libraries which cede some of their powers to a central governing board, yet retain considerable control over their own internal affairs. The individual city and county libraries are equal members of the system, with each member having its own board. These boards set their own budget, hours, salaries, etc., and administer their own funds. Representatives of these member cities and counties meet as a joint board to decide how to spend the federated system's budget, which in a "pure" federated system consists only of state and federal funds. These independent members may also contract with the central administration for services which they desire.

A federated system provides to its member libraries administrative ser-

vices, which may include book-ordering, processing, cataloging, staff training, and computerized circulation systems. Most federated systems also provide individuals with direct services, such as bookmobiles, mail-a-book, and interlibrary loan. Some systems receive funds on a contract basis from their individual member libraries to provide these direct services.

There are six federated regional systems in Minnesota. See Appendix B for descriptions and Figure 3 for geographic locations.

CHAPTER TWO

PUBLIC LIBRARY FUNDING IN MINNESOTA

SOURCES

Since 1957, there have been four major sources of regional public library funding in Minnesota. The bulk of the funding comes from federal, state, and local taxes. The fourth category includes receipts from photocopy machines, fines, gifts, and interest on investments.

Public library receipts in Minnesota in 1981, the most recent year for which data is available, totaled \$45,650,787. These receipts cover only operating expenses. Capital expenses for land acquisition and building construction are the responsibility of the local unit of government and would be reflected in that local budget.

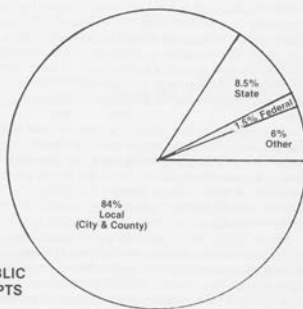


Figure 4

MINNESOTA PUBLIC
LIBRARY RECEIPTS
— 1981 —

Of the total receipts in 1981, state and federal grants provided 10 percent. As Figure 4 indicates, federal sources contributed 1.5 percent while the state of Minnesota contributed 8.5 percent. Figure 5 describes the types of grants which were available from the state and federal sources in fiscal year 1982. One of these, the basic support grants for regional library systems, bears special mention. In spring, 1977, OPLIC and a special committee of the Advisory Council to OPLIC developed an interim formula for distributing these grant monies to the various systems. The 1978 Legislature adopted the basic support distribution formula, and the 1979 Legislature enacted some modifications. The formula provides \$35,000 to each system as a base grant. To this are added amounts based on population, area, and the adjusted assessed valuation. See Appendix C for details of this formula.

Figure 5

GRANTS FOR LIBRARY SERVICES IN MINNESOTA ADMINISTERED BY OPLIC Fiscal Year 1982

Type of Grant	Federal	State	Total
Establishment 2 year grant for regional public libraries to extend library service to newly participating counties.	\$ 18,347	0	\$ 18,347
Mandated grants for residents of Dept. of Corrections and Dept. of Welfare institutions; and for services provided for the blind and physically handicapped by the Dept. of Welfare.	52,142	0	52,142
Basic Support grants to the 13 regional library systems.	600,000	3,854,864	4,454,864
Multi-Regional Services grants for services for regional libraries, i.e. MINITEX and library services to Indians on reservations.	167,876	124,336	292,212
Operating grants to the 7 multi-county multi-type library systems.	170,416	182,500	352,916
Totals	\$1,008,781	\$4,161,700	\$5,170,481

Source: OPLIC

LOCAL SOURCES OF REVENUE

Local support for library services can be derived from several sources. While the Minnesota Statutes specify a mill rate on the assessed valuation as the way to raise funds for library support, property taxes are not the sole source of local revenue. Local support includes city and county property taxes and intergovernmental revenue such as federal revenue sharing funds, general state aid to municipal or county government, and homestead credit payments. The accompanying table explains the sources of local governmental revenue.

Percentage Distribution of Local Governmental Revenue — 1980 —

Source of governmental revenue	Counties	Cities
Property taxes	30.5	21.1
Special assessments	0.6	13.5
Licenses and permits	0.2	1.7
Intergovernmental revenue	\$6.4	43.3
Charges for services	4.0	7.1
Fines and forfeits	0.9	0.9
Miscellaneous (including interest)	7.4	12.4

Source: Report of the State Auditor of Minnesota: *Revenues, Expenditures, and Debt of Local Governments in Minnesota for the Fiscal Years Ended During the Period July 1, 1980 to June 30, 1981.*

As shown by Figures 4 and 6, in 1981, local support provided 84 percent of the total library receipts in Minnesota. For this reason, all options presented in this publication for funding regional library systems at the local level are options that ultimately depend on funds controlled by local government. Other local sources of funding such as gifts and private foundation grants have not been included because these sources cannot be depended upon for regular income.

Before examining the various options currently in use in Minnesota or those suggested as possible alternatives, it would be useful to review briefly the history and procedures of property taxation in Minnesota. Such a background will prove advantageous in understanding some of the options available to a regional library system which seeks to modify its current method of local funding.

Figure 6

LOCAL SUPPORT

This chart shows the percentage of funding which came from local governmental sources in each region in 1981.

Arrowhead	78%
Crow River	67%
East Central	52%
Great River	68%
Kitchigami	50%
Lake Agassiz	72%
MELSA	89%
Northwest	55%
Plum Creek	70%
SELCO	85%
Traverse des Sioux	80%
Viking	70%
Western Plains	67%
Source: OPLIC	

MINNESOTA PROPERTY TAX ADMINISTRATION — A BRIEF HISTORY

Taxation of property as a source of income for the state of Minnesota was written into the State Constitution of 1857. According to the Constitution, all property was to be assessed and taxed on its full cash value:

All taxes to be raised in this state shall be as nearly equal as may be, and all property on which taxes are to be levied shall have a cash valuation and be equalized and uniform throughout the state. (8)

The history of the administration of property taxation indicates that from its early days, there were continual problems enforcing it. (9)

From the very beginning, according to the 1914 *Minnesota Tax Commission Report*, the statute was "willfully and shamelessly violated by taxpayers and tax officials everywhere." There were widespread practices of assessing property at less than full cash value and at unequal rates varying between 25 to 50 percent of full cash value. These inequities were probably caused by economic conditions, inadequate training of local assessors, and by social and political pressures on assessors to under-assess. Furthermore, the plain difficulty of accurately judging the current value of a property was an ever-present obstacle. Future studies would find under-assessment and unequal assessment practices to be recurring problems.

One of the earliest corrective measures was the formation in 1860 of the county and state boards of equalization. The county boards reviewed and adjusted local assessors' property valuations which seemed higher or lower than "full and true value." In turn, the state board reviewed and adjusted the total valuations of each county. However, these boards were not effective in equalizing assessment levels.

Action by the 1878 Legislature attempted to correct the practice of under-assessment and to improve compliance with the law. It required that the assessors meet with the auditor in each county for conference and instruction, with the intended result of better compliance and full-value assessments. However, these meetings proved only to formalize the popular practices of unequal, non-uniform, and undervalued assessments.

In response to growing dissatisfaction with the inequities in the tax system, particularly the assessing practices, the 1901 Minnesota Legislature established the Minnesota Tax Commission. The Commission was created to review and report on enforcement of the law and to frame a comprehensive tax code. The Commission's broad goal was reform of the entire state tax system. One specific focus of a larger tax reform package was passage of legislation to facilitate the full-value and equitable assessments required by law.

Debate and action on the Commission's tax reform package, which was introduced into the Legislature in 1903, stretched over several years, ending in 1905 with a proposed constitutional amendment called the "wide open amendment." Though the amendment was ratified, questions on the balloting required an opinion by the Minnesota Supreme Court, thus delaying implementation of the law until the amendment was upheld in 1909.

The "wide open amendment" changed the uniformity clause in the original Constitution, replacing the language "all taxes . . . shall be nearly equal as may be" with the clause "taxes shall be uniform upon the same class of subjects and shall be levied and collected for public purposes." Thus it was recognized that there could be different types of property for tax purposes. Thereby Minnesota became the first state to permit the classification of property for tax purposes.

In 1907 the Legislature made the Tax Commission a permanent part of state government. In its *Fourth Biennial Report* (1914), the Tax Commission found that:

many laws had been passed which were based, not, as they should have been, upon the statute requiring that assessments should be at 'true and full value,' but based instead upon the prevailing illegal practice of assessing at from 25 to 50 percent of real value. (10)

The Commission further determined that, because many laws were based on this illegal practice, full value assessment was impossible to enforce. Furthermore, it concluded that enforcement would probably result in large increases in taxes.

In 1908, interim tax committees of the Legislature reviewed the history and concluded that it would be better to change the law to conform with the prevailing practice than to amend the large number of conflicting statutes. As a result, a bill was proposed which provided for assessing property at 50 percent of its true and full value and basing the tax on that value. The bill was debated in various forms in the 1909 and 1911 legislative sessions, but no action resulted because the legislators could not agree on the 50 percent figure.

The Classified Assessment Law, enacted in 1913, allowed the Legislature to compromise. It divided property into classes based on use, and prescribed for each the percent of its true and full value at which it should be assessed. These new values were between 25 percent and 50 percent. The new system was declared a success by the 1914 Tax Commission.

"This new classified assessment system," concluded a 1980 report by the House of Representatives Research Department, "was, in essence, a legislative attempt to reduce the wide discrepancy between assessment law and assessment practice by changing the law to conform to the prevailing practice." (11)

The Classified Assessment Law was not an attempt to deal with inequitable assessment practices; the boards of equalization still held this responsibility (as they continue to do today). A new technique for equalization using an indirect adjustment would eventually be developed as a result of enactment of the School Foundation Aid Law in 1947.

This law provided for state aid to school districts on the basis of the assessed valuation per pupil unit. When the state began returning aid to school districts and based the amount of aid on the district's assessed valuation, the effect of the varying assessment practices became even more important. Many districts found that by under-assessing they could obtain more state aid. Districts of comparable wealth that assessed at a level closer to market value received less aid.

This situation of "competitive under-assessment" was addressed by the 1951 Legislature with the creation of the Equalization Aid Review Committee (EARC). EARC studies of district assessment practices between 1951 and 1955 found assessments ranged from 19 percent to 70 percent of market value.

In view of this data, the 1955 Legislature changed the state aid law to adjust for the differences in the assessment practices between taxing districts. It directed the EARC to adjust the total assessed valuation of each district as if property were valued at full market value. (The method of arriving at these adjustments is the Real Estate Assessment/Sales Ratio Study. See pages 12-14 for further information.) State aid was then based on the EARC adjusted assessed valuation.

The EARC adjusted assessed valuation per se has limited application. It is only used when state aid is provided for programs supported by the cooperative efforts of local and state government. It was not intended to affect assessment procedures, and under-assessment practices continued.

This was especially true after World War II, when assessment levels continued to decline even while market values increased. According to State Auditor Roland S. Hatfield:

assessors were reluctant to keep up with the market changes either because they were not staffed to make the frequent alterations necessary or because they mistakenly felt that in the long run the market would return to its immediate post World War II level. (12)

This situation eventually led to an unauthorized practice of determining the value for tax purposes by first setting an "adjusted market value," which was a fraction of the actual value of a parcel. Applying the statutory classification ratios produced another fractional adjustment and further reduced the assessed valuation for tax purposes. This dual fractional assessment practice was legitimized by the 1967 Legislature. Recognizing the problems, the Legislature replaced "true and full value" with "adjusted market value" and required the assessor to file with the county auditor the ratio at which he assessed property. Once again the law was changed to fit the prevailing practice. The Legislature enacted the Tax Reform and Relief Act, which would affect property tax administration in other ways. It eliminated property taxes as a source of state revenue. It created a county assessor system, thereby placing authority in county assessors rather than in thousands of local assessors.

Only four years later, the 1971 Legislature found that this dual fractional assessment system would be difficult to administer because of the newly enacted levy limit on local government spending. As a result, all references to "adjusted market value" were deleted from the statutes. Henceforth, the assessed value of property would again be based on the full market value. The effect of this change was to raise the assessed valuations to a level three times higher and to reduce the mill rate to one-third the previous level. The effect on the taxpayer was minimal.

Data from the Minnesota Department of Revenue indicates that since the mid 1970's, assessment levels are again declining, but not evenly from class to class. The sharp inflation of property values has compounded the problem.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE — FROM ASSESSOR TO TAX STATEMENT

Computation of the property tax in Minnesota begins when the assessor estimates the market value of a parcel of property. This is based on the value of that parcel if it were sold in an "arm's length" transaction between a willing buyer and a willing seller, neither of whom is forced to buy or to sell. Estimated market value is the term applied to this figure.

Property in Minnesota is grouped by use into several classifications and each is assessed at a fixed percentage of its estimated market value. The Legislature determines this percentage, called a classification ratio, for each property class. Certain property classes have split classification ratios: for example, the agricultural and residential classes are split into homestead and non-homestead categories. The current classification ratios for selected property classes are illustrated by Figure 7.

Figure 7 shows that non-homesteaded agricultural property will be taxed at 19 percent of its market value. Such a property with an estimated market

Figure 7

SELECTED CLASSIFICATION PERCENTAGES FOR TAXES PAYABLE IN 1983

DESCRIPTION

Agricultural Homestead	1st \$54,000	at 14%
	excess	at 19%
Agricultural Non-Homestead		19%
Public Utility Land & Buildings	1st \$50,000	at 40%
	excess	at 43%
Residential Homestead	1st \$27,000	at 16%
	2nd \$27,000	at 22%
	excess	at 28%
Residential Non-Homestead		
	4 or more units	34%
	3 or less units	28%
Seasonal-Recreational-Residential		21%
Timberland		19%
Unmined Iron Ore		50%

Source: Minnesota Department of Revenue
Local Government Aids Division

value of \$100,000 would pay property taxes on an assessed valuation of \$19,000.

A more complex example would be that of a residential homestead with an estimated market value of \$60,000. The assessed valuation would be computed as follows:

First \$27,000	@ 16%	= \$ 4,320
Second \$27,000	@ 22%	= \$ 5,940
Balance	@ 28%	= \$ 1,680
Assessed Valuation		= \$11,940

As seen in the examples above, the assessed valuation is derived by multiplying the estimated market value of a parcel of property by its classification ratio. The assessed valuation is then multiplied by a mill rate to determine the actual property tax due on that parcel. Expressed as a formula:

$$\text{Property Tax} = \text{Assessed Valuation} \times \text{Mill Rate}$$

The mill rate is that percentage of the assessed valuation which is needed to meet the tax levy of a taxing district. Mill rates vary from year to year as the taxing district's budget and assessed valuation change. The mill rate is determined by the following formula:

$$\text{Mill Rate} = \frac{\text{District's total tax levy}}{\text{District's total assessed valuation}}$$

If, for example, County X must raise \$1,070,000 in property taxes, and its total assessed valuation is \$10,000,000, then:

$$\text{Mill Rate} = \frac{\$ 1,070,000}{\$10,000,000} = 0.107$$

The mill rate is commonly referred to in terms of a certain number of mills. A mill is defined as a value equal to 1/1000 of a U.S. dollar; therefore, the number of mills equals the mill rate multiplied by 1000, or in this case, 107 mills ($107 \times 1000 = 107$).

A residential homestead located in County X with an estimated market value of \$60,000 and an assessed valuation of \$11,940, taxed on the basis of 107 mills, would yield a gross tax of \$1,277.58.

$$\text{Assessed Valuation} \times \text{Mill Rate} = \text{Property Tax}$$

$$\$11,940 \times .107 = \$1,277.58$$

This may not be the tax paid by the homeowner, however. The state of Minnesota allows a tax credit for certain property classes. In 1983, residential homesteads will receive a tax credit of 58 percent up to a maximum of \$650. In the above example, the state would pay the first \$650; the owner would pay the balance (\$627.58).

ADJUSTED ASSESSED VALUATION — SALES RATIO STUDY

The above assessment procedure is spelled out by state law; however, widespread variations in assessment practice still exist between the various cities and counties. These variations result in inequities in the valuation of property for tax purposes.

The technique used by boards of equalization to deal with inaccurate valuations is to adjust them directly by increasing or decreasing them so that they all represent the same percentage of actual value. This practice is termed "equalization." It is the percentages which must be equal, not the valuations themselves.

Since 1955, a new technique for equalization of property taxes has been in existence — the adjusted assessed valuation method. Direct adjustments for the purpose of "equalization" have continued but *indirect* adjustments have been adopted for some purposes. The advent of adjusted assessed valuation was the result of the tax-sharing idea first implemented in the School Foundation Aid Law. Inequities between taxing districts become particularly significant when several taxing districts participate in cooperative efforts. The consolidation of school districts into larger districts which overlap local governmental boundaries may have provided the impetus, but the need for indirect equalization was soon recognized for similar cooperative efforts, such as regional libraries. In both cases, cooperation in funding exists between local and state government as well as among local governmental units.

The basis of the adjusted assessed valuation is an adjustment on paper of the assessed valuation of a taxing district. This valuation is adjusted to reflect what the total assessed valuation of a district would be if property were being valued at full market value rather than at a portion of market value. It would seem that the Legislature at this point had come full circle back to the concept of "full and true value."

The new concept of adjusted assessed valuation included an important difference, however. The assessing inequities between taxing districts were not to be eliminated, but only their effects. This was to be accomplished by means of statistical methods which adjust assessments by comparing them to actual sales figures. Each year the Minnesota Department of Revenue produces a report of these comparisons in the *Real Estate Assessment/Sales Ratio Study*. (13)

This study compares the assessor's estimated market values to actual sale prices and arrives at a figure known as the "assessment/sales ratio." The ratio theoretically represents the relationship between the assessor's market value and the real or true market value of all properties, whether sold that year or not. Expressed as a percent, this figure reveals how closely the assessments in the district approach 100 percent. The figure is then used to correct, on paper, the total assessed valuation of the district; this new figure is called the "adjusted assessed valuation." It eliminates the necessity of actually correcting inaccurate assessments for state aid purposes.

An individual assessment/sales ratio can be calculated by comparing the assessor's estimated value to the actual sale price for a piece of real property. This is done in the following manner:

$$\begin{array}{lcl} \text{Individual} & & \text{assessor's estimated market} \\ \text{Assessment/Sales} = & \text{value of a property} & \\ \text{Ratio} & & \text{sale price of same property} \end{array}$$

It is not possible to determine an individual assessment/sales ratio for each piece of property because all property is not sold every year. Data on sales in each class of property is used to prepare the weighted average for the individual assessment/sales ratios. This figure is termed the "aggregate assessment/sales ratio." An aggregate ratio is calculated for each class of property in a taxing district; a district-wide aggregate ratio is also calculated:

$$\begin{array}{lcl} \text{Aggregate} & & \text{sum of assessor's estimated market} \\ \text{Assessment/Sales} = & \text{values for a number of sold parcels} & \\ \text{Ratio} & & \text{sum of actual sale prices for the} \\ & & \text{same parcels} \end{array}$$

These aggregate ratios can be used as a measure of the assessor's job performance. An aggregate ratio of less than 100 percent indicates that property is being undervalued by the assessor. Should the undervaluation be excessive, the State Board of Equalization has the authority to order a direct adjustment. A ratio of 100 percent means estimated market value equals true market value.

The aggregate ratio is used to correct mathematically the total assessed valuation of a taxing district. This corrected figure, variously termed the "adjusted assessed valuation," the "EARC valuation," or the "equalized valuation," more accurately reflects an assessment based on true market value. The adjusted assessed valuation can be expressed as a formula:

$$\begin{array}{lcl} \text{Adjusted} & & \text{total assessed valuation} \\ \text{Assessed} = & \text{of a taxing district} & \\ \text{Valuation} & & \text{district-wide aggregate ratio} \end{array}$$

For example, consider County X, with a total assessed valuation of \$750,000,000 and an aggregate ratio of 0.750 (or 75 percent). The adjusted assessed valuation is computed as follows:

$$\text{Adjusted Assessed Valuation} = \frac{\$750,000,000}{0.750} = \$1,000,000,000$$

The Sales Ratio Study has undergone review and revision a few times since its implementation. Several recommendations of the 1980 review were incorporated in the 1980 Sales Ratio Study. This revision tends to make this tool more accurate and therefore to reduce further inequities in property taxation based on the adjusted assessed valuation.

The Equalization Aid Review Committee holds the legal responsibility for performing the Real Estate Assessment/Sales Ratio Study. The commissioners of four state departments, Education, Administration, Agriculture,

and Revenue, constitute the EARC. Since 1955, the Minnesota Sales Ratio Study (as it is also known) has been performed annually by the Department of Revenue. Appendix D lists the assessed valuation, the aggregate ratio, and the adjusted assessed valuation for all Minnesota counties for the assessment year 1980.

CURRENT LOCAL FINANCING METHODS

The method of figuring the amount of local tax support differs from one regional library system to another. The state requires a minimum amount from each governmental unit. Some library agreements specify only this method of funding, while others supplement this by one of three methods: the mill rate method, the per capita method, and a rather informal method which we have termed the "negotiated share." Certain regional systems have chosen to adopt combinations of these methods.

Of these basic methods, two are best understood within their historical context. These are the mill rate method and the state certified minimum. Consequently, a description of their history will be presented first. A description of the current applications of all methods will then follow.

The Mill Rate Method — Within the Historical Context

In 1957, the Library Division of the Minnesota Department of Education drew up a sample agreement for creating a multi-county library. It suggested a uniform mill rate which could be adjusted annually without renegotiation of the entire contract. The mill rate set by the library board had to conform to the limitations of the state statutes and comply with Library Division establishment grant regulations. Establishment grants provided supplemental aid to newly established regional libraries during the first three (now two) years. To qualify for these grants, libraries were required to increase their mill rate to two mills by the end of the establishment period.

The sample agreement was derived from separate sections of state statute, one enabling the use of a mill rate to fund county libraries, the other allowing governmental units to exercise jointly any powers they held individually. Under these laws, it was only natural that an equal mill rate be suggested as the funding method for multi-county library systems. The theory was that the governmental units would be counties uniting to form a multi-county library system and that they would want to contract on an equal basis — hence an equal mill rate.

The first two regional library systems to form in Minnesota adopted the equal mill rate method of financing. Both encountered problems related to the levy limitation on counties. This led to the revision of these levy limitations and the state program for grants in aid.

Dakota-Scott Regional Library, formed in 1958 to serve Dakota and Scott counties, was Minnesota's first regional system. The system soon began to feel the constraints of the levy limitation. Two mills was not sufficient to provide adequate library service by the standards of the joint library board. The county commissioners of both counties petitioned for and received

legislative permission to exceed the limit by one mill. Such permission was generally granted when locally requested.

The Dakota-Scott contract was carefully formulated. As the first such agreement in Minnesota, it was expected to serve as an example to future systems. The Minnesota Attorney General's Office even reviewed the agreement. However, the system dissolved after ten years of operation.

STATUTORY LIMITATIONS ON LIBRARY FUNDING

The minimum of "at least one mill" was required by the State Aid Law for Libraries. A maximum mill rate was set by Minnesota Statutes in the original provision for public library funding. In 1957, that maximum was two mills for counties. Cities of the second, third, and fourth classes were allowed to levy up to five mills for library service. The table below shows how those limits have changed since 1957. Note: there has not been a maximum mill rate on the funding of county library services since 1973.

Levy Limits on Local Government Spending for Library Services

Year	Counties	Cities**
1957	2 mills	5 mills
1965*	5 mills	8 mills
1973*	limit removed	2.6 2/3 mills

* law was changed by the 1963 and 1971 Legislatures to take effect the following assessment year for taxes payable 1965 or 1973.

** cities of 2nd, 3rd, and 4th classes only

Apparently part of the problem was the equal mill rate requirement of the contract. Dakota County had grown faster both in population and in assessed valuation than had Scott County. As a result, Dakota County's percentage of the budget increased and Scott's decreased. However, the service level in Dakota County was not increasing at a rate similar to the increase in its share of the budget. Dakota wanted more service and was willing to increase the mill rate. Scott was satisfied with its level of service and was not as willing to increase its mill rate. The library board could not agree on a new equal mill rate and apparently could not work out an acceptable compromise with respect to an unequal mill rate, so the system dissolved.

East Central Regional Library, second regional system in the state and the oldest by virtue of the Dakota-Scott dissolution, was established in 1959. There were initially three counties in the system: as the result of citizen-petitioned referenda Mille Lacs and Pine counties had joined the existing Isanti County Library. The terms of the contract called for each county to provide an identical mill rate toward support of regional library service. By 1962 all had achieved the two mill rate required by the Library Division.

As early as 1961, however, the Library Division realized that two mills on the assessed valuations of these three counties would be unable to support adequate library service without additional funds from the state. Analysis revealed that other areas of the state would have similar problems. Such a situation could have deterred some areas from initiating region wide library service; it most certainly would have resulted in inadequate library service in those areas that did undertake to provide regional service.

The Library Division reconsidered their original plan to require a regional library to be self-supporting after the completion of the establishment period. They then defined what they considered to be adequate library service and determined the amount it should cost per capita. They established a policy to provide supplementary funds on a continuing basis to those areas where two mills could not raise the specified amount. East Central became eligible for such equalization aid in 1963. Thus the situation in East Central initiated what is now referred to as "basic system support grants."

In the case of the first two regional library systems, all parties to each agreement were essentially equal partners, in that all were counties and all provided an equal mill rate. But when Lake Agassiz Regional Library began in 1961, a city for the first time became a separate party to a regional library agreement. The city of Moorhead had been providing service to Clay County under contract since 1949. In 1961, Moorhead (in Clay County) signed a separate but similar agreement with Norman County to provide library service. Although there were then two contracts with somewhat different provisions, the Library Division accepted this somewhat unusual arrangement as a regional library and granted establishment aid.

This arrangement was significant because it affected the financing of the new system. There was a disparity between the allowable mill rates for cities and counties. Furthermore, both the State Aid Law and the Library Services Act required that local support must not drop below the dollar level of the year prior to the establishment of a regional library. The combination of these two factors meant that the new system would not be composed of essentially equal parties and that equal mill rates would not be possible. Lake Agassiz began with the proceeds of 1.6 mills from Clay County, 1.0 mill from Norman County, and 5.0 mills from Moorhead.

The city of Breckenridge in Wilkin County joined the system in 1967 under a separate contract with Moorhead. There were now three separate contracts joining two counties and two cities in a regional system, and none of them actually addressed a funding formula. The funding level was determined by the Library Division requirements for receipt of continuing grants. However, anticipated growth in the system (Becker County and the city of Detroit Lakes), a new director for the system, and the changes in assessed valuations and mill rates ordered by the 1971 Legislature all combined to stimulate planning for a single master agreement for Lake Agassiz.

In 1974 this first master agreement was drawn up and ratified. By that time there was no statutory limit on county library mill rates, although there was a 2.67 mill limit on most city library rates (first class cities excepted). The former two-mill requirement for state aid initially set by the Library Division in 1962 had been changed to 0.67 mill by the 1971 Legislature. The Lake Agassiz Master Agreement adopted this 0.67 mill rate as the minimum level

for funding by its counties. It also set a minimum level for those cities which were separate parties to the agreement. These levels were set at the existing mill rates in those cities during 1974 (Breckenridge, 2.35 mills; Moorhead, 2 mills; and the newest addition, Detroit Lakes, 1.30 mills).

This master agreement required minimum mill rates (which were also unequal). In practice, however, higher amounts than the minimum were sought and received in many cases. By the end of the 1970's most counties were levying close to one mill. The agreement stated that a party could increase its appropriation and specify that the increase be spent within its boundaries. Action to approve a lower figure than that requested by the library board was discouraged by a clause requiring reduction of services in that event.

The first master agreement was rewritten. The new agreement took effect in 1981 and is described in the section on the negotiated share method.

The State Certified Minimum — Within the Historical Context

During the years the first Minnesota regional libraries were developing, legislation and operating guidelines were changing in response to need. These changes have had major impact on local funding. By far the most sweeping changes have come about as a result of changes in the Library Division operating guidelines.

When the Library Division wrote the first guidelines for continuing aid, they defined "adequate" library service and determined the amount it should cost per capita. This amount was adjusted annually. In order to receive state continuing grants, local governments were required to provide a minimum of two mills, levied on the assessed valuations of those areas of the taxing district which participated in the system. The difference between the amount raised locally by two mills and the amount set by the Library Division's yearly per capita figure would be the dollar amount of the continuing aid. This aid would be received only by those counties where the two mill effort did not produce an amount equal to the amount set by the annual per capita figure.

The two mill minimum continued to be the required minimum even after the Legislature raised the limits on the library levy. However, in 1971 the Legislature abandoned the concept of "adjusted market value," thereby tripling assessed valuations in the state and reducing mill rates to one-third their previous amount. As a result, the two mill minimum became a two-thirds mill minimum. This remained the state required minimum local effort until 1978 when the current law went into effect.

The State Certified Minimum — Current Application

The 1978 Legislature rewrote the distribution formula for continuing aid (now called "regional library basic system support grants" — see Appendix C) and changed the minimum requirement for receipt of such aid. This new requirement changed the mill rate base from the assessed valuation to the adjusted assessed valuation. The 1979 Legislature amended the formula to provide an alternate method using a minimum per capita amount.

The Office of Public Libraries annually determines the minimum level of local support. It selects the lower dollar amount, as calculated by (a) or (b) below, and certifies that amount to each county and city. Limits are set on the percentage increases allowed annually by each method. These methods are (a) 0.4 mill applied to the adjusted assessed valuation of those areas of the taxing district which participate in the system. The adjusted assessed valuation for the second preceding year is specified, i.e., 1980 adjusted assessed valuation (for taxes payable 1981) is used for 1982. The second method (b) is a specific per capita amount applied to the population of those areas of the taxing district which participate in the system (for 1982 the per capita figure is \$3.36).

If the dollar amount provided by a governmental unit during the previous year is higher than the minimum level of support as calculated by either (a) or (b) above, then the amount for the previous year becomes the minimum level for the next year. In other words, no less than the amount for 1981 may be provided in 1982. This requirement is termed the "maintenance of effort" provision. Only if the adjusted assessed valuation of a governmental unit decreases may the minimum level of local support decrease. If a member does not provide the minimum level of support required, the library system does not receive full state and federal aid payments. The member would not be eligible to benefit from state and federally-funded library programs.

For 1982, an adjustment was made in the "maintenance of effort" provision. This is a temporary change which will automatically terminate in 1984 (unless extended or made permanent by the Legislature). The adjustment changes the wording "previous year" to "second preceding year" and was prompted by the uncertain fiscal status of the state of Minnesota in 1982.

As the terminology suggests, the state certified minimum is not intended to be anything other than a minimum level of support necessary to participate in a regional library system. There is, however, no state requirement to fund above this level. Two regional libraries have adopted this minimum level as their funding method. However, both have indicated the need to establish a method which would provide funds above this level.

Kitchigami Regional Library is one system which relies basically on the state certified minimum. In fact, the agreement contains the actual statutory language (M.S. 134.34) describing the method of computing the minimum amount. In addition, requests are made to the members of the system to raise funds above this minimum level. At this time the agreement contains no specific formula for determining these amounts.

Northwest Regional Library also follows this method of financing. The agreement states that the parties must meet at least the minimum requirements for receipt of state-federal grant money. In addition, the agreement states that failure to meet the minimum requirements is grounds for termination of library services to that party.

The Mill Rate Method — Current Application

Only one regional agreement, that of LeSueur-Waseca Regional Library (a two-county consolidated member of Traverse des Sioux Library System),

still specifies a mill rate method to raise funds above the state certified minimum. The LeSueur-Waseca agreement dates back to the original establishment period of 1966 and stipulates that the proceeds of an equal mill rate be provided by each county. The city of Waseca, although it has always been a separate party to the agreement, is not mentioned in the section pertaining to funding. Apparently there is a separate agreement between the city and county that established the Waseca County Library and the funding arrangement between these two parties. This arrangement results in an unequal mill rate method of funding in this system. In practice, circumstances have caused this system to superimpose upon the mill rate method a request for annual percentage increases in the dollar amount from each unit.

The Per Capita Method

Several of the consolidated systems have adopted a per capita method to raise funds above the state certified minimum. A party's share of the budget is determined by multiplying its population by a specific charge per person — the higher the population, the more money the party pays. This amount is paid from the funds available to the governmental unit. It is not paid directly to the library by each individual taxpayer, as the literal meaning of per capita, "by heads," might seem to indicate.

In 1969, when the Great River Regional Library was established, the organizers of the system were the first in Minnesota to adopt a per capita method of funding for a regional library. Librarians had been reporting library statistics in per capita terms for years (materials per capita, circulation per capita, etc.), but until this time had not based funding on any concept other than assessed valuation. A per capita funding mechanism was being used in similar cooperative governmental efforts in the area about the same time.

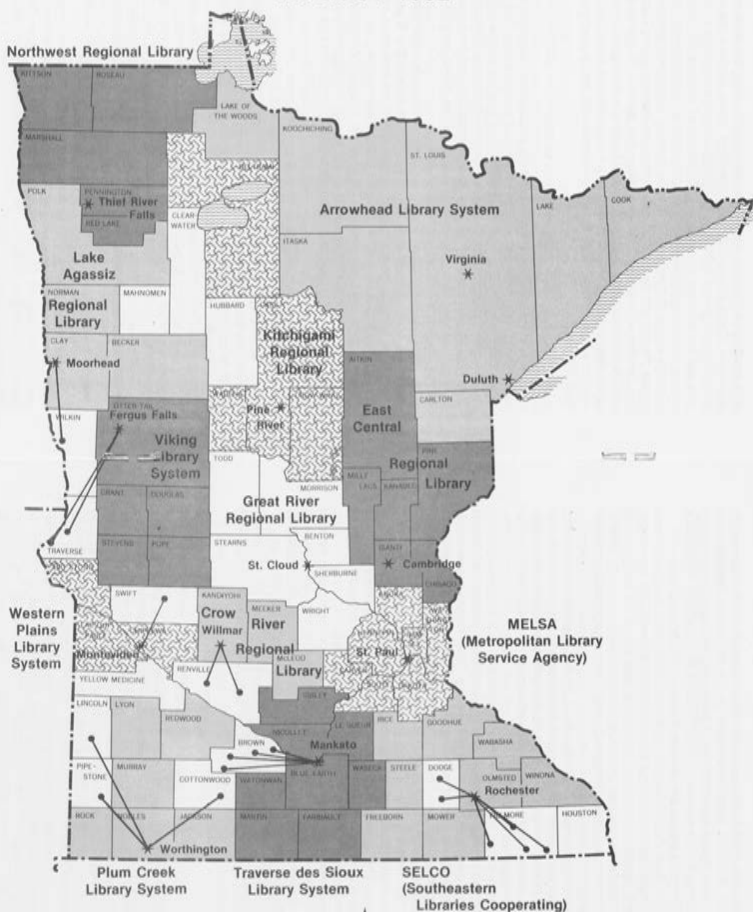
Equal Per Capita

The Minnesota Valley Regional Library (a consolidated member of Traverse des Sioux) has obtained funding on an equal per capita basis from its three county and three city members since 1977. No dollar amount per capita is stated in the agreement; the figure is computed annually after the budget is drawn up. The total population of the area served, as determined by the most recent U.S. census, is divided into the budget to determine the dollar amount per capita. This figure is then multiplied by the population of each member government to arrive at the dollar amount of its support. Each member government must then set the appropriate mill rate to raise its share of the budget and/or use funds from other sources of local revenue.

Unequal Per Capita

The per capita method can be structured to provide for an unequal per capita arrangement. The Great River Regional Library agreement requires its one city member, St. Cloud, to pay a double per capita figure. The headquarters building is located in St. Cloud, and city residents presumably derive an advantage from this.

Figure 3
MINNESOTA REGIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS
AUGUST 1982



● City libraries participating in Regional Public Library systems.



Used By Permission of American Map Corporation.

In contrast to other systems, figures used in Great River are those county population statistics supplied annually by the Minnesota Department of Health. These figures are estimates of the population based on the census and corrected for the recorded number of births and deaths in the previous year. U.S. census figures are used for the city of St. Cloud.

The Crow River Regional Library is composed of three county-city units and two municipal libraries in a non-participating county. The agreement, while never mentioning the term "per capita," apportions the budget on the basis of population, and thus can be considered to use a per capita method. In apportioning the budget, the system uses a three step procedure to determine each party's share.

According to the director Burton Sundberg, the first step involves computing an equal per capita share based on the total population of the system. This equal per capita figure is multiplied by the total population of each participating county, to determine the amount of money for which each county-unit is responsible.

In the second step, the dollar amount provided by each county-city unit is further divided between the county and city (or cities) on the basis of a preset percentage share, which differs in each county. For instance, in one county the city provides 45 percent of the total county share, and the rest of the county provides 55 percent. This arrangement actually results in an unequal per capita share, with the city members always providing a higher per capita amount than the rest of the county.

In the final step, the share for the two cities in the non-participating county is figured. The amount paid by the four other city members is totaled and divided by their total population. This per capita amount is used to compute the share for the cities in the non-participating county.

The agreement provides for changes in the ratio of contribution by each county-city unit when approved by all governing bodies. Thus, when the 1980 census figures became available, the original agreement was revised to reflect the population shifts. Changes are also permitted within a county-city unit so long as the total percentage contribution by the unit is not revised. These changes may be made at any time if approved by both governing bodies.

Negotiated Share

The negotiated share method is used by several regional library systems to raise funds above the state certified minimum. This method is especially predominant in federated systems. The application of this method to federated systems is complicated because each system is organized differently; therefore the use of this method by federated systems is described separately. In either a consolidated or federated system, the dollar amount of the system budget provided by each participating governmental unit is arrived at by consultation between the library board members. The consulting parties may use a variety of methods. Two seem to be most common: the cost-based method and the percentage increase method. The amount recommended is presented to elected representatives of each participating

governmental unit, who must then either accept the figure or negotiate a new amount.

Negotiated Share — Cost-Based Method

The cost-based method requires that the administration of the library keep careful records on the costs of providing service to each party to the agreement. Once the costs for the preceding year have been determined and the costs for the current year estimated, an estimate of the costs for the upcoming year can be made. In at least one case, Lake Agassiz Regional Library (LARL), the procedure has been highly developed and has resulted in informal, but carefully-drawn, guidelines for determining each member's costs. The director of the system, Lon Dickerson, reports that these guidelines are used to "the fullest extent possible without establishing costly accounting procedures" and are only a guide used to direct budget planning. This process also serves to document that each participant contributes and receives a fair share. See Appendix E for a detailed explanation of the procedure.

The current Lake Agassiz agreement (effective January 1, 1981) states "efforts shall be made continually to assure that all areas receive their fair share of the library services." The detailed process outlined in Appendix E was an outgrowth of this statement. The agreement also contains a clause allowing reduction in service to those parties not maintaining their fair share of the operating costs.

The Lake Agassiz Board of Trustees maintains unwritten standards that determine the minimum level of service. Should local support be insufficient to maintain that level of service, a subsidy from the revenue "earned" by the system as a whole is provided temporarily to maintain the minimum level of service.

Negotiated Share — Percentage Increase Method

A second method of determining the dollar amount is to base the member's share on an agreed upon percentage increase over the amount provided in the previous year. A library board has the option of requesting the same percentage increase from all members or of varying the percentage to fit the conditions of the member.

Negotiated Share — Federated Systems

In a federated system, member libraries are separate entities responsible for their own budgeting. Using either a cost-based method, a percentage increase method, or some other method, each library negotiates its budget with the respective governing authority and retains control over these funds. As part of a federated group, these libraries receive services from the system in return for providing service to non-residents of their city or county. In some systems there are financial arrangements to cover this exchange of services and in others there are not.

Arrowhead Library System. Arrowhead Library System was the fourth regional system to be established in Minnesota. It was the first to adopt a federated plan. The city library members contribute no funds to system

operations. A simple contract governs the agreement between each library and the system administration. Each library agrees to serve residents of the entire system in return for unspecified services provided by the Arrowhead system and its staff. Recently, Arrowhead has been able to reimburse its city members for some of the extra expenses incurred because of service to rural residents.

Rural residents also may use Arrowhead's extension services, including bookmobile service, books-by-mail, and deposit collections. A county tax levy paid to the system by each of the seven member counties pays for this service. The system negotiates separately with each county to determine the amount each county will pay. The director, Ken Nielsen, reports that he is working toward having the counties supply the proceeds of an equal mill rate based on the adjusted assessed valuation. This is not a formal contractual arrangement but only an administrative attempt to return to the equal mill rate method of funding informally followed by the counties in the early years of the system. The Arrowhead agreement, which has not been changed since the system was established, simply states that the budget will be determined by consultation between members of the board.

Metropolitan Library Service Agency. The Metropolitan Library Service Agency (MELSA) is a federation of seven county libraries and two city libraries, all of which budget separately. There is no exchange of money between member libraries and the system administration except for one program, the Machine Assisted Reference Service, which is funded jointly. MELSA is the only "pure" federated system in Minnesota; the system budget consists solely of state-federal funds. From these funds MELSA provides member libraries with a variety of services in exchange for the reciprocal borrowing privileges permitted any area resident.

The general funding method at the county level involves negotiation of the budget between library board members, with subsequent negotiation and approval by the county board of commissioners. All MELSA counties are essentially consolidated county library systems. However, three counties (Anoka, Dakota, and Washington), have associate libraries which retain independent funding. Associate libraries agree to participate in reciprocal borrowing arrangements with the county library and thereby with MELSA. In all but one of these cases there is no payment for this exchange of services; the exception is in Anoka County. The municipal library in the city of Anoka receives a payment from the Anoka County Library because the exchange of services is not equal; county residents use the municipal library more than city residents use the county facilities. The contract which governs the financial arrangement specifies a payment to Anoka Public Library equal to 5.21 percent of the Anoka County Library budget. This percentage was based on the degree of service and has not changed in its five-year history.

The two municipal library systems in MELSA, Minneapolis Public Library and Information Center, and St. Paul Public Library, have unique funding arrangements because of their unique governing structures. One library is controlled by the city council and the other is essentially an independent library district.

St. Paul Public Library has no board of trustees. It is funded as one of five divisions in the Department of Community Services. The library director sub-

mits a budget request to the department head. That request is incorporated into the department request and is presented to the mayor. As is true in any city budget, the city council makes the final determination.

In Minneapolis the city charter governs library funding. The charter provides for an elected board of trustees with limited taxing authority. A maximum is placed on the amount of the levy; it is currently two mills. However, annual adjustments based on a formula authorized by the 1971 Legislature are used to determine the statutory mill rate limit for each special levy, including the library levy. These adjustments result in a 2.828 mill rate for 1983. Since the statutory limit does not provide sufficient funds for the library, the board requests an annual supplement from the city council. One-third of the annual budget is generally provided for in this manner.

Plum Creek Library System. The six counties participating in Plum Creek Library System fund library services in a variety of ways. Lyon, Murray, and Redwood counties provide the state certified minimum amount of support. In Lyon County, the Marshall-Lyon County Library also receives funding from the city of Marshall, negotiating with the city council to arrive at the amount of support. In Jackson and Nobles counties, the county libraries negotiate their budgets with their county boards. In Rock County, the Rock County Community Library negotiates with the city of Luverne, which supplies one-half of the agreed upon budget; the county pays the other half.

Bookmobile service in Plum Creek is supplied by either the Nobles County Library or the Marshall-Lyon County Library. Nobles County Library provides service to Jackson, Nobles, and Rock counties. The Marshall-Lyon County Library provides service to Lyon, Murray, and Redwood counties. Plum Creek collects funds for this service from some of the counties and then transfers them to the proper county library.

Plum Creek also receives funds from two independent city libraries in the non-participating counties of Cottonwood and Pipestone. These funds pay for a books-by-mail program to shut-ins.

In Murray and Redwood counties the amount of the county library levy not paid to the Plum Creek system for bookmobile services is paid to the city libraries (two in each county) in return for providing service to the rural residents of the county. In both cases this amount is divided between the city libraries on a per capita basis.

Southeastern Libraries Cooperating. The Southeastern Libraries Cooperating (SELCO) administration receives local funds only on a fee-for-service basis. The director, Ray Ogden, uses a cost-based method to determine the fee charged participating counties for bookmobile service. The charge per hour of operation is computed by dividing the annual bookmobile budget by the total hours spent each year in providing bookmobile services to all locations. Six of the eight counties purchase bookmobile services on this basis. Mower County owns its own bookmobile. The Rochester Public Library owns a bookmobile jointly with Olmsted County and provides bookmobile service to both city and county. These operations are locally funded.

A similar cost-based formula has been worked out to compute the charge to each county to cover the expenses of providing service to rural residents at city libraries. The average cost to circulate a book is determined by

dividing the total operating expenditures of a city library by its total circulation. This figure is multiplied by the circulation to non-city residents to yield the charge to that county.

Traverse des Sioux Library System. Five of the eight counties participating in the Traverse des Sioux Library System are members of either LeSueur-Waseca Regional Library or Minnesota Valley Regional Library. LeSueur-Waseca uses the mill rate method and Minnesota Valley uses the equal per capita method. Each system provides its own counties with bookmobile service and books-by-mail. The other three counties each operate a county library system and use a cost-based method to determine the amount requested to fund library services. Fairbault County Library purchases bookmobile services from LeSueur-Waseca Regional Library.

Funding for Traverse des Sioux operations comes largely from state-federal funds, except for income derived from providing to member libraries technical services such as acquisition and processing of materials. Additional income is received under a contract with the Southcentral Minnesota Interlibrary Exchange (SMILE) — an association of public, academic, special, and school libraries. These funds cover the costs of the delivery service which Traverse des Sioux provides to SMILE.

Viking Library System. Independent city libraries in the Viking Library System negotiate their budgets with their respective governing bodies. Viking receives no local funds from these member libraries. The only local funding Viking receives comes from the counties it serves. A cost-based method is used to determine the amount of funding to be requested from each county. If the state certified minimum for a county will cover these costs, the system requests only that amount. If costs are greater than the minimum will cover, additional funds are requested. If a county fails to provide the amount required to maintain services, other funds may be diverted to cover the deficit or services may be reduced.

Each county's share of the Viking budget is intended to cover the costs of bookmobile service and books-by-mail. In addition Viking uses some of the funds to reimburse city libraries for service to rural residents of the system.

Combination of Options

Regional library systems may choose combinations of funding methods, thereby taking advantage of the benefits of several options.

One such system is Western Plains Library System, which implemented a new agreement effective January 1, 1981. This agreement requires that each party pay the lesser of two amounts, as calculated by either an equal mill rate or an equal per capita. The agreement sets the mill rate at one mill, with no provision for increasing it. The per capita amount was initially set at \$4.60, with provision for an annual adjustment. This adjustment is made by the regional library board of trustees, with the consent of the member governments involved. For 1982, the per capita amount is five dollars. The formula was limited so that no member would be required to increase its contribution by more than 25 percent in any year. New members would contribute only half the amount, i.e., 0.5 mill or \$2.50 per capita, during the first year. The system's director, Robert Boese, states that at this time the mill

rate method results in the lesser amount for the city members, and the per capita method results in the lesser amount for the county members.

The current East Central Regional Library agreement, adopted in 1972, bases member shares on both population and assessed valuation, giving each an equal weight. The agreement states that the shares are to be computed "according to the mean average of their respective property tax valuations and population." Darro Willey, who was the director at East Central when this contract was developed, has illustrated the procedure with this example: If a county has 10 percent of the population of the area served and 20 percent of the assessed valuation of the area served, it would provide 15 percent of the local portion of the budget.

The current director, Cheryl Bjoir, reports that in 1975, all six participating counties unanimously agreed to abandon the funding method set forth in the agreement. In an informal agreement, the counties mutually decided to provide for the next year a 6 percent increase above their share for the current year. This decision was influenced by the state's 1971 levy limitation on local governments, even though this limit did not apply to a county's library fund. Since that time, the funding method in East Central has been based on a straight percentage increase, with the specific percentage set annually. Service is reduced to any county which does not provide the same percentage increase as the majority of member counties.

CHAPTER THREE

FUNDING METHODS — PROS AND CONS

Most government revenues are derived from taxes. Taxation may be viewed in a positive sense, as did Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes when he said that the paying of taxes "buys civilization." Taxing for library services is certainly within this context.

The primary source of funding for a library system is local governmental revenue, which includes the property tax. The tax on property is the most frequently used type of tax for local revenues for four reasons:

1. It is a significant source of revenue.
2. Receipts are steady and may be forecast, thereby allowing budgeting predictions.
3. Property is difficult to conceal.
4. Local public services enhance a community, so it may be reasoned that the tax is collected from those who benefit from the services. (14)

Several criteria used to evaluate taxes are commonly defined in relation to an individual; they are also useful when applied to a governmental body. One criterion that may be used to evaluate a method of funding a library system is whether the method is equitable. The concept of equity assumes that a tax should affect in the same way people or governmental bodies in similar economic situations. A tax can be judged as equitable according to two guidelines: 1) benefits received and 2) ability to pay.

The equity of a tax according to benefits received can be judged by whether those who use a service pay for it in an amount equal to the

amount of service. A tax based on ability to pay can be judged by whether it is progressive, proportional, or regressive. A progressive tax is one that increases in percentage as the income increases. A proportional tax takes the same percentage of income from all parties. A regressive tax takes a larger proportion from lower incomes than from higher incomes.

A taxpayer's income determines ability to pay. For the purposes of this analogy, the assessed valuation of a governmental unit determines its ability to pay.

Equity is a difficult quality to measure. A tax may be judged equitable according to benefits received, but inequitable according to ability to pay. The reverse is also true. In a regional library contract, the per capita method determines the amount of a county's support based on the number of people who may benefit from the services and is equitable as judged according to benefits received. If that same county has a lower assessed valuation than another county with the same population, then it contributes a larger percentage of its income to the system's support. As judged by ability to pay, this is a regressive tax.

According to ability to pay, the equal mill rate method is a proportional tax. Although a county with a high assessed valuation will pay a larger dollar amount than one with a lower assessed valuation, each will pay the same percentage of that valuation. However, when both counties have the same population, the county with the higher assessed valuation will pay a higher per capita rate. Assuming that each county receives the same degree of service, the equal mill rate method is not equitable when judged according to benefits received because each county does not pay an amount equal to the amount of service.

These examples show that each funding method can be evaluated to determine the effect on government, but they cannot be evaluated for the effect on the individual's ability to pay taxes. Also, taxpayers will pay for library service whether or not they choose to use it and whether or not they have ready access to it.

The choice of a funding method which is fair and appropriate to the needs of the library system will be influenced by the advantages and disadvantages of the various methods. This section presents views on their strengths and weaknesses based on comments by the directors of Minnesota regional library systems, administration of the Office of Public Libraries, and others interested in library support. Some of the views presented are basic. Others reflect issues that are not clear-cut and may be interpreted differently from the perspective of a library administrator, government official, or library board member. We caution that one person's "pro" may well be another's "con."

STATE CERTIFIED MINIMUM

The state certified minimum funding method assures that a regional library system receives a certain level of support. Although not intended to be sufficient to operate a system adequately, it is sometimes interpreted as an adequate amount of support which need not be exceeded — its major disadvantage.

The state requirements include the option of basing matching funds on a city's or county's adjusted assessed valuation or on a specified per capita figure. All the advantages and disadvantages of the adjusted assessed valuation discussed below apply to the state certified minimum when it is used as a funding method.

ASSESSED VALUATION OR ADJUSTED ASSESSMENT VALUATION

The adjusted assessed valuation provides a more equitable base than the assessed valuation for cooperative efforts between governmental bodies. It was designed to remove most of the inequities inherent in the different assessment procedures of each body.

A product of the Sales Ratio Study, it is an improvement over the assessed valuation because it uses statistical measures to arrive at property valuations that are comparable with the valuations of other local units of government. But the Sales Ratio Study is not a perfect tool and current imperfections are transferred, to a lesser degree, to the adjusted assessed valuation figure. For a full discussion of the Sales Ratio Study, see *Property Tax Equalization in Minnesota: A Review of the Sales Ratio Study*, 1980, James D. Cleary and Karen Baker.

POPULATION-BASED BUDGET OR PROPERTY-BASED BUDGET

When choosing a method of apportioning the budget, the library board is not going to refer to textbook definitions of the concepts of "benefits received" and "ability to pay." Yet the board members' points of view, while not necessarily couched in these terms, are going to reflect these considerations. Likewise, when county commissioners evaluate a proposed budget, they are likely to compare their county's share to the amount of library service their county residents receive. They may also compare their per capita rate for library services to that paid by other counties.

The per capita method of apportioning the budget has been used by itself in some library agreements and as one of several components in others. Through unequal per capita rates, this method can be structured to reflect proximity to a library offering a larger selection of books and services. Although the per capita method may be judged to be equitable according to benefits received, it is not intended to consider a county's ability to pay. Thus, in different situations, it can be regressive, progressive, or proportional.

The per capita figure is viewed as easy to apply and easy to understand. It also makes it possible for a county to compare the amount per capita it is paying for library service with the amount per capita for other services, such as public safety or parks. This cannot be a casual comparison as it must also involve an understanding of the extent of and perceived value of each service.

In contrast to per capita, the mill rate method of apportioning the budget is based on the value of property. Although it can be judged to be equitable according to the concept of ability to pay, it is not intended to consider either the population or the amount of service a county receives. Structured as an equal mill rate, this method is proportional; as an unequal mill rate, it is either progressive or regressive.

If a governmental unit's assessed valuation is high, it may perceive that it is contributing to a regional system more than its fair share or more than it believes it is receiving in services. The governmental unit may also believe that it could provide basic services independently for the same amount of money. However, library administrators strongly question these last two points, noting that the regional system benefits from a centralized administration and the sharing of materials, thus avoiding costly duplication.

Another factor that may be considered in either the per capita or mill rate method is the question of the accuracy of the figures used in the base formula. For population data, most regional systems use the U.S. census figures, which can be as much as ten years out of date. One system uses Minnesota Department of Health data, which adjusts the county population for births and deaths, but does not record the number of people who move in or out of a county.

When U.S. census figures are used, a member with a rapid population growth will not immediately pay its full share, while one with a population decline will pay more. If a new U.S. census shows a rapid increase in a county's population during the ten year period, a member facing a substantial dollar increase may balk when the new census data is used.

The assessed valuation figures used in the mill rate method are calculated annually. However, because current year data is not available when the library budget is prepared, this method also will not reflect current information. If the adjusted assessed valuation is used, the lag will be even longer.

NEGOTIATED OR NON-NEGOTIATED BUDGET

Historically, the method of establishing a budget was approached in one of two ways. Either the budget amount could not be negotiated because it was the result of a contractually set mill rate, or both the budget and each member's share of it were negotiated by the library administration and board of directors.

The non-negotiated budget, as specified by a preset mill rate, requires no annual negotiation. From the perspective of the library administration, such an arrangement is advantageous in that there is no lengthy negotiation period. From the viewpoint of the governmental unit, it is a stable and predictable budgeting procedure. If parties to the agreement become dissatisfied with the funding method, the formal contract must either be changed or ignored. In practice, the latter is often the case, resulting in an informal agreement which supersedes the formal one.

Because the mill rate is preset in the agreement, a certain amount of inflexibility is inherent in this method. It works well for the library system in years when it produces adequate funds. And therein lies the inflexibility; the budget is set by the amount of money available and not by the amount the system determines it needs to operate.

The disadvantages of this preset mill rate caused several library systems to abandon this method. These systems serve a predominantly rural area, with a number of small urban areas. The original contracts specified that counties be assessed an equal mill rate, which was preset at two-thirds of a

mill. Initially, this was viewed as an equitable method because it resulted in similar per capita rates in both rural and urban areas, or perhaps slightly higher rates in the urban areas. However, economic conditions changed this situation.

The inflation rate of the 1970's caused a rapid rise in land values and assessed valuations did not keep pace. The Sales Ratio Study revealed that agricultural property was being undervalued to a greater degree than were other property classes. As a result, the State Board of Equalization ordered blanket increases in the assessed valuations of those agricultural classes. By the late 1970's, these assessed valuations had increased, reportedly by up to 30 percent annually in at least two regional library systems, Western Plains and Lake Agassiz. Under these conditions, the equal mill rate was no longer viewed as equitable. Had this rate of increase continued, the amounts contributed by rural areas, as calculated on a per capita basis, would have exceeded those contributed by the urban areas. The solution chosen by the systems was to change from a non-negotiated budget to one of several forms of a negotiated budget.

The negotiated budget is a method used by several systems for arriving at a budget amount and for apportioning shares. From the perspective of the library administration, this is an asset because negotiation allows the library board to set the budget annually according to the perceived needs of the system. From the viewpoint of the representatives of the governmental units, negotiation allows them more input in the budgeting process. When the budget is negotiated, combinations of options may be used so as to reflect equitable apportioning of shares.

The major disadvantage of negotiation is that it can be time-consuming. In addition, from the perspective of the representatives of the governmental units, negotiation does not result in a predictable share of the budget from year to year.

NEGOTIATED SHARE — COST-BASED OR PERCENTAGE INCREASE

The cost-based method is used to arrive at a negotiated share for each member or to figure the fee charged for services received by a contracting party. Whether used by a consolidated or a federated system, the main advantage of this method is that each party clearly sees that it is receiving its fair share. The main disadvantages are that elaborate record keeping may be involved and ability to pay is not considered.

The percentage increase method, on the other hand, does take ability to pay into consideration. From the view of the representatives of the governmental units, this method is simple and predictable; they can choose a percentage that they believe is affordable and apply it year after year. Since it is not preset in the contract, they still retain the option of negotiation. However, from the view of the library administration, this method is only as good as the base to which the percentage increase is applied and often results in inadequate funding. The method does not consider costs of providing service to each member or benefits received. Unless structured to allow different percentages from members, the method makes it difficult to increase service to one member should the need arise; governmental units do not want to pay for services to residents of another governmental unit.

CHAPTER FOUR

SELECTED ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS

This chapter describes several possible funding methods that, to our knowledge, are not in formal use in regional library systems in Minnesota. Some are variations of methods which are in use; one is used in another state.

Since many of these alternatives have not met the test of time, an analysis of their pros and cons is subjective and theoretical. Therefore, the possible implications of these options are described in this section rather than in Chapter Three. Other implications may occur to the reader in the process of studying these alternatives.

LOCAL EFFORT BASED ON ADJUSTED ASSESSED VALUATION

There is general agreement at the state level that the adjusted assessed valuation is a more equitable base for funding cooperative efforts than is the assessed valuation. Since it is used in determining the state certified minimum and also in the distribution formula for basic system support grants, it is logical to assume that it might be used as the base for apportioning all of the local portion of a regional library budget. Several current methods of funding could be adapted to include the adjusted assessed valuation as the funding base; these methods include a preset equal or unequal mill rate and a negotiated equal or unequal mill rate.

An alternate method could be a percentage share based on the adjusted assessed valuation. In this alternative, the budget would be negotiated and shares apportioned on the basis of each party's percentage of the total adjusted assessed valuation of the area served by the system. If a county had 15 percent of this total valuation, it would be responsible for 15 percent of the local portion of the budget. The percentage would fluctuate as would the adjusted assessed valuations in the area served. This alternative would be based on ability to pay and could be considered progressive in that those governmental units having the higher adjusted assessed valuations would pay a higher proportion of the budget. However, this alternative will not necessarily be judged equitable according to benefits received. For example, in two counties with the same valuation, the county with the lower population would be paying a higher per capita rate.

MODIFIED COMBINATIONS OF OPTIONS

Several alternatives could be modifications of current methods which combine options. An agreement can combine the factors of population and assessed valuation (or adjusted assessed valuation) in proportions other than the one-to-one ratio which appears in the current East Central agreement.

Another alternative could add a third factor, area served. The area factor is figured into the statutory formula for distribution of basic system support grants (Appendix C). If the same percentages were to be used as in the distribution formula, the local portion of the budget could be apportioned as follows: 55 percent on the basis of the population served (using an equal per capita); 15 percent on the basis of area served (an equal amount per square mile); and 30 percent on the basis of the adjusted assessed valuation. This

last 30 percent could be divided, as is the distribution formula, into two components. The first component would be a flat fee-for-service charged each party to the agreement; the second would reflect each party's percentage of the total adjusted assessed valuation. Or, this last 30 percent could be figured simply on the proportion of the valuation without a flat fee-for-service. An apportioning done in this manner would be complicated to compute. However, by taking into account several variables, this alternative would reduce the disparities between governmental units when budget shares are apportioned.

BUDGET SHARE DETERMINED BY AMOUNT OF USE

Another alternative could apportion the budget on the amount of use made of the library's services by the residents of each governmental unit. For example, if use of library services by residents of one county accounts for 25 percent of the total use, then that county pays 25 percent of the total budget. A procedure to measure use is essential to the effectiveness of this alternative.

Circulation statistics provide the simplest measure of use. Such statistics are kept by all libraries, but may not be recorded for each governmental unit. The most efficient way to record circulation by governmental unit is to use a computerized circulation system. A less expensive, but also less reliable procedure, is a periodic survey of patrons on residency and number of items checked out. It has been estimated that circulation measures 55 percent of total use. (Patrons might not check out materials but might use the reference or meeting room services.) In order to reflect use adequately, this alternative must also measure use of reference services, meeting rooms, and in-house use of media equipment. It may be possible to measure all forms of use with a completely computerized system.

Without a computerized circulation system, library administrators oppose a circulation-based method of apportioning the budget; they believe it cannot be fairly administered. They point out that uniform loan periods and renewal policies would be necessary to administer such a funding method fairly; this factor would seem to make this method less than satisfactory for federated systems.

On the other hand, a use-based budget is appealing because a governmental unit would pay in proportion to the amount of use its residents make of the system. In this respect, it is similar to a cost-based method of funding. A use-based method is highly rated when judged according to the philosophy of benefits received. Ratings vary when judged according to ability to pay. In comparing two counties with the same amount of use, the county with the lower assessed or adjusted assessed valuation would contribute a larger percentage of its "income" to the library system. This could be considered regressive.

THE LIBRARY DISTRICT

A library district is one form of special taxing district. Special districts are the fastest growing type of local government, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Missouri provides an example of a library district on a regional level. In 1972, the Missouri General Assembly passed legislation (Missouri

Statutes 182.610-182.670) that allowed for the formation of consolidated library districts. The legislation was promoted by library administrators, and the idea was quickly adopted. As of 1982, there were four consolidated regional library districts in operation in Missouri.

As structured by Missouri law, a library district is a political subdivision of the state. A library district is a different method of governing libraries because it has the authority to levy a tax, although that authority is limited to taxation for library services. In this respect, it is similar to a school district or a soil and water conservation district.

The Missouri law allows the formation of a consolidated library district between two or more county library districts with the same rate of taxation for library purposes. The governing board is appointed by the county court or county executive officers. No board member may be an elected official. Board members are not paid but may be reimbursed for expenses.

The funding section of the Missouri law allows a consolidated library district to levy a tax of not less than two mills. After determination of the initial tax rate, any increase in the rate must be submitted to the voters of the district for approval. The Director of Mid-Continent Public Library (Independence, Missouri), John W. Ferguson, reports that this system has not yet needed to increase the mill rate; increases in the assessed valuations have kept pace with the increased budget requirements of the system. The system expects to have to request an increase in the mill rate in a year or two.

The adoption of a library district concept in Minnesota would require legislative action. The advantages and disadvantages of a library district would depend on the specific details of the legislative provisions. Any funding method could be chosen; the pros and cons of that method would still apply.

The main difference between this alternative and any other presented in this publication is that the library board gains the authority to levy a tax for libraries. The extent of this authority can be limited by statute or by approval of the voters, as in Missouri. Regardless of the limits put on the taxing authority, the fact remains that this authority is transferred from the city and/or county officials to the library board. It is certainly possible that these officials would resist this transfer. From their point of view, this could be one disadvantage of a library district. On the other hand, it could be considered an advantage from the point of view of the library administration. No longer would a budget have to be approved by county and/or city governments. This would make the budget process less time-consuming.

Different advantages and disadvantages would result depending on whether the library board was appointed or elected. If the board members were appointed, taxing authority would be vested in non-elected officials. This situation might not be politically feasible unless the taxing authority were limited.

If the board members were elected, one would have to consider the implications of adding several more elected officials to the ranks of local government. Some salary would no doubt need to be offered. Candidates could campaign on either a high or low budget or level of services. The pros and cons of the political process are many, varied, and familiar.

Finally, the enactment of legislation for a library district would take much

effort, probably over several years. Widespread support would have to be demonstrated. It is doubtful that the Legislature would consider passing such legislation if it were to affect only a portion of the state.

NOTES

1 Virginia H. Mathews, *Libraries for Today and Tomorrow* (Garden City, New York: Doubleday and Company, 1976), p.41.

2 Eva Nelson, *The History of the St. Cloud Public Library 1865-1975* (St. Cloud, Minnesota: Friends of the Library, 1976), pp. 21-23.

3 Hannis S. Smith, "Organizing a Library System," *Minnesota Libraries*, 18(1957), 259.

4 Smith, p.259.

5 Hannis S. Smith and Emily L. Mayne, "Planning for Library Development," *Minnesota Libraries*, 18(1957), 329.

6 William G. Asp, "Minnesota Public Library Statistics 1980," *Minnesota Libraries*, 26(1981), 665.

7 *Minnesota Libraries*, 20(1961), 7; 23(1971), 126-127; and 26(1981), 665.

8 Minnesota Constitution (1857), art. 1, sec. 1.

9 James D. Cleary and Karen Baker, *Property Tax Equalization in Minnesota: A Review of the Sales Ratio Study* (St. Paul, Minnesota: State of Minnesota, House of Representatives Research Department, 1980). We are deeply indebted to this source for the information in this section.

10 Minnesota Tax Commission, *Fourth Biennial Report, 1914*, as quoted in James D. Cleary and Karen Baker, *Property Tax Equalization in Minnesota: A Review of the Sales Ratio Study* (St. Paul, Minnesota: State of Minnesota, House of Representatives Research Department, 1980), p. 23.

11 Cleary and Baker, p. 25.

12 Rolland S. Hatfield, *Report to the Governor's Minnesota Property Tax Advisory Committee 1970*, as quoted in Cleary and Baker, p. 25.

13 Minnesota Department of Revenue, Division of Local Government Aids and Analysis, *Real Estate Assessment/Sales Ratio Study 1979*. (St. Paul, Minnesota: State of Minnesota, Department of Revenue, 1980). We are deeply indebted to this source for the information in this section.

14 R.W. Burchell and D. Listokin, *The Fiscal Impact Handbook* (New Brunswick, New Jersey: The Center for Urban Policy Research, 1980), p. 160.

APPENDIX A

CONSOLIDATED REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEMS IN MINNESOTA—1982

1. Crow River Regional Library is headquartered in Willmar and serves three member counties (Kandiyohi, McLeod, and Meeker), in which it operates the headquarters library plus thirteen branch libraries and one bookmobile. There are two additional branches in a non-participating county (Renville) for a total of fifteen branches. The levies of the three member counties finance services for all county residents with the exception of residents of six cities. Six of the cities in which branch libraries are located are parties to the Crow River Regional Library Agreement and thus levy separately for library services.
2. East Central Regional Library is headquartered in Cambridge and serves six member counties (Aitkin, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, and Pine), in which it operates the headquarters library plus ten branch libraries and two bookmobiles. The levies of the six member counties finance services for all county residents with the exception of the residents in the one non-participating city in Chisago County.
3. Great River Regional Library is headquartered in St. Cloud and serves six counties (Benton, Morrison, Sherburne, Stearns, Todd, and Wright), in which it operates the headquarters library plus nineteen branch libraries and two bookmobiles. The levies of the six counties finance services for all county residents with the exception of the residents of four non-participating cities and the residents of St. Cloud. St. Cloud is a separate party to the Great River Regional Library Agreement and thus levies separately for library services. There are two non-participating city libraries in Stearns County and one each in Morrison and Todd counties.
4. Kitchigami Regional Library has offices in Pine River and serves four counties (Beltrami, Cass, Crow Wing, and Wadena), in which it operates the headquarters library plus seven branch libraries and one bookmobile. The levies of the four counties finance services for all county residents with the exception of the residents of two non-participating cities and the residents of the eight cities in which the headquarters and branch libraries are located. These cities are parties to the Kitchigami Regional Library Agreement and thus levy separately for library services. There are two non-participating city libraries in Crow Wing County.
5. Lake Agassiz Regional Library is headquartered in Moorhead and serves four counties (Becker, Clay, Norman, and Polk), in which it operates the headquarters library plus nine branch libraries and three bookmobiles. There is one additional branch in a non-participating county (Wilkin) for a total of ten branches. The levies of the four counties finance services for all county residents with the exception of one non-participating city in Polk County and the

residents of the four cities which are separate parties to the Lake Agassiz Regional Library Agreement. These four cities levy separately for library services.

6. Northwest Regional Library is headquartered in Thief River Falls and serves five counties (Kittson, Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake, and Roseau), in which it operates the headquarters library plus six branch libraries and one bookmobile. The levies of the five counties finance services for all county residents with the exception of the residents of Thief River Falls, which is a separate party to the Northwest Regional Library Agreement and thus levies separately for library services.
7. Western Plains Library System is headquartered in Montevideo and serves three counties (Big Stone, Chippewa, and Lac qui Parle), in which it operates the headquarters library plus seven branch libraries and one bookmobile. There are three additional branches in a non-participating county (Swift) for a total of ten branches. The levies of the three counties finance services for all county residents with the exception of the residents of the seven cities which are separate parties to the Western Plains Library Agreement; these cities levy separately for library services.

APPENDIX B

FEDERATED REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEMS IN MINNESOTA—1982

1. Arrowhead Library System has its offices in Virginia and serves seven member counties, in which it operates three bookmobiles. These counties maintain a consolidated form of membership. The twenty-eight city libraries maintain federated membership in the system. The counties served and the number of libraries located in each county are as follows: Carlton-three; Cook-one; Itasca-five; Koochiching-one; Lake-two; Lake of the Woods-one; St. Louis-fourteen, plus Duluth Public Library which operates the main library, four branches, and bookmobile services to city residents. Itasca County has one non-participating city library, Grand Rapids, which also serves the nine surrounding townships. Arrowhead provides services to rural residents of the seven counties for which it receives levies from those counties. The twenty-eight city libraries levy separately for library service.
2. Metropolitan Library Service Agency (MELSA) has its offices in St. Paul and serves seven member counties. It is a complex association of seven county library systems, two major city library systems, and several associate libraries. (Associate libraries are independent city libraries which maintain some degree of cooperation with their county system and MELSA.) Anoka County contains the Anoka County Library System headquartered in Blaine, which operates seven libraries. There are also two associate library members in the county. Carver County contains the Carver County Library System

headquartered in Chaska, which operates five libraries. Dakota County contains the Dakota County Library System headquartered in Burnsville, which operates four libraries and bookmobile service. There is one associate library member in the county. Hennepin County contains two library systems. The Hennepin County Library System headquartered in Edina operates twenty-three libraries and bookmobile services. The Minneapolis Public Library operates a headquarters building, fourteen branches, and bookmobile services. Ramsey County also contains two library systems. The Ramsey County Library System headquartered in Roseville operates five libraries and a summer book van. St. Paul Public Library operates a headquarters building, ten branches, and bookmobile services. Scott County contains the Scott County Library System headquartered in Shakopee, which operates seven libraries. Washington County contains the Washington County Library System headquartered in Lake Elmo, which operates six libraries and bookmobile services. There are also four associate member libraries in the county.

3. Plum Creek Library System has its offices in Worthington and serves six member counties. There are four county libraries and eight city libraries served by this regional system. Cottonwood County has one library in the system, plus one unaffiliated library. The county itself is not affiliated; therefore rural residents receive no service. Jackson County contains the Jackson County Library System headquartered in the city of Jackson, which operates three libraries. Lincoln County has one library in the system, plus two unaffiliated libraries. The county itself is not affiliated; therefore rural residents receive no service. Lyon County contains the Marshall-Lyon County Library System headquartered in Marshall, which operates three libraries and one bookmobile, which is under contract to Plum Creek Library System to serve Lyon, Redwood, and Murray counties. There are two unaffiliated libraries in the county. Murray County contains two libraries. Nobles County contains the Nobles County Library System headquartered in Worthington, which operates three libraries and one bookmobile, which is under contract to the Plum Creek Library System to serve Jackson, Nobles, and Rock counties. Pipestone County contains one library. The county itself is not affiliated; therefore rural residents receive no service. Redwood County contains two libraries in the system, plus one unaffiliated library. Rock County contains one library, the Rock County Community Library.

4. The Southeastern Libraries Cooperating (SELCO) has offices in Rochester, serve eight member counties, and operate two bookmobiles. There are two county libraries and twenty-three city libraries served by this system. Dodge County contains two libraries in the system plus one unaffiliated library. The county itself is not affiliated; therefore rural residents receive no service. Freeborn County contains one library. Fillmore County contains six libraries. The county itself is not affiliated; therefore rural residents receive

no service. Goodhue County contains five libraries. Mower County contains the Austin-Mower County Library System headquartered in Austin, which operates four libraries, and bookmobile services. Olmsted County contains two libraries, including Rochester Public Library, which operates bookmobile services within both city and county. Rice County contains two libraries. Steele County contains the Owatonna-Steele County Library System headquartered in Owatonna, which operates two libraries. Wabasha County contains three libraries. Winona County contains two libraries.

5. Traverse des Sioux Library System has offices in Mankato and serves eight member counties. The system is a complex association of two multi-county consolidated regional libraries, two consolidated county libraries, one federated county library, and four independent city libraries. Brown County contains four libraries. The county itself is not affiliated; therefore rural residents receive no service. The Faribault County Library System headquartered in Blue Earth operates five libraries; it is a federated system. The LeSueur-Waseca Regional Library is a multi-county consolidated library serving the two counties of LeSueur and Waseca. It is headquartered in Waseca and operates three libraries in Waseca County and four in LeSueur County, as well as bookmobile services. The Martin County Library System headquartered in Fairmont operates eight libraries; it is a consolidated system. The Minnesota Valley Regional Library is a multi-county consolidated library system serving the three counties of Blue Earth, Nicollet, and Sibley. It operates three libraries in Blue Earth County, two in Nicollet County, and five in Sibley County, as well as bookmobile services. The Watonwan County Library System headquartered in St. James operates five libraries; it is a consolidated system.

6. The Viking Library System has offices in Fergus Falls and serves five member counties, in which it operates two bookmobiles. There are eight member libraries in these five counties and two member libraries in a non-participating county (Traverse). The participating counties and the number of libraries they contain are as follows: Douglas-one; Grant-one; Ottertail-three; Pope-one; Stevens-two. Viking provides services to rural residents of the five counties for which it receives levies from those counties. The ten city libraries levy separately for library service.

APPENDIX C

REGIONAL LIBRARY BASIC SYSTEM SUPPORT GRANTS: DISTRIBUTION FORMULA

As provided in Minnesota Statutes (section 134.35, 1980), any state-designated public library system of at least three participating counties, which qualifies by providing the state certified minimum amount of local support, may apply for an annual grant for basic system support. This same section of the statutes contains the formula for distribution of the available

funds, which are received from Title I of the federal Library Services and Construction Act and from the state of Minnesota appropriation for public library services within the education aids budget administered by the Department of Education.

There are four components to the distribution formula: population, area, base grants, and valuation equalization. Fifty-five percent of the available funds are distributed according to population, in order to provide an equal per capita amount. The population is calculated according to the accompanying table. Fifteen percent of the funds are distributed according to area, in order to provide an equal amount per square mile. The area is calculated according to the table. Out of the remaining 30 percent, a base grant of \$35,000 is paid to each system in recognition of the standard costs all systems incur. The remaining funds are distributed to those systems which contain counties whose adjusted assessed valuations per capita were below the state average adjusted assessed valuation per capita (for the second year preceding the fiscal year for which the grant is made). This valuation equalization component is based on the inverse of the adjusted assessed valuation. In other words, those systems with the lowest valuation per capita receive the greatest percentage of the remaining funds. The valuation component percentages are given in the accompanying table.

Systems may gain or lose state aid as populations shift and as the systems grow and as valuations change.

APPENDIX C
PERCENTAGES USED FOR DISTRIBUTION
OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS ACCORDING TO THE CURRENT FORMULA

System	1980* population in system	System % of total population served	Sq. mi. of area served in system	% total sq. mi. of all systems	% to be used for valuation equalization component after deduc- tion of each system's ba- sic grant
Arrowhead	314,652	8.1569	17,420	25.5293	29.5085
Crow River	66,879	2.3300	1,892	2.7728	0
East Central	112,560	2.9180	5,193	7.077	0
Great River	260,786	6.9561	10,421	14.387	16.8869
Kitchingami	111,111	2.7119	6,033	8.8414	6.6246
Maple Lake	116,258	3.0657	5,238	7.6764	4.2527
MELSA	1,985,692	51.4764	2,820	4.1028	23.2902
Northwest	53,002	1.3740	5,642	8.2685	0.2569
Plum Creek	100,128	2.6967	1,176	1.618	0
SELCO	213,522	5.5353	4,498	7.1605	6.4107
St. Louis	103,648	2.6869	3,716	6.5392	0
Viango	38,723	1.0039	1,843	2.4919	3.0586
Western Plains				2.7010	0
Totals	3,857,476		68,235		

* OPLC formulas for distribution must be compiled with 1980 US census figures for Minnesota.

Source: OPLC

APPENDIX D
1980 ASSESSMENT/SALES RATIO STUDY
ADJUSTED ASSESSED VALUES BY COUNTY

COUNTY	1980 ASSESSED VALUE	SALES RATIO	1980 ADJUSTED ASSESSED VALUE
AITKIN	67,518,392	.694	97,338,857
ANKA	842,560,638	.761	1,107,007,900
BECKER	111,575,787	.619	180,275,750
BELTRAMI	78,039,795	.591	133,137,955
BENTON	85,556,821	.651	131,361,818
BIG STONE	43,228,365	.660	65,495,840
BLUE EARTH	278,799,306	.583	478,623,127
BROWN	160,828,383	.578	278,183,338
CARLTON	101,607,778	.665	152,853,367
CARVER	177,307,104	.665	266,593,388
CASS	109,067,614	.636	171,550,850
CHIPPEWA	98,625,780	.681	144,730,342
CHISAGO	94,674,051	.710	133,403,397
CLAY	188,049,791	.631	298,181,880
CLEARWATER	31,436,377	.637	49,354,852
COOK	24,444,325	.660	37,038,098
COTTONWOOD	140,181,735	.682	205,504,660
CROW WING	180,569,917	.632	285,566,512
DAKOTA	956,221,800	.662	1,444,465,681
DODGE	99,359,505	.638	155,638,812
DOUGLAS	123,903,008	.676	183,188,388
FARIBAUT	191,051,941	.682	280,060,616
FILLMORE	132,717,543	.665	194,574,805
FREEBORN	232,517,029	.672	346,170,553

APPENDIX D
1980 ASSESSMENT/SALES RATIO STUDY
ADJUSTED ASSESSED VALUES BY COUNTY

COUNTY	1980 ASSESSED VALUE	SALES RATIO	1980 ADJUSTED ASSESSED VALUE
GOODHUE	333,692,855	.774	431,053,779
GRANT	54,994,471	.663	82,995,152
HENNEPIN	5,943,274,134	.775	7,671,649,773
HOUSTON	77,894,037	.768	101,403,927
HUBBARD	74,808,577	.704	106,258,225
ISANTI	70,973,748	.682	103,536,811
ITASCA	265,508,089	.752	353,160,223
JACKSON	158,103,434	.681	232,235,032
KANABEC	32,851,977	.610	53,898,834
KANDIYOHI	187,394,838	.637	294,080,330
KITSON	80,218,149	.519	118,007,928
KOOCHICHING	57,795,716	.640	90,262,326
LAC QUI PARLE	84,034,441	.720	116,794,462
LAKE	32,046,119	.540	59,312,518
LAKE OF THE WOODS	15,363,671	.548	28,047,752
LEBUEUR	102,930,703	.564	182,581,974
LINCOLN	52,184,502	.702	74,280,042
LYON	138,754,744	.727	190,878,256
MCLEOD	135,416,617	.560	241,612,096
MAHNOMEN	21,426,398	.593	36,155,061
MARSHALL	86,612,811	.438	197,889,661
MARTIN	211,543,749	.673	314,192,118
MEeker	113,146,098	.655	172,688,621
MILLE LACS	54,532,878	.572	95,384,916
MORRISON	85,997,360	.640	134,339,861

APPENDIX D
1980 ASSESSMENT/SALES RATIO STUDY
ADJUSTED ASSESSED VALUES BY COUNTY

COUNTY	1980 ASSESSED VALUE	SALES RATIO	1980 ADJUSTED ASSESSED VALUE
MOWER	212,665,421	.708	300,455,844
MURRAY	101,858,809	.638	159,686,971
NICOLLET	129,727,756	.584	222,019,463
NOBLES	155,172,872	.654	237,390,520
NORMAN	73,863,308	.551	134,030,808
OLMSTED	461,570,550	.632	730,474,638
OTTERTAIL	221,870,470	.652	340,283,473
PENNINGTON	160,124,800	.550	109,384,576
PINE	63,264,375	.596	107,835,742
PIPESTONE	67,396,120	.694	97,156,106
POLK	192,189,523	.578	332,358,067
POPE	66,344,452	.600	110,495,832
RAMSEY	2,472,039,456	.740	3,341,166,450
RED LAKE	26,030,381	.448	58,050,605
REDWOOD	171,253,587	.634	269,936,005
RENVILLE	181,382,181	.573	316,323,159
RICE	183,657,461	.649	283,018,960
ROCK	89,126,943	.710	125,451,753
ROBEAU	56,892,515	.494	115,174,494
ST. LOUIS	720,135,328	.699	1,028,898,619
SCOTT	231,712,671	.609	380,576,800
SHERBURNE	203,668,869	.824	247,082,195
SIBLEY	115,946,351	.568	204,304,518
STEARNS	393,262,326	.653	602,226,098

APPENDIX D
1980 ASSESSMENT/SALES RATIO STUDY
ADJUSTED ASSESSED VALUES BY COUNTY

COUNTY	1980 ASSESSED VALUE	SALES RATIO	1980 ADJUSTED ASSESSED VALUE
STEELE	162,606,349	.628	258,860,258
STEVENS	68,134,299	.856	103,882,666
SWIFT	89,515,951	.680	131,660,367
TODD	77,295,141	.636	121,599,741
TRAVERSE	52,271,781	.634	82,471,080
WABASHA	98,040,779	.724	135,341,422
WADENA	36,850,962	.653	56,390,838
WASECA	114,044,161	.572	199,464,322
WASHINGTON	546,565,361	.659	829,166,338
WATONWAN	106,122,810	.618	171,620,912
WILKIN	75,291,993	.636	118,384,410
WINONA	181,144,251	.689	262,750,092
WRIGHT	265,489,243	.701	378,484,570
YELLOW MEDICINE	102,313,720	.712	143,631,009
TOTAL	21,618,308,807	.694	31,139,541,367

Source: Minnesota Department of Revenue
Division of Local Government Aids and Analysis

APPENDIX E

BUDGETING PROCESS OF LAKE AGASSIZ REGIONAL LIBRARY

The Lake Agassiz Regional Library (LARL) budgeting process has two major steps. The first involves the calculation of the income to be "credited" to each member; the second involves the calculation of the costs to be "charged." For each party, the income is balanced with the expenditures.

Income is calculated by adding the projected amount of each member's local tax support and the amount of state and federal aid "earned" for the system. The earned amount is based on two components (population and geographic area) of the distribution formula for support grants. A county member earns aid on the basis of both population and area. A city member has only the amount earned on the basis of population included; the area component would yield an insignificant amount. Aid earned under the equalization component of the distribution formula is credited to the entire system, as are other sources of income such as fines, fees, and interest.

LAKE AGASSIZ REGIONAL LIBRARY BUDGET GUIDELINES—REVENUE

	County member	City member	LARL
Property Taxes	X	X	
State-Federal Aid			
population	X	X	
area	X		
valuation-equalization			X
basic services			X
Other (fines, interest)			X

Costs are determined by a similar, but more complicated procedure. Personnel costs for each branch are charged to the proper city or county member. Personnel costs for headquarters are divided between Moorhead and LARL. The personnel costs for administration and support staff are distributed on the basis of the work activities and the percentage of time these activities are directed toward each area served. According to Lon Dickerson, LARL director, "a logical and fair method of distributing costs has been determined for each person." For instance, the salary of the person responsible for preparing library cards is distributed on the basis of the number of registered borrowers in each area served. The bookkeeper's salary is distributed on the basis of local financial support in the previous year, as calculated according to revenue guidelines above. The director's salary is distributed on the basis of population. Bookmobile personnel costs are distributed to the members receiving this service on the basis of the amount of time the bookmobile spends in each area.

Materials costs are distributed according to the percentage of materials assigned to each branch or bookmobile; these costs include books, audio-visual materials, and the subscription costs of the periodicals available in each branch. The cost of supplies is distributed according to where they are used. Accounting costs are distributed according to local levels of support.

Costs which cannot be distributed on a logical basis are charged to LARL. Such costs include legal fees, postage, insurance, telephone, and public relations materials.

Finally, a portion of the costs for each city member is transferred to the county in which it is located, in recognition of the costs borne by the city member for service to non-city residents.

LAKE AGASSIZ REGIONAL LIBRARY BUDGET GUIDELINES — EXPENDITURES

	County member	City member	Moorhead	LARL
Personnel Costs				
Branch	X	X		
Bookmobile	X		X	
Moorhead			X	
LARL	X	X	X	X
Supplies				
Office/library	X	X	X	
Processing	X	X	X	
Bookmobile	X		X	
Materials				
Periodicals	X	X	X	X
Books/pamphlets	X	X	X	X
Audio-visual	X	X	X	
Other				
Accounting	X	X	X	
Legal Fees				X
Telephone				X
Postage				X
Conferences				X
Binding	X	X	X	
Public Relations				X
Bookmobile				
Maintenance	X		X	
Equipment				X
General Insurance				X
Moorhead Insurance			X	
Moorhead Utilities			X	X
Moorhead				
Maintenance			X	X

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the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are aged 65 and over has increased by 1.5 million (1990-1999) and is projected to increase by a further 1.5 million by 2010 (Office for National Statistics 2000).

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the health care needs of the ageing population. The Department of Health (2000) has set out a vision for the future of health care for older people, and the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) (2000) has published guidance on the management of older people with common chronic conditions. The Department of Health (2000) also states that the health care system should be able to meet the needs of older people in a way that is cost-effective, efficient, and of high quality. This paper reports on a study that was conducted in order to explore the health care needs of older people in the UK.

Methods

The study was a cross-sectional survey of the health care needs of older people in the UK. The study was conducted in 1999, and the data were analysed in 2000. The study was conducted in order to explore the health care needs of older people in the UK, and to identify the factors that influence these needs. The study was conducted in order to explore the health care needs of older people in the UK, and to identify the factors that influence these needs.

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**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF MINNESOTA**

PHONE (612) 224-5445

555 WABASHA • ST PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

PROPOSED SCHOOL LIBRARY CONCURRENCE

JAN 15 1981

To: Education Chairs and Those who Attended Fall Workshop Library Sessions
From: Ruth Armstrong, Education Chair, LWV MN
Date: November 20, 1980

Here is LWV-Mankato Area's revised position. We offer this to the League throughout the state, hoping to augment our current position on public libraries. It will, of course, greatly strengthen our position and better prepare us to lobby for all libraries at the Legislature.

I'm also including Joan Higinbotham's plan to arrive at consensus. We are about midway in that process now. Please let us know if there are still some unanswered questions.

Each Board must decide what it must do to concur. Do a study locally using Mankato's study as a starting point? Or interview locally enough people to determine how your school's libraries are faring? Or start from scratch to replicate Mankato's study?

Whatever your League has time and volunteers to do....

REVISED SCHOOL LIBRARY POSITION FROM LWV-MANKATO
PROPOSED FOR CONCURRENCE BY LOCAL LEAGUES
TO AUGMENT LWVNM LIBRARY POSITION

PROPOSED POSITION: The League of Women Voters of Minnesota supports any necessary adjustments in staffing and administration of libraries-media centers in the public schools to maintain a high quality of library service to teachers, staff, and students.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota

- supports hiring adequate numbers of professional librarians to allow one librarian for each school library-media center five full days per week in accordance with recognized minimum standards.
- supports hiring adequate numbers of library clerks to allow one clerk in each library-media center for one-half day five days per week in accordance with recognized minimum standards.
- considers it essential that the professional librarian and the library clerk be in the same facility at the same time for part of each day.
- opposes the use of volunteers to perform professional tasks or to be dependent upon for basic library functions.
- supports use of volunteers, especially for special enrichment programs such as Jr. Great Books and/or pre-school story hours.
- supports hiring one full-time media supervisor to coordinate all media-library services for each school district in Minnesota.
- supports establishment by the State Board of Education of minimum standards for school library facilities, staffing and collections.
- strongly supports involvement by the school media-library department in the planning and development of regional multi-county multi-type cooperative library systems.

HOW TO DO A STATEWIDE CONCURRENCE
(Fall Workshops - 1980)

How to do a Statewide Concurrence:

1. Your local study should explore an issue which is also of concern to other communities.
 - a. Your materials should provide a framework which other Leagues could use.
 - b. Even though their specific situation is different, the same questions can be raised.
2. The consensus questions should be adaptable to a statewide position.

Process:

3. Contact a state Board member or the state office to explain your study and consensus and ask if you can talk to the Board about working toward statewide concurrence.
 - a. Provide copies of your study and consensus questions.
 - b. Provide a synopsis, summary or precis for the Board agenda so Board members know what you're talking about.
 - c. Justify the need for a statewide position (usually legislative action).
4. Once the Board agrees that concurrence is possible, get the word out to local Leagues.
 - a. BOARD MEMO
 - 1) Keep members informed by putting information in the BOARD MEMO on how many Leagues have concurred, what's happened legislatively, etc.
 - 2) Update Leagues if necessary. (Try to keep the topic in their minds.)
 - b. VOTER
 - 1) Try to arrange to get a summary of your study in the VOTER. (You may need a lot of space for this.)
 - 2) Print consensus questions in the VOTER.
 - c. Workshops: Plan a presentation for fall workshops. Cover
 - 1) what issues the study addressed in your community.
 - 2) how local Leagues can impart the necessary information to their members. (Remember, in concurrence the only requirement is that local League members feel there is sufficient information to intelligently make a decision on whether or not a local Board can concur.)
 - 3) suggestions for local Leagues.
 - a) Invite a speaker who did the original study to address a general meeting.
 - b) Develop a packet of written materials locally. This could include survey results, interviews, or another reprint of the summary in a local bulletin.
 - c) Present a panel discussion with local experts.
5. Be willing to go anywhere and talk to everyone. Always carry copies of the study with you. Be sure to have your phone number and address readily available.
6. Keep suggesting your topic for local Program at calendar-planning time.
7. Write to specific local Leagues saying, "I see you haven't put a study of _____ on your Program calendar. Can I give you some help? Would you like to do it next year? etc."
8. Numbers: the state Board will probably require concurrence of 60% of local Leagues and 2/3 of League membership before the position can be adopted as a state position.

YOU MUST CONVINCE LOCAL LEAGUES THAT 1) YOUR ISSUE IS IMPORTANT TO THEIR COMMUNITY: AND
2) YOU HAVE PROVIDED THEM WITH ENOUGH INFORMATION TO MAKE A DECISION AND DO A LOCAL PROGRAM.

To: Local League Presidents
From: Jean Tews, Action Chair, and Ruth Armstrong, Education Chair, LWVMN
Re: School Library Concurrence
Date: November 20, 1980

We are anxious to know which Leagues are planning to concur with the School Library consensus of the LWV-Mankato Area. Will you please fill in this form and send it to the state office as soon as possible.

Thank you!

League of Women Voters of Marshall

_____ has concurred and sent in results to LWVMN.

_____ concurrence is planned for month of _____

☒ _____ has no plans to concur.

Comments:

We feel that this would not be appropriate for rural areas with small school. We feel that increasing staff at this time would hardly be possible.



FACTS and ISSUES

FUNDING OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN MINNESOTA
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

NOVEMBER 1978

Library Funding in Minnesota

"Funding of Public Libraries in Minnesota" was adopted as a study by delegates to the 1977 Convention of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota (LWVMN). This publication includes a brief history of public libraries in Minnesota, a discussion of present library services and funding, some problems being encountered, and some alternatives to present funding.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Webster defines "library" as "a place in which literary, musical, artistic or reference materials (such as books, manuscripts, recordings or films) are kept for use but not for sale."

Library service was inaugurated in the frontier State of Minnesota in 1859, a year after the state became part of the Union. The Stillwater Library Association was founded to receive and house government documents — a function it still carries out. That same year a group of young men founded the Minneapolis Athenaeum, a private subscription library (which remains an independent, private library but cooperates with the Minneapolis Public Library under a 99-year contract). Subsequently, additional libraries, supported by either private funds or local real estate taxes, were established at the local level.

Around the turn of the century — during the era when Andrew Carnegie's philanthropy was making access to books available free to the public — 64 of Minnesota's libraries were built. Donated to the communities, with requirements for some matching funds, these libraries became the foundation of the state's library system. In 1899 a Public Library Commission was established; it was merged with the Minnesota Department of Education in 1919.

Further development of libraries took place during the Depression years of the 1930s and early '40s, when the Works Progress Administration (WPA) provided

some help by funding demonstration projects, mainly small library stations set up in any convenient corner of a small town. This project was aimed at showing citizens what a library service could do for their town. Later, when the demonstrations, staffed by WPA workers, had been in use for a while, communities voted to decide whether the county should establish a library. If the vote was "yes," the county took over operation of the station(s). When World War II came along and most WPA projects were terminated, each community was allowed to keep its demonstration station until it had voted for or against a library. About 75 of the WPA workers became library employees in Minnesota.

The Federal Library Services Act (LSA) of 1956 marked the beginning of dramatically extended and improved library services throughout the state. Primarily intended to extend library service to rural areas that were largely unserved at the time, its demand for matching funds and long range planning

As required by federal and state law, in 1957 the Minnesota Long Range Plan for Library Service was developed by the state library agency (now known as the Office of Public Libraries and Interlibrary Cooperation, OPLIC) in consultation with an Advisory Council on Public Library Development and the Library Planning and Development Committee of the Minnesota Library Association (MLA). The overall goal of that plan continues to be:

"There shall be available to every Minnesota citizen regardless of residence, physical handicap, social or economic circumstances, convenient access to library service, capable of meeting personal information and educational needs, and linked with other libraries in a manner which renders the resources of all libraries available whenever resources are required."

Consistent with this philosophy, long-range planning has sought to establish

The Federal Library Services Act marked the beginning of dramatically extended and improved library services throughout the state.

led to Minnesota's 1957 library legislation. The Legislature granted \$400,000 in state aids to match LSA funds, marking the first time state taxes were allocated to libraries. For this reason, 1957 is used as the landmark year for comparisons throughout this study.

The 1957 Act also provided that funding would be granted to library districts having a population of at least 20,000 people. Because some counties had fewer people, it became important for these counties to join forces in order to qualify for the new federal and state aids. And so, multi-county library systems were born.

public libraries in areas without such service, to develop multi-county regional systems to strengthen and improve service, to foster and support a system of sharing resources, and to encourage innovative and experimental projects to improve library services throughout the state.

Although there were several well-developed library systems in Minnesota, the 1957 state aid bill made possible the beginning of orderly planning that extended and improved library service. Only 74 percent of Minnesota's population had access to public libraries in 1957, as

compared to 96 percent in 1977 (see Figure 12). During that time, service was expanded to reach an additional 1.4 million Minnesota residents.

The federal Library Service and Construction Act (LSCA) of 1964, successor to LSA, enabled qualifying systems to obtain non-local funding for new facilities. Although LSCA Title II Funds (for public library construction) were withdrawn in 1973, Title I funds (for services) and Title

patrons may also check out art prints, sculptures, films, and audio and visual tapes providing a whole range of experience — aural, visual, tactile and graphic. In addition, a local public library may provide meeting rooms, film presentations, lectures, crafts demonstrations, and story hours for children.

Or it may not. No Minnesota public library can accurately be labeled as "typical." One library may consist of a

libraries vary, most libraries function in some capacity as points of access to other sources of information. In public library jargon, this is called "networking," which is defined as "two or more library systems engaged in a common pattern for information exchange." MINITEX is the most extensive network in Minnesota. Begun in 1969, it is a program which includes academic, public, governmental and institutional libraries in Minnesota and neighboring states. Its aim is to provide access to library resources in the state for any Minnesota citizen. Services include document delivery, reference information by telephone and teletype and bibliographic searches. State and federal grants from OPLIC support public library participation in the MINITEX system.

Regional Library Systems

The concept basic to library development in Minnesota has been that the term "library service" shall include as valid functions "the collection, retrieval and dissemination of all media of communication."² Since it is impractical to store all such recorded materials in every single library, this concept has inspired not only "networking" but the growth of regional library systems throughout the state. These regional systems, plus the various networks (state, regional, national), serve to expand services and to make expenditures more effective.

Minnesota has 13 multi-county systems, financed with local, state and federal money. Since the law requires that members of a system agree to resource sharing (reciprocal borrowing, inter-library lending and reference services), any person whose local library belongs to a system may check out materials from any other library. As a result, the library with the largest collection of materials can supplement any other library in the system. Participating libraries can agree to use state and federal funds to reimburse the larger

library, acknowledging its increased costs due to resource sharing.

In addition to sharing resources and extending library services, the regional system is a mechanism for qualifying for and expending federal and state funds.

Figure 3 shows Minnesota's 13 regional library systems.

There are two basic kinds of regional library systems: consolidated and federated.

Consolidated systems operate more or less single, unified libraries in a multi-county area. Individual city and county libraries become "branches" of the regional library and are governed by a regional board and central administration. In a consolidated system, library levies from counties and cities are added to the system's share of state and federal funds. The board of trustees, consisting of representatives of member localities and/or libraries, decide jointly on expenditures. While individual cities and counties lose direct control over their contributed local tax dollars, their representatives on the board gain a voice in decision-making for the entire system.

The seven consolidated regional library systems are described in Figure 1.

In a federated library system, the individual city and county libraries are equal members of the regional system with each member keeping local control. The board members represent their own areas and act in behalf of those areas. The system provides services primarily to member libraries. Most also provide some services (bookmobiles, mail-a-book) directly to library users, even though some users may be unaware of the system's existence. A federated system administers cooperative programs of mutual benefit to all the member libraries. Representatives of member cities and counties decide jointly how to spend the system's share of state and federal dollars only, leaving control of local funds to local library boards.

Figure 2 lists the six federated regional library systems.

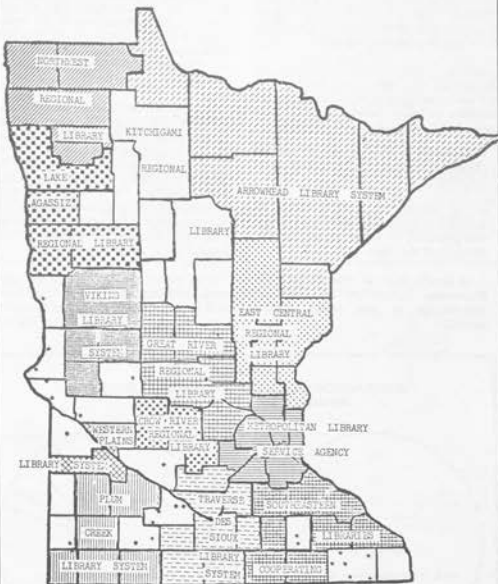
It is difficult to generalize about either federated or consolidated regional systems because none operate in precisely the same manner. The organization of regional library systems has great flexibility, allowing each system to adapt to the local conditions of its constituents. Structure and rules may also vary greatly among systems. The intent remains the same — to serve as many people as well as

FIGURE 2
MINNESOTA FEDERATED REGIONAL
LIBRARY SYSTEMS

Name	Establishment Date	Headquarters	Counties Served	Member & Branches
Arrowhead Metropolitan Library Service Agency (MELSA)	1966	Virginia	7	32
Plum Creek Southeastern Libraries Cooperating (SELCO)	1969	St. Paul	7	88
Traverse des Sioux	1974	Worthington	5	13
Viking	1971	Rochester	8+	28
	1974	Monkato	8*	31
	1976	Fergus Falls	4*	10

+Member libraries are located in 2 additional counties.
*Member libraries are located in 1 additional county.
*Member libraries are located in 2 additional counties.

FIGURE 3
MINNESOTA REGIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS
July, 1978



*City Libraries participating in Regional Public Library systems.

The 1978 Legislature passed an act calling for minimal cooperative efforts among libraries as a prerequisite to federal and state funding.

III funds (for interlibrary cooperation) continue. Title I, especially, has contributed to the emergence of regional library systems.

Another change in library funding occurred in 1973, when the Minnesota Legislature repealed the limits on county tax levies for libraries but maintained the levy limits for city library systems.

At the request of MLA, the 1978 Legislature passed an act (Ch. 546) calling for minimal cooperative efforts among libraries as a prerequisite to federal and state funding. The Legislature also established a Joint Senate-House Subcommittee on Libraries to consider in part what legislation may be necessary to facilitate resource sharing among a variety of libraries, e.g., public, school, academic and special. The committee is scheduled to report its findings to the 1979 Legislature.

PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

Local Libraries

Public libraries provide, in varying degrees, resources to such diverse patrons as children selecting their first books and specialists in obscure fields doing advanced research. Library patrons may select current and popular reading materials in person or by mail, obtain access to an extensive collection in a particular field, or find answers to factual questions requiring a special reference collection. And, since the printed page is no longer the sole source of information,

shelf of books — as in Deerwood — while another may include 50,000 volumes and audio-visual materials — as in the Brooklyn Park Branch of the Hennepin County Library System. A community of fewer than 10,000 people may be able to provide library service for only 30 hours a week, while larger communities may be able to provide 60 hours a week. A local public library provides as many services as it can afford. Consequently, services, salaries and materials vary from library to library across the state.

Approximately 2 percent of Minnesota's population is served by 33 local libraries not affiliated with the regional library systems. Sixteen counties do not levy taxes for library service to their approximately 171,000 rural residents. However, libraries in 12 of those counties do contract for participation in regional systems (see Figure 3). Sparse populations and lack of municipal centers seem to contribute to the lack of library development.

MINITEX

Although the size and quality of local

FIGURE 1
MINNESOTA CONSOLIDATED REGIONAL
LIBRARY SYSTEMS

Name	Establishment Date	Headquarters	Counties Served	Branches (As of 12/77)
Crow River	1972	Willmar	3	12
Fox	1959	Conbridge	6	8
Great River	1969	St. Cloud	6	19
Kitchigami	1969	Pine River	4	7
Lake Agassiz	1961	Moorhead	4	10
Northwest	1968	Thief River Falls	5	6
Western Plains	1977	Montevideo	4*	7

—Lake Agassiz has a city library in one additional county.
*Western Plains has city libraries in 3 additional counties.

possible. Whether or not they are aware of the regional systems whose resources they may utilize, 94 percent of Minnesota's residents are currently eligible to hold library cards entitling them to regionwide services.

Office of Public Libraries and Interlibrary Cooperation (OPLIC)

A division of the Minnesota Department of Education, OPLIC is responsible for administering the Minnesota Long-Range Plan. It is through this office that state and federal aids are granted to public libraries that meet legislative requirements. Aid is distributed according to the formula described in the Present Formula section and Figure 11. OPLIC also provides consultant, advisory and guidance services to librarians, library boards, public officials and interested citizen groups. An advisory Council to OPLIC, consisting of 15 voting and three ex-officio members, functions as a permanent body.

In order to qualify for federal funds, the Advisory Council must continually update the Minnesota Long Range Plan. The 1977 revision includes, among others, these steps to be taken in the next five years.

- to complete development of regional library systems so that the entire state is included.

- to secure by 1979 passage of legislation mandating financial support and provision of public library service throughout the state.

- to secure financial support from the Minnesota Legislature by 1980 for construction of new public library facilities.

— to encourage the reinstatement of federal funding of LSCA Title II (for public library construction).

The Plan expresses as a goal the provision of materials and services to assist the educationally disadvantaged, the blind and physically handicapped, the homebound and ethnic minorities. Broader services are recommended for hospitals and correctional institutions. The Plan also proposes greater cooperation of public libraries with school media centers, academic libraries and health science libraries across the state.

CURRENT FUNDING

Funding Comparisons

Minnesota's spending for public library service for 1977 parallels that of other states. A high proportion of the money comes from local sources, the rest from federal and state funding. (See Figure 4 for comparison between Minnesota and the U.S.)

Receipts for Minnesota public libraries totaled \$30,016,960 in 1977. Approximately 85 percent of this amount reflects county and city property tax levies, Federal Revenue Sharing money, and other tax funds administered by counties and cities. Approximately 6 percent is from miscellaneous sources of income, such as investments, building sales, fines, fees and gifts. The remaining 9 percent is from federal LSCA funds and state aid.

When states were rated on a per capita basis using only state appropriated funds, 1976 figures ranked Minnesota fourteenth with \$2 cents per capita. (See Figure 5.)

Local per capita support for public libraries in Minnesota (the total of all receipts received by public libraries divided by the population served) was computed to be \$8.25 for calendar (not fiscal) year 1977. City-county-township support for regional libraries ranged \$1.55 to \$9.89 per capita; the statewide average per capita support was \$8.25. Per capita expenditures varied from \$3.48 to \$10.67 with the statewide average being \$8.13. Total expenditures for all regional libraries were within one and one-half percent of the total receipts, a close estimate, since expenditures may not exceed receipts.

It is difficult to compare funding among Minnesota's public libraries because indirect contributions (e.g., heat, light, snow removal and space in government-owned facilities) made by local governments are usually not written into local library budgets. Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) and Federal Revenue Sharing funds are also difficult to identify when used for library support. Indirect receipts, an estimated \$865,400 in 1977 out of approximately \$29,529,723 spent, are, however, a very small portion of the total spent on public libraries.

In spite of the difficulties of making comparisons, some 1977 statistical averages apply to most Minnesota libraries. Purchasing books and other materials requires about 16% of a library's budget with the statewide average being \$1.32 for each person receiving library materials. Although the largest part of a library's budget is spent on personnel — estimated at 67.5 percent — the statewide average is one library staff member for every 2,946 residents. Statistics on average salaries are difficult to provide. Since no state certification exists for librarians, persons with master's degrees in library science may hold the same title in one public library as others with high school diplomas in another. (See Figure 6 on pages 8-9 for statistical comparisons among library systems.)

Local Support

It must be noted that while the total 1977 receipts from local funding were \$25,442,987, municipal and county receipts from one regional system, MELSA, accounted for \$18,134,471. Although the statewide average of local funding is listed at 85 percent by OPLIC, local taxes supply slightly over 89 percent of MELSA's receipts. Other systems varied their percentage of local support in 1977 from 86 percent in Arrowhead to 48 percent in Kitchigami and Viking. (See Figure 7.)

FIGURE 5
COMPARISON OF
PER CAPITA STATE FUNDS FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE
Fiscal Year — 1976

1. Maryland	1.91	20. South Carolina	3.35
2. New York	1.47	21. Missouri	.31
3. Georgia	1.26	22. Connecticut	.26
4. West Virginia	1.15	23. Iowa	.24
5. New Jersey	1.04	24. Maine	.22
6. Illinois	.98	25. Florida	.21
7. Massachusetts	.83	26. Alabama	.18
8. Pennsylvania	.75	27. Kansas	.18
9. Wisconsin	.70	28. Texas	.18
10. North Carolina	.68	29. New Mexico	.14
11. Rhode Island	.67	30. Nebraska	.13
12. Colorado	.59	31. Arizona	.12
13. Mississippi	.55	32. Kentucky	.10
14. Minnesota	.52	33. Nevada	.10
15. Idaho	.50	34. Ohio	.06
16. Michigan	.50	35. California	.06
17. Tennessee	.44	36. Oklahoma	.05
18. Arkansas	.44	37. Alaska	.03
19. Virginia	.37		

No state aid to public libraries in the following states: Hawaii (the state operates all public libraries and all school libraries), Indiana, Louisiana, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wyoming. (state aid was enacted in 1977 in Oregon). Not reported—Delaware.

Source: Survey of the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies, available from OPLIC.

There are several reasons for this range in percentages. Some systems are adding counties to their service areas and require establishment grants (provided by state and federal funds). Some systems' service

state and federal aid would be reduced accordingly.

A city government may, according to state statute, levy in support of its public library. Counties may levy taxes for library support on taxable property not already taxed for that purpose. Thus, residents of a city supporting a library are not taxed twice for library service. There is no minimum rate of local support

required for the unaffiliated library not participating in a regional library system.

Minnesota counties budgeted an average of 1.7 percent of their expenditures for libraries in FY 1977; cities that budgeted for libraries spent an average of 1.5 percent of their funds on public libraries in FY 1977.³

State and Federal Sources

The funding requested from the state for public libraries is submitted as a line item in the Department of Education budget. The appropriation is authorized biennially by the state Legislature. Figure 8 describes the budget process for Minnesota's public libraries.

Agencies which attempt to influence the budget process include the Advisory Council to OPLIC, the Council of Public Library System Directors, which informally advises OPLIC, the Library Subcommittee of the State Board of Education and the Minnesota Library Association, which lobbies the Legislature.

Figure 9 shows state appropriations for public libraries since 1957.

After the appropriation is approved, OPLIC estimates the amount which will be received from the federal government. Federal funds are usually used for establishment grants, special mandated

FIGURE 4
COMPARISON OF FUNDING FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES
MINNESOTA AND UNITED STATES
1977

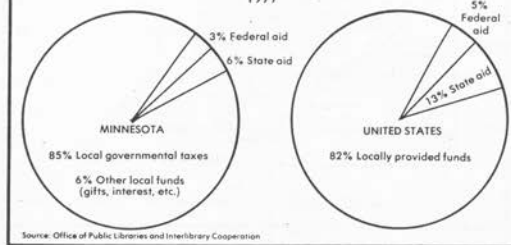
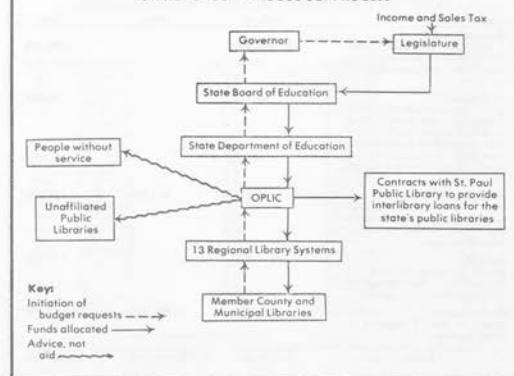


FIGURE 8
STATE FUNDS — THE BUDGET PROCESS



areas include Indian reservations, which are tax free lands. Lower assessed valuations of member counties may be still another; the same number of mills may raise less tax money in one county than in another.

All county libraries belonging to regional library systems must make a minimal local financial effort as stipulated by Chapter 546, Minnesota Laws 1978. Should one of the member counties fall below the required amounts, the system's

grants, as well as regional library basic system support. (See Figure 10.)

Any federal funds left over after the establishment, mandated, multi-regional and special grants are made are used for federal system support. OPLIC policy is that federal money should be used for one-time

costs or purchases and for services to the residents of Indian reservations, the institutionalized and the blind. Basic system support accounts for approximately three-fourths of all state and federal aid.

Statewide, 9 percent of library receipts (\$2,808,770) were supplied by the state and

federal governments in calendar (as opposed to fiscal) 1977. OPLIC allocates these funds by formula to the 13 regional systems which, by law, are the only public libraries eligible to receive state and federal funds.

The Present Formula

In June of 1973, the State Board of Education directed OPLIC to develop a formula for distribution of state aid to the regional systems. To assist OPLIC, the Advisory Council appointed a Formula Committee comprised of representatives from various types and sizes of public libraries. Since that time, several different committees have tackled the problem of distributing the state appropriations to the regional systems.

It is generally accepted that the population served is an important element, that some consideration should be given to the size of the area served and that an assessed valuation (of property) equalization factor is necessary. The problem is to determine how much weight to give each of the three elements and on what basis to calculate the equalization.

In the spring of 1977 an interim formula to determine distribution was adopted. Sixty percent of the available state aid monies are to be distributed so that each system receives an equal amount per capita; 15 percent of the available funds are to be distributed so that each system receives an equal amount per square mile of the land area it serves; remaining funds, 25 percent, are to be distributed to systems serving counties whose EARC adjusted property valuation per capita falls below the state average. Figure 11 shows the current distribution formula percentages.

A system's population is computed as a percentage of the total population of all the 13 systems. The MELSA system, serving 32 percent of the population according to the 1970 U.S. census, receives the greatest amount in this category.

The next factor is area. The square miles in each of the systems are calculated as a percentage of the total square miles of all the 13 systems. The Arrowhead Library System covers the most territory (26 percent of the area) and receives the greatest amount.

The equalization component of the formula consists of two parts. The first provides a set sum to each of the 13 systems in recognition of the standard costs all systems incur. In 1979 each system will receive \$35,000. What is left

after subtracting this initial amount is allocated to the libraries based on the inverse of the adjusted assessed valuation. In other words, those systems with lowest valuation per capita receive the greatest percentage of the remaining funds.

Systems may lose or gain state aid as population shifts and as the systems enlarge and valuation changes. However, through the use of a "hold harmless" clause (clause which prevents systems from receiving less funds than previous years), the Legislature has determined that no system would lose aid due to the valuation factor.

OPLIC and its advisory committee continue to work for the development of a formula for basic system support that will enable the 13 regional systems to meet the goals of the State Library Plan. Current discussions center on combining the population and area factors to develop one density factor.

PROBLEMS

Several factors influence the quality and amount of library services available in any given locality. The type of community (old, well-established vs. new, fast-growing), population density (urban vs. rural), transportation facilities, settlement patterns, proximity to educational institutions — all of these are factors. Another influence is the maturity of the system, which varies from less than a year for Western Plains to 19 years for East Central. Still, with all of these variations, library systems have one frequently cited problem in common — finances. Here are some of the reasons given for financial problems:

Increased Use — An ever-growing number of patrons are asking for more services and information. Circulation has risen steadily as libraries become more and more important as sources of information and recreation. In 1957 Minnesota libraries provided 2,214,025 people with 11,624,799 items for use. Twenty years later the number served had grown by one and a half million, and the items circulated had doubled to more than 23,000,000. As Figure 12 indicates, the per capita items circulated rose from 3.8 in 1957 to 6.51 in 1977.

Although there are almost twice as many volumes in Minnesota public libraries today as there were 20 years ago, (4,830,572 in 1957 and 8,487,814 in 1977), the volumes or materials available per capita have risen only from 1.91 to 2.33. This

small increase is due in part to the 70 percent increase in the number of library patrons; it can also be credited to the willingness of public libraries to share their resources for the more efficient use of available funds.

Inflation — Inflation has eroded the purchasing power of the funds available. During the past 10 years, the price of the

average book bought by a public library has more than doubled, from \$8.77 to more than \$18.03*. Twenty years ago Minnesota's public libraries used 90 percent of their materials budgets for book purchases. Today, OPLIC estimates that 75 percent of current materials budgets go for books and the rest for audio-visual materials which, in addition to costing more per item, require more space,

FIGURE 9
STATE APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES AND INTERLIBRARY COOPERATION

Legislative Session	Enacted for Fiscal Year	Amounts per year
1957	1958	\$ 150,000
	1959	250,000
1959	1960	125,000
	1961	125,000
1961	1962	125,000
	1963	125,000
1963	1964	175,000
	1965	200,000
1965	1966	200,000
	1967	200,000
1967	1968	475,000
	1969	400,000
1969	1970	450,000 + 35,000 IC*
	1971	500,000
1971	1972	450,000 + 45,000 IC*
	1973	500,000 + 45,000 IC*
1973	1974	1,571,590
	1975	1,571,590
1975	1976	1,885,979
	1977	1,971,729
1977	1978	2,150,000
	1979	2,150,000 + 400,000**

*Interlibrary Cooperation

**For basic system support. Release of the additional funds was contingent upon adoption of a new formula for distribution of state aid.

Source: Office of Public Libraries and Interlibrary Cooperation

FIGURE 10
GRANTS FOR LIBRARY SERVICES IN MINNESOTA ADMINISTERED BY OPLIC
Fiscal Year — 1977

Type of Grant	Federal	State	Total
Establishment 2 year grant for regional public libraries to extend library service to newly participating counties	\$ 306,488		\$306,488
Mandated grants for residents of Dept. of Corrections and Dept. of Welfare institutions, and for services provided for the blind and physically handicapped by the Depts. of Welfare and Education.	64,774		64,774
Multi-Regional Services grants for services for regional libraries, i.e., MINITEX and library services to Indians on reservations	53,272	\$71,336	124,608
Special grants to public libraries for innovative, developmental and experimental programs	111,750		111,750
Basic Support grants to the 13 regional library systems	557,399	1,900,393	2,457,792
Totals	\$1,093,683	\$1,971,729	\$3,065,412

FIGURE 11
PERCENTAGES USED FOR DISTRIBUTION OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS ACCORDING TO THE CURRENT FORMULA

SYSTEM	1970* population in system	System % of total population served	Sq. mi. of area served in system	% — total sq. mi. of all systems	% to be used for valuation component after deduction of each system's basic grant
Arrowhead	306,208	8.6078	17,416	26.0988	32.3
Crow River	76,559	2.1621	1,890	2.8323	0
East Central	83,894	2.3583	5,191	7.7791	4.4
Great River	206,787	5.8130	4,912	7.3609	13.0
Kitchigami	67,775	1.9052	5,046	7.5617	5.4
Lake Agassiz	112,016	3.1489	5,238	7.8494	1.9
MELSA	1,871,613	52.6128	2,819	4.2244	33.2
Northwest	50,156	1.4094	5,442	8.4548	0.9
Plum Creek	106,618	2.9971	4,177	6.2595	0.06
SELCO	341,922	9.6118	4,885	7.3204	7.3
Traverse des Sioux	208,744	5.8680	4,462	6.6865	0.2
Viking	93,206	2.6201	3,716	5.5686	1.31
Western Plains	31,855	.8955	1,337	2.0036	0.09
Totals	3,557,333	100.	66,731	100.	100.05

* OPLIC formulas for distribution must be complied with 1970 U.S. census figures for Minnesota.

With the coming of the 1980 census, changes are expected.

Source: OPLIC

FIGURE 12
MINNESOTA LIBRARY CIRCULATION STATISTICS 1957-1976*

Total circulation per yr.	Per Capita	People served	% of Total pop. served
1957 11,624,799	3.8	2,215,025	74.3%
1958 12,443,588	4.1	2,214,257	74.3%
1959 12,547,134	4.2	2,286,531	76.6%
1960 13,184,967	3.9	2,744,921	80.4%
1961 14,074,512	4.1	2,752,306	80.6%
1962 14,749,280	4.3	2,764,654	81%
1963 15,213,518	4.5	2,752,800	81%
1964 15,600,915	4.6	2,770,679	81%
1965 15,520,536	4.5	2,827,692	83%
1966 15,680,425	4.6	2,834,616	83%
1967 15,291,169	4.5	2,854,681	84%
1968 16,054,585	4.6	2,860,666	84%
1969 16,443,407	4.8	2,957,166**	87%
1970 17,351,492	4.56	3,367,404	89%
1971 18,600,999	4.89	3,394,047	89%
1972 18,011,962	5.00	3,407,198	89%
1973 19,821,128	5.20	3,447,530	91%
1974 21,158,064	5.56	3,478,865	91.5%
1975 22,220,247	5.83	3,550,214	93.3%
1976 22,461,661	5.90	3,615,871	95%
1977 23,687,162	6.51	3,632,094	96%

* All statistics from Minnesota Libraries annual statistical issue.

**Does not include previously unserved populations of Chicago, Kaseau, and Beltrami counties, where service did not begin until after federal funds were increased (32,627).

special handling, and a well-trained staff to process them. New forms of data recording, such as microfilm, and the explosion of books, periodicals, newspapers, pamphlets, etc., make classification, processing, storage and retrieval even more costly and time-consuming.

Inadequate Facilities — With more staff, more patrons, and more and dif-

ferent materials, some library buildings constructed at the turn of the century are overcrowded, inadequate to meet present-day library needs, and often inaccessible to an increasing segment of our population — the elderly and the handicapped. Of the 325 public libraries in Minnesota, only 148 were accessible to handicapped persons in 1977. A federal law requires public buildings to be accessible to the handicapped by June, 1980. Further, as the population shifts from rural to urban and from core-city to suburban ring, new library buildings may be required.

During the past 10 years, the price of the average book bought by a public library has more than doubled . . . the cost per square foot (for library construction) has escalated from a national average of \$29.79 in 1971 to \$50.56 six years later.

ferent materials, some library buildings constructed at the turn of the century are overcrowded, inadequate to meet present-day library needs, and often inaccessible to an increasing segment of our population — the elderly and the handicapped. Of the 325 public libraries in Minnesota, only 148 were accessible to handicapped persons in 1977. A federal law requires public buildings to be accessible to the handicapped by June, 1980. Further, as the population shifts from rural to urban and from core-city to suburban ring, new library buildings may be required.

However, money for construction or renovation of public libraries, formerly provided through federal funding under the LSCA, has not been available since 1973, when Congress failed to make appropriations for that portion of the Act. Thus, library building and remodeling efforts now have to be financed entirely by local governments. Since the cost per square foot for public libraries has escalated from a national average of \$29.79 in 1971 to \$50.56 six years later, municipalities have been slow to undertake building programs without state or federal aid. Fifty percent of the state's public libraries are located in communities under 10,000, and these towns are hesitant to undertake construction at such high cost.

Lack of Private Funding — Not since the Carnegie era has the private sector given more than limited financial support to public libraries, and what contributions there are have usually been earmarked for specific local libraries. Foundations do not

money can be counted upon in the foreseeable future.

Dependence on the Local Property Tax — Within Minnesota, individual municipality financial support for public libraries varied from 32 cents to over \$15 per capita in 1977. As stated earlier, in 1973 the Legislature repealed tax limitations on county levies for libraries but retained the levy limitation for city libraries. Governmental officials are attuned to their constituents' implicit or explicit concerns about tax levels. Trying to hold the line on property taxes has been a concern of both state and local officials in Minnesota for several years — a concern that may seem more immediate with the passage of California's Proposition 13. These real or subjectively determined funding limits, as well as inflation, have made it difficult for libraries to maintain previous levels of service.

Unequal Resources — With interlibrary cooperation, a local library card entitles the patron to information and materials without regard to city, county or regional boundaries. However, only a minimal local effort is required for a library to be eligible for state aid. As the law now stands, local contributions cannot decrease but need not keep pace either with inflation or with increased demands for costly services. While the newer systems face the problem of building up their collections, well-established libraries feel the effects of increased use while that is happening.

Public Attitudes — Because of the ease and flexibility that a regional system

makes possible, the local library patron may be unaware that the system exists and less likely to realize that public libraries are financed primarily by local property taxes. As Major Owen, a New York state legislator and librarian commented at the May, 1978, convention of the Minnesota Library Association, "While libraries have few outright enemies, they have lots of lukewarm friends."

ALTERNATIVE SOURCES FOR FUNDING

Current Efforts

Caught between increasing costs and increasing pressures to reduce their primary source of income — the local property tax — at a time when requests for service have escalated, public libraries have considered various ways to cut costs or augment incomes. Here are some of them:

Cutting Services — Some libraries have made changes in staffing, using fewer professionals and more non- (or para-) professionals. Others have reduced their

hours or have eliminated programs and special events. Still others have decreased budgets for purchases of equipment and materials (books, records, films, periodicals, etc.)

Using Volunteers — Some libraries are attempting to use volunteers in more areas of library operation. However, such an effort involves the use of staff time for planning, recruiting, and supervising.

Charging Fees — There is a trend from free to fee-based services. Some libraries charge fees for reserving library materials, for overdue materials, and for the use of films, tapes, recordings, and copy machines.

The idea of charging fees to businesses while continuing free services to individuals has been suggested as a response to requests for information that require extensive and time-consuming research. However, businesses pay taxes too and should be entitled to the same free services individuals receive. Although anyone requesting extensive service may

be asking for more than a "fair share" of available staff time and could be asked to pay for the extra service, it is difficult to determine what a "fair share" is, and, therefore, what service should be charged for and what should be free. Information is being generated at a rapid pace. While the importance of free public access to that information must be considered, another point to remember is that commercial enterprises, with their data banks and electronic memory devices, are also moving into the information field.

Sharing Resources — As an economy measure, Minnesota public libraries have been sharing resources for more than 20 years. Librarians have worked toward comprehensive listings of all serial publications in Minnesota. A film circuit has been providing copies of films to public libraries since 1956. Public libraries are linked through regional systems and have access to academic, institutional and special libraries through the MINITEX network. However, the efforts to explore the cooperative benefits of connection with public school libraries have not always been successful.

A Proposal for the Future

In its volume **ALTERNATIVES FOR FINANCING THE PUBLIC LIBRARY**, the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) recommends reshuffling the portions which the various levels of government provide to libraries to 20 percent federal funding, 50 percent state, and 30 percent local.

The proposed 20, 50, 30 formula is designed to reflect the degree of fiscal and administrative commitment NCLIS believes is required to achieve the quality of public library services commensurate with the needs of a modern society.

The NCLIS report's analysis of fiscal factors led them to support the following general conclusions:

"1. State and local expenditure for public libraries is extremely small relative to spending for other domestic services and has been growing more slowly than the state-local sector generally.

"2. Until its recent curtailment the Federal Library Services and Con-

FIGURE 6
LIBRARY SYSTEM STATISTICS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1977

Library System	1970 Population	Area in sq. mi.	Pop. Density per sq. mi.	Number of Libraries	STAFF (FTE)		Total Materials	Circulation	Circ. per cap.	Est. Inter-library Loans				Receipts				Operating Expenditures				Expenditures Per Capita
					Total	Prof.				Lent	Total	OPIC	MINITEX	City/County/Township	State/Fed	Other	Total	Personnel	Materials	Mat. Per Cap.	Total Oper. Expen.	
CONSOLIDATED REGIONAL LIBRARIES—Totals																						
Crow River Regional Library	76,559	1,890	40.5	13	27.7	3.9	189,975	420,647	5.4	25	1,805	1,651	146	222,496	105,452	31,362	359,310	735,825	64,446	84	351,638	4.59
East Central Regional Library	83,894	5,191	16.1	9	22.9	3.0	138,128	380,226	4.5	2,302	1,624	67	184,624	131,688	113,495	329,807	204,227	38,107	45	292,112	3.48	
Great River Regional Library	206,787	4,912	42.0	20	45.5	8.5	223,358	737,249	3.6	19	952	407	545	542,071	104,871	26,400	673,382	473,872	135,118	45	735,558	3.54
Kitchikami Regional Library	67,175	5,046	13.4	8	23.2	3.0	78,435	278,899	4.1	3,084	3,028	56	195,344	41,719	71,304	271,421	185,788	25,967	38	271,621	4.00	
Lake Agency Regional Library	112,616	5,238	21.3	11	30.1	5.0	213,345	579,150	5.2	78	1,326	1,089	34	379,879	166,303	39,802	585,984	381,839	108,700	97	574,995	5.13
Northwest Regional Library	50,136	5,642	8.8	7	17.2	1.0	96,198	242,495	4.8	700	2,407	1,852	555	113,241	94,817	6,246	214,324	134,347	40,828	81	219,945	4.20
Western Plains Library System	31,146	1,337	23.2	8	15.9	1.0	90,719	171,747	5.5	12	944	894	40	181,108	20,000	11,853	210,176	123,108	44,926	141	207,801	6.64
FEDERATED LIBRARY SYSTEMS—Totals																						
Arrowhead Library System	306,200	17,416	17.5	32	137.8	15.0	967,554	2,670,774	8.7	39	4,097	3,210	719	1,842,976	180,490	111,678	2,135,144	1,432,525	516,795	168	2,172,997	7.09
Metropolitan Library Service Agency	1,871,613	2,819	663.9	90	1,129.0	257.3	7,284,157	13,285,632	7.1	23,496	23,448	3,230	18,134,471	1,990,198	1,075,215	20,289,349	13,937,324	2,908,480	155	19,976,188	10.67	
Plain Creek Library System	94,040	4,177	22.5	16	37.6	4.5	237,402	509,556	5.4	10	2,030	802	790	461,386	106,241	56,435	624,262	330,631	118,253	125	585,970	6.23
Southwestern Libraries Cooperating	341,922	4,885	69.9	28	128.5	23.5	718,725	2,110,026	6.1	59	5,801	2,346	1,949	1,795,394	279,037	91,071	2,165,502	1,239,364	391,465	114	2,160,157	6.31
Twin Lakes Library System	208,744	4,462	46.7	39	103.7	16.2	529,788	1,345,765	6.4	6	2,269	1,491	778	843,338	206,847	150,424	1,161,379	783,784	232,581	111	1,245,923	6.06
Viking Library System	93,206	3,716	25.0	10	23.2	5.4	158,868	379,558	4.07					281,890	281,107	34,120	583,900	175,440	109,771	117	349,995	3.75
UNAFFILIATED LIBRARIES																						
	89,056			33	32.7	1.3	413,719	575,276	6.4	60	60			352,771		22,485	375,560	220,142	92,866	1.03	376,408	4.22
STATEWIDE TOTALS																						
On the basis of population served	6,633,102	66,731	54.8	325	1,775.0	350.8	11,339,371	23,687,162	6.5	24,444	50,525	18,454	9,539	25,440,989	2,808,770	1,740,950	29,979,860	19,850,296	4,827,413	132	29,529,728	8.13
Unshared	171,947																					
Total Population — 1970 Census	8,805,049																					
* Number reduced to 129,481 by 6/78																						
Number of Staffed Public Library Buildings:															325							
Number of Public Library Administrative Units:															146							
Number of Collections (Materials collections in jails, Nursing Homes, Hospitals, Fire Stations, etc.):															429							
Number of Bookmobiles:															41							
Number of Public Library Staff (Full-time equivalent) in Minnesota:															1,775							

* Number reduced to 129,481 by 4/78

Number of Staffed Public Library Buildings 325
Number of Public Library Administrative Units 146
Number of Staffed, Modern collections in State, Nursing Homes, Hospitals, Fire Stations, etc. 425
Number of Bookmobiles 41
Number of Public Library Staff (full-time equivalent) in Minnesota 1,775

struction Act (LSCA) has been financing about 7 percent of state-local library expenditure for public libraries.

"3. Notwithstanding a new Federal initiative under the so-called Library Partnership Act, there may be little likelihood that substantial Federal library aid will be forthcoming in the foreseeable future. Pressure should be maintained, however, to ensure that the Federal government retains responsibility for a fiscal role designed to further stimulate the states to increase their support for expanded local public library services.

"At the minimum, the Federal government should provide funds for research and demonstration grants for innovative projects, the expansion of the interlibrary cooperation program, and the expansion of data gathering and research functions.

"4. LSCA has been instrumental in encouraging some growth in state government participation in library financing, but the level of fiscal response in most states is inadequate.

"5. Library financing, then, falls almost entirely on the local level and therefore is subject to the exigencies of increasing local fiscal problems and financing disparities.

"6. State governments have been moving toward a more productive and economy-sensitive revenue structure.

"7. With few exceptions, states have the fiscal capacity to pick up any slack resulting from curtailment of Federal library aid and, indeed, to increase their participation in library financing.

"8. A substantial shift in library financing from the local to the state

structure for the financing and delivery of library services. Steps should be taken to develop means for areawide financing.

The proposed 20, 50, 30 formula is designed to reflect the degree of fiscal and administrative commitment NCLIS believes is required to achieve the quality of public library services commensurate with the needs of a modern society.

Organizationally, the library functions should be brought into the mainstream of the local political structure."

NCLIS' formula is not a rigid one and could be implemented in stages over a period of time. The authors recognize that the plan may be visionary, that "it is intended, however, as a broad outline representative of the key features of an alternative funding system which accords with the scope, content and quality of the public library program envisioned in this report."

On April 12, 1975, the State Board of Education approved the following policy for determining state funding for public libraries:

"That the State Board of Education include in its 1977 (and subsequent) legislative programs appropriate steps to bring the state's share of funding of public library service to the same level as the state's

pressure," taking into account a state's current fiscal effort and the trend of that effort over time. Minnesota is in the "high and rising" group, ranking sixth from the

top, which indicates that, compared to other states, Minnesota taxpayers are already high on the index in paying for their own needs. However, Figure 5, which ranked states according to the amount each one provides out of state funds for support of public libraries, puts Minnesota fourteenth at 52 cents per capita. Thus, while the state has mandated the expansion of library services, the financial burden falls on the local property tax—which the state also limits.

What should the various levels of government pay to support the expanding network of public libraries? This publication has included a brief history of public libraries in Minnesota and a discussion of present library services and funding. Now the pros and cons of any changed funding pattern and its attendant effects must be explored, by both citizens and the Legislature.



"While libraries have few outright enemies, they have lots of lukewarm friends."

level (at least 50 percent of the non-Federal cost) would raise the general level of library expenditures and at the same time help eliminate interlocal disparities in the provision of library services.

"9. At the local level there is a need to strengthen the organizational

share of the funding of the public elementary and secondary education system." This would approximate the percentage suggested by NCLIS.

A study by the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations⁷ measured states according to their "fiscal bond

DEFINITION OF TERMS

BASIC SYSTEMS SERVICES: Services offered by all regional public libraries

communication Exchange. A program in which academic, public, governmental, and institutional libraries in Minnesota and neighboring states share

provides free access to all residents of a city or county without discrimination and receives at least half of its financial support from public funds.

RECIPROCAL BORROWING: System-wide borrowing rights for library users and/or system-to-system arrangements.

REFERENCE BACK-UP: A system whereby a properly trained staff person (generally in a large library) can find the answer to a patron's question, wherever it may be.

REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM: A multi-county public library service agency that provides free access to all residents of the region without discrimination. Can be federated or consolidated.

STATE AID: Money for libraries in the biennial legislative appropriation to the Minnesota Department of Education.

UNAFFILIATED LIBRARIES: Public libraries in small cities (all except four are in cities of under 4,000 population) which have not yet agreed to participate in a regional library system.

The State Board of Education approved including in its legislative programs "appropriate steps to bring the state's share of funding of public library service to the same level as the state's share of the funding of the public elementary and secondary education system."

either directly or by contract. These services include, but are not limited to, communication among participants, resource sharing, delivery of materials, reciprocal borrowing and cooperative reference service.

CONSOLIDATED REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM: A regional system in which member libraries operate under a single board and a central administration.

EARC: The acronym for "Equalization Aid Review Committee," made up of the Commissioners of the Departments of Education, Revenue and Administration. Created by the Legislature to determine annually "adjusted valuations" which reflect more accurately true valuation of property for use in determining levels of local support for school districts.

FEDERATED REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM: A regional system in which individual libraries contract for cooperative services and retain considerable local autonomy.

LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES: Includes both municipal and county taxes. (Counties may levy taxes for library support on taxable property not already taxed for that purpose. A municipality which maintains a public library is exempted from the county levy. A county board may contract with a city library to make services available to unserved county residents.)

LSCA: Library Service and Construction Act. Federal law enacted to assist the states in the extension and improvement of public library services, to provide funds for library construction, to strengthen state library administrative agencies, and to promote interlibrary cooperation among all types of libraries.

MINITEX: Minnesota Interlibrary Tele-

resources, cooperatively catalog material and access materials.

NETWORK: Two or more library systems engaged in a common pattern of information exchange using new technologies, e.g., computers, teletypewriters, data banks.

OPLIC: Office of Public Libraries and Interlibrary Cooperation, the unit of the Minnesota Department of Education concerned with public libraries.

PUBLIC LIBRARY: Any library that

Compared to other states, Minnesota taxpayers are high on the index in paying for their own needs. However, Figure 5 put Minnesota fourteenth (among states) at 52 cents per capita. Thus, while the state has mandated the expansion of library services, the financial burden falls on the local property tax—which the state also limits.

FOOTNOTES

- "Minnesota Long Range Plan for Library Service." MINNESOTA LIBRARIES, Winter, 1976-77.
- Ibid.
- "Report of the State Auditor of Minnesota on the Revenues, Expenditures and Debts of Local Governments in Minnesota for fiscal year July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1977." June, 1978, pp. 22 and 50.
- BOWKER ANNUAL OF LIBRARY AND BOOK TRADE INFORMATION, New York: Bowker 1977, p. 335 & PUBLISHERS' WEEKLY, February 20, 1978, p. 69.
- ALTERNATIVES FOR FINANCING THE PUBLIC LIBRARY, NCLIS, U.S. Government Printing Office, Stock Number 5203-00044, May, 1974.
- Ibid.
- "Minnesota Long Range Plan for Library Service," op cit, quoted in IMPROVING STATE AID TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES, prepared for the Urban Libraries Council by Government Studies and Systems, Inc. Philadelphia, 1977, p. 46.

Unless noted otherwise, all statistics have been provided by the Office of Public Libraries, 301 Hanover Building, 480 Cedar, St. Paul, Minnesota.

DOCUMENTATION AND RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY

The following can be obtained from your local or regional library.

1. Your regional library's annual report.
2. Your regional library's long range plan.

3. **MINNESOTA PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEES HANDBOOK.** Office of Public Libraries and Interlibrary Cooperation, Department of Education, 301 Hanover Building, St. Paul, MN 55101, 1977.

4. "Public Library Goals," **MINNESOTA LIBRARIES.** Autumn, 1976, pp. 67-74.

5. "Minnesota Long Range Plan for Library Service, 1977," **MINNESOTA LIBRARIES.** Winter, 1976-77, pp. 101-126.

6. "Minnesota Public Library Statistics, 1976," **MINNESOTA LIBRARIES.** Spring, 1977, pp. 131-157.

7. **ANNUAL REPORT 1975-76.** National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, US Government Printing Office, Stock No. 052-003-00324-4.

8. **IMPROVING STATE AID TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES.** National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, US Government Printing Office, Stock No. 052-003-00325-2.

9. **ALTERNATIVES FOR FINANCING THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.** National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, 1974, US Government Printing Office, Stock No. 52-03-00044.

10. "A Strategy for Improving State Fiscal Support for Public Libraries, Conclusions and Recommendations," **IMPROVING STATE AID TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES.** Government Studies and Systems, Inc., 3401 Market St., Philadelphia, PA 19107, January, 1977.

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LIBRARY STUDY COMMITTEE GUIDE

August 1978

Introduction

The "Funding of Public Libraries in Minnesota" study was chosen by the LWVMN delegates who attended the 1977 LWVMN state Convention. The choice reflected the concern of some members with the issues of adequate funding for libraries and appropriate level of government to provide those funds.

While the Financing State Government study, completed in 1977, addressed many areas of state and local services in the state, it did not specifically refer to libraries, because of the relatively small percentage of state funds designated to libraries and because of the complexity of the library-funding process. The two studies, however, are interrelated.

Thus, this study attempts to answer questions about the present public library funding levels and processes in Minnesota and to solicit LWVMN member response and direction as to the future on:

- the amount of funding for public libraries
- the appropriate level of government to provide funding
- the goals associated with providing adequate library service in Minnesota.

Study Material

The "Funding of Public Libraries in Minnesota" study material is being printed in the July-August issue of the Minnesota VOTER. Every member who is on the mailing list as of August 25 will receive a copy. Through your local League bulletin, remind your members to read the material before they come to the meeting. You might also want to print the consensus questions in your bulletin so your members have time to think about them and come to unit meetings prepared to discuss and answer those questions.

Fall Workshops

A section of the Fall Workshops (being held Sept. 26 in Bemidji; Sept. 28, Rochester; Sept. 30, Edina; Oct. 3, Anoka; and Oct. 5, Worthington) will focus on libraries. There will be a slide program, tips on how to present the study and additional information on how to do the consensus.

Resources

At the end of the study there is a section on "Documentation and Resources for Additional Study" which can be obtained from your local or regional library. Not all libraries may have all the listed materials, but they will try to get the information for you via interlibrary borrowing.

You might try to get a report from one of the delegates or observers to the Governors Pre-White House Conference on Libraries. The Minnesota Conference is scheduled for Sept. 10-12 in the Twin Cities. An announcement about the conference is attached; as you will note, anyone may observe so you or one of your committee

may wish to attend. Perhaps one of your members or a local official attended one of the "Speak Outs" which were held around the state prior to the actual conference. Those people may also be a good resource for you to tap.

We would suggest you reread and have available the Financing State Government position found in PROGRAM FOR ACTION (p. 20-21, a copy of which is attached). Your members should be asked to review League ACTS (tear-off page of the Jan.-Feb. 1978 Minnesota VOTER) and the recent Financing State Government position found in the Sept.-Oct. Minnesota VOTER (p. 3, right hand column).

Bring the information closer to home

To give the study a "closer-to-home-perspective" you may want to provide information about your local scene. The information on library funding contained in the VOTER should be adequate background for members to answer the consensus questions. However, any additional local information you gather will increase member background as well as make for a more interesting presentation. The following are some ideas which we hope will generate more ideas on your part.

1. Does your community have a library? If you are an area League, do all members have access to library services and by what means?
2. What is your library's history? Is it an outgrowth of a Carnegie matching grant or a WPA project?
3. Is your library part of one of the 13 regional systems? Which type - consolidated or federated? Who is your representative to the regional system? Is it an appointed or elected position? If appointed, who makes the appointment and how are potential appointees nominated?
4. What is the amount and type (property tax, taconite tax, revenue sharing funds) of local support? What is the amount of state and federal support? Who decides the amount to be allocated to your library? On what basis is that decision made?
5. What is your library's total budget? What kinds and how many books and materials are in your library? What proportion of the money is spent on books vs audio-visual kinds of material? What is your staff to patron, staff to citizen ratio?
6. Has your local library made any cutbacks in staff or services? If so, what and why?
7. You may want to do a random poll of your community to find out how many people patronize your library, what types of library services they use, and if they know how the library is funded.

If you've recently done a local study on libraries, you may want to dovetail that local study with the state one.

Presenting the topic

The number and type of meetings you have to complete the consensus depends on your League calendar. You may have a general meeting to provide information followed by a unit meeting for consensus, or you may just have a unit meeting for discussion and consensus.

If you decide to have a general meeting remember to invite your community to attend. They have a stake in libraries too. You may want to have a panel consisting of your local librarian, a city or county official who makes the financial allocation decision, a heavy user of library services who wants more spent on libraries and a non-user who may think libraries shouldn't be supported by tax dollars.

If you have a unit meeting presentation and consensus you may want to prepare a short outline for the discussion leaders to follow. Remind the leaders that every member has the material and should have read it before the meeting, so it is not necessary to read the material to the attendees. Highlight those areas you want them to be aware of and the local information you believe pertinent, e.g. local taxes for libraries, your library's budget, any cutbacks which may have been made. You might want to put those on graphs or charts which can be circulated from unit to unit.

And now to consensus

Read through all the questions (or refer your members to your local bulletin where the questions are printed). The questions may be answered in any order.

- I. a. See the A Brief History section.
 - b. We are asking you to rank the four goals identified in the Minnesota Long Range Plan for Library Service because of the possibility that funds may not be available for all the library needs people would like to see met.
- II. Information for this question appears in the "Funding Comparisons" of the Current Funding section and Chart 1. The dictionary defines equitable as "just and right; fair; reasonable."
- III. The background for this question is in the "A Proposal for the Future" portion of the Alternatives section of the study. Refer also to the Financing State Government position statement and details on pages 20-21 of PROGRAM FOR ACTION. Is a library a "local service" or one of "broader than local significance"?
- IV. "The Present Formula" portion of the Current Funding section of the study materials provides the background for this question. It's all right if the answers to this are just people's opinions and judgments.
- V. Here again we refer you to the Financing State Government positions and details and the interrelationships of that to this study. We also call your attention to paragraph 3 of the introduction to this Guide. The answers to this question and to question III will be added to the Financing State Government position and cross-referenced to a library position statement.

Two copies of the consensus questions are attached. Keep one copy for your files and return one copy to the state office by December 15.

Good luck and have fun.

FINANCING STATE GOVERNMENT

LWVMN Position — Support of a flexible Minnesota multi-tax system with emphasis on maintaining state services through a combination of spending cuts and increased taxation when state funds are short and decreased taxation when there is a budget surplus. Support of using the Minnesota individual income tax as the elastic tax, making rates more progressive when increasing state revenue and lowering rates for all income levels when decreasing state revenue. Support of state relief for property taxes. Support of property tax reform. Support of setting priorities in allocating state funds. Support of state aids to local governments, especially to local school districts and to the local governmental unit that provides the major portion of local services (county and/or city). Support of more efficient state administrative and legislative expenditures.

Details:

- Support for property tax reform through equitable assessments, fewer classifications, and more restrictive criteria for determining exemptions. LWVMN also advocates less dependence on the property tax as a source of revenue. (1967)
- Support for equitable assessments by professionally trained, adequately paid assessors with districts large enough to warrant their full-time employment. Periodic reappraisals should be mandatory. The state should be responsible for achieving uniform standards for assessment and should assess industrial property. There should be fewer classes of property for taxing purposes. (1967)
- The criteria for determining property tax exemption should be more restrictive. Property that is profit-making or in competition with private taxpaying enterprises should be taxed regardless of ownership. There should be periodic reconsideration of each exemption, and owners of exempt property should pay enough taxes, or a charge in lieu of taxes, to cover the costs of local services. Tax exemptions as socio-economic incentives should be used sparingly and for a limited time in each case. (1967)
- Dependence on the property tax should be diminished because it does not necessarily reflect ability to pay and equitable administration is difficult. Local services such as police and fire protection, streets, parks, and sewers are the services most appropriately financed by the property tax. Services of broader than local significance such as welfare are less appropriately financed by the property tax. Education is appropriately financed partly by the property tax and partly by revenue from other sources. (1967)
- When taxation is increased to provide additional revenue, LWVMN:
 - supports retaining exemptions to the **sales tax**; supports sales tax increases on cigarettes and tobacco and alcoholic beverages; does not agree on a general raise in sales tax rates.
 - supports more progressive **individual income tax** rates with exemptions retained at 1977 level; supports retaining deductibility of federal income taxes as a feature of the Minnesota income tax; opposes an across-the-board increase in income tax rates.
 - supports retaining the Minnesota **corporate excise tax** with no increase in rate; does not agree on changing the corporate tax to a progressive rate.
 - supports retaining the homestead credit and senior citizen freeze credit as forms of state relief for **property taxes**; supports retaining the income-adjusted homestead credit (circuit breaker). (1977)
- When measures are taken to decrease taxation, LWVMN:

- supports retaining the 4% Minnesota **sales tax** with no increase in exemptions.
- supports a decrease in **individual income tax** rates; opposes an increase in individual income tax exemptions; opposes a general tax refund.
- supports an increase in the homestead credit as a form of state relief for **property taxes**.
- does not agree on decreasing the **corporate excise tax** rate.
- does not agree on providing an increase in the income-adjusted homestead credit (circuit breaker).
- When cuts in state spending are necessary, LWVMN:
 - supports cuts in spending for general state government, governor and related agencies, and the legislative branch.
 - opposes cuts in state aid to local governments, especially local school districts.
 - opposes cuts in state spending for natural resources, corrections, higher education and agriculture. (1977)
- When increases in state spending are proposed, LWVMN supports setting priorities for state spending rather than a percentage increase in all areas of state funding. LWVMN:
 - supports an increase in state aids to local school districts.
 - opposes increases in spending for general state government, governor and related agencies, and the legislative branch; opposes increases in spending for public retirement benefits.
 - supports increases for mass transportation of benefit to the entire state. (1977)

HISTORY OF STATE ACTION

Since the mid '50s, LWVMN has studied financing of state and local governments. Early studies focused on the property tax, resulting in LWVMN support for property tax reform. In 1969 LWVMN lobbied successfully for legislation permitting counties to establish county assessor systems; all assessors must be professionally accredited. A constitutional amendment passed in 1970 allows the Legislature to restrict the amount of tax-exempt property and to eliminate many inequitable situations. In keeping with its Education Position, LWVMN supported a shift in 1971 away from the property tax and toward greater state funding of education. In 1975 the Legislature passed bills providing for income-adjusted property tax relief in addition to the homestead credit, and increased limitations on assessed valuation. The 1977 Legislature continued the trend toward less reliance on the property tax by reducing the assessment ratio on urban and rural homesteads and increasing the income-adjusted property tax credit. The 1975 LWVMN Convention again adopted financing state government as a study, in an attempt to expand the position beyond the property tax issue. The study included sources and distribution of state revenue and led to the present expanded position.

SUGGESTIONS FOR LOCAL ACTION

Citizen Rights: Local League members may observe the voter registration processes and should be alert for voting rights violations. They may check to see whether candidates and volunteer committees file campaign expenditure reports, whether polling places are conveniently located, and whether school elections function properly. They may monitor local governing bodies to make sure they are complying with the Open Meeting Law.

Organization of Government: Members may write their legislators in response to Times for Action on legislative and executive reforms. They may also check to see whether local governmental districts, wards, precincts, etc., have equal population according to the 1970 census.

Financing State Government: Local Leagues may contact their legislators in response to Times for Action on taxation and appropriation legislation. They may use the slide show prepared by LWVMN to educate their communities on state financing.

Funding of Public Libraries in Minnesota

Consensus Questions

RETURN ONE COPY to the state office by December 15, 1978

LWV of _____

Total number of members _____ number of members participating _____

- I. a. Consistent with state and federal laws, the Minnesota Long Range Plan for Library Services has established long range goals for public libraries which include making service accessible to all citizens, establishing libraries in areas without them, developing multi-regional library systems, and fostering a system of shared resources.

Do you agree _____ disagree _____ with those goals?

Comment:

- b. Please rank these goals in order of importance (1-highest rank; 4-lowest)
- | | |
|--|-------|
| making service accessible to all citizens | _____ |
| establishing libraries in areas without them | _____ |
| developing multi-regional library systems | _____ |
| fostering a system of shared resources | _____ |

- II. At present, library services in Minnesota are financed 85% by local governmental funds, 6% by other local funds, 6% by state funds and 3% by federal funds. The state share averages 52¢ per capita. Do you think that ratio is equitable _____ or not equitable _____?

Comment:

- III. The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science recommends that the proportions be changed to 20% federal money, 50% state money, and 30% local money.

Do you think that is	<u>too little</u>	<u>too much</u>	<u>about right</u>
20% federal	_____	_____	_____
50% state	_____	_____	_____
30% local	_____	_____	_____

Comment:

- IV. The state distributes state and federal funds to library systems according to a formula that is based 60% on population, 15% on area, and 25% on the inverse of assessed adjusted valuation.

Do you think that is	<u>too little</u>	<u>too much</u>	<u>about right</u>
60% population	_____	_____	_____
15% area	_____	_____	_____
25% valuation	_____	_____	_____

Comment: _____

- V. a. Do you think funding for Minnesota public libraries should:
be increased _____, stay the same (assuming increases for inflation) _____,
be decreased _____.

- b. Which of the following would you support?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
1. cutting services and/or hours	_____	_____
2. using volunteers	_____	_____
3. charging fees for more services	_____	_____
4. sharing resources	_____	_____
5. other (explain)	_____	_____

Name of person submitting report _____

The League of Women Voters of _____ Board approved the
above consensus at its meeting of _____
(date)

President

- 5:30 p.m. RECEPTION. Exhibits open
 8:00 p.m. BANQUET. Speaker: Harrison Salisbury "The Real Freedom — the Freedom to Know"
 9:00 p.m. EXHIBITS OPEN

* * * *

TUESDAY, September 12, 1978

- 7:00 a.m. BUFFET BREAKFAST. Exhibits open
 8:30 a.m. GROUP DISCUSSIONS and preparation of Conference resolutions
 9:45 a.m. FIFTH GENERAL SESSION
 Reports on Conference Resolutions
 Statements by candidates for National Delegates
 Noon LUNCHEON
 1:45 p.m. SIXTH GENERAL SESSION
 Consideration and voting of resolutions. Voting for delegates to the White House Conference.
 4:00 p.m. Conference Adjourns

* * * *

ALICE IHRIG

... chairs the American Library Association Committee on the White House Conference on Library and Information Services. She is editor of CORNERSTONES, the special ALA quarterly publication on the White House Conference and the various state and territorial conferences.

She is past president of the American Library Trustee Association and served as president of both the Oak Lawn (Illinois) library board of trustees and the board of the Suburban Library System of which Oak Lawn is a part.

She is one of the few library trustees who has been president of a state library association and is a long-time member of the League of Women Voters both on the state level (she was president of the Illinois LWV) and nationally.

FRANCES NAFTALIN

... is Minnesota's first member on the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS), named by President Carter last June. She is a graduate of the University of Minnesota (Phi Beta Kappa) and is currently president of the Minneapolis Library Board.

She served for 7 years as a member of the Statewide Advisory Council on Library Service, which formulated the goals and developed the means for better library and information services to Minnesota residents, as expressed in the Minnesota LONG RANGE PLAN.

* * * *

HARRISON SALISBURY

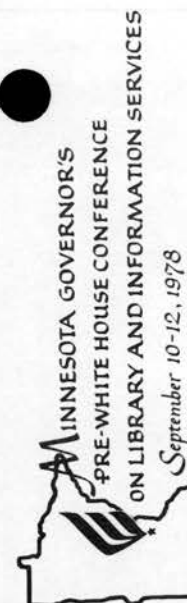
... was born in Minneapolis, graduated from the University of Minnesota and can safely be termed a "native son". For many years he was an editor and correspondent for the N.Y. TIMES, is widely recognized as historian, writer and television commentator.

He served as the TIMES' Moscow correspondent for many years and is a specialist in Soviet and Communist affairs. He has traveled widely, particularly in Communist China in recent years. Out of his travels, his work and his experience have come the books RUSSIA IN REVOLUTION (to be published in September 1978), a panoramic novel of Russian life THE GATES OF HELL (1975) and RUSSIA'S REVOLUTIONS 1905-1917 (1978).

He won the Pulitzer prize for his reporting from the Soviet Union and has been awarded numerous journalistic honors. He served for two years as president of the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, the honorary society of eminent writers, composers and artists.

* * * *

NOTE: U.S. Treasury regulation 1.162-5 allows an income tax deduction for education expenses (registration fees, travel, meals and lodging) undertaken to improve professional skills.



301 Hanover Building • 480 Cedar Street • St. Paul, MN 55101

YOU ARE URGENTLY INVITED...

HOW TO REGISTER

Complete the form below and mail it with your check to "Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information Services, 301 Hanover Building, 480 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55101 before September 1, 1978.

Registration fee is \$3 for the full Conference. This includes all background information materials relating to the Conference, and the "refreshment breaks" Monday and Tuesday.

Reservations for meal functions must be made in advance because seating space is limited. Prices include all taxes and service charges.

NOTE: Write directly to the Leamington Hotel, 3rd Avenue South at 10th Street, Mpls. 55404 before August 27 if you wish to reserve a room at the special reduced rate. Be sure to mention "Governor's Conference" to receive the reduced rates. (Single \$28 per night; Doubles/Twin \$32)

REGISTRATION FORM

Minnesota Governor's Pre-White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services
September 10-12, 1978, Minneapolis, MN

(Please type or print)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Employer or Organization _____

- ☐ \$3.00 Registration Fee
☐ \$9.00 Sunday Banquet & Entertainment
☐ \$4.25 Monday Buffet Breakfast
☐ \$6.25 Monday Luncheon
☐ \$9.00 Monday Banquet (Harrison Salisbury)
☐ \$4.25 Tuesday Buffet Breakfast
☐ \$7.00 Tuesday Luncheon

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ please register me for the events checked.

MINNESOTA GOVERNOR'S PRE-WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

September 10-12, 1978

Leamington Hotel, Minneapolis

* * * *

WHAT IS IT?

A "people's meeting" that will examine library and information services in Minnesota, look at future needs and develop programs to meet those needs.

WHO CAN ATTEND?

Everyone, and anyone who has an interest in library and information services, and who wants to see them improved and expanded. (See HOW TO REGISTER on last side of this folder)

WHAT WILL BE DONE?

Two hundred invited official delegates will discuss (with your help) various issues and concerns of state and national importance, and will prepare recommendations to go to the Governor, to the Legislature and to the President, by way of the White House Conference which will follow in November, 1979. Minnesota will send 10 delegates to that Conference.

Your registration as an observer entitles you to attend all meetings and exhibits, to take part in group discussions on various issues, to meet with delegates and other registrants at breakfast, lunch and dinner.

FOR MORE INFORMATION write or phone

Grieg Aspnes, Conference Coordinator
301 Hanover Building
480 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55101 Phone 612/296-2821

PROGRAM

SUNDAY, September 10, 1978

- Noon REGISTRATION
2:00 p.m. FIRST GENERAL SESSION and Orientation
4:00 p.m. SECOND GENERAL SESSION
Speakers: Alice Ihrig "The National Scene and Your Part In It"
Frances Naftalin "How Does Minnesota Stand? How Should We Stand?"
5:30 p.m. RECEPTION and Exhibits Open
7:00 p.m. BANQUET. Entertainment by members of the Minnesota Opera Company

* * * *

MONDAY, September 11, 1978

- 7:00 a.m. BUFFET BREAKFAST. Exhibits open
8:45 a.m. THIRD GENERAL SESSION
Greetings from Governor Perpich and Charge to the Conference
10:00 a.m. GROUP DISCUSSIONS on issues and concerns
12:30 p.m. LUNCHEON
1:45 p.m. GROUP DISCUSSIONS continued
4:00 p.m. FOURTH GENERAL SESSION
Reports and conclusions from group discussions

MEMO TO: Members of House/Senate Joint Subcommittee
on Libraries

FROM: Erica Buffington, Action Chair
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

RE: HF 811 and SF 509 -
Funding of Public Libraries in Minnesota

DATE: March 20, 1985

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization with a membership of 3100 volunteers organized into 64 local Leagues throughout the state. Through study and consensus the League has reached a position in support of increased and re-structured funding for public libraries.

We support the four goals of the Minnesota Long Range Plan for Library Service which are: 1) making services accessible to all citizens; 2) fostering a system of shared resources; 3) developing multi-county regional systems; and 4) establishing libraries in areas without them.

Based on our library position, we support HF 811 (SF 509) and urge this subcommittee to act favorably on this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.



MINNESOTA INFORMATION/LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE
BULLETIN

January 1983

Volume 2, Number 1

Coordinated by the Minnesota Library Association Legislative Committee
Editor: Emmett Davis, 1370 Wellesley Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105

MILL Day will begin at 8:30 A.M. February 16th, 1983, a wednesday, at the Minnesota Historical Society Building, Saint Paul, in the Weyerhaeuser Room.

This issue of the MILL Bulletin is intended to support your participation in Minnesota Information/Library Legislative Day.

Enclosed are position papers on a variety of library topics. These are for your information. If you have questions, I the editor can answer them before MILL Day at h 612-699-4367 or w 612-541-8572, or on MILL Day at the Historical Society Building.

The position papers are also for your legislators. An extremely effective means of using them is to recast them in your own words in a letter to your legislator to be sent prior to your meeting. Another effective manner is to enclose a copy as background information for your legislator, again prior to your meeting.

Remember that MILL Day is organized to provide you with an opportunity to fulfill your and your legislators' duty to exchange information on issues before the Legislature.

This Bulletin, MILL Day information sessions and mailings, and the lunch at the Minnesota Historical Society are to facilitate communication between citizens and the Legislature.

Please: Telephone ahead for appointments with your legislators.

STONESOUP

Libraries have used the tactics of the hungry soldiers passing through a village where no food was available. The soldiers offered to share with others a delightful dish, stonesoup, made with but one stone--and a pot of boiling water--and improved with potatoes, carrots, and other ingredients. Surprisingly even in tough times the community had the resources for an excellent soup.

We are in tough times. Financially we must garner resources from the State, the Federal Government, Local Government, Foundations, and citizens. Operationally we must share materials, networks, information, and time among the various members of our library community in Minnesota.

Fortunately we are good at this because we have been practicing for decades!

*This is past history - per
G. 4 ff*

2

MINNESOTA INFORMATION/LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE Day arrangements



Schedule:

Prior to MILL Day all participants should have contacted their legislators for an appointment for MILL Day and to invited them and their staff to lunch.

February 16th, 1983 is MILL Day

- 8:30 A.M. registration desk will open in the Weyerhaeuser Room in the Minnesota Historical Society, Saint Paul
- 9:00 information session updating registrants on latest legislative developments, including Governor's budget to be released February 15th.
- 9:30 information session by Harlan Christianson of the Minnesota House of Representatives Education Office on location of offices and facilities, general schedule of legislature that day, and other helpful information
- 10:00 While appointments are to be made when convenient to the legislator, this time will be free to provide for appointments
- 12:00 Bring the legislators and their staff back to the Weyerhaeuser Room for lunch served by the Stonesoup Caters.

Parking:

1. Visitor parking is available in the ramp behind the Centennial Office Building, south of the Historical Society Building.
2. A public ramp open last year south of Bethesda Hospital.
3. Sometimes parking lots "V" and "Q" are available on a two hour basis with a coin operated meter. These lots are east of Bethesda Hospital.
4. Free street parking is available in walking distance in the neighborhood north of Bethesda Hospital. Also in the neighborhoods west of the Capitol Area, along University Avenue is parking. University Avenue is served frequently by MTC bus service.

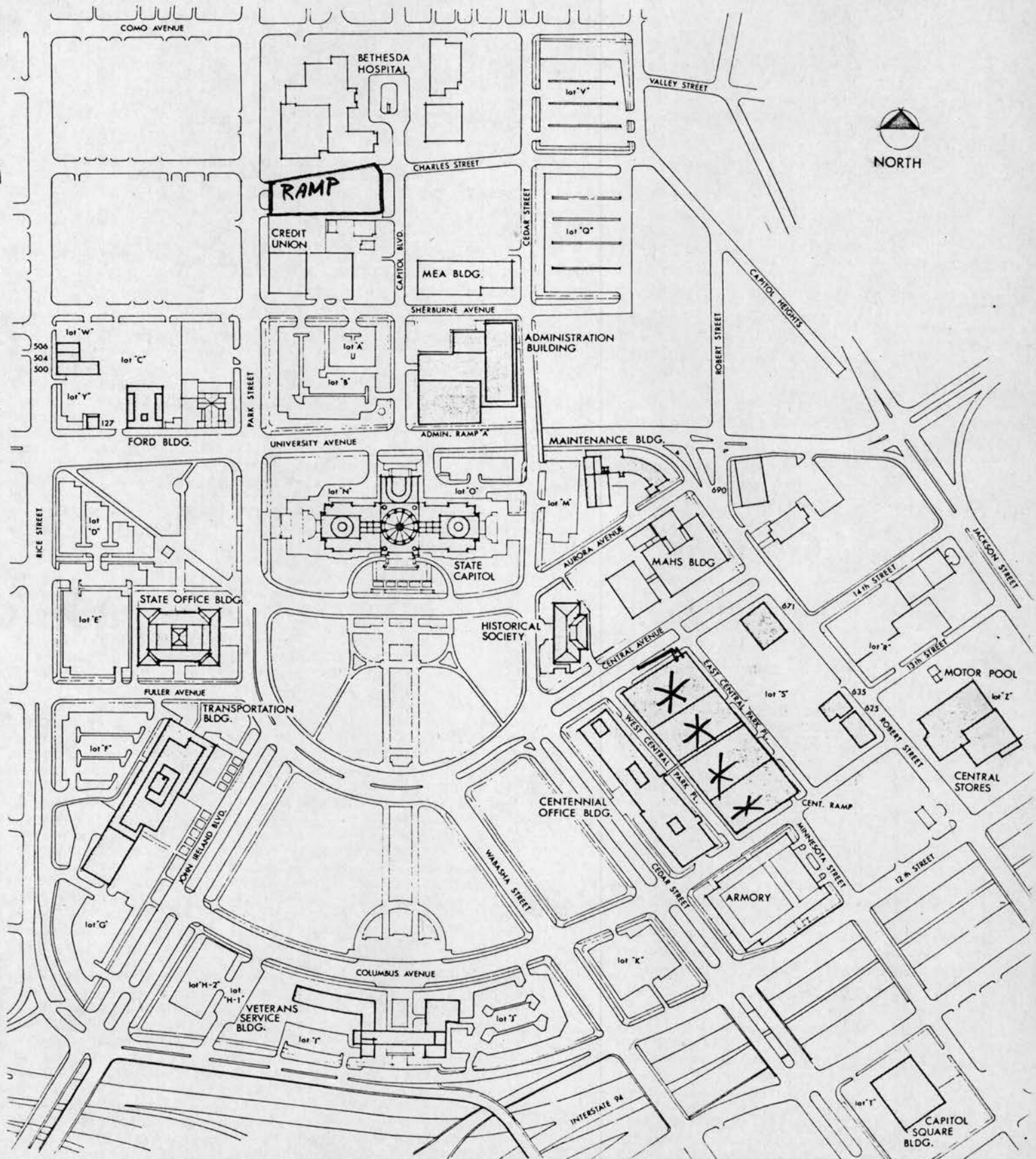
Throughout the day, coffee and information will be available in the Weyerhaeuser Room.

A tunnel system connects Centennial, Historical Society, Capitol, and State Office buildings.

For information call: Emmett Davis h 612-699-4367 w 612-541-8572

BUILDING LOCATIONS STATE CAPITOL COMPLEX

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT HANDICAPPED PARKING
AND ACCESS CALL 296-6401



* Enter Parking Ramp on Central Ave.



The Membership of the Minnesota Library Association adopted the following policies in 1983

MLA endorses the concept that the State has a major role in ensuring life long educational opportunities for its citizens and that libraries play a unique and essential role in providing access to education.

MLA supports state appropriations for public library services, for MINITEX, for multi-county/multi-type library cooperation, for PLANET, for ECOL, for library services in state supported institutions of higher education, and for school media services at the building and district levels at amounts sufficient to ensure quality library service for every Minnesotan.

MLA supports mandatory membership of each Minnesota county in a regional public library system.

MLA supports the development of cable television systems that provide for interconnection among cable service territories, public access channels, and for representation of library interests on local, regional, and state advisory groups.



Whereas intelligent decisions are based on information;

Whereas all segments of Minnesota life--business, humanities, government, education, and leisure--will only flourish when all citizens have equitable access to information and to the skills and services necessary to use the rich information resources of the State; and

Whereas legislative foresight alerts us all to long-range policy impacts and future options,

THE MINNESOTA COALITION FOR LIBRARIES reaffirms that:

- *The State has a major responsibility to ensure life-long educational opportunities for all its citizens;
- *Public libraries, school media centers, academic libraries, special libraries, and information services play a unique and essential role in providing equitable access to information;
- *Cooperative systems have increased the efficiency of all types of libraries;
- *Libraries, media centers, and information services exercise a critical role in the design and use of communication systems, especially those arising from new technologies; and
- *Citizen needs can only be met with continued investment in materials, trained staff, appropriate facilities and technology, and cooperative networks to ensure effective and equitable delivery of information resources and services to all in Minnesota.

The Minnesota Coalition for Libraries is a coalition of professional associations, organizations, and individuals concerned about the quality of information services that will be provided to Minnesota now and in the years to come.

Excerpt



Governor Perpich's State-of-the-State Address to the Legislature, January 1983

The state of our state is not good...

I believe that creation of jobs and expansion of employment rests on these broad principles:

*We must nurture the start-up and growth of small business, as the key to the economic and social revitalization of Minnesota.

*The economic health of our farm economy is vital.

*We already have the human, financial and technological resources to achieve this revitalization, but these resources are not being utilized to their utmost.

* The only practical way of tapping these resources is a genuine and broad-based public-private partnership that includes business, government, education, labor, agriculture, churches and all other segments of influence in our society. We must all head in the same direction.

*We need more than a quick-fix. We need improved productivity in the workplace. We need quality in education, particularly in languages, math, science and computers.

Libraries (public, school, academic, specialized, and governmental) are not only a major factor in the above program, but are themselves a sound and efficient factor.

Libraries provide for appropriate dissemination of information to

- large corporations,
- small businesses,
- labor,
- consumers, and many others.

Libraries disseminate that information (a most wonderful resource) in a way that allows others to use it also. With libraries open, information (the basis for real economic and social growth) is not only a renewable resource, it always accessible to all as they need it.

Minnesota libraries today provide this service in especially efficient ways. Years ago libraries in Minnesota in partnership with the State Government built cooperative programs that allow each library to maintain the advantages of independence while sharing materials, purchase of services (such as computer based catalog and circulation control systems), and even borrowing rights to those living outside a service area.

This is an abridgement of a 1983 report of the Minnesota Office of Public Libraries and Interlibrary Cooperation in the Department of Education



MINNESOTA PUBLIC LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

"The State shall, as an integral part of its responsibility for public education, support the provision of library service for every citizen and the development of cooperative programs for the sharing of resources and services among all libraries." Minnesota Statute 134.31.

The Minnesota library grant program (which is funded by both a state appropriation and Federal Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) money) strengthens library services available to 3,870,000 Minnesotans, constituting 95% of the state's population.

Sixteen counties remain which have no countywide library service. The population having no tax-supported public library service is 130,732 persons.

USE OF PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES

In periods of reduced personal income and increased unemployment, public library use has always increased. Such is the case now. Library staff report increased use of reference information, and increased use by persons seeking information on employment opportunities and on updating job skills or learning new job skills.

In 1981, Minnesotans borrowed 25,626,370 items from public libraries or an average of 6.5 items per capita. This reflects an increase of 5.2% over 1980. The total reflects only materials checked out of libraries and does not reflect use of materials in the library.

PUBLIC LIBRARY FINANCE

Public library service in Minnesota continues to be financed primarily from county and city funds. Public library receipts for operating purposes in 1981 totaled \$46,155,281, an increase of 9.5% over 1980. County and city funds, which account for 84% of the total, increased 11.4%. State and federal funds provided 10% of the total, and increased by 6%. The remaining 6% is miscellaneous income from sources such as grants, fines, gifts and interest.

Per capita receipts from local sources increased from \$8.92 in 1980 to \$9.83 in 1981. With some exceptions, local support tends to be highest in the seven county Twin Cities metropolitan area. Excluding these counties, average local support per capita in 1981 was \$5.87. Clearly there is a general need for increased financial support for Minnesota public libraries.



REVISION OF PUBLIC LIBRARY LAWS

A proposal has been drafted to revise provisions of Minnesota Statutes for public libraries. Changes are proposed to:

- (1) update, clarify and recodify existing statutory language for establishment and operation of city and county public libraries and regional public library systems;
- (2) repeal obsolete statutory provisions; and
- (3) strengthen the organization and operation of public libraries and public library systems by adding new sections.

Successive drafts were developed with involvement of the Public Library Division of the Minnesota Library Association, the Council of Regional Public Library System Administrators and the Advisory Council to the Office of Public Libraries and Interlibrary Cooperation. On November 9, 1982, the State Board of Education voted to send the proposal to the Governor's Office to be considered for possible inclusion in the Governor's legislative program.

Major changes proposed include:

- (1) Repealing the current 2.67 mill "cap" on city expenditures for public library services; the "cap" for county libraries was repealed nearly ten years ago.
- (2) Establishing the size of county library boards to be 5, 7 or 9 members, instead of the current provision for at least five members.
- (3) Limiting terms of service on city, county and regional public library system boards to three consecutive three year terms; there is no limit now.
- (4) Requiring that counties provide at least the minimum level of local support for public library services and that they participate in regional public library systems.
- (5) Establishing specific provisions on protection of library property; there are no specific provisions in statute now.

In many instances the proposed changes modify statutory provisions which have been in place for up to eighty years. Review and revision of the statutes would provide a stronger operating base for public library services.

This is an abridgement of a 1983 report of the Minnesota Office of Public Libraries and Interlibrary Cooperation in the Department of Education.



MINIMUM LEVELS OF LOCAL SUPPORT FOR

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

The 1978 Minnesota Legislature changed the method for determining minimum levels of local support for public library services from a mill rate on current assessed property valuation to minimum dollar amounts equivalent to .3 mill on the adjusted valuation from the second preceding year during the first year of a county's participation, and .4 mill on the adjusted valuation from the second preceding year during the second and subsequent years of a county's participation. A "cap" of 10% protects counties whose adjusted valuations increase more than 10% from one year to the next, or those counties which would have to increase support by more than 10% per year in order to shift from the method previously used to calculate minimums.

To meet the needs of those counties having high adjusted valuations and sparse populations, the 1979 Minnesota Legislature adjusted the minimum level of local support requirement. The adjustment allows the county to provide the amount of the adjusted valuation or a minimum per capita amount, whichever is less. The per capita amount was established at \$3.00 per capita for 1980, and is increased in subsequent years by one-half of the percentage increase of the state adjusted assessed valuation. For 1983, the minimum per capita amount is \$3.49.

From 1980 to 1982, in 63 of the 71 counties participating in the Minnesota Library Grant Program, assessed valuations increased more rapidly than support for public library services increased, and in 37 of the 71 participating counties the adjusted assessed valuation increased more rapidly than support for public library services increased. County support for public library service comes from a variety of sources other than the property tax, but it appears that in 63 Minnesota counties, when measured by the assessed valuation, financial support for libraries is a smaller share of a county's resources in 1982 than in 1980.

County Commissioners in several counties have indicated that they will seek to eliminate a minimum level of local support requirement. Interest appears strongest in several counties which are already supporting public library services below the minimum per capita or adjusted valuation amounts established in statute.

Staff of the Department of Education's Office of Public Libraries and Interlibrary Cooperation do not recommend eliminating or modifying the minimum level of local support requirement. The minimum level of local support ensures that public libraries will have a stable base of financial support. It assures more effective use of state appropriated funds by assuring that local government units will provide at least minimum funding in order to be eligible for services supported by state funds. Since the federal Library and Services and Construction Act establishes a maintenance of effort requirement, elimination of a state minimum level of local support could make library systems ineligible for federal funds.

This is an abridgement of a 1983 report of the Minnesota Office of Public Libraries and Interlibrary Cooperation in the Department of Education.



AREAS UNSERVED BY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS

Sixteen counties remain with no countywide public library service. Although there are city libraries in these counties, 130,732 persons who live in the rural areas and small towns have no access to public library services.

For more than forty years, Minnesota counties have been encouraged to levy a tax to support public library service countywide. With the passage of the Federal Library Services Act in 1956 and the appropriation by the 1957 Minnesota Legislature of matching funds for public library services, these efforts intensified. The 1960's and 1970's were periods of growth in library services, when the majority of Minnesota counties began taxing for public library services and participating in regional public library systems. Today 71 Minnesota counties have public library services countywide, but only one county, Pope County, has initiated public library service in the past three years. Regrettably, Yellow Medicine County ceased supporting public library service in 1981 and Lac qui Parle County announced its intention to do so on December 31, 1982. Unless the Lac qui Parle County Commissioners reverse this decision, the Western Plains Library System on July 1, 1983 will be serving only two counties, Chippewa and Big Stone, and will not meet the statutory requirements of three counties to be eligible for Regional Library Basic System Support Grants.

To ensure access to public library services for every Minnesotan, consideration should be given to mandating county financial support for public library services. Perhaps because of severe financial pressures and a lack of understanding of the benefits of public library services, county commissioners in Brown, Clearwater, Cottonwood, Dodge, Fillmore, Houston, Hubbard, Lincoln, Mahnomon, Pipestone, Renville, Swift, Traverse, and Wilkin Counties have not established countywide library services, and Yellow Medicine County discontinued service. The result is that citizens in small towns and rural areas in these counties have no access to public library services to meet their informational, educational, cultural and recreational needs.

While many county commissioners tend to take a dim view of state mandated programs, this may be the only available method to ensure access to information and service for persons residing in those sixteen counties now lacking services. Such action is not unprecedented. The state of Iowa mandates county tax support for public library services.

MINNESOTA COUNTY LAW LIBRARY PROGRAM



The 1982 Minnesota Legislature revised and consolidated statutes governing county law libraries. County law libraries must operate under this legislation by July 1, 1983. Provisions provided for:

- *regulation by a board of trustees,
- *permission to contract with regional library systems for services that cannot be provided by the State Law Library,
- *clarification of meaning of "suitable quarters" for the law library,
- *provision for collection of fees by courts to support the law library,
- *the State Law Librarian to be available to assist and advise the county law libraries.

Over the next few years, with the assistance of the Minnesota State Law Library, the county law libraries in Minnesota will develop and grow together into an organized system, becoming valuable resources for the courts, attorneys and citizens of rural Minnesota.

Assistance by the State Law Library to these libraries will include:

1. Continuation of on-site assistance to county law libraries when requested. The project director will continue to visit county law libraries and advise and assist them in any special matters relating to library planning and administration. Areas open to such assistance include, for example, acquisitions, security arrangements, acquiring and selling used law books, library equipment, manuals for library procedure and computer assisted legal research systems.
2. Arrangement and administration of cooperative programs that will benefit all county law libraries. The State Law Library will provide computer assisted cataloging for county law library collections and a union catalog of county law library and State Law Library holdings. This union catalog will form the basis of an interlibrary loan system between the state and county law libraries. The State Law Library will arrange discounts on law books through group purchasing programs. The State Law Library will provide computer assisted legal research that can be accessible through county law libraries.
3. Arrangement of workshops and training sessions for county law library personnel. Workshops are being planned on Minnesota legal research and resources and other topics.

COMPUTERS IN SCHOOLS



The year 1982 has been called the year of the computer. Computers are everywhere evident--in business, in government, in homes, in schools. In Governor Rudy Perpich's inaugural address, he stated that "our goal should be to graduate students...with fluency in the language of the computer. Schools must come into the computer age."

One state professional organization whose members are striving to implement this objective is the Minnesota Educational Media Organization (MEMO). MEMO has more than 900 members from throughout Minnesota representing library, audiovisual and media services in schools, universities and colleges, vocational-technical institutes, public libraries, multi-type library systems and commercial areas. The purpose of the organization is "to encourage the effective use of educational media in the teaching-learning process."

In May 1982, the MEMO Board of Directors adopted a position paper on computers to encourage media professionals in Media Centers/Libraries to take an active role in computer instruction in schools. A copy of this position paper is attached.

In essence, the position paper touts the importance of computer literacy as an essential skill for every person. Furthermore, it is felt that micro-computers, their peripherals, and their software are part of educational technology and as such should be treated like other components of educational technology in the school media program so that all users have access. Lastly, the media professional should be a leader in teaching others how to use computers, and provide information on what computers are, on computer programs and hardware, the capability of computers and future uses of computers.

Truly the computer age is here and since the purpose of education is to help students adapt to future life, we need to cooperatively work together so that students do graduate with fluency in the language of the computer.

Sandy Hustad
January 10, 1983



POSITION PAPER

The application of microcomputers in the classroom is no longer coming... It is here, and the implementation of microcomputers for instructional purposes should be an integral part of the total instructional system. Computer literacy is an essential skill for students, teachers, guidance counselors, media professionals and administrators alike. A computer literate person may be defined as one who knows what a computer is--and what it is not; why computers exist and how they influence peoples lives; how computers are being used; what computers do and what they cannot do.

It is the postion of the Minnesota Educational Media Organization that microcomputers, their peripherals, and their software are a part of educational technology and as such should be treated as any other component of educational technology in a school media program. It is understood that computers and their peripherals will be located in, maintained ny, and circulated from the media center in the same manner as 16mm projectors, video cassette recorders and other audiovisual equipment.

Computer software (programs on disks, tapes, or any other format) and the accompanying documentation will be housed in the media center and cataloged for retrieval by students, teachers, and administrators in the same manner as other audiovisual software.

The media professional will be computer literate, have an understanding of computer logic, and be able to demonstrate the use of the microcomputer to students, teachers, guidance counselors, and administrators as they now demonstrate the use of other audiovisual equipment.

Adopted by the MEMO Board of Directors in May, 1982

Minnesota Library Association

presents this

Certificate of Merit

to the

League of Women Voters of Minnesota

for their study during 1978
of the status and needs of library service and its funding
in the State of Minnesota.

May 18, 1979

Nancy B. Olson
President

PUBLIC LIBRARY FINANCING QUESTIONNAIRE

1. What is the name of the library facility that serves you?
2. Is it part of a regional library system? If so, which one?
3. If it is part of a regional system, how are the people put on its governing Board? Can you name them?
4. Are you served by a bookmobile; branch library; book deposit depot; mail-a-book; or other special outreach service?
5. How is your library financed?
Estimate percentages:
 - A. Local Taxes:
 - B. Federal/state grants to local government:
 - C. Federal/state grants to the library:
 - D. County taxes:
 - E. County contract with local library:
 - F. Federal/state grants and county support through regional or system contract:
 - G. Other (specify source or sources):
6. What hours is your library open:
7. Are there any days of the week when it is not?
8. How many people does your library serve?
9. Do you know what "OPLIC" is?
If so, do you know what state department it is within?

Which statements express your attitude toward your public library facility? Check all statements with which you agree and number them in order of priority. Remember, this is not consensus; you are participating in the research of this committee. If more than one person answers, make the appropriate number of checks -- or you may make additional copies.

1. It's a supply of recreational material
2. It's not much, but we can't fund anything better
3. An information and reference center
4. Help in solving problems, including referral to other sources
5. A research center

(Over)

Funding of Public Libraries in Minnesota

Consensus Questions

RETURN ONE COPY to the state office by December 15, 1978

LWV of _____

Total number of members _____ number of members participating _____

- I. a. Consistent with state and federal laws, the Minnesota Long Range Plan for Library Services has established long range goals for public libraries which include making service accessible to all citizens, establishing libraries in areas without them, developing multi-regional library systems, and fostering a system of shared resources.

Do you agree _____ disagree _____ with those goals?

Comment:

- b. Please rank these goals in order of importance (1-highest rank; 4-lowest)
- | | |
|--|-------|
| making service accessible to all citizens | _____ |
| establishing libraries in areas without them | _____ |
| developing multi-regional library systems | _____ |
| fostering a system of shared resources | _____ |

- II. At present, library services in Minnesota are financed 85% by local governmental funds, 6% by other local funds, 6% by state funds and 3% by federal funds. The state share averages 52¢ per capita. Do you think that ratio is equitable _____ or not equitable _____?

Comment:

- III. The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science recommends that the proportions be changed to 20% federal money, 50% state money, and 30% local money.

Do you think that is	<u>too little</u>	<u>too much</u>	<u>about right</u>
20% federal	_____	_____	_____
50% state	_____	_____	_____
30% local	_____	_____	_____

Comment:

IV. The state distributes state and federal funds to library systems according to a formula that is based 60% on population, 15% on area, and 25% on the inverse of assessed adjusted valuation.

Do you think that is	<u>too little</u>	<u>too much</u>	<u>about right</u>
60% population	_____	_____	_____
15% area	_____	_____	_____
25% valuation	_____	_____	_____
Comment:			

V. a. Do you think funding for Minnesota public libraries should:
be increased _____, stay the same (assuming increases for inflation) _____,
be decreased _____.

b. Which of the following would you support?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
1. cutting services and/or hours	_____	_____
2. using volunteers	_____	_____
3. charging fees for more services	_____	_____
4. sharing resources	_____	_____
5. other (explain)	_____	_____

Name of person submitting report _____

The League of Women Voters of _____ Board approved the
above consensus at its meeting of _____
(date)

President

6. A collection center for historical material
7. A cultural heritage
8. A prime adult education agency: the only one available to everyone
9. An auxiliary to our school system
10. A people's university
11. Nice, but I can get along without it. I buy my own books and magazines and watch TV
12. Oh, I don't know....I guess it's o.k. for those who use it
13. Special interest reading (please give examples)
14. They don't have what I want such as large print books and/or _____
15. I like to borrow pictures and films and records and cassettes
16. I use the reading room to keep up on magazines, papers, and such
17. We use the meeting room(s) once in a while
18. It's not much use. It's never open when I could use it.

(Any other comments?)

Please return to Katherine Muff, 723 Douglas, Eveleth, MN 55734



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102 • TELEPHONE (612) 224-5445

MASTER
86 Responses

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota (LWVMN) is pleased to have received grants (from the funders listed on the last page of the publication) enabling it to print this publication and disseminate the information to a large and varied audience.

A stipulation of the grants was that the LWVMN do a random sample survey to ascertain reader knowledge about libraries before and after reading the publication.

PLEASE complete this form, fold it so that the League's address shows, and mail to our office as soon as possible. You are one of a small select group, so it is extremely important that we receive your response.

Thank you very much.

86 returned

Please answer this portion BEFORE you read this FACTS AND ISSUES.

1. Public libraries in Minnesota are funded primarily by:

local government taxes.	True <u>76</u>	False <u>0</u>	Don't know <u>4</u>	no resp. <u>6</u> " " <u>34</u> " " <u>35</u>
state appropriations.	True <u>22</u>	False <u>26</u>	Don't know <u>5</u>	
the federal government.	True <u>12</u>	False <u>32</u>	Don't know <u>8</u>	

2. More than 95% of Minnesota's citizens have access to public libraries. True 50
False 28 Don't know 7 no resp. 1

3. Public libraries provide similar materials and services regardless of location.
True 25 False 55 Don't know 2 no resp. 4

4. Minnesota's regional library systems enable libraries to share resources.
True 83 False Don't know 2 no resp.

5. The Office of Public Libraries and Interlibrary Cooperation (OPLIC) is an independent state agency which receives a direct appropriation from the Legislature.
True 45 False 27 Don't know 13 no resp.

6. Minnesota, at 52¢, ranks 2nd 6 14th 42 22nd 26 38th 8 in the amount of state funds spent per capita for library service. no resp. 3 don't know 1

Please answer this portion AFTER reading this FACTS AND ISSUES.

1. At present, library services in Minnesota are financed 85% by local governmental funds, 6% by other local funds, 6% by state funds, and 3% by federal funds. Do you think that ratio should: remain the same? 18 be changed? 64 no response 4

2. Currently Minnesota's share of funding of public libraries averages 52¢ per capita. Do you think that funding should: remain the same (assuming increases for inflation)? 17 be decreased? 3 be increased? 64 no resp. 3

3. The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science recommends that library funding proportions be changed to 20% federal money, 50% state money, 30% local money. Do you think that is: about right too little too much

20% federal	<u>54</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>20</u>	no r. <u>6</u> " <u>6</u> " <u>6</u>
50% state	<u>49</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>25</u>	
30% local	<u>31</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>2</u>	

- 4.4 On the following scale, how useful did you find this publication?

Very Useful		Useful		Not Useful
1	2	3	4	5
<u>30</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>

(over please)

no response - 4

5. On the following scale, how impartial did you find the information?

Very Impartial

Biased

1

29

29 2

3

15

4

9

5

1

6. As a result of reading this publication, my knowledge of the funding of public libraries in Minnesota remains the same 13; has increased 73.

7. As a result of reading this publication, my attitude toward the funding of public libraries in Minnesota remains the same 47; has changed 38. *no resp. 1*

8. Use this space for any comments you wish to make.

20 comments here. - from excellent, fine job to comments about local vs. Federal & state funding.

For statistical purposes only, please complete the following:

a. I use library services: less than once a year 1; one to six times a year 6; once a month 9; more frequently 70.

b. I use the library primarily for books 74, audio-visual materials 16, research 37, information by phone 17, story hours 5, meetings 6, other (please specify) papers, maps, 1 set exhibits, books 13 and

c. Services provided by the library I most frequently use are adequate 28; good 34; poor 1. *n. r. 3*

d. The service hours of the library I most frequently use are adequate 65; inconvenient 1; too short 18; too long 17. *n r 2*

e. I am a male 17; female 66.

Age: under 18 0
18-45 46
46-65 34
66+ 5

Occupation: student 0, homemaker 17, teacher 7, skilled tradesperson 1, sales 0, service 3, manager 3, professional 7, governmental official 2, library professional 41, other 1 Farmer

Thank you very much for completing this survey. Your cooperation enables the LWVMN to satisfy all conditions of the grants which made it possible for you to receive this publication.

Helene Borg
Helene Borg, President

Harriett Herb
Harriett Herb, Executive Director

Fold so that the LWVMN address shows, staple or tape, and mail.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA
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ST. PAUL, MN 55102





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

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Thank you very much.

Please answer this portion BEFORE you read this FACTS AND ISSUES.

1. Public libraries in Minnesota are funded primarily by:

local government taxes.	True	False	Don't know
state appropriations.	True	False	Don't know
the federal government.	True	False	Don't know

2. More than 95% of Minnesota's citizens have access to public libraries. True _____
False _____ Don't know _____

3. Public libraries provide similar materials and services regardless of location.
True _____ False _____ Don't know _____

4. Minnesota's regional library systems enable libraries to share resources.
True _____ False _____ Don't know _____

5. The Office of Public Libraries and Interlibrary Cooperation (OPLIC) is an independent state agency which receives a direct appropriation from the Legislature.
True _____ False _____ Don't know _____

6. Minnesota, at 52¢, ranks 2nd _____ 14th _____ 22nd _____ 38th _____ in the amount of state funds spent per capita for library service.

Please answer this portion AFTER reading this FACTS AND ISSUES.

1. At present, library services in Minnesota are financed 85% by local governmental funds, 6% by other local funds, 6% by state funds, and 3% by federal funds. Do you think that ratio should: remain the same? _____ be changed? _____

2. Currently Minnesota's share of funding of public libraries averages 52¢ per capita. Do you think that funding should: remain the same (assuming increases for inflation)? _____ be decreased? _____ be increased? _____

3. The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science recommends that library funding proportions be changed to 20% federal money, 50% state money, 30% local money. Do you think that is: about right too little too much
- | | | | |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|
| 20% federal | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 50% state | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 30% local | _____ | _____ | _____ |

4. On the following scale, how useful did you find this publication?

Very Useful		Useful		Not Useful
1	2	3	4	5

(over please)

5. On the following scale, how impartial did you find the information?

Very Impartial

Biased

1

2

3

4

5

6. As a result of reading this publication, my knowledge of the funding of public libraries in Minnesota remains the same____; has increased____.
7. As a result of reading this publication, my attitude toward the funding of public libraries in Minnesota remains the same____; has changed____.
8. Use this space for any comments you wish to make.

For statistical purposes only, please complete the following:

- a. I use library services: less than once a year____; one to six times a year____; once a month____; more frequently____.
- b. I use the library primarily for books____, audio-visual materials____, research____, information by phone____, story hours____, meetings____, other (please specify)____.
- c. Services provided by the library I most frequently use are adequate____; good____; poor____.
- d. The service hours of the library I most frequently use are adequate____; inconvenient____; too short____; too long____.
- e. I am a male____; female____.
- Age: under 18____ 18-45____ 46-65____ 66+____
- Occupation: student____, homemaker____, teacher____, skilled tradesperson____, sales____, service____, manager____, professional____, governmental official____, library professional____, other____

Thank you very much for completing this survey. Your cooperation enables the LWVMN to satisfy all conditions of the grants which made it possible for you to receive this publication.

Helene Borg
Helene Borg, President

Harriett Herb
Harriett Herb, Executive Director

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LIBRARY STUDY COMMITTEE GUIDE

August 1978

Introduction

The "Funding of Public Libraries in Minnesota" study was chosen by the LWVMN delegates who attended the 1977 LWVMN state Convention. The choice reflected the concern of some members with the issues of adequate funding for libraries and appropriate level of government to provide those funds.

While the Financing State Government study, completed in 1977, addressed many areas of state and local services in the state, it did not specifically refer to libraries, because of the relatively small percentage of state funds designated to libraries and because of the complexity of the library-funding process. The two studies, however, are interrelated.

Thus, this study attempts to answer questions about the present public library funding levels and processes in Minnesota and to solicit LWVMN member response and direction as to the future on:

- the amount of funding for public libraries
- the appropriate level of government to provide funding
- the goals associated with providing adequate library service in Minnesota.

Study Material

The "Funding of Public Libraries in Minnesota" study material is being printed in the July-August issue of the Minnesota VOTER. Every member who is on the mailing list as of August 25 will receive a copy. Through your local League bulletin, remind your members to read the material before they come to the meeting. You might also want to print the consensus questions in your bulletin so your members have time to think about them and come to unit meetings prepared to discuss and answer those questions.

Fall Workshops

A section of the Fall Workshops (being held Sept. 26 in Bemidji; Sept. 28, Rochester; Sept. 30, Edina; Oct. 3, Anoka; and Oct. 5, Worthington) will focus on libraries. There will be a slide program, tips on how to present the study and additional information on how to do the consensus.

Resources

At the end of the study there is a section on "Documentation and Resources for Additional Study" which can be obtained from your local or regional library. Not all libraries may have all the listed materials, but they will try to get the information for you via interlibrary borrowing.

You might try to get a report from one of the delegates or observers to the Governors Pre-White House Conference on Libraries. The Minnesota Conference is scheduled for Sept. 10-12 in the Twin Cities. An announcement about the conference is attached; as you will note, anyone may observe so you or one of your committee

may wish to attend. Perhaps one of your members or a local official attended one of the "Speak Outs" which were held around the state prior to the actual conference. Those people may also be a good resource for you to tap.

We would suggest you reread and have available the Financing State Government position found in PROGRAM FOR ACTION (p. 20-21, a copy of which is attached). Your members should be asked to review League ACTS (tear-off page of the Jan.-Feb. 1978 Minnesota VOTER) and the recent Financing State Government position found in the Sept.-Oct. Minnesota VOTER (p. 3, right hand column).

Bring the information closer to home

To give the study a "closer-to-home-perspective" you may want to provide information about your local scene. The information on library funding contained in the VOTER should be adequate background for members to answer the consensus questions. However, any additional local information you gather will increase member background as well as make for a more interesting presentation. The following are some ideas which we hope will generate more ideas on your part.

1. Does your community have a library? If you are an area League, do all members have access to library services and by what means?
2. What is your library's history? Is it an outgrowth of a Carnegie matching grant or a WPA project?
3. Is your library part of one of the 13 regional systems? Which type - consolidated or federated? Who is your representative to the regional system? Is it an appointed or elected position? If appointed, who makes the appointment and how are potential appointees nominated?
4. What is the amount and type (property tax, taconite tax, revenue sharing funds) of local support? What is the amount of state and federal support? Who decides the amount to be allocated to your library? On what basis is that decision made?
5. What is your library's total budget? What kinds and how many books and materials are in your library? What proportion of the money is spent on books vs audio-visual kinds of material? What is your staff to patron, staff to citizen ratio?
6. Has your local library made any cutbacks in staff or services? If so, what and why?
7. You may want to do a random poll of your community to find out how many people patronize your library, what types of library services they use, and if they know how the library is funded.

If you've recently done a local study on libraries, you may want to dovetail that local study with the state one.

Presenting the topic

The number and type of meetings you have to complete the consensus depends on your League calendar. You may have a general meeting to provide information followed by a unit meeting for consensus, or you may just have a unit meeting for discussion and consensus.

If you decide to have a general meeting remember to invite your community to attend. They have a stake in libraries too. You may want to have a panel consisting of your local librarian, a city or county official who makes the financial allocation decision, a heavy user of library services who wants more spent on libraries and a non-user who may think libraries shouldn't be supported by tax dollars.

If you have a unit meeting presentation and consensus you may want to prepare a short outline for the discussion leaders to follow. Remind the leaders that every member has the material and should have read it before the meeting, so it is not necessary to read the material to the attendees. Highlight those areas you want them to be aware of and the local information you believe pertinent, e.g. local taxes for libraries, your library's budget, any cutbacks which may have been made. You might want to put those on graphs or charts which can be circulated from unit to unit.

And now to consensus

Read through all the questions (or refer your members to your local bulletin where the questions are printed). The questions may be answered in any order.

- I. a. See the A Brief History section.
 - b. We are asking you to rank the four goals identified in the Minnesota Long Range Plan for Library Service because of the possibility that funds may not be available for all the library needs people would like to see met.
- II. Information for this question appears in the "Funding Comparisons" of the Current Funding section and Chart 1. The dictionary defines equitable as "just and right; fair; reasonable."
- III. The background for this question is in the "A Proposal for the Future" portion of the Alternatives section of the study. Refer also to the Financing State Government position statement and details on pages 20-21 of PROGRAM FOR ACTION. Is a library a "local service" or one of "broader than local significance"?
- IV. "The Present Formula" portion of the Current Funding section of the study materials provides the background for this question. It's all right if the answers to this are just people's opinions and judgments.
- V. Here again we refer you to the Financing State Government positions and details and the interrelationships of that to this study. We also call your attention to paragraph 3 of the introduction to this Guide. The answers to this question and to question III will be added to the Financing State Government position and cross-referenced to a library position statement.

Two copies of the consensus questions are attached. Keep one copy for your files and return one copy to the state office by December 15.

Good luck and have fun.

FINANCING STATE GOVERNMENT

LWVMN Position — Support of a flexible Minnesota multi-tax system with emphasis on maintaining state services through a combination of spending cuts and increased taxation when state funds are short and decreased taxation when there is a budget surplus. Support of using the Minnesota individual income tax as the elastic tax, making rates more progressive when increasing state revenue and lowering rates for all income levels when decreasing state revenue. Support of state relief for property taxes. Support of property tax reform. Support for setting priorities in allocating state funds. Support of state aids to local governments, especially to local school districts and to the local governmental unit that provides the major portion of local services (county and/or city). Support of more efficient state administrative and legislative expenditures.

Details:

- Support for property tax reform through equitable assessments, fewer classifications, and more restrictive criteria for determining exemptions. LWVMN also advocates less dependence on the property tax as a source of revenue. (1967)
- Support for equitable assessments by professionally trained, adequately paid assessors with districts large enough to warrant their full-time employment. Periodic reappraisals should be mandatory. The state should be responsible for achieving uniform standards for assessment and should assess industrial property. There should be fewer classes of property for taxing purposes. (1967)
- The criteria for determining property tax exemption should be more restrictive. Property that is profit-making or in competition with private taxpaying enterprises should be taxed regardless of ownership. There should be periodic reconsideration of each exemption, and owners of exempt property should pay enough taxes, or a charge in lieu of taxes, to cover the costs of local services. Tax exemptions as socio-economic incentives should be used sparingly and for a limited time in each case. (1967)
- Dependence on the property tax should be diminished because it does not necessarily reflect ability to pay and equitable administration is difficult. Local services such as police and fire protection, streets, parks, and sewers are the services most appropriately financed by the property tax. Services of broader than local significance such as welfare are less appropriately financed by the property tax. Education is appropriately financed partly by the property tax and partly by revenue from other sources. (1967)
- When taxation is increased to provide additional revenue, LWVMN:
 - supports retaining exemptions to the **sales tax**; supports sales tax increases on cigarettes and tobacco and alcoholic beverages; does not agree on a general raise in sales tax rates.
 - supports more progressive **individual income tax** rates with exemptions retained at 1977 level; supports retaining deductibility of federal income taxes as a feature of the Minnesota income tax; opposes an across-the-board increase in income tax rates.
 - supports retaining the Minnesota **corporate excise tax** with no increase in rate; does not agree on changing the corporate tax to a progressive rate.
 - supports retaining the homestead credit and senior citizen freeze credit as forms of state relief for **property taxes**; supports retaining the income-adjusted homestead credit (circuit breaker). (1977)
- When measures are taken to decrease taxation, LWVMN:

- supports retaining the 4% Minnesota **sales tax** with no increase in exemptions.
- supports a decrease in **individual income tax** rates; opposes an increase in individual income tax exemptions; opposes a general tax refund.
- supports an increase in the homestead credit as a form of state relief for **property taxes**.
- does not agree on decreasing the **corporate excise tax** rate.
- does not agree on providing an increase in the income-adjusted homestead credit (circuit breaker).
- When cuts in state spending are necessary, LWVMN:
 - supports cuts in spending for general state government, governor and related agencies, and the legislative branch.
 - opposes cuts in state aid to local governments, especially local school districts.
 - opposes cuts in state spending for natural resources, corrections, higher education and agriculture. (1977)
- When increases in state spending are proposed, LWVMN supports setting priorities for state spending rather than a percentage increase in all areas of state funding. LWVMN:
 - supports an increase in state aids to local school districts.
 - opposes increases in spending for general state government, governor and related agencies, and the legislative branch; opposes increases in spending for public retirement benefits.
 - supports increases for mass transportation of benefit to the entire state. (1977)

HISTORY OF STATE ACTION

Since the mid '50s, LWVMN has studied financing of state and local governments. Early studies focused on the property tax, resulting in LWVMN support for property tax reform. In 1969 LWVMN lobbied successfully for legislation permitting counties to establish county assessor systems; all assessors must be professionally accredited. A constitutional amendment passed in 1970 allows the Legislature to restrict the amount of tax-exempt property and to eliminate many inequitable situations. In keeping with its Education Position, LWVMN supported a shift in 1971 away from the property tax and toward greater state funding of education. In 1975 the Legislature passed bills providing for income-adjusted property tax relief in addition to the homestead credit, and increased limitations on assessed valuation. The 1977 Legislature continued the trend toward less reliance on the property tax by reducing the assessment ratio on urban and rural homesteads and increasing the income-adjusted property tax credit. The 1975 LWVMN Convention again adopted financing state government as a study, in an attempt to expand the position beyond the property tax issue. The study included sources and distribution of state revenue and led to the present expanded position.

SUGGESTIONS FOR LOCAL ACTION

Citizen Rights: Local League members may observe the voter registration processes and should be alert for voting rights violations. They may check to see whether candidates and volunteer committees file campaign expenditure reports, whether polling places are conveniently located, and whether school elections function properly. They may monitor local governing bodies to make sure they are complying with the Open Meeting Law.

Organization of Government: Members may write their legislators in response to Times for Action on legislative and executive reforms. They may also check to see whether local governmental districts, wards, precincts, etc., have equal population according to the 1970 census.

Financing State Government: Local Leagues may contact their legislators in response to Times for Action on taxation and appropriation legislation. They may use the slide show prepared by LWVMN to educate their communities on state financing.

Funding of Public Libraries in Minnesota

Consensus Questions

RETURN ONE COPY to the state office by December 15, 1978

LWV of _____

Total number of members _____ number of members participating _____

- I. a. Consistent with state and federal laws, the Minnesota Long Range Plan for Library Services has established long range goals for public libraries which include making service accessible to all citizens, establishing libraries in areas without them, developing multi-regional library systems, and fostering a system of shared resources.

Do you agree _____ disagree _____ with those goals?

Comment:

- b. Please rank these goals in order of importance (1-highest rank; 4-lowest)
- | | |
|--|-------|
| making service accessible to all citizens | _____ |
| establishing libraries in areas without them | _____ |
| developing multi-regional library systems | _____ |
| fostering a system of shared resources | _____ |

- II. At present, library services in Minnesota are financed 85% by local governmental funds, 6% by other local funds, 6% by state funds and 3% by federal funds. The state share averages 52¢ per capita. Do you think that ratio is equitable _____ or not equitable _____?

Comment:

- III. The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science recommends that the proportions be changed to 20% federal money, 50% state money, and 30% local money.

Do you think that is	<u>too little</u>	<u>too much</u>	<u>about right</u>
20% federal	_____	_____	_____
50% state	_____	_____	_____
30% local	_____	_____	_____

Comment:

- IV. The state distributes state and federal funds to library systems according to a formula that is based 60% on population, 15% on area, and 25% on the inverse of assessed adjusted valuation.

Do you think that is	<u>too little</u>	<u>too much</u>	<u>about right</u>
60% population	_____	_____	_____
15% area	_____	_____	_____
25% valuation	_____	_____	_____

Comment: _____

- V. a. Do you think funding for Minnesota public libraries should:
be increased _____, stay the same (assuming increases for inflation) _____,
be decreased _____.

- b. Which of the following would you support?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
1. cutting services and/or hours	_____	_____
2. using volunteers	_____	_____
3. charging fees for more services	_____	_____
4. sharing resources	_____	_____
5. other (explain)	_____	_____

Name of person submitting report _____

The League of Women Voters of _____ Board approved the
above consensus at its meeting of _____
(date)

President

To: Members of the Minnesota Senate
From: Helene Borg, President
Pam Berkwitz, Action Chair
Date: January 11, 1979

Enclosed please find the League of Women Voters of Minnesota's publication FACTS AND ISSUES: Funding Public Libraries in Minnesota, and the November-December issue of the MINNESOTA VOTER.

Members of the League of Women Voters who reside in every state Senatorial district are just now completing their studies of funding of public libraries. The enclosed Facts and Issues served as the main source of information for that study. Once we have reached a position, we will be lobbying for same.

The MINNESOTA VOTER provides an overview of League program and provides some background on issues which may be of future concern. We believe that you will find that the article on apportionment in Minnesota of interest.

Enclosed also is the list of current local League presidents. Please feel free to contact representatives of your local League or our office if you have additional questions or desire more information about the League and its programs.

A REPORT TO THE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
ON THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND
INFORMATION SERVICES - Ann Thomas

On or about June 19, 1980, President Carter will send to the United States Congress his recommendations on action supported by the White House Conference on Library and Information Services. Public Law 93-568 authorizing the conference was signed by President Gerald R. Ford on December 31, 1974, and states that its purpose was to develop recommendations for improvement of the nation's libraries and information centers and their use by the public.

On May 4, 1977, President Carter signed an appropriations bill that set aside \$3.5 million to plan and conduct the conference. Responsibility for the conference was assigned to the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS).

The Conference was held November 15-19, 1979, at the Washington Hilton and was not only the first such meeting on libraries, but the largest White House Conference ever held. Over 100,000 people had taken part in the preparation. Governors' pre-White House Conferences had been held in all states (except South Dakota) and in six territories.

These meetings and the Conference itself were outstanding examples of participatory democracy--large town hall meetings at which people from every age and every calling discussed what needs to be done about something of international and national importance. The pre-Conference delegates were concerned about how the needs of libraries were to be implemented, with funding and taxation the subjects of the most resolutions.

At state meetings 670 voting delegates and 268 alternates were chosen. The Washington staff selected 105 delegates at large. Added to this, about 3,000 more, mostly from libraries, education and the information industries attended as either volunteers or official observers.

The size of each state's official delegation was based on its congressional representation. Our Minnesota group of 10 delegates and three alternates included one-third professionals and two-thirds lay people, with minority and handicapped groups represented, as set by the regulations. Our three library professionals were a school librarian, a special librarian and an administrator. The lay people include a youth, a black, an Indian, a blind person, a physically handicapped person, a dairy farmer, a writer, a corporate worker active in union affairs, a local government executive and your reporter. Ex-officio was Bill Asp, of Minnesota's Office of Public Libraries and Interlibrary Cooperation. Frances Naftalin, one of our Minneapolis Leaguers, was there as a member of NCLIS. Also numerous others from our own library and information service community were on hand as observers.

Issues and Resolutions - At first it seemed that this was mainly a meeting of special interest groups, to whom the big picture was less important than their own concerns. Caucuses included the Westerners, Easterners and other geographical groups, the youth, blind, deaf, physically handicapped, ethnic groups and assorted segments of the library profession and of the information industry. In order for valid recommendations to come from democratic meetings, participants must be knowledgeable about a wide range of issues and the background from which they arise. Some participants were talking about the control of transborder data flow and the interface of international systems, while others were hoping for funds to install telephones in rural libraries - or to find ways of increasing the literacy rate.

To help all these diverse needs and desires emerge as Conference resolutions, the Washington staff had chosen five "theme" areas, selected just a few months before the

conference. Each delegate was to select one area and work within its confines. They were: (1) Meeting Personal Needs, (2) Enhancing Lifelong Learning, (3) Improving Organizations and Professions, (4) Effectively Governing our Society, and (5) Increasing International Understanding and Cooperation. Since this was a different set of themes than those prescribed for the Governors' conferences, it meant a reshuffling of the resolutions that had been proposed by the states, and there had been 3,000 of them.

Discussion on the five themes was held in working groups limited to 25 persons each. Some themes had 10 or more of these working groups, the smallest had four. Their assignment was to come up with relevant resolutions from among the 3,000 that had been submitted from the state meetings and to set priorities. No procedure allowed for interface among the five theme groups. The upshot was that groups spent a lot of time drafting resolutions asking for the same things.

Funding, which was at the basis of our League library study in Minnesota, turned out to be not such a simple, identifiable thing. Most special interest groups were interested in funding, continued or additional, but only for their own causes. There was an effort to halt the cut-back of federal funds to libraries for categorical grants. Those who did not emphasize dollars, per se, talked about issues such as "free" libraries or a national center for periodicals or networking. In the international segment they discussed the sharing of information and the establishment of international libraries in major U.S. cities--all involving dollars. So funding was a truly basic underlying concern, regardless of the issues described.

Selecting Resolutions - After two days of workshops each theme had a meeting of all the participants to winnow down to 34 the resolutions authored by the working groups, which had been limited to 25 participants each. This allowed opportunity for much parliamentary drama and for some real advocacy. The timetable was a factor in the demise of some very carefully drawn resolutions. One that I saw pass unanimously in the workshop just didn't make it through the process because the delegate who was supposed to take it to the floor didn't get out of bed in time for the 8:30 a.m. hearing on Sunday morning.

Many concessions were made as delegates fought to retain resolutions. Elimination of careful language and meanings resulted in bare bones statements that gave to the President, the Congress and the U.S. voter merely an outline of the concerns that were covered behind the closed doors of the theme sessions. Further honing by the Resolutions Committee resulted in 17 top resolutions that included concerns repeated over and over: equal access to all information for all people; literacy, access to libraries for children, mandated school libraries and others. But however firm this consensus might sound, lost in the process was much concern for the issues.

Any resolutions that were not designated top priority by the theme sessions, but had been adopted by them anyway, were placed on a paper ballot for voting after the last General Session.

Another method for getting resolutions before the General Session was by petition. If 100 delegates signed, the matter would be placed on the agenda. Then if 2/3 of those voting agreed, the delegates would consider it.

The General Session for voting on resolutions finally convened on the last day, Monday, November 19 at 8 a.m., opening with a 20 minute address by Daniel Boorstin, Librarian of Congress. The session was due to adjourn at 11 a.m. and a climate of apprehension and anxiety pervaded the whole morning. So much to do and so little time. It became apparent that all differences in meaning or words had not been reconciled even at that stage of the game. After more than an hour during which only seven resolutions had passed--and more recriminatory remarks--the moderator ruled that nothing but friendly amendments would be allowed. In the accompanying box are the resolutions passed at

the General Session on Monday morning. These include 15 of the 17 theme resolutions and 10 of 32 submitted by petition. In addition 45 of 49 resolutions adopted at theme sessions but not designated top priority survived a paper ballot vote.

A look at some of the resolutions that failed says a lot. It might have been the prevailing trend, but a distrust of nationally imposed systems and services came out. Strengthening systems at the local, regional or state levels seemed accepted. What was sought from the federal level was more often coordination and some additional funding without centrally imposed systems. This seemed to be a somewhat accurate reflection of the feeling that pervaded the Minnesota League of Women Voters consensus on Library funding in March, 1979.

And by the way, the Minnesota FACTS AND ISSUES: LIBRARY FUNDING IN MINNESOTA, was being handed out to delegates along with official publications of the Conference at Information Center, and was the only such publication given that honor.

All in all, it seemed to me that the delegates proved they believed in the importance and durability of libraries by the demands they made. What remains to be done is the political and social implementation of their resolutions.

Congressional Hearing - On the closing day of the Conference from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. a joint Congressional Hearing was held at the Hilton, during which 10 speakers testified before William D. Ford, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education, Senator Claiborne Pell, Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Education, Arts and Humanities, and others. They warned about the austerity budget for the '80s and possible drastic cuts ahead in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act money for library materials. Prospects ahead include a National Library Act Study bill proposing an innovative approach to federal aid. They warned that the local and state approach to funding cannot be curtailed. They emphasized the importance of the citizen lobby. But their sharp eyed scrutiny made it clear that it was a tit-for-tat situation. The delegates were not too anxious for more federal control. The hearing told us the Feds aren't too anxious for more Federal support.

Outstanding Speakers - While all this deadly serious business was going on, there were special times when it really was a White House Conference. The Nov. 16 a.m. speech by President Carter--when he promised us we "had a friend in the White House" was one. He made it clear that Amy's dinner table reading had been a family habit, but that he had straightened her out on that issue.

Lunches and dinners were in-house group affairs, programmed to allow those attending to hear a total of 30 speakers. Outstanding, according to many delegates, was Ralph Nader's luncheon speech on Sunday, Nov. 18. He accused librarians of "worried tranquility." His challenge to the delegates was to remember that "information is power and we are now in the midst of the era of the Information Society." He urged the formation of a citizen lobby, but suggested it be given a catchy title, like "Right to Know" rather than something like the Citizens Lobby on Library and Information Services.

New York State Senator Major Owens, formerly with the Brooklyn Public Library, was perhaps the most quoted speaker. He cited libraries and information as important in the governance of democracy--adding that in a democratic society illiterate citizens are dangerous. He advocated that the right to bear arms be replaced by the right to have knowledge and information on public problems. The low level of federal funding of libraries he called a scandal.

The last function before adjournment was the closing luncheon addressed by Stuart E. Eizenstat, Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs and Policy. He told those delegates who were left that he was establishing a task force in the Office of the

President to give consideration to the full range of the Conference recommendations "at the highest level." The Commission report was due within 120 days, and the law allows 90 days for the President to submit his recommendations to Congress. That brings us right up to June 19, 1980 by my calculations. Watch for the President's recommendations around then.

Bibliography -

Special Libraries, February, 1980

American Libraries, January, 1980

Library Journal, January 15, 1980

PASSED:

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION - Affirm its support for the First Amendment; make information services on public issues available to everyone in all libraries, provide federal funds so that libraries may be community information and retrieval centers and promote them through an aggressive public awareness effort.

NATIONAL INFORMATION POLICY - Request a National Information Policy which would guarantee "all citizens equal and full access to publicly funded information services," ensure government agencies at all levels work together to make such services available, protect personal and economic privacy and national security, and "reaffirm the tradition of local control over selection and acquisition of library materials."

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR LIBRARIES - Establish an Office of Library and Information Services under an Assistant Secretary of Education within the new Department of Education. This individual would administer all current Office of Library and Learning Resources programs and grants and set up communications with all federal library programs.

LITERACY - Direct the Department of Education to "implement or expand literacy programs at the community level," fund library and information agencies capable of implementing such programs, and encourage cooperative efforts. The states should identify their functionally illiterate adults and out-of-school youths and their needs, and set up community programs where they do not exist.

EQUAL ACCESS - Call for the elimination of all barriers to library and information service whether the barriers be "legal, fiscal, technical, attitudinal, environmental, cultural, geographic or other."

DEAL AND DISABLED PEOPLE - Assure access to library positions, boards, programs, and training to the more than "34 million disabled and hearing impaired Americans... significantly unrepresented" in library and information services. All personnel should be made sensitive to these special constituencies.

Library and information programs and facilities should be made accessible to the disabled through building modifications, special communications devices, and outreach programs.

Materials should be made accessible through Library of Congress coordination of "programs and multisensory services...tailored to the needs of (the) developmentally disabled and persons with learning disabilities." Publishers should be encouraged to develop training materials in independent living for mentally restored persons in alliance with library and information programs developed with the assistance of prospective recipients.

All of the above recommendations should be adapted to meet the needs of the disabled in institutional or correctional settings.

The Library of Congress should establish a National Library Service for the Deaf developed by a board including deaf individuals.

NETWORKS - Urge the Department of Education's Office of Libraries and Information Services, state library agencies, and other organizations involved in networking to take a comprehensive approach to the development of plans for multitype library and information networks including all libraries.

Specific plans for a national periodicals center, including the concept of a national lending library for print and nonprint materials, should be developed at national, regional, and local levels.

Control of networks should remain at the state or regional level. Mechanisms should be developed to insure network access to all individuals. Federal and state funds should aid networks.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES - Direct school and public library boards to cooperate to meet community and school needs.

Congress should fund programs to support better school and public library service, a school library in every school, and cooperation in rural areas. Congress should mandate the states to set guidelines for library instruction for children.

TECHNOLOGY - Encourage creators of documents, books and other data to put them in computer-processible form.

All federal agencies should support "the adoption of national and international standards for publishing, producing, organizing, storing, and transmitting information."

Standards addressing hardware and software compatibility, computer and communications network protocols, and machine-readable information should be established or extended, with the participation of the private sector.

Research should be funded to develop new technologies permitting "media conversion from and to media like print, microfiche, magnetic, optical, voice, etc."

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION - Request the President to eliminate the government's duplication of effort and waste in international exchange of information and "coordinate U.S. participation in international communication and information programs, both public and private."

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE - Direct Congress to enact and fund a new program of international exchange and training for library personnel.

The U.S. should support participation in the Universal Availability of Publications program and eliminate trade and other barriers to the exchange of library materials and information of all kinds.

NATIONAL LIBRARY ACT - Support the enactment of a National Library Act generally incorporating S. 1124 with modifications suggested in Congressional hearings.

Congress should hold regional hearings on such matters as the definition of a library, categorical funding for rural, sparsely populated, or impacted areas, a funding formula, and a national committee or board.

PUBLIC AWARENESS - Increase public awareness of library services by developing an aggressive, comprehensive nationwide campaign coordinated by the federal government. This campaign would involve all organizations representing all segments of society and adopt a library symbol for the nation.

Congress should increase library funds allocated each state for a professional public information program planned by a statewide committee including two-thirds lay members and one-third librarians and trustees and coordinated through the Office of Library and Information Services.

FEDERAL FUNDING - Ask the President to propose and Congress to approve full funding for the Library Services and Construction Act, appropriate titles of the Higher Education Act and Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and the National Library of Medicine.

New federal funding should authorize innovative demonstration programs, certified staff library instruction and media programs in schools, and "new funds for academic libraries."

Federal funding should include special support for rural, urban and economically deprived areas.

Federal postal and communication rates for delivery and/or return of information materials to concontiguous or isolated areas should be reduced.

STATE AND LOCAL FUNDING - Direct local and state funding agencies to reorder priorities to improve "funding for all types of nonprofit library and information services with significantly heavier shares borne by the state."

THE PETITIONED RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED recommended:

FUTURE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCES - Convene a White House or federal conference on library and information services every decade.

CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP - Request the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science to convene an ad hoc committee of delegates elected by each state Conference delegation to plan and monitor follow-up activities.

ARCHIVES AND HISTORICAL RECORDS - Ask Congress to reauthorize and increase funding for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and also increase funds for the National Endowment for the Humanities in order to preserve and make accessible historical records.

NATIONAL INDIAN OMNIBUS BILL - Ask Congress to enact a National Indian Omnibus Library Bill to include titles on: training to be determined by tribes, Alaska natives and Aleuts; historical and contemporary materials dissemination; construction; technical assistance; Indian Studies program support; financial support; program grants; and a National Indian Library Center.

"The bill should be administered by the Department of Interior's Office of Library and Information Services in line with policies established by tribal governing boards."

YOUTH NEEDS - Mandate that the National Commission appoint one youth as a voting member and encourage states and local governments to include at least one young voting member on library boards.

LITERARY, MUSICAL AND ARTISTIC DONATIONS - Ask Congress to restore a "tax incentive for authors and artists to donate their creative works to libraries and museums."

THANKS TO TREZZA - Acknowledge and congratulate Alphonse F. Trezza, executive director of NCLIS for his contributions to that body, to the White House Conference, and "to the development of libraries and information services throughout the United States and the world."

INFORMATION IN U.S. TERRITORIES - Ask Congress and the President to make more information available in the U.S. territories by providing bibliographic control and financial and technical assistance.

PRICING OF BASIC DOCUMENTS - Ask Congress to subsidize library purchases of basic federal documents and continue its system of regional depositories.

USER FEES - Affirm that all persons have access to information without charge in all publicly supported libraries as insured by the national information policy. (This resolution originally failed but was adopted after reconsideration at the end of the voting session.)

FAILED:

Among the 24 losers which failed to catch majority interest, were withdrawn, or considered redundant were resolutions centering on these subjects:

- . Lifelong Learning
- . Library of Congress leadership in plans for a national depository, periodicals center, referral center, and library network
- . Federal funds for ethnic group needs
- . A Hispanic Office within a national Library agency, to serve the Spanish speaking
- . Preferential postal and telecommunications rates for nonprofit libraries and educational institutions
- . Special support for library education
- . A federal study of library personnel selection procedures
- . Federal matching funds for state library agency planning and development.

MINUTES OF THE LIBRARY STUDY COMMITTEE
Meeting of March 3, 1978

MEMBERS PRESENT: Muff, Chair; Goss, Helgeson, Herbert, Namie, Pidcock, Rosenfeld, Shanley
STATE BOARD MEMBER PRESENT: Dunn

The chairperson stated that at this meeting it was intended to set up a core committee to do preliminary writing. This material would be sent to other committee members for comments and approval, and then to the Board.

The consensus questions written by committee members were read. The purpose was not to discuss the questions themselves but to evaluate the written material in light of these questions. The chair reminded members of the necessity to hold to the mandate of the Convention, i.e., study only the funding of libraries.

The bibliography prepared by Muff was discussed, some additions being suggested. These would be listed as resources for additional study, and all would be available in local libraries. The bibliography was tentatively approved.

The glossary prepared by Muff was approved, with additions suggested by Herbert.

The material written by committee members was distributed and discussed. Some specific suggestions were: placing most tables in boxes, including objections to increased state funding, mention of fees for service, listing implications of no increased funding. Goss, Rosenfeld and Shanley will use the written material and suggestions discussed to write the first draft. This will be sent to committee members who have taken part in preparing material. The chair asked that they be specific in their comments and suggestions and set priority on suggestions.

Brief discussion and tentative consensus on consensus questions are to be evaluated by the same process as above.

Members to review draft: Katharine Muff, Dorothy Herbert, Jean Flanagan, Milo Schefers, Marylea Osier, Jean Carr, Barbara Namie, Ellen Mork, Joan Hicks, Hazel Helgeson, Carol Pidcock.

To: Library Funding Committee
From: Katharine Muff
Re: Agenda for March 3, 1978
Date: February 22, 1978

The Funding of Public Libraries Committee will meet at 10:00 a.m., Friday, March 3, at the state office. Bring your bag lunch; coffee, tea, and pop will be available.

AGENDA

- I. a. Roll Call
b. Minutes of the January 20 committee meeting
- II. Brief presentation of Suggested Consensus Questions. Very little discussion. The purpose of this item is to enable us to check to see if we are providing adequate study material and reference material sources to our Leagues.
- III. Approval of bibliography and glossary.
- IV. Presentation of reports. General discussion followed by:
 - a. Assignments for preliminary editing, particularly to obtain reasonable brevity, and
 - b. To review after staff editing.

(We may have to clarify what we mean, but this is procedural.)
- V. We have to make a decision. Can staff editing be followed by mailing edited material to core members of this committee? If near unanimous approval results, can we proceed to presentation to the Board?
- VI. Consensus questions first review. If time permits, repeat Roman Numerals IV, II, III. If agreement is reached, proceed to #V.

Now, if we can accomplish the above, we need not hold another full committee until the Board has acted upon our work.

Minutes

Library Funding Study Committee meeting

Friday, January 20, 1978

Members present: Katherine Muff, Chair; Dorothy Herbert, Sue Rosenfeld, Marie Goss, Milo Schefers, Jean Flanagan, Marylea Osier, Sandra Shanley
State Board members present: Helene Borg, Pam Berkwitz, Mary Waldo

The minutes of the October 20, 1977, meeting were reviewed. The chairperson restated the reasons for having a large committee. She also reviewed the charge to the committee - to only deal with funding-financing public libraries. We must give local Leagues enough information to make decisions from given alternatives.

Considerations are:

- increased taxes
- decreased services
- formula for state aid

Reports of Committee members:

Sandra Shanley reviewed the material she had written:

- Introductory material
- How public libraries are now funded
- Description of Library systems in Minnesota
- Description of MELSA
- State Aids and distribution

The committee discussed additions and/or clarifications to the material.

There was considerable discussion regarding how the committee should approach the subject of formulas.

Milo Schefers reported on her prepared material - History of Funding Public Libraries in Minnesota. Suggestions were made as to additions and/or changes.

The committee reviewed definitions which were included with the agenda for this meeting. These will be added to and become part of the glossary.

Supplemental materials to be sent to local Leagues were discussed. Dorothy Herbert will review materials prepared by the Minnesota Library Association - legislative committee study.

The committee viewed the slide/tape "Beyond Your Local Library," prepared by OPLIC (Office of Public Libraries and Interlibrary Cooperation of the Minnesota Department of Education).

Task Forces of the committee were set up and assignments made.

Task Forces and Assignments:

Current Funding - Shanley, Herbert, Rosenfeld, Thomas, Goss

History of Funding - Schefers and Flanagan

Glossary - Muff

Bibliography - total Committee

Proposed changes in patterns of funding

1. Sources of funding) A Rosenfeld, Goss, Muff
2. Distribution)

Definitions: Libraries and Library Services - Herbert

Board Memo communications - Waldo

(Over)

The Committee reviewed the time line originally proposed and decided that no revision was necessary at this time.

February 15 - revisions of written material due to state office and to Katherine Muff.

March 3 - next Committee meeting - state office

This meeting will focus on putting the written material in final form and writing consensus questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Waldo

League of Women Voters of Minnesota, 555 Wabasha, St. Paul, MN 55102, January, 1978

Memo to: Library Study Committee and Marie Goss
From: Katharine Muff
Re: Agenda for January 20 Meeting
Date: January 12, 1978

The Committee will meet at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, January 20, at the state office 555 Wabasha, St. Paul. This will be an all-day meeting so bring a bag lunch. (If it is impossible to bring a lunch, let the office know, and we'll have something available.)

AGENDA

Review of minutes of 10-20-77 meeting (attached)
Approval of agenda
Determination of who or which groups are ready to make reports later in the meeting
Brief overview of the committee's charge
Define the objectives of the study
Reports of committee members
Interrelationship of this state study to local library studies
Determine what LWVMN can do in areas where there is no local LWV
Appointment of subcommittees and assignments (e.g. editors: Rosenblatt and Rosenfeld)
Review of timeline:
Governor's Pre-White House Conference Committee will be holding Speak Out meetings, and there will be a 2nd week in September large Conference meeting.
Does this change what we do and when?
Set date for next meeting. Fill out vouchers.
Adjourn

Included: Minutes of 10-20-77 Committee meeting
Glossary of terms
Circulator

BRIEF MINUTES OF THE LIBRARY STUDY COMMITTEE MEETING of October 20, 1977

Present: Katharine Muff, Chair, Pidcock, Rosenfeld, Namie, Schefers, Thomas, Kelly, Konhauser, Porter, Helgeson, Schanley, Carr, Nelson
State Board Members Present: Berkwitz, Waldo
Staff Present: Herb

The Chairperson stated that all those present except those who demurred would be consider members of the Funding Public Library Study Committee and that all others on the mailing list would be considered resource people. Several proposed time lines were developed. One:

- 1979 January, Legislative Session Begins
- 1978 November - LWVMN Board approves consensus
October - Consensus reports from local Leagues in and collated, possible position prepared for the November state Board meeting
September - Unit meetings
July - material to local Leagues
June - editing and printing
May - expert readers' reaction to publication and editing
April - Board committee reading, revising and first editing
- 1977 December through March, 1978 - research and preliminary writing

The second time line developed would have the state Board approve any consensus at its January, 1979, meeting, with the balance of the time line adjusted accordingly.

A rough outline for the publication was developed:

- I. Definition of terms, for example, there are two types of public library systems as well as affiliated public libraries.
- II. The role of the State Department of Education: Public Library Funding is a line item in their budget request to the Legislature.
- III. History
- IV. Current Funding
 - a. Formula - what it is, how it works
 - b. Local relation to municipality or county, regional and state (Federal funding, which amounts to about 1 1/2% would be included in the state section.)
- V. Current Services
 - a. Types of services, for example, multi-media
 - b. Trends in services
- VI. Funding Alternatives
 - a. State long-range plans
 - b. Regional long-range plans

The following people will assume the following assignments:

Katharine Muff will work on the definition of terms
Milo Schefers on the history
Hazel Helgeson on funding alternatives

It was decided that local Leagues would be identified in each public library regional area and that those local Leagues would be requested to ascertain current funding for the public libraries in their region.

The next meeting of the Study of Funding Public Libraries will probably be held in January, 1978.

1. Do you feel funding for public libraries ^{MN} ~~should~~ ^{needs to be} increased?
yes?
no?
remain the same?
2. The current funding sources are ^{of your city or county} ~~local~~ ^{property taxes} (88+%), ^(S) ~~state~~ ^(decrease) (8%) and federal (4%). Which source would you increase? and by what amount (in percentage)?
local
state
federal
other
remain the same
3. Do you agree or disagree with the following:
"That the state Board of Education include in its . . . legislative program appropriate steps to bring the state's share of the funding of public library service to the same level as the state's share of the funding of the public elementary and secondary educational system."
agree
disagree

4. Government funds are distributed according to formulas. The current formula utilizes population (60%), area (15%) and ^{inverse of assessed} ~~valuation~~ ^{adjusted} (25%). Do you feel this is an adequate or inadequate method?
How would you change it?
adequate?
inadequate?
The interim formula suggested retains population and area at their same ratios, but would divide valuation into two steps i.e. first, a set amount per system and then an amount based on the inverse of valuation (those systems having the highest per capita valuation would receive the least amounts). Do you consider this adequate or inadequate? How would you change it?
adequate?
inadequate?

5. Do you feel library service to all segments of Minnesota population could be improved and made more economical by coordinating school, institutional, academic and public library service?

yes why?

no why?

undecided

What agency would you designate with such responsibility?

Office of Public Libraries

Higher Educational Coordination Committee

Department of Education

other?

— cost effective budgeting

— if you must cut

- hrs

- staff

mat/collection

PHILOSOPHY OF THE MINNESOTA LIBRARY AGENCY

The philosophy of the Minnesota Library Agency is based on the concept that all libraries are agencies of education in both the broad and narrow sense of the word. There are certain elements that are basic to all education, whether it be formal classroom education at any and all levels or individually pursued education outside of the formal classroom. These elements are: facts, information, ideas and inspiration. These facts, information, ideas and inspiration are absolutely necessary to the growth and development of individuals and groups in contemporary society.

Most of the content of these facts, information, ideas and inspiration has been recorded in one or more of several media formats which can be preserved, stored and retrieved repeatedly whenever the need or desire for use arises. What is just as important is that this record be in the form or medium of expression which is easily understood and readily assimilated by the individual or group wanting to use it.

It is essential that these basic elements in their media formats be convenient and easily accessible, in a usable form and in a context relevant to the situation in which the user finds himself. The collection, retrieval and dissemination of all the media of communication are valid library functions and are covered by the term "library services".

It is the essential goal of the Minnesota Library Agency that there shall be available to every Minnesota citizen regardless of residence, physical handicap, social or economic circumstance, convenient access to library service capable of meeting personal informational and educational needs and linked with other libraries in a manner which renders the resources of all libraries available whenever additional resources are required.

The legally stated functions of the State Library Agency are:

1. Advice and consultation to local libraries, public officials and citizen groups on matters related to library service. Traditionally this has been confined to public library service.
2. Administration of state and federal aids for public library service and construction.
3. Administration of state and federal aids for interlibrary cooperation.
4. Provision of interlibrary loan and back-up services and reference assistance to local public and school libraries.

CONSENSUS QUESTIONS:

What percent of the funding should be the states share?(presently 8%) ?

local share? (presently 88%)

federal share?(presently 4%)

Do you feel the amount of funding(per capita) to Public Libraries should equal that allocated to other educational programs within the state?

Would you favor adjustments to the funding formula in the area of

Population

Area

Valuation

If yes, what adjustments would you favor?

Library Funding is presently a line item in the State Education budget. Do you favor:

retaining the present system of state funding?

creating a seperate state budget item?

creating a seperate state department of libraries, separate from the state department of education?

Files



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

PHONE: (612) 224-5445

MEMO

TO: Ann Thomas, Hazel Helgeson, Barbara Namie
(CC Muff, Dunn)

FROM: Helene Borg, Harriett Herb

SUBJECT: Library Consensus Questions

DATE: April 25, 1978

We are asking you three to be a subcommittee to develop consensus questions for the Library Study Committee. Sandra, Sue and Marie will have enough to do with rewriting the draft of the publication. Also, it is valuable to have a small group not so closely allied to the study to prepare the questions.

You may want to meet in the Southdale area, since that would be closer to your homes than the state office. The questions should be readied with enough time to allow the whole committee to react by mail to your suggestions and to have the "final" questions available to be mailed with the Board agenda on June 8. The questions will need to be approved by the Board at their June 13 meeting.

Ann, since you will be going to LWVUS Convention and we know you have that time frame to work around, we're asking you to chair and coordinate this subcommittee.

Our deepest appreciation to all of you for being the Library Study Consensus Questions Subcommittee.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA TO:

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

PHONE: (612) 224-5445

FROM:

SUBJECT:

DATE:

MEMO

Should include requirements for coherent, if
not uniform, accounting ~~procedures~~ practices
and cost/effective ^{goal oriented} budget procedures

finish drafting Jols ✓
consider sus questions

3 rd of March
next
meeting

files



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

PHONE: (612) 224-5445

MEMO

TO: Ann, Hazel, Barbara

FROM: Harriett Herb

SUBJECT: Library Consensus?s

DATE: April 27, 1978

Enclosed are some suggestions for consensus questions. Sandra Shanley had collected them at the last committee meeting and sent them in for us to send on to you.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

PHONE: (612) 224-5445

MEMO

TO:

FROM:

SUBJECT:

DATE:

Type up Muff's send copies
to Ann, Hazel, Namie

use this heading
possible APR 27 1978

conclusion

QUESTIONS

from K. Muff

1) The tax burden of support of public libraries should be shared by local property taxes and state/federal resources in a manner similar to formula, the ^{for} state aid to public schools; with the goal of achieving equality of access to this important facet of education (LWV position on education)



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA TO:

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

PHONE: (612) 224-5445

FROM:

SUBJECT:

DATE:

MEMO

- (2) Regional and other cooperative organization of library facilities, including but not limited to "net working", reciprocal borrowing — are the necessary and economically feasible means of working toward this goal



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

PHONE: (612) 224-5445

TO:

FROM:

SUBJECT:

DATE:

MEMO

3) As any increase in state support is phased-in the first priority should be to provide ~~of~~ basic service to those who now have no legal access to any library ~~service~~ (about 5%) and persons with special needs, now inadequately met. (the blind and otherwise)



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

PHONE: (612) 224-5445

TO:

FROM:

SUBJECT:

DATE:

MEMO

non di cph
~~disabled~~, those confined in correctional institutions,
hospitals, nursing homes etc, ~~and~~ those living in
remote areas, ~~Indian Reservations~~ etc etc

* Without destroying the rich diversity of
methods of delivery of library & information
services that have developed in Minnesota,
legislation ~~should~~ to increase state aid

H H

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA



555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

PHONE: (612) 224-5445

MEMO

TO: Namie, Schefers, Pidcock and Muff

FROM: Pat Lucas

SUBJECT: Consensus Question Committee
for Library Study

DATE: May 26, 1978

I have asked Carol Pidcock to chair this committee. She has indicated her willingness to do so. The questions are due to be approved at the state Board August 8th meeting. It is necessary that the committee meet soon so that the appropriate people have an opportunity to review the committee's recommendations and then the committee can finalize the recommendations before the 8th of August.

Carol has suggested two possible dates for a meeting: Wednesday, June 14, or Wednesday, June 21 - 1:00 p.m., at the state office. Carol prefers the 21st but needs to hear from you as soon as possible so that a firm date may be set. Please drop her a note - 4131 North Aldrich, Minneapolis 55412 - or call her - 612-529-6992 - as soon as possible.

Return to K. Muff

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

PHONE: (612) 224-5445



MEMO

minutes

TO: Library Committee

OCT 25 1977

FROM: Katharine Muff/Carol Pidcock

SUBJECT: Committee Meeting

DATE: October 11, 1977

Meeting - October 20th - 1:00 p.m. - LWVMN state office, 555 Wabasha, St. Paul.

Decided to do a detailed study of how Minn libraries are financed and assigned sub-committees. Letter (memo) to be sent to each person invited to attend this meeting asking for continued cooperation (over)

Those attending were:

Muff Emmett

Pidcock mpls

Rosenfeld St Paul

Barbara Namie Mankato

Schefers Moorhead

Ann Thomas Mound

Mary Kelley Mankato

Aileen Konhauser Edina

Mary Partes Edina

Hazel Helgren Edina

Sandra Shanley Anoka

Jean Carr Austin

Gert Nelson Austin

and

Pam Berkwitz

Harriet Herb

Mary Waldo

League of Women Voters of the St. Cloud Area
St. Cloud, Minnesota

Fles
JAN 20 1978

January 28, 1978

Dear Mrs. Muff:

Thank you for your continuing information on the workings of the Library Study Committee. St. Cloud Area's Library Committee member is Ellen Mork and she is unable to come to meetings in the Twin Cities, but follows your activities closely and with interest.

She is active in St. Cloud as consumer member of the long range planning committee for the Great River Regional Library, and will be able to provide valuable input on Library funding in this area. Please address all future correspondence to Ellen.

Sending you all best wishes for success in this much needed study.

Sincerely:

Joan Hicks

Joan Hicks
Sec.

Ellen Mork
1051 - 25th Ave N.
St. Cloud, MN 56301



Minneapolis Public Library and Information Center
300 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

MAR 20 1978

³¹²¹
Xerox for Dunn
Berkwitz

March 16, 1978

Borg
Lucas

Karen/Erica

Who can go?

Ms. Harriet Herb
555 Wabasha
St. Paul, Mn. 55101

Dear Ms. Herb:

The Intellectual Freedom Committee of the Minnesota Library Assn. would like to request that a member of the League of Women Voters attend a group discussion at our Minnesota Library Association, 83rd annual conference at the College of St. Catherine, St. Paul.

The group discussion of the Intellectual Freedom Committee will focus on Censorship and the Legislative Process at the State level. It will be held on May 24, 1978, from 4:00 - 5:00 in Mendel 10 (Rm). We feel that a member of your group could offer valuable input in our educational discussion.

Please contact Ms. Nancy Herther by mail or phone if your group is able to send a representative: Address: 1309 E. 24th Street #3, Mpls., Mn. 55404; Phone - 722-6227.

Sincerely,

Mary L. Lawson, Chairperson
Intellectual Freedom Committee
Mn. Library Assn.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

PHONE: (612) 224-5445

MEMO

K. MUFF

TO: Milo Schefers, Carol Pidcock

FROM: Harriett Herb

SUBJECT: Library Consensus Questions

DATE: May 12, 1978

We would very much appreciate your serving on a subcommittee with Barbara Namie, LWV-Mankato, to develop consensus questions for the library study committee. Sandra Shanley, Sue Rosenfeld, and Marie Goss have been rewriting the study and feel that they would not be the appropriate persons to develop consensus questions. It is valuable for committee members who have not been so deeply involved in writing the publication to develop the consensus questions.

Enclosed are the potential consensus questions we have already received. Final questions should be approved by the state Board at its August 8th meeting. Between now and then, your subcommittee should develop the questions, mail them to the entire committee for reaction, receive their proposed changes, and work with Alice Moormann of the LWV-Minneapolis on the proposed questions.

Please let us know as soon as possible of your willingness to serve on this committee. We would also like time availabilities so that we can coordinate a meeting date.

WHITNEY NORTH SEYMOUR, JR.

ONE BATTERY PARK PLAZA

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10004

(212) 483-9000

May 14, 1976

Ms. Jerry Jenkins
2252 Folwell
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108

Dear Ms. Jenkins:

I am writing to ask you to join a national committee of citizens concerned with the growing crisis facing our public libraries. I am a trustee of the New York Public Library, one of the many libraries severely hurt by spiraling costs and local budget cuts. We have already been forced to sharply reduce hours of service and close branches. More reductions and branch closings are in the offing. We are considering the disbanding of some of our research collections because of increasing annual deficits. Public libraries across the country are experiencing the same frustrations. More are sure to follow.

The impact of reduced library hours and library closings falls hardest on those who have no other comparable resources available--senior citizens, school children, lower income working people, the disadvantaged, the disabled.

The current public library crisis results directly from dependency on hard-pressed local governments for funding at a time when basic services (like schools and hospitals) are in even more desperate need. If our national library resources are to survive, they must receive long-range Federal funding, along with increased State support.

A number of us feel deeply that the time has come for united citizen action. We are therefore in the process of organizing a "National Citizens Emergency Committee To Save Our Public Libraries." Our honorary co-chairmen include Isaac Asimov, Terence Cardinal Cooke, Ralph W. Ellison, George Meany and Leonard Woodcock. The objective of the committee is to arouse the community (especially the media, citizen organizations and elected officials) to the need for Federal action to provide significant public library funding. Since public officials are most responsive to citizen concerns during an election year, our plan is to complete our first round of committee activity by mid-October.

Ms. Jerry Jenkins

-2-

May 14, 1976

The purpose of this letter is to ask you to serve as a member of the National Citizens Emergency Committee and permit us to list your name in the committee's literature as one of those who supports our objectives.

Your responsibilities will be limited. We do specifically request that you do the following:

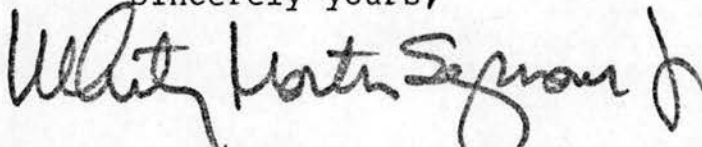
1. Write a personal letter to U. S. Senators and Representatives in your own State expressing your concern for the growing plight of public libraries and urging them to support a long-range program of substantial Federal funding for libraries.

2. Urge organizations in your area to adopt resolutions to the same effect and to send copies of such resolutions to your Congressmen and to the press.

3. Encourage personal friends and associates (especially those with a particular interest in public libraries) to do the same.

We do hope you will agree to join the committee. Your support will mean a great deal to our efforts.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "WNS, JR.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

P.S. If for some reason you are unable to serve, we would be most grateful if you would jot down your recommendations for candidates for the committee from your State on the enclosed postcard. Please include both names and addresses.

WNS, JR.

Please use the list you had for sending notices, checking off attendance. and send out the memos I requested to others. I am also enclosing my minutes.

The Conference Commission meeting dealt with organization but there were interesting discussions about the role of non-public ~~libraries~~ libraries. The Planning Committee will meet again in February.

Bill Asp will be happy to have the LWV Library Funding Study Committee meet in part of OPLIC offices in January. The Hanover Bldg being as close to 555 Washa will be convenient. I'll consult with Carol before setting a date.

Katharine Muff

Evelith

10-24-77



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102 • TELEPHONE (612) 224-5445

Harriett Herb
555 Wabasha
St Paul, Mn

Dear Harriett:

In regard to the need for a glossary of "library jargon", I offer the following. If you choose to put some, or all, of it in the Voter, O.K. but we'll have it for our next committee meeting.

OPLIC Office of Public Libraries and Interlibrary Cooperation ; the division of the Minnesota Department of Education concerned with Public Libraries.

MINITEX Minnesota Interlibrary Telecommunications Exchange; a network to maximize accessibility of all library resources to all Minnesota citizens. Has inter-state connections.

MELSA Metropolitan Library Service Agency; a regional library system serving Minneapolis, St Paul, and the seven adjacent counties.

SELCO Southeastern Libraries Cooperating; a regional library system serving most of the ten southeastern counties.

ALS Arrowhead Library System; a regional library system serving seven counties of northern Minnesota

REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM; a library organization of a multi-county area. May be consolidated, operating several libraries under a single board and a central administration or federated in which individual libraries contract for services and retain considerable local autonomy.

RECIPROCAL BORROWING; system-wide borrowing rights for patrons and/or reciprocal system-to-system arrangements.

~~LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES~~

LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES: includes both municipal and county taxes. Counties may levy taxes for library support on taxable property not already taxed for that purpose. A city which maintains a public library is exempted from that levy. In effect, it receives the money that would otherwise be paid into the county library fund. Frequently county boards contract with city library boards to serve contiguous rural areas and make grants for that purpose.

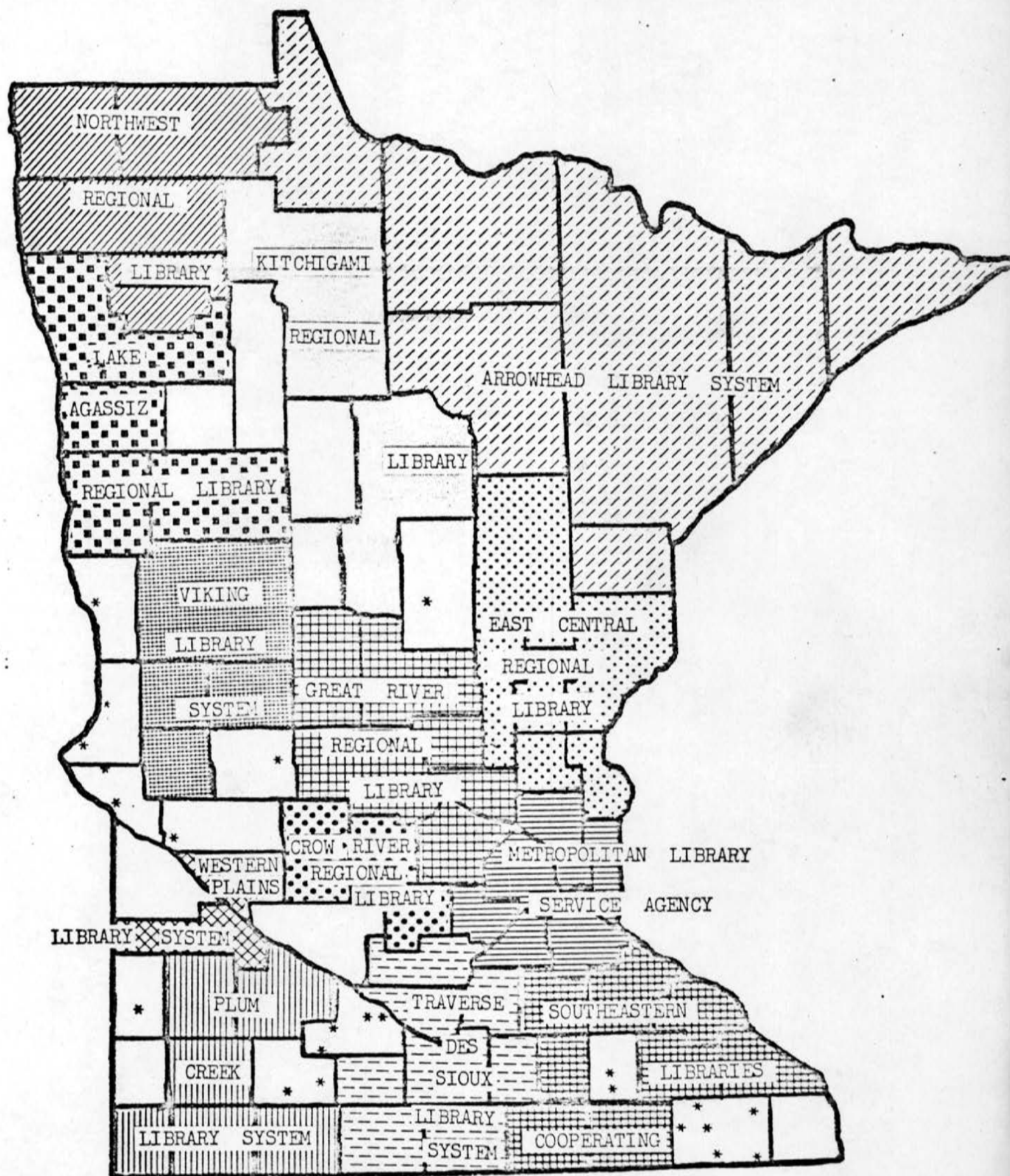
STATE AID, a line item in the biennial appropriation of the Minnesota Department of Education.

LSCA The Library Services and Construction Act - source of federal funds.

~~STATE~~

STATE STATUTE: 134.07, 134.12, 375.33, 375.335, 471.59 Minnesota Statutes which permit and regulate public libraries

MINNESOTA REGIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS – July, 1977



*City Libraries participating in Regional Public Library systems.



JAN 31 1978

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102 • TELEPHONE (612) 224-5445

Eveleth, Mn
January 28, 1978

Mary Waldo
LWV of Minnesota
St Paul, Mn

*Libraries
(Muff)*

Dear Mary:

The minutes you sent me are a fine summary of our meeting of January 20th but maybe we should insert "local" between "higher" and "taxes" Those who were there certainly understood it that way and yet I am sure that your minutes accurately reflect what we said. We must be more careful. We surely don't want it on record that League ever considered raising taxes! Without a good definition. Don't let me forget to have this corrected next time.

About the February Board Memo: I'd like to have something like the following included. Modify style and wording to fit VOTER style or whatever.

Not only have Leagues throughout the state responded well to the Library conscious ^{ness} survey but an unusually large number of members are contributing to the Study Committee. Difficult as it is for many to physically attend meetings in St Paul this promises to be truly a state effort.

Leagues which have had local item studies of their regional libraries have been a rich source of information, as was to be expected, and, in addition, we are particularly pleased to get responses from so many Leagues and from new Leagues like Grand Rapids; (the now deactivated League at Silver Bay, still committed to good library services;) and from members-at-large like Millie Michaels.

The Library Financing Study Committee hopes to have material for a Facts and Issues publication ready for editing in early March

The Governor's Pre-White House Conference

I have the information needed for the bibliography and assurance that all items will be available from our libraries.

Enclosed is a letter for the file with another name and my voucher. I hope I understood directions. Did I understand that Helene asked for an accounting of time spent? How do we go about that?

Kathy Sciortino, our Voter Service Chairperson, has asked when she will get the Caucus material. She has requests from schools and wants to leave a few leaflets in each one. Did you meet her last summer? She is a fine young woman and we are lucky to have her.

Best regards to you and Harriett. I'm learning to appreciate you and the work that is done in that office!

Katharine Muff

*(omit if you think best. I have before
for member-at-large in Silver Bay)*

JAN 31 1978

JAN 20 1978

League of Women Voters of the St. Cloud Area
St. Cloud, Minnesota

January 28, 1978

file

Dear Mrs. Muff:

Thank you for your continuing information on the workings of the Library Study Committee. St. Cloud Area's Library Committee member is Ellen Mork and she is unable to come to meetings in the Twin Cities, but follows your activities closely and with interest.

She is active in St. Cloud as consumer member of the long range planning committee for the Great River Regional Library, and will be able to provide valuable input on Library funding in this area. Please address all future correspondence to Ellen.

Sending you all best wishes for success in this much needed study.

Sincerely:

Joan Hicks

Joan Hicks
Sec.

Ellen Mork
1051 - 25th Ave N.
St. Cloud, MN 56301



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

PHONE: (612) 224-5445

MEMO

TO: Katharine Muff

FROM: Pat Lucas

SUBJECT: Library Study

DATE: May 19, 1978

The draft has been sent to Karen Anderson, Barbara Maher, and Judy Rosenblatt, and a copy is attached for your information.

You left the office on Thursday, the 18th, with a copy of the three consensus questions and a memo that Harriett had written to Carol. Those are the only copies that we have. Please return them to us when you send us the two additional consensus questions that you developed on the 18th as well as the list of the five off-Board readers. Thanks.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

PHONE: (612) 224-5445

MEMO

TO: Karen Anderson, Barb Maher, Judy
Rosenblatt

FROM: Pat Lucas

SUBJECT: Library Study

DATE: May 19, 1978

Attached is a copy of the Library Study, second draft. The first draft was reviewed by committee readers, and this second draft incorporates changes that they made.

Please read and return to the state office by June 13th.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA



555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

PHONE: (612) 224-5445

MEMO

TO: Helene

FROM: Pat Lucas

SUBJECT: Library Study

DATE: May 19, 1978

F.Y.I. - the draft of the Library Study has been sent to the state Board readers with the request that it be returned by June 13th.

Start Library
file



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

PHONE: (612) 224-5445

MEMO

TO: Katharine Muff and Carol Pidcock

FROM: Harriett Herb on behalf of Helene Borg
Governor's pre-White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services

DATE: August 18, 1977

We have recently received a request from William G. Asp, Director of the Office of Public Libraries and Interlibrary Cooperation, to recommend people to serve on Governor Perpich's pre-White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services. The conference will be held in September, 1978, to precede the White House Conference, which will be held in September, 1979. To quote from Mr. Asp's letter, "the Governor will be appointing a number of citizens to work with a group of librarians in planning the state conference."

We would appreciate your assistance in suggesting persons for nominations to this committee. Helene would very much like to nominate both of you, and in order to do so, we must have your agreement to be nominated for an appointment. The names of nominees are to be submitted to the Governor's Office on August 31, so we need your answer by return mail or by telephone. The Planning Committee will meet three or four times between October, 1977, and September, 1978. All meetings of the committee will be held in Minneapolis or St. Paul, and travel expenses for committee members will be paid.

If you know of anyone else we should nominate, please let us have those names too so that we can contact them also. The federal guidelines for the state conference require that there be 1/3 librarians and library trustees and 2/3 citizens with no formal library affiliation on the Planning Committee. Since we have a study on public library financing, and since we have had contact with Mr. Asp before, he asked us for names of nominees. We would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible. Thank you.

State of Minnesota

Department of Education

Office of Public Libraries
and Interlibrary Cooperation
301 Hanover Bldg.
480 Cedar Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
612/296-2821

AUG 15 1977

August 12, 1977

Helene Borg, President
League of Women Voters of Minnesota
555 Wabasha
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Dear Ms. Borg:

Governor Perpich will be calling a Governor's pre-White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services to be held in September, 1978. The major purposes of the state conference are: (1) to assess the current status of library and information services available to the citizens of Minnesota; (2) to bring citizen focus on such issues as the needs of library users, strengths and deficiencies in library service; support for all types of libraries, and library and information services for special groups, and (3) to develop from citizen input some recommendations for future library development at state and national levels. The state conferences will lead to the White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services to be held in September, 1979.

The Governor will be appointing a number of citizens to work with a group of librarians in planning the state conference. We would appreciate your assistance in suggesting persons for nomination to this committee. Since participation in the state conference has been established in federal guidelines as one-third librarians and library trustees and two-thirds citizens with no formal library affiliation, we are particularly eager for citizen nominees.

It is anticipated that the planning committee will meet three or four times between October, 1977, and September, 1978, and that subcommittees would meet more frequently. All meetings of the full committee will be in Minneapolis or St. Paul, and travel expenses for committee members will be paid.

Names of nominees will be submitted to the Governor's Office on August 31. I would appreciate receiving by that date the names, addresses and telephone numbers of persons who would agree to be nominated for appointment to this committee.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

William G. Asp
(by G.M.)

William G. Asp
Director

WGA/rm

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



*Let ASP
know
Muff & Pidcock
would be plzed
to be nominated*

*Pidcock
Muff*



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102 • TELEPHONE (612) 224-5445

August 24, 1977

Mr. William G. Asp, Director
Office of Public Libraries and
Interlibrary Cooperation
State of Minnesota
301 Hanover Building
480 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Mr. Asp:

Thank you for your letter of August 12th in which you informed us of the Governor's pre-White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services.

In answer to your request for names of nominees for the state conference to be submitted to the Governor's Office, we submit the following:

Katharine Muff
723 Douglas
Eveleth, MN 55734
(218) 741-8621

Carol Pidcock
4131 Aldrich Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55412
529-6992

If you would like more information, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Harriett Herb
Executive Director

H:M

State of Minnesota

Department of Education

Office of Public Libraries
and Interlibrary Cooperation

AUG 4 1977

301 Hanover Bldg.

480 Cedar Street

St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

612/296-2821

Xeroxed & sent to Muff 8-4-7.

August 2, 1977

Helene Borg, President
League of Women Voters of Minnesota
555 Wabasha
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Dear Ms. Borg:

I recently have learned that the League of Women Voters of Minnesota will undertake a two year study of public library finance. As the agency of state government concerned with public library development, our office maintains extensive files of information on Minnesota public libraries. We also have the most complete collection of library science materials in the state. Our staff is eager to assist you and your members in this study, and hope that you will feel free to contact us whenever we might be able to provide you with information or assistance.

Sincerely yours,

William G. Asp

William G. Asp
Director

WGA/rm

Let's send him a note
telling him that Muff is
the chair and that we've
forwarded his letter to her.



★ Island Fanfare • by Alain Berckvitz of France. Design contributed to benefit UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund. ★ Fanfare dans l'île • par Alain Berckvitz (France). Composition offerte à l'UNICEF, le Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance. ★ Banda de música isleña • obra de Alain Berckvitz, de Francia. Contribución al UNICEF, el Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia. ★ Остров фанфара • Рисунок Алена Берквитча (Франция). Подарок Детскому фонду Организации Объединенных Наций (ЮНИСЕФ). ★ 岛上的军乐队, 阿兰·贝克维兹(法国)作。 图案设计赠给联合国儿童基金会。



PRINTED IN U.S.A.



AUG 22 1977

Dear Harriett:

Please tell Helene
Borg that I shall be
very pleased to have
her nominate Carol
Pidcock and I
to serve on the Governor's
pre-White House Conference
on Libraries and Information
Services.

Katharine E. Huff
~~Emmett~~ August 20th

AUG 15 1977

AUG 2 1977

August 12, 1977

Harriet/Peggy:

From K. Muff-- (via C. Pidcock!)

Please to make copies of the enclosed questionnaire for Public Library Financing committee as follows:

- 69 Local League presidents;
- (15) for this committee's members;
- for copies to be made available at
 LWVMN workshops in September.

Katharine Muff will make available promptly the names of the committee members. At that time you will please to mail out a copy to those of first two categories above.

Thanks.

Any questions I shall try to answer.

Coral Pidcock, Mpd2
529-6992

AUG 16 1977

Eveleth, Minnesota
August 14, 1977

Harriett Herb
LWV of Minnesota
55 Wabasha
St Paul, Mn 551102

Dear Harriet:

Enclosed is the list, to date, of the Library Funding Study Committee. Every person on it is a volunteer - either from the Convention or by contact with Carol or me. As soon as you send me some League writing paper I will write each one inviting additional nominations.

About the survey questions we have asked you to handle: if you will please send one to each President and enclose one for each additional volunteer member of the committee (please write her name on the sheet) we will, in effect, have added the Presidents to our study at this stage. You will note several Presidents among the volunteers.

I think it would be nice to have a little bundle of additional surveys at each of the September workshops. I'll attend the one in Grand Rapids.

It seems that we have Leagues in all Regional Library Systems except East Central and Waseca/Le Seur but the only list of Leagues I have is the advance registration from the Convention. Is it complete?

I am very appreciative of your cheerful cooperation and I realize that without it no "out-stater" can function on a state-wide project. Thanks now and always.

Sincerely,

Katharine Muff

send
prez list

Alice Bronsted

Excelsior

was to remove name
from library study
committee

Sign up for the library Study

Alice Bronstad Ekeblom-Deephaven (professional librarian
in Henn. City system)

Susan Rosenfeld St. Paul

Mod-Mesabi (K. Muff) Arrowhead library system

Carol Pedcack (Dep't.)

Mary Kelley - Mankato

Mary Birmingham - Mankato - Pres. Southern

Minn. Inter-library Exchange, Pres-elect

of Friends of Minn. Valley Regional Library

Jean Flanagan

Mila Schepus

Mary Johnson

} Moorhead

Dorothy Herbert - letter recom. Anoka - Geri Nelson

Mon & Wed AM

League of Women Voters

Librarian

LEGISLATIVE INTERESTS FORM

Research - Crim Justice - But interested H.R.

Name Donna K. Herbert

Address 103 Trussell

Phone 421-1308 55316

Local League Quota

Are you interested in participating in:

Lobbying?

Observing?

Research? hopeful to have time - for some?

Other? my sessions

What program areas are you most interested in? I am interested in them

All and Wmfont do not have "time" this winter/spring
because of personal & work commitments

Human Rights

Number of years in the LWV 2

Previous LWV experience: Lepton Ky. (member only)

Previous experience at the Legislature: none in Ky. Minnesota

did serve for 7 years as Chair of Comp Health Planning
& on State & national Acadist Development
Council.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

PHONE: (612) 224-5445

MEMO

TO: Carol Pidcock

MAY 1 1978

FROM: Harriett Herb, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Library Study

DATE: April 25, 1978

The subcommittee to rewrite the first draft of the Library Study is meeting in the state office on Tuesday, May 2nd, at 9:00.

PLEASE return your corrected copy of the draft sent to you earlier to the state office IMMEDIATELY.

Thank you.

TO: Harriet Herb, et al.

Enclosed please find my addendums, etc.; noted on pages.

I wish to protest the item in the current Minnesota VOTER which claims the cost of this item at \$9M; particularly since the inference, as quoted from State Convention, was in error.

I would be glad to talk with anyone who might wish to call.

Carol Pidcock

JAN 9 1978

Shoreview League Members interested in
library study:

Metta Fridley
740 Amber Drive

Ann Kirch
1039 Angerson Road

Shoreview, Minn. 55712

Wrote for more
info. 11/9/78



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

PHONE: (612) 224-5445

MEMO

TO: Katharine Muff

FROM: Harriett Herb, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Attached

DATE: December 8, 1977

Sorry for the delay in sending this to you, but I was out of the office for a week with a sinus infection, and it languished on my desk.

Would suggest we answer that the committee: has a SELCO representative from Austin; is now only in the information-gathering stage; intends to include a review of the SDE's role, rules and regulations; appreciates her comments and may use same when preparing consensus questions.

7 Hillside Court
Northfield, MN 55057
November 26, 1977

Ms. Katharine Muff, Chair
Library Study Committee
c/o MN LWV
555 Wabasha
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Katharine:

I am writing you since our local LWV is not yet geared up re library study, and I want to try to get some input into your work as soon as possible.

Our local City Library and that of Faribault (both in Rice County) are linked together with Rice County in a regional library arrangement called SELCO. There are fairly complicated financial arrangements, but essentially the County provides funds via SELCO to provide various library services to rural residents.

When SELCO was formed, state law provided that the participating counties must contribute a minimum of 1/3 of a mill, but the State Department of Education has made a ruling that it must be 2/3 of a mill. Our County Board has objected strongly to this, feeling that any increases in their contribution should be in dollar amounts, not mills, because of the variable nature of property valuations. And I must say that I would have to agree with them, believing that ~~available~~ funds should be made available according to needs and population, and not according to valuations that may represent farm sizes, commerce, industry, etc.

I hope that you will consider this type of problem in your study.

Yours truly,

Marie Jensen

Marie Jensen (LWV member and
also City Councilwoman, although
I am speaking for neither in
this letter)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

PHONE: (612) 224-5445



MEMO

TO: Harriett Herb

FROM: Katharine Muff

SUBJECT: coping

DATE:

DEC 5 1977

BH
Plz
do.
HH

Done
12/5 } Would you like to make three copies of the enclosed, one for your file, one for Sue Rosenfeld, one for Sandra Shanley and send mine back to me? About the survey sheets you have received (there will be more) I really don't need copies as long as I can be sure they are on file.

I am trying to plan a visit to the office about Decmber 16th but it depends upon my transportation facilities. If I can't we'll set a date for the January meeting by phone calls.

Thanks.

DEC 5 1977

Eveleth, Minnesota
December 1, 1977

Ms Ann Thomas
5792 Lynwood Blvd
Mound, Mn 55364

Dear Ms Thomas

I shall look forward to your report. The third paragraph of your letter of November 21, 1977 indicates that it will contain what we will need as a focus around which to build a good report. I have never doubted that you could produce. Despite differences in style, I have great respect for your ability and have counted on it.

I am sorry that I did not think to notify you of Carol's illness. Because she had functioned so splendidly as my communication link it never occurred to me that you and the state LWV office were not informed. I am sure that you and Sue Rosenfeld and Sandra Shanley can supply needed talent. Barbara Namie (Mankato) has sent in some very lucid material.

I know that you were planning a trip. Can you say when you will be back? And, whether or not you can meet with us in mid-January, can you suggest a person or persons, who can write well?

I have been forwarded copies of a St Louis library publication Library News, from an Urban Libraries Council reporting the hardships created by library cutbacks but I think a shorter article in the Minneapolis Library newsletter covers just about the same ground. I'll have copies of both for the committee.

As I shove~~l~~^l my way out of my drive, almost every day, I'll think of you in the sunshine!

Best wishes.

Katharine E Muff
723 Douglas Ave
Eveleth, Mn 55734
218- 741-8621

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

PHONE: (612) 224-5445



MEMO

TO: Those Invited to Attend the Public
Library Funding Committee Meeting

FROM: Harriett Herb, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Minutes

DATE: November 8, 1977

We are very sorry that you were unable to attend the first meeting of the Public Library Funding Committee. We do hope that you will be able to attend future meetings and continue your cooperation with this new study committee.

Enclosed are the minutes of that meeting and the list of those attending.

As you will note, the next meeting of the committee is scheduled for some time in January. It will be at the OPLIC offices, which are in the Hanover Building in St. Paul. The date is not yet firm; however, we will be sending you a notice of that meeting.

Box 631

NOV 14 1977

Northampton

Minnesota 56187

November 11, 1977

League of Women Voters Minnesota

555 Hobbs Ave

St. Paul, Minn 55102

Dear Harriet:

In regard to the Public Library Funding Committee, I didn't know I was on it. I must have missed a letter some how.

I'm sorry, but I can't possibly serve on this committee. I am on the Regional Arts Development Panel which meets in Minneapolis and it's all I can do to make those meetings. I'm sorry not to serve when asked but the distance is just too great.

Sincerely,

Loone E. Vance

BRINGING YOU NEWS ABOUT THE MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC LIBRARY & INFORMATION CENTER

Trimmed budget necessitates more cuts

Because Minneapolis' property tax is the highest in the state, and because the State Legislature is bearing pressure on local officials to reduce this burden, the Minneapolis City Council was determined this year to retain the same mill rate in 1978 that it levied in 1977. Meanwhile, the City's costs for personnel, equipment, supplies, and utilities continue to spiral upward. The net result is a reduction in City services.

Still suffering the effects of last year's budget cuts, which necessitated going from a six-day week to a five-day week in most of the Community Libraries, the Library Board now must make even deeper cuts for 1978. These cuts have been accurately described in the two Minneapolis daily newspapers. Briefly stated, the Library must eliminate \$476,400 worth of current programs and services next year.

This will mean, in visible terms, a reduction of 15 service hours (from 65 to 50 per week) at the Central Library and at North Regional Library. These libraries will open at 10 a.m. each day, rather than 9 a.m., and will close at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, staying open till 8 p.m. on Monday and Thursday only. Service at North Community Library, 1834 Emerson Av. N., will be discontinued at the end of December, 1977, as planned. The Library Programs Office will be eliminated, as will be many of the special events this office coordinated, such as Sunday film programs, radio programs, and the annual Book Fair. The maintenance and paging staffs will be reduced, which means

buildings will not be as thoroughly cleaned as in the past and books will not be returned to the shelves quite as rapidly.

"Invisible" cuts, those which will not be readily apparent to the public, but which will have a long term and potentially even more devastating effect on future service, will be slashes in the materials (books, records, films, etc.) and equipment budgets.

Facing up to the reality of these cuts, we are looking into ways to better utilize volunteer help and seeking additional funding through various grant programs. Unfortunately, these two avenues are not expected to produce any effective results soon enough to offset the 1978 deficits.

While we lament the cutbacks forced upon us, we do not by any means urge higher property taxes. We agree that they are high enough and we deplore the fact

that we currently must rely on local sources for 94% of our operating revenues. We do argue that the Minneapolis Public Library is also a state wide resource and that some of the support for its operation, particularly that of the Central Library, should come from the State.

We have been advocating this here for years, and the Minnesota Library Association regularly tries to convince the Legislature of the need to shift a larger portion of public library operation to the State. So far, these efforts have not been successful. We hope that the Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services next fall will come to grips with this most basic issue and recommend such action in the strongest of terms.

Joseph Kimbrough,
Director

'NIC' lends helping hand....

Questions ranging from the casual "I wonder...?" to the desperate "What am I going to do?!" are the daily fare at the Neighborhood Information Center (NIC) at Franklin Community Library. A microfiche directory of 2,000 service providers for the metropolitan area and a staff resolved to find answers are just two of the resources brought to bear on these questions. Answers come in the form of needed information or a knowledgeable referral to an appropriate service.

The Minneapolis Public Library established this innovative library service to provide a broad range of free and confidential information and referral services for the Franklin neighborhood and the metropolitan area at large. In its three years of operation, staff has found this service fits well as an adjunct to the traditional library functions.

Needs for health care, education, recreation, counseling, employment, and housing are among the many concerns that are addressed either by telephone or in person. Colorful displays and bountiful brochures adorn the NIC to attract attention to community events and services, and to encourage browsers to become more familiar with NIC resources.

An information and referral service is generally recognized as being helpful to people with special problems, such as the economically disadvantaged. In addition, however, information is available to meet such a wide variety of needs that everyone could have occasion to use it. For example,

NIC continued on back

Board sets November evening meeting

A chance to see the Minneapolis Public Library Board at work is offered Thursday, November 17, at 7:30 p.m. in Heritage Hall of the Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall. The Board scheduled its November meeting at this time for the convenience of people who are interested in Library Board matters but unable to attend the regular afternoon meetings.

The Library Board is comprised of eight Trustees (six elected, two appointed)

whose function is to make decisions on basic objectives, goals, and policies for the Minneapolis Public Library and Information Center. They monitor all Library spending and are responsible for assuring equitable Library service throughout the city to the best degree possible from available funds.

Library users and all interested citizens are encouraged to attend this evening meeting and observe their Library Board in action.

"briefly"

Evening and Saturday Library users are now entitled to one hour of free parking at the Skyway Ramp, 413 Nicollet Mall. This offer is extended through the courtesy of the Downtown Auto Park, proprietors of the Skyway Ramp. Edward F. Baker, owner of the Downtown Auto Park, said the offer was prompted by his "concern that public and private facilities should cooperate in maximizing opportunities to use community facilities."

The year's new children's books—over 700 of them—will be on display for the Book Fair, November 6 through 9 in the Science Museum. The four-day celebration of children's books begins with Family Browsing Day, Sunday, November 6, 2-5 p.m., featuring a Children's Film Festival, 2:30-4:30 p.m. in Heritage Hall. During the week, author/illustrator Peter Spier and local artist Jenny Holtzermann will present "Chalk Talks" for school groups. Book displays continue to be open for public browsing from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through November 9.

Project MARS—the latest branch of the space program? A new candy bar? No, though it does involve exploration into new worlds and will probably produce sweet results. Project MARS stands for Machine Assisted Reference Service, now in use on a trial basis at the Central Library. The project intends to determine the viability of machine assisted reference as a useful tool in the public library. Staff is using data bases accessed through a computer terminal to search for answers to reference questions in as many cases as possible during this trial period.

Information movement, the slogan of the computer age, is also the theme of the soon-to-be-completed slide/tape presentation about the Minneapolis Public Library system. As well as the time-tested ways of moving information to people who want it, some of the Library's lesser known and more innovative services will be presented. The production, which was paid for by a bequest, will be used to accompany Library staffers, Trustees, and Friends who are asked to speak to community groups.

Natural history is the subject of an annotated bibliography recently produced by the Minneapolis Athenaeum. The eighteen page publication lists over 100 works in the Athenaeum's Rare Book Collection that relate to flora and fauna. Categorized by subject, the list includes sections on explorers and naturalists, herbs and gardens, plants and flowers, trees, birds, fishes and reptiles, periodicals, and reference books. Illustrations from several of the books are reproduced in the bibliography. The Rare Book Collection, comprised of some five thousand rare and valuable volumes, is housed in the Athenaeum on the fourth floor of the Central Library. It is open to scholars and interested readers for research and enjoyment. Those wishing to visit the Athenaeum should ask directions at the Information Desk. Copies of the Natural History bibliography are available at all Minneapolis Public Library agencies. Single copies will be sent on request from the Minneapolis Athenaeum.

NIC continued from front

the NIC can help find consumer information on insurance, an accounting and tax service for small businesses, something new for a weekend outing, a women's liberation group, or a nearby recycling center. Social service agencies are making increasing use of the NIC for information to assist in program planning and implementation.

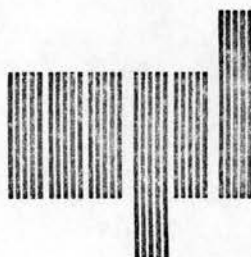
The slogan "We turn questions to answers" certainly applies to the wide scope of requests from a diversity of users at the NIC.

-Roger Hurd, Community Information Assistant

1977 Library use statistics

August-September

Circulation transactions	434,433
Research & fact finding questions	264,424
Central Library gate count	151,249



Minneapolis Public Library and Information Center
300 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, Minn. 55401

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MRS JERRY JENKINS
LWV OF MN
555 WABASHA
ST PAUL, MN

55102

League of Women Voters of Minnesota, 555 Wabasha, St. Paul, MN 55102
October 20, 1977

LIBRARY STUDY COMMITTEE

Katharine Muff, 723 Douglas Avenue, Eveleth, MN 55734 - 218-741-8621

Susan Rosenfeld, 2033 Stanford Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105 - 612-698-6022

Carol Pidcock, 4131 Aldrich Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55412 - 612-529-6992

Pam Berkwitz, 2425 France Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55416 - 612-920-3364

Milo Schefers, 514 South 4th Avenue, Moorhead, MN 56560 - 218-233-2542

Ann Thomas, 5792 Lynnwood Boulevard, Mound, MN 55364 - 612-472-5009

Mary Kelley, 304 North 6th Street, Mankato, MN 56001 - 507-388-4324

Barbara Namie, 216 Fulton Street, Mankato, MN 56001 - 507-387-5049

Aileen Konhauser, 6313 Halifax Avenue, Edina, MN 55424 - 612-927-9401

Mary Porter, 5940 Concord Avenue, Edina, MN 55424 - 612-6065

Hazel Helgeson, 5513 Highwood Drive, Edina, MN 55436 - 612-929-1757

Mary Waldo, 2279 Folwell, St. Paul, MN 55108 - 612-644-9228

Sandra Shanley, 3245 Sprague Street, Anoka, MN 55303 - 612-421-0123

Jean E. Carr, 1105 9th Street N.W., Austin, MN 55912 -

Gert Nelson, 710 9th Avenue S.W., Austin, MN 55912 - 433-433-8193

Mrs. Alden L. Thomas
5792 Lynwood Blvd.
Mound, MN 55364

LIBRARY STUDY

Harriet Herb
League of Women Voters of Mn
555 Wabasha
St. Paul Mn 55102

November 25, 1977

Ms. Dorothy Herbert
103 Trussel
Chaplin, Mn. 55316

Dear Dorothy,

It was nice meeting you and even nicer to know that we have another volunteer for our League study on the funding of Public Libraries. In your professional capacity as a research librarian, you will certainly have the ability and connections to help us.

I am passing this information along to Sandra Shanley of your local League and also to Sue Rosenfeld of St. Paul. Together, we hope to pull together information relating to our Metro area system and possibly other material, as well. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated. I am returning your memo and minutes.

Although I will be away for a few months, you will be hearing from the Committee and from Sandra and/or Sue.

Very cordially yours,

Ann Thomas
Library Study Committee
5792 Lynwood Blvd. Mound, Mn. 55364
472-5009

Cc: Sue Rosenfeld
Sandra Shanley
State Office

Enc.

*Harriet - She is at Metro Com College
339-9441 X270*

As of 12/2/77 and until 4/1/78 my address will be:

Apt. ~~1106~~ 1004
1067 Fourth Avenue
Chula Vista California 92011
Phone: (714) ???-????

file

JUL 14 1977

July 12, 1977

To: Chairman of Library Funding Study
From: Ceri Nelson - Anoka-Coon Rapids Area
Re: Library Funding Committee volunteer

Sandra Shanley, our action co-chairperson and secretary, expressed unquestioning interest in working on the library funding committee when I told her about it. She and her husband are both librarians and, I understand, he has often been referred to as "Sandra's husband" rather than the other way around. She will be a tremendous asset to the committee as she has been to our league in the short time she has been a member.

Sincerely,
Ceri Nelson



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102 • TELEPHONE (612) 224-5445

July 7, 1977

Kathleen Muff
723 Douglas
Eveleth, MN 55734

Dear Kathie:

Helene Borg asked us today to send you the following names and addresses:

Mary Kelley, 304 N. 6th Street, Mankato 56001 (LWV-Mankato)
Mary Birmingham, 328 Pleasant, Mankato 56001 (LWV-Mankato)
Milo Schefers, 514 S. 4th Avenue, Moorhead 56560 (LWV-Moorhead)
Jean Flanagan, Box 504, Moorhead 56560 (LWV-Moorhead)
Mary Johnson, 1910 S. 6th Street, Moorhead, 56560 (LWV-Moorhead)
Dorothy Herbert, 103 Trussel, Champlin 55316 (LWV-Anoka-Coon Rapids) - she
has worked in the past as a research librarian)
Louise Grams, 312 11th Street South, Virginia 55793 (LWV-Mid-Mesabi)
Carol Pidcock, 4131 Aldrich Avenue North, Minneapolis 55412 (LWV-Minneapolis)
Sue Rosenfeld, 2033 Stanford, St. Paul 55105 (LWV-St. Paul)

Those who spoke in favor of the item at Convention who might be interested in being on the committee are:

Joan Hicks, 19 Brian Court, St. Cloud 56301 (LWV-St. Cloud Area)
Geri Nelson, 1013 Vera, Champlin 55316 (LWV-Anoka-Coon Rapids)
Bobby Olander, 2532 Orchard Lane, White Bear Lake 55110 (LWV-Mahtomedi Area)
Dorothy Lucas, 2101 S.W. 10th Street, Austin 55912 (LWV-Austin)

The wording of the study as adopted at Convention is: "A study of funding of public libraries in Minnesota."

National has a publication (#651) called "So you want to do something about Libraries." It is a 4-pager, covers library functions, standards, evaluation, government, and financing of libraries. We don't know whether it would be of much help but wanted you to be aware of it.

Let us know if we can be of any help to you.

Sincerely,

Harriett Herb
Executive Director

OCT 10 1978



MINNESOTA GOVERNOR'S
PRE-WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE
ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

September 10-12, 1978

Resolutions Upon Which Action Was Taken
at the
Minnesota Governor's Pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services

These resolutions were acted upon at the General Session of the Minnesota Governor's Pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services on Tuesday, September 12, 1978. Wording of resolutions is printed as presented in the Resolutions Committee report or amended on the floor.

A-1
Passed
WHEREAS: there is an increasing concern about censorship in Minnesota,
RESOLVED: that the conference delegates support the concept of Intellectual Freedom as outlined in the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read statement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that all libraries and information services develop and their board adopt selection policies, that support the concept of Intellectual Freedom in providing a process to handle and deal with complaints about resources and also to work actively with and encourage legislation to oppose legislation that attempts to limit access to information in libraries and information services.

A-2
Passed
WHEREAS: it is impossible for any library/library system to build complete collections in rapidly growing subject fields and in the many formats in which they are available, and:

WHEREAS, the anticipated inflation of prices for all materials, services, salaries, etc. is ongoing and expected to continue;

WHEREAS, the information explosion promises astronomical increases in the amount of information produced in the future;

RESOLVED, That a statewide plan for cooperative collection development be adopted both in terms of existing collections (both within and outside the state) and the identification of needs for subject collections.

A-3

WHEREAS, certain categories of needed resources are not now generally nor adequately available in libraries,

Passed

WHEREAS, the traditional library system does not serve the information needs of all the people, including but not limited to:

1. ethnic minorities;
2. the sensory disabled,
3. the physically disabled,
4. the mentally disabled,
5. all age groups,
6. institutionalized persons,
7. non library users, and
8. the gifted.

WHEREAS, many materials relevant and valuable to minorities, women, poor people and the incarcerated is produced by the ethnic, feminist and alternative press;

RESOLVED, That libraries make a deliberate and continuing effort to secure:

1. Popular material, for you people (e.g., including "Nancy Drew" and comic books).
2. Materials on gay and female sexuality.
3. Materials for and about the handicapped, incarcerated persons and minorities (e.g., Spanish-language and bilingual resources for Latinos).
4. Materials relevant to working people (e.g., on union-organizing and worker self-management).
5. Referral lists of community resource persons.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that community outreach workers and other means, i.e., TV, radio, brochures, etc., be funded through state, federal, and other creative optional sources, to bring these services to the individual level. Further, be it Resolved, that maximum effort be made to recruit minorities for those positions and to provide help in organizing the individual communities to address these needs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that libraries make it a firm and continuing policy to secure a wide representation of such materials, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these materials should be regularly and prominently displayed so that library users realize they are available.

A-4

WHEREAS, libraries should better and more responsibly serve their entire populations;

Passed

RESOLVED, that all practicing library workers undergo periodic courses or inservice training in human relations and cultural pluralism at times/places accessible statewide; that library schools also institute such classes as part of curriculum; and that library schools undertake an accelerated program to recruit students to comply with EEO and affirmative action programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that conscientious efforts be made by libraries to promote and conduct human relations awareness programs within a community setting for users and non-users; and that community people be used as resources.

A-5

WHEREAS, there is sometimes a need to have persons employed in, and those using the library to feel more comfortable with one another's background, culture, and needs as individuals,

Passed

AND WHEREAS: sometimes the image of the library, librarian, and library staff is formidable, uncompromising and rigid,

AND WHEREAS: use of the library may cause negative stigma to user's peer group,

RESOLVED: as this is an urgent and long term need, that local, state and federal cultural awareness and human relations training programs for library staff, governing boards and administration be funded and implemented:

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED: that local, state and national advertising campaigns be instigated regarding services, resources and the public served, which will improve and enhance the image of library usage and library personnel.

A-6

WHEREAS: there is a need to assure access to and preservation of the special collections throughout the state,

Passed

RESOLVED: that statewide multi-library collection catalogs should include not only the resources of the public and academic libraries but also publicly available resources of the special libraries and private collections.

GROUP B

B-1

WHEREAS, access to library service depends on the hours the libraries are open,

Passed

RESOLVED, that in any given community, the optimum and most desired hours of services should be determined from the needs of the community and the hourly schedules developed in response to those community wishes and needs.

B-2 WHEREAS, it has been Federally mandated that citizens have equal access to public facilities,

Passed RESOLVED, that the State of Minnesota provide funding during the 1979 Legislative session for the construction of new public library buildings; the expansion of existing public library buildings; and the rehabilitation of existing library facilities according to chapter 55 of the Minnesota Building Code, to provide access for the physically handicapped.

B-3 WHEREAS, many barriers to the access, use, and functioning of the library are magnified by the lack of financial support,

Passed RESOLVED, that an adequate minimal funding level be established for libraries from public (state) funds; and further be it resolved that academic and school library programs have a specific level of funding designated for those programs from within their institutional budgets.

B-4 WHEREAS, it is the right of all Minnesota citizens to have access to information,

Passed RESOLVED, that the state support the development of a statewide data base for all library materials available to the public in all types of libraries and information agencies in Minnesota.

B-5 WHEREAS, there is an increasing recognition of the necessity of sharing resources among all types of libraries; and WHEREAS, the resources of those special libraries which serve for profit businesses and corporations in many instances constitute important resources of a specialized nature which are often unique,

Passed RESOLVED, that effort be made to identify holdings and/or catalogs of these special libraries in general resource lists compiled or created at all levels (local, state, and federal) and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a mechanism be established to facilitate the equitable sharing of these holdings.

GROUP C

C-1 WHEREAS, there is a library needs assessment of Indian Reservations in the state of Minnesota at the present time within the purview of each unit of tribal government,

Passed RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Governor's Pre-White House Conference recognize and support the self-determination of Indian tribal governments and their duly elected or appointed representatives in their assessment of their own needs for library services and their choice of delegates to represent Indian people which will be addressed at a future Indian pre-White House library conference to be held in October, 1978.

C-2 WHEREAS, funding for library staff, materials, and programming in correctional institutions supported by the state, counties, and cities of Minnesota has never been adequate,

Passed

RESOLVED, that the Legislature of Minnesota mandate the use of state and federal funds for library staff, materials, and programs through state agencies including state department of corrections and the department of education for all correctional facilities in the state which would give adequate library service to inmates of state institutions and in cooperation with local public libraries would provide extension library services adequate to the inmate population on the state and local level.

C-3 WHEREAS, there is a need for public awareness for establishing a positive self-image for handicapped citizens through the following:

Passed

- 1) articles available concerning handicapped citizens' accomplishments
- 2) materials on careers available to the handicapped;
- 3) library materials and services about handicapped citizens available for concerned parents and educators;

RESOLVED, that qualified resource people from consumer organizations should be utilized by librarians and information services to obtain materials pertaining to these needs through speakers, radio, TV and other media on all levels of government.

C-4 WHEREAS, so many library collections are deficient in library materials (i.e., books, tapes, films, etc.) which are appropriate to the interests of many racial, ethnic, cultural, and sexual preference minority groups and those with limited reading ability,

Passed

RESOLVED, that library governing bodies and administrators adopt specific and positive policies regarding the selection and acquisition of high interest, low reading level collections which serve the needs and interests of the ethnic and cultural minorities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these policies will be supported with adequate funding and receive periodic review.

C-5 WHEREAS, library service to the mentally disabled has been very limited in the past,

Passed

RESOLVED, that the state of Minnesota should appropriate funds and/or secure federal funding to assess the needs and interests of the mentally disabled in our state. Each library system should utilize on an on-going basis, surveys, questionnaires, and direct contacts, in order to best serve the needs of the mentally disabled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that library personnel shall receive training or experience that will qualify them to relate to and serve the mentally handicapped.

G-6

WHEREAS, Blind and physically handicapped persons have a right to the same range of library and information resources and services as all other citizens; and

Passed

WHEREAS, provision of these services requires a strong federal, state, and local partnership through the Library of Congress National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, the state library agency, and the libraries within the state; and

WHEREAS, the strong current programs must receive increasing support to make more materials and services available to more eligible users;

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Governor's Pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services urge that the Congress provide greatly increased support to the Library of Congress National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped to strengthen the national program; that the Federal Government through the Library Services and Construction Act continue to assist the states in developing state-level library service programs for blind and physically handicapped persons and that the Minnesota legislature increase by at least 50% its funding of the Minnesota Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in the Minnesota Department of Education so that it may better reach and serve more eligible users.

GROUP D

D-1

WHEREAS,

Passed

- 1) Rapid obsolescence of information makes it essential that there be rigorous standards for making sure library personnel competencies are up-to-date
- 2) Minimum qualifications for library personnel have not been established
- 3) Implications of Title VII of Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 1607.3 of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission upon the legal use of the MLS conferred by an American Library Association accredited library school as the sole minimum criteria for entry into the library profession are not clear
- 4) The duties of professional and other level of personnel need to be differentiated to improve library employment practices.
- 5) The American Library Association 1948 list of professional and non-professional library duties is out of date

RESOLVED, That

- 1) American Library Association continue and escalate their effort to establish updated minimum qualifications for library personnel based on competencies, knowledge, skills, and attitudes.
 - 2) That the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science be urged to support the establishment and adoption of minimum qualifications for library personnel.
-

- D-2 WHEREAS, there is inequality in the staff support for District and School library media programs in Minnesota due to declining enrollments, inflation, and reduced budgets.
- Passed RESOLVED, that minimum staffing be determined for such programs, as follows: one licensed library media professional and one support person for every 500 students or major fraction thereof in each school, and that these minimum staffing requirements be identified in appropriate state regulations.
-
- D-3 WHEREAS, there is currently a serious lack of standards for different types of jobs in libraries
- Passed RESOLVED, That a state task force including professionals and users (appointed by the Governor and reporting to the Legislature by July 1st, 1979, in order to have information available for the White House Conference October, 1979), conduct a survey of Minnesota to:
- 1) Draw up job descriptions, including competency skills needed
 - 2) Indicate types and levels of training appropriate for each job
 - 3) Establish tests and/or check lists for evaluation of competency
 - 4) Make recommendations to the legislature for specific actions based on survey data
- All to serve as guidelines for library staffing.
-
- D-4 WHEREAS, there exists a need for library staffs - Professional and Non-professional - to have an opportunity to update existing competencies or obtain new competencies
- Passed RESOLVED, that a task force should be established by OPLIC but inclusive of all types of libraries who wish to participate, to develop a comprehensive plan for continuing library education for Minnesota and relate this plan to the national continuing library education movement.
-
- D-5 WHEREAS, handicapped citizens are being mainstreamed into American society librarians who are supposed to be servants of all people, must be trained to provide service to handicapped people, especially those with communication disabilities
- Passed RESOLVED, that library science curriculum include courses in serving handicapped persons including those with hearing impairments. We also resolve that content in continuing education also provide some awareness to above problems.
-

GROUP E

- E-1 WHEREAS, it is the right of all Minnesota citizens to have access to information they need; and, whereas it is economically and physically impossible for any one library to contain all information, now therefore
- Passed RESOLVED, that the state of Minnesota develop "and fund for all participants" a statewide multi-type library network with a statewide library catalog and statewide access including borrowing privileges and/or delivery; and, that such network be compatible with national developments.

E-2 WHEREAS, recorded information is increasing at a steadily faster rate, and
 whereas retrieval and usage of accurate information is a vital part of
 modern society, therefore

Passed

RESOLVED, that the federal government fund the development of national information services in order to: a) encourage and promote standards; b) make unique and major resource collections available nationwide; c) develop central services for networking; d) explore computer use in networking; e) explore and apply new forms of telecommunications; f) support research and development; and g) foster cooperation with similar national and international programs, as described in the section "Nationwide Network Concept" of the pamphlet Goals for Action: A Summary, published by the National Commission on Libraries and Information Sciences, pp. 10-11.

E-3 WHEREAS, a statewide multitype library network requires coordination and funding at state levels, now therefore

Passed RESOLVED, that the conference recommend the legislature provide funds for establishing regional network services.

E-4 WHEREAS, in order to promote networking and library cooperation;

Passed RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Governor's Pre-White House Conference endorse the objectives as stated in 103.0, page 205, through 103.9, page 208 and 104.2 through 104.25, page 209 from the 1978 Minnesota Long Range Plan for Library Service.

E-5 WHEREAS, users are best served when their information needs can be met with local resources, but recognizing that no library can contain all the information needs of its users, be it therefore

Passed RESOLVED, that the purpose of statewide multi-type networks should be to supplement the holdings of the libraries of the state, recognizing the differing needs of the users of such libraries.

E-6 WHEREAS, there exists in Minnesota a vast array and quantity of valuable information resources in corporate, health, industry and business that are needed by Minnesota citizens, now therefore be it

Passed RESOLVED, that enabling legislation at the statewide level be passed to encourage inclusion of corporate, industrial, and business information resources into regional and state resource sharing networks.

GROUP F

F-1 WHEREAS, evaluation of library programs and services has been initiated and implemented at the local level, and whereas, results of such evaluation are often compiled and disseminated locally, and

Passed WHEREAS, libraries have usually measured programs and services quantitatively,

RESOLVED, that the appropriate state agencies coordinate the development and implementation of needs assessment and evaluation documents; and coordinate regular continuing evaluation activities for programs and services by library users and non-users at the local level, and be it further

RESOLVED, that sufficient funding for implementation of the aforementioned process and dissemination of the results to the library community and the public be provided by the legislature of the State of Minnesota.

F-2 WHEREAS, library users should be aware of their rights to accurate, timely, efficient, and courteous library service, and in order to evaluate current services responsibly, and

Passed WHEREAS, there is a need for libraries to assist in raising the awareness of users to these rights,

RESOLVED, that the national library and trustee organizations develop a LIBRARY USERS BILL OF RIGHTS which could be posted in conspicuous places in every library.

F-3 WHEREAS, identification of library user needs and performance evaluation in libraries and information centers should be strengthened,

Passed RESOLVED, that the Federal Government, through appropriations and guidance, assist the states and localities in research and development in this area.

F-4 WHEREAS, there is currently no single state agency responsible for collection and dissemination of all library statistics,

Passed RESOLVED, that the State of Minnesota designate a single state agency responsible for the collection and dissemination of all library statistics.

F-5 WHEREAS, evaluation and accountability connote standards, and value judgements, and arouse subjective concerns, and

Passed WHEREAS, evaluation can be an objective means to show accountability, and

WHEREAS, evaluation tools may be designed to measure any issue, and

WHEREAS, specialists exist who may be called upon to design evaluation tools,

F-5
Cont. RESOLVED, that a model for an ongoing evaluation system be developed by a
a Governors Task Force comprised of representatives from the library pro-
fession, library users, and evaluation experts, and be it further

RESOLVED, that pilot projects be funded to determine the effectiveness
of the model.

GROUP G

G-1 WHEREAS, in recent years federal funding of public libraries, under the various
titles of authorizing statutes, has been very undependable; and

Passed WHEREAS, existing statutes authorize substantial federal funding which can
meet some of the critical needs of public, school, and academic libraries,

RESOLVED, that the U. S. Congress be requested to appropriate the maximum
funding authorized by each of these statutes, including:

1. Library Services and Construction Act

Title I: materials and services for innovative programs
(\$140,000,000 authorization FY 1979);

Title II: construction and renovation (\$97,000,000 authorization
FY 1977; such sums as may be necessary FY 1978 and 1979);

Title III: networks and other resource-sharing arrangements
(\$20,000,000 authorization FY 1979);

Title IV: older reader services (such sums as necessary)

2. Elementary and Secondary Education Act

Title IV-B: school library/media resources and instructional equipment
(\$167,600,000 FY 1979 budget recommendation);

3. Higher Education Act

Title II-A: College library resources (\$84,000,000 authorization
FY 1979).

G-2 WHEREAS, the reliance on property taxes for the primary financial support of
public libraries in the state of Minnesota creates barriers to statewide
cooperation and reciprocal use among libraries; prevents achievement of ade-
quate levels of basic library services in many areas of the state; contributes
Passed to considerable inequities in support of local library services and variations
in the quality of services; and creates excessive property tax burdens upon
local governments which face considerable growth or shrinking tax bases,

RESOLVED, that the legislature of the State of Minnesota eliminate or substan-
tially resolve these barriers, inequities and burdens by restructuring the
method of basic financial support for public library service by providing that
at least 50% of all funds expended statewide for such service in Minnesota
be provided by state financing by fiscal year 1985 according to a formula de-
veloped by an accountable state agency and approved by the state legislature.

G-3

WHEREAS, an inequity of school library service to the students of Minnesota exists within the state since the level of school library funding in each school district is determined by the local administrative unit and,

Passed

WHEREAS, the State Legislature has established a per pupil unit of expenditure to equalize all school districts' costs,

RESOLVED, that the State Legislature establish a floor of funding support for the school district library program at the local level in accordance with the goals drawn up by the school library professional organizations and endorsed by the Educational Media Unit of the State Department of Education and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Education shall establish a citizen advisory group, representing all areas of the state, to review, accept, modify, or expand the library/media goals.

G-4

WHEREAS, there are populations currently unserved or underserved by existing library systems,

Passed

RESOLVED, that it shall be the policy of the Federal Government to assist the states in the equalization of access to library and information services by the underserved population, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the greater portion of Federal-aid for such services be distributed in a block grant to an accountable agency of each state, for distribution in the state according to an approved state-developed equalization plan, and be it further

RESOLVED, that a lesser portion of the Federal funds be designated for the establishment of national coordination of networking systems, research and development, and other functions clearly of a national interest and which local and state libraries are unable to provide.

G-5

WHEREAS, state monies and federal monies supporting library and information services are currently administered and dispersed by several state agencies and boards, and

Passed

WHEREAS, no overall coordination of planning or program services now exists except through the imperfect and overlapping budgetary process of the legislature,

RESOLVED, that we urge by consolidation, designation, or creation, the establishment of a strong state agency responsible for the administration of state and federal funds for development programs and for cooperative library and information services and also charged with the development of a statewide plan in establishing priorities, policies and programs, and responsible for coordinating related federal programs on a statewide level.

- G-6 WHEREAS, there is need to follow through on the momentum recently generated in the State Legislature,
- Passed RESOLVED, that the state of Minnesota provide state financing, which, when matched from local funds, is sufficient to make minimal basic library services available to all citizens.
-

GROUP H

- H-1 WHEREAS, many libraries do not fulfill their potential in reaching the community
- Passed RESOLVED, that OPLIC and the Educational Media Unit hire a staff person to: 1) train system library staff in public relations techniques; 2) provide expertise and coordinate a statewide p.r. program utilizing all mass media and public television by providing p.r. campaign releases on a regular basis; 3) assist and direct the marketing of library services and products including nonprint materials; 4) facilitate the growth of enthusiasm for libraries by educating students and the general public via a p.r. campaign; 5) encourage cooperation and exchange between local libraries of services and available information.
-
- H-2 WHEREAS, the public is inadequately informed regarding library and information services, and; whereas, current publicity and public relations efforts seem not to have accomplished their goals,
- Passed RESOLVED, that each regional library system inaugurate a publicity/public information office whose purpose shall be to locally develop and nurture a good relationship with the news media in its area to better facilitate dissemination of library service information.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the regional library system act as a consultant to all libraries in the system to aid them in developing a better public awareness program.
-
- H-3 WHEREAS, one of the most significant findings of this conference is the public's lack of awareness of the wide variety of library and information services available,
- Passed RESOLVED, that public relation's responsibilities be assigned locally to market and provide information to the general public and establish a liason between community organizations and institution/business community.
-

H-4 WHEREAS, it is vitally important that children be attracted to use libraries,
Passed RESOLVED, that we Minnesotans support innovative programs including the
issuance of library cards to all children at pre-school age in order to
address these needs.

H-5 WHEREAS, the Minnesota Long Range Plan for Library Service recommends that
Passed library boards be encouraged to form citizens' advisory boards, consisting
of young and old users and non-users, and to suggest needed library programs,
materials and services
RESOLVED, that library boards form such citizens' advisory boards.

OUTLINE FOR LIBRARY WORKSHOPS

I. Introduction and explanation of the study.

A. League commitment to education

1. Libraries are a life-long education opportunity and a natural outgrowth of League's interest in education.
2. concern about adequate funding and appropriate level of government to provide funding.

II. Explanation of Terms pp. 14-15 and an overview of the publication display and the possible use of each.

III. History

- #### A. Slide/tape presentation from OPLIC be sure to explain that since 1957 the emphasis has been on the establishment of regions - ch. 546 minimal cooperative efforts among libraries is a pre-requisite for state and federal funding.

IV. Explanation of Consensus Questions

A. Question #1 - explain what is involved with each point

1. Show map on overhead, point out areas where no service is available
2. How many people do not presently receive service?
3. A local library relies 100% on local support
4. If you don't share, you incur greater costs
5. regional systems mean some loss of local control and autonomy; also more services.
6. encourage local libraries and areas without service to become a part of an existing system - the state has determined that there will be no more than 13 regional systems - can service be provided without becoming a part of a system? what does that mean in terms of cost?
7. establishing libraries in areas without them - libraries or library services? distinguish. presently state funding requires cooperation so that the establishment of libraries in unserved areas with the use of state funds would mandate cooperative efforts on the part of the newly established library. How many people would be affected? Who pays for construction costs? What are the advantages and disadvantages?
8. developing multi-regional library systems - could result in a state-wide network of library services and is dependent on well-developed regional systems throughout the state. What does it mean in terms of finances? Increased federal support? advantages? disadvantages?
9. Fostering a system of shared resources - could mean within a single city (schools and public libraries) within a region, within a state could these resources be used more efficiently? would this save money? what problems are involved? refer to Senator Stumpf legislation

B. QUESTION # 2- Explanation of percentages - since state funding only goes to those libraries cooperating within a system the figure of 52¢ per capita must be re-evaluated.

1. the total of state funding is divided among the total population, including unserved citizens, to determine per capita spending.
2. the amount of services returned per capita is \$18 - \$25 with no ceiling on the amount available to users. per capita expenditure = \$8.13
3. How does the local region fit into the percentage figures.

C. QUESTION #3 - The pros and cons of increased state and federal funding.

1. Single region comparison of percentages of expenditures
e.g. does total income match salary expenditures and other expenditures match state and federal income.
2. What would the increases mean in terms of these figures? What would a decrease mean?
3. If the Federal government provides 20%, the state 50% and the local 30% who decides what is a sufficient total? Congress? legislature? Library Board? American Library Association?
4. Should the different levels of government focus funding different types of things rather than a percentage i.e. federal support for non-recurring obligations such as buildings, or books, audio-visual etc?
5. Should both federal and state governments be expected to fund facilities and services mandated by the state e.g. handicapped
6. Should funding by federal and state governments be given as a matter of right or should it include incentives or requirements to encourage cooperation and improving standards of service?
7. What should be the purpose of state funding?
 - a. equal expenditure for everyone - egalitarian?
 - b. expand services to unserved areas ?
 - c. supplement local funds to a basic minimum for all, expecting a matching expenditure by local government considering the ability of the local area to pay?

D. QUESTION # 4

1. Overhead and explanation of terms population, area and valuation.
2. Summarize the "state and federal sources" and "problems" sections of the study. Refer to discussion of mill levy
3. Note that the present formula for state funding is an interim formula adopted in the Spring of 1977. Has it been in effect long enough to be evaluated.? Is there danger that an undesirable formula will be frozen as permanent if efforts are not made to modify as soon as possible?

chart or
overhead of
local region

overhead

overhead

overhead
&
handout

4. Consider: what will a change in the formula mean for each regional system.

E. QUESTION #5

1. Consider #2 and Leagues financing state government consensus "maintaining state services through a combination of spending cuts and increased taxation when state funds are short and decreased taxation when there is a budget surplus." "when increases in state spending are proposed LWVMN supports an increase in state aids to local school districts".
2. Examples of hours and services cuts within regions
How volunteers have been used
Pros and cons of charging fees
Examples of shared resources.

HOW CAN YOU PRESENT THE LIBRARY TOPIC AT YOUR LOCAL LEAGUE MEETINGS

- I. Explain reason for the study
 - A. commitment of education on the part of League
 - B. adoption by 1977 Convention with the intent of being able to lobby when the 1979 legislature convenes
- II. Evaluate your community's Library services -city or regional including a brief history of its development
 - A. If your League hasn't studied Library funding previously, it might be helpful to plan one meeting for study and a second meeting for consensus.
 1. perhaps a general meeting could be called including several leagues in an area. The director of the regional library system would be an excellent resource person. (see list of regional directors)
If possible hold your meeting in the library
 2. Be sure to have on hand the resources listed under "Documentation and Resources for Additional Study."
 3. If you have a member who was a delegate to the Governor's Conference on Libraries, he or she could stimulate some discussion on the proceedings
 4. Refer to items 1-7 under Bring the Information Closer to Home in the Committee Guide. Specifically find out why or why not is your library a part of a regional system? Is there a need for greater funding in your library? Where could this money come from? Look at the circulation figures for the past 20 years. Have there been dramatic changes? why?
 5. If there isn't time to cover the local library information at the unit meeting perhaps it could be covered in the Bulletin. e.g. Traverse Des Sioux and Lake Agassiz
 7. Included in this handout are masters sheets which may be used to make transparencies for overhead projectors. It's always helpful to have good visuals to accompany your materials.
- III. Acquire a copy of your regions Long range plan
 1. Are changes in population considered in determining future needs?
 2. What are the forecasted future needs for the region?
- IV. Allow ample time during meeting to discuss consensus question.
 1. It may be helpful to print the questions in the bulletin prior to the meeting.
 2. Limit the amount of time spent on each question so that each one may be covered adequately.

GRANTS FOR PROJECTS INVOLVING COOPERATION BETWEEN PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND PUBLIC SCHOOL MEDIA CENTERS

BILL NUMBERS AND AUTHORS

S.F. 1493, Stumpf (main Author) Hughes, Staples, Ueland

H.F. (not yet introduced in the House)

SOME FACTS

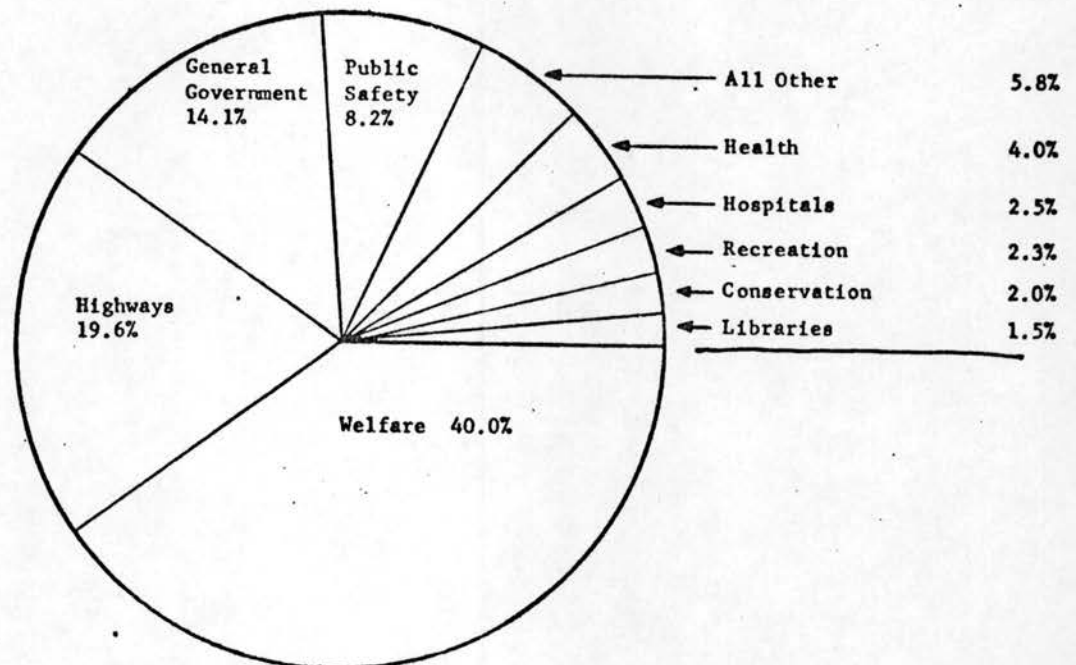
1. The purpose of this bill is to promote programs of cooperation between public libraries and school media centers that would result in improved services to the public and economies in providing those services.
2. The bill provides that:
 - A. Applications for grants would be made jointly by the local school district or districts and the Board of Trustees of a public library or regional system.
 - B. Up to 50% of the total grants in one year may be in a single regional development district.
 - C. Up to \$50,000 could be granted to a single program.
 - D. The public library and school media center must be in separate physical facilities and have separate governing boards.
3. The appropriation requested is \$200,000 per year.

SOME COMMENT

While this bill should not be seen as a substitute for more adequate funding for library services in both public schools and public libraries, it would encourage the development of programs to enable school and public libraries to improve services in both institutions more economically through cooperation.

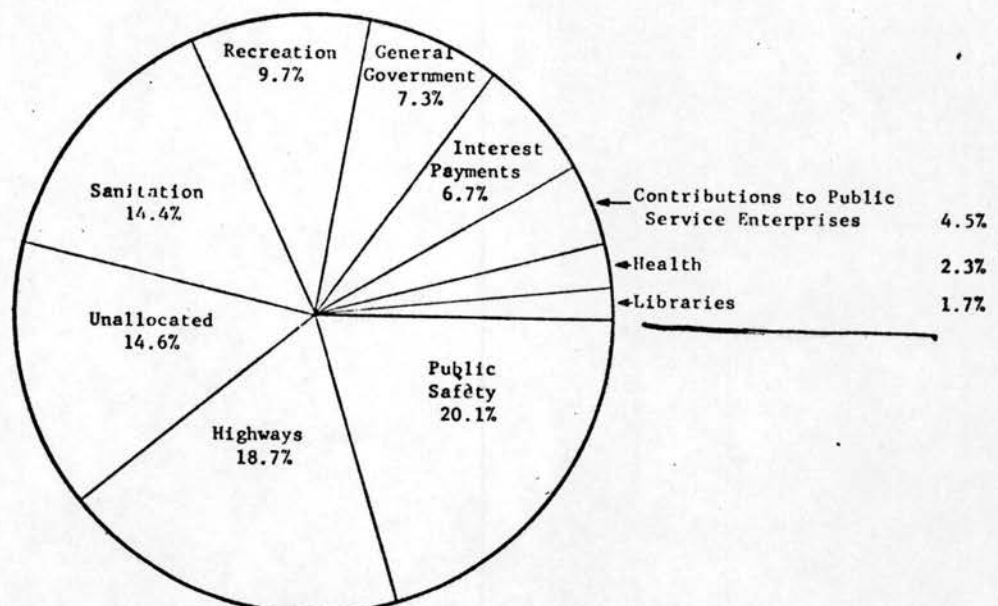
STATE AUDITORS REPORT-1977

COUNTIES



EXPENDITURES** \$854,291,983

CITIES



EXPENDITURES** \$908,898,618

* Reported for 1976

MILL LEVIES and EARC

All property in Libra County assessed at \$3,000,000
Libra County budget needs \$300,000
$$\frac{\$300,000 \text{ (budget needs)}}{\$3,000,000 \text{ (total property value)}} = 100 \text{ mills}$$

1 mill = $\frac{1}{1000}$ of \$1.00

property value $\times \frac{100}{1000}$ = tax amount

total tax revenue = total budget

VALUATION

EACH COUNTY ASSESSES THE VALUE OF PROPERTY IN THAT COUNTY. COUNTY AND CITY GOVERNMENTS THEN DECIDE HOW MUCH MONEY MUST BE RAISED FROM PROPERTY TAXES. THE AMOUNT OF MONEY NEEDED IS DIVIDED BY THE TOTAL ASSESSED VALUATION OF PROPERTY. THE RESULT IS EXPRESSED AS MILL RATE. THIS MILL RATE IS THEN LEVIED AGAINST PROPERTY OWNERS. COUNTIES AND CITIES ACROSS THE STATE VARY IN HOW HIGH OR HOW LOW THEY VALUE THEIR PROPERTY. OBVIOUSLY THEY ALSO VARY IN TAXABLE PROPERTY. FOR EXAMPLE, BRECKENRIDGE AND CROOKSTON BOTH LEVY 2.50 MILLS FOR LIBRARY SERVICES. IN BRECKENRIDGE THIS LEVY BRINGS IN \$17,354 AND IN CROOKSTON \$42,090.

BECAUSE ASSESSMENTS ARE UNEVEN ACROSS THE STATE, A STATE COMMITTEE (EARC) REVIEWS COUNTY ASSESSMENTS AND ADJUSTS THEM FOR THE PURPOSE OF STATE PROGRAMS WHICH REQUIRE A MINIMUM MILL RATE FOR PARTICIPATION. THESE FIGURES ARE REFERRED TO AS ADJUSTED VALUATION. FOR EXAMPLE, THE ACTUAL VALUATION IN CLAY COUNTY IS \$65 MILLION AND THE ADJUSTED VALUATION IS \$137 MILLION.

Library Bill of Rights

The Council of the American Library Association reaffirms its belief in the following basic policies which should govern the services of all libraries.

1. As a responsibility of library service, books and other library materials selected should be chosen for values of interest, information and enlightenment of all the people of the community. In no case should library materials be excluded because of the race or nationality or the social, political, or religious views of the authors.

2. Libraries should provide books and other materials presenting all points of view concerning the problems and issues of our times; no library materials should be proscribed or removed from libraries because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

3. Censorship should be challenged by libraries in the maintenance of their responsibility to provide public information and enlightenment.

4. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.

5. The rights of an individual to the use of a library should not be denied or abridged because of his age, race, religion, national origins or social or political views.

6. As an institution of education for democratic living, the library should welcome the use of its meeting rooms for socially useful and cultural activities and discussion of current public questions. Such meeting places should be available on equal terms to all groups in the community regardless of the beliefs and affiliations of their members, provided that the meetings be open to the public.

Adopted June 18, 1948.

Amended February 2, 1961, and June 27, 1967, by the ALA Council.

System Directors

Ken Nielsen, Director (218/741-3840)
Arrowhead Library System
701-11th Street North
Virginia, MN 55792

Burton Sundberg, Director (612/235-3162)
(Kathy Matson, Asst. Dir.)
Grow River Regional Library
410 West Fifth
Willmar, MN 56201

Cheryl Bjorn, Director (612/689-1901)
(Ron McGriff, Asst. Dir.)
East Central Regional Library
244 South Birch Street
Cambridge, MN 55008

Darro Willey, Director (612/251-7282)
(Michael Snyder, Asst. Dir.)
Great River Regional Library
124 South Fifth Avenue
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Marlys O'Brien, Director (218/587-2171)
(Harry Dutcher, Asst. Dir.)
Kitchigami Regional Library
Pine River, MN 56474

Lon Dickerson, Director (218/233-3757)
Lake Agassiz Regional Library
Box 699
Moorhead, MN 56561

Joel Rosenfeld, Director (612/645-5731)
MELSA
Griggs Midway Building
1821 University Avenue, Room S275
St. Paul, MN 55104

Dottie Hiebing, Director (218/681-4325)
Northwest Regional Library
101 East First Street
Thief River Falls, MN 56701

Virgene Anderson, Director (507/376-5803)
Plum Creek Library System
P. O. Box 184
Worthington, MN 56187

Ray Ogden, Exec. Director (507/288-5513)
(Mary Ellen Donahue, Asst. Dir.)
SELCO
304 Marquette Bank Building
Rochester, MN 55901

John Christenson, Exec. Director (507/625-6169)
Traverse des Sioux Library System
100 East Main Street
Mankato, MN 56001

David Hennessey, ~~Acting~~ Director (507/835-2911)
(Asst. Dir.)
LeSueur-Waseca Regional Library
408 North State Street
Waseca, MN 56093

Marvin Melick, Director (507/387-1856)
(Shirley Higginbotham, Asst. Dir.)
Minnesota Valley Regional Library
100 East Main Street
Mankato, MN 56001

Stephen Von Vogt, Director (218/739-2896)
(Barbara Caron, Asst. Dir.)
Viking Library System
P. O. Box 808
204 N. Cascade
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Bob Boese, Director (612/269-5644)
Western Plains Library System
224 South First Street
Montevideo, MN 56265

Since the spring of 1957 with the passage of the first state aid to public libraries the state has operated on the premise that libraries should, whenever possible, be encouraged to become members of multi-county regional library systems.

The main concern for the last twenty years has been to improve library service to rural areas within the state. It was hoped that this philosophy of regionalization would serve to maximize use of available library resources and promote better library services by improving efficiency in library administration as well as allow for improved access to materials by establishing mechanisms for resource sharing and delivery. The regional systems enable previously unserved or poorly served areas of the state to have good quality library service.

Since 1957, the network of regional public libraries has grown to include 266 of the state's public libraries providing services to 75 counties which include 91% of the state's population. There are 13 regional systems in Minnesota today - the regional library system is one of the best examples of cooperation and coordination among local units.

Minnesotans enjoy a high level of public library service in most areas of the state. There are 309 public libraries and 39 bookmobiles which serve 95% of the state's population. State appropriations for Public Library Services have increased from \$400,000 for the 1958-59 Biennium to \$4,300,000 for the 1978-79 Biennium. This is just a small portion of the total appropriated to libraries in the state since 88-96% of the monies usually come from the county and city taxes.

The Minnesota League of Women Voters, at its May convention voted to study "financing of public libraries". Minnesotans like the rest of the nation have seen libraries reduce the hours of service, make budget and staff cuts. Although libraries are counted as beneficial to the community, they hold a lower priority during budget time.

Libraries cost more today. Patrons increasingly use libraries as information sources, not simply as suppliers of recreational materials. Furthermore, those resources must be varied, numerous and current. The costs of providing this type of complete service has made its impact on the library budget. The necessity for libraries to rely on automation to control their collections has led them to use computers and because of increasing per item costs to install security and protection systems.

These considerations have changed the function of libraries in recent years and as a result necessitate awareness of the funding situation on the part of citizens.

70% OF THE POPULATION NOT IN A SCHOOL OR COLLEGE MUST RELY ON PUBLIC LIBRARIES FOR THE FREE AND UNBIASED INFORMATION THEY WANT AND NEED!

To: All members of the Library Committee
From: Harriett Herb, Executive Director
Re: Library Study Expenses
Date: December 15, 1978

You will be pleased to know that the LWVMN received grants to pay for the entire Library study process and that the study, in a FACTS and ISSUES format, is due from the printers very shortly. The LWV has received many compliments on the study. We've gotten requests from other parts of the country for copies, and we've received so many requests for the study from Minnesotans (libraries and others) that we're having 7500 copies printed. When you include the 4700 printed as the July-August VOTER (given to LWV members and official delegates to the Governor's Pre-White House Conference on Libraries), that means 12,200 of the studies were or will be distributed vs. the 10,000 originally planned.

The grant's budget included funds to pay committee expenses in addition to printing and distribution costs. The grantors are very specific about requiring vouchers to verify all expenses. We are therefore sending you a voucher on which you are to record all your expenses, e.g., phone, travel, sitter, meals away from home, etc.

We are cognizant that you said at the beginning of your deliberations that you would contribute all your expenses or that your local LWV would absorb those costs. Even though the project was granted, you may still contribute your expenses by endorsing the expense reimbursement check we will send you to the LWVMN and returning it to us. The money so received will enable us to cover the expenses of the committee meetings devoted to consensus issues which are not fundable from the grant but must be paid for out of the regular LWVMN budget.

The consensus forms are being returned daily to our office. You will need to meet early in the new year to collate all the responses and to prepare a position statement for state Board approval.

We very much appreciate your work on the committee and your cooperation in meeting all the requirements of the grant, a large portion of which we would need to return should we be unable to substantiate all our known expenses. Thank you.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102 • TELEPHONE (612) 224-5445

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota (LWVMN) is pleased to have received grants (from the funders listed on the last page of the publication) enabling it to print this publication and disseminate the information to a large and varied audience.

A stipulation of the grants was that the LWVMN do a random sample survey to ascertain reader knowledge about libraries before and after reading the publication.

PLEASE complete this form, fold it so that the League's address shows, and mail to our office as soon as possible. You are one of a small select group, so it is extremely important that we receive your response.

Thank you very much.

Please answer this portion BEFORE you read this FACTS AND ISSUES.

1. Public libraries in Minnesota are funded primarily by:

local government taxes.	True _____	False _____	Don't know _____
state appropriations.	True _____	False _____	Don't know _____
the federal government.	True _____	False _____	Don't know _____

2. More than 95% of Minnesota's citizens have access to public libraries. True _____
False _____ Don't know _____

3. Public libraries provide similar materials and services regardless of location.
True _____ False _____ Don't know _____

4. Minnesota's regional library systems enable libraries to share resources.
True _____ False _____ Don't know _____

5. The Office of Public Libraries and Interlibrary Cooperation (OPLIC) is an independent state agency which receives a direct appropriation from the Legislature.
True _____ False _____ Don't know _____

6. Minnesota, at 52¢, ranks 2nd _____ 14th _____ 22nd _____ 38th _____ in the amount of state funds spent per capita for library service.

Please answer this portion AFTER reading this FACTS AND ISSUES.

1. At present, library services in Minnesota are financed 85% by local governmental funds, 6% by other local funds, 6% by state funds, and 3% by federal funds. Do you think that ratio should: remain the same? _____ be changed? _____

2. Currently Minnesota's share of funding of public libraries averages 52¢ per capita. Do you think that funding should: remain the same (assuming increases for inflation)? _____ be decreased? _____ be increased? _____

3. The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science recommends that library funding proportions be changed to 20% federal money, 50% state money, 30% local money. Do you think that is: about right too little too much

20% federal	_____	_____	_____
50% state	_____	_____	_____
30% local	_____	_____	_____

4. On the following scale, how useful did you find this publication?

Very Useful		Useful		Not Useful
1	2	3	4	5

(over please)

5. On the following scale, how impartial did you find the information?

Very Impartial

Biased

1

2

3

4

5

6. As a result of reading this publication, my knowledge of the funding of public libraries in Minnesota remains the same ____; has increased ____.
7. As a result of reading this publication, my attitude toward the funding of public libraries in Minnesota remains the same ____; has changed ____.
8. Use this space for any comments you wish to make.

For statistical purposes only, please complete the following:

- a. I use library services: less than once a year ____; one to six times a year ____; once a month ____; more frequently ____.
- b. I use the library primarily for books ____, audio-visual materials ____, research ____, information by phone ____, story hours ____, meetings ____, other (please specify) ____.
- c. Services provided by the library I most frequently use are adequate ____; good ____; poor ____.
- d. The service hours of the library I most frequently use are adequate ____; inconvenient ____; too short ____; too long ____.
- e. I am a male ____; female ____.
- Age: under 18 ____ Occupation: student ____, homemaker ____, teacher ____,
18-45 ____ skilled tradesperson ____, sales ____, service ____,
46-65 ____ manager ____, professional ____, governmental offi-
66+ ____ cial ____, library professional ____, other ____

Thank you very much for completing this survey. Your cooperation enables the LWVMN to satisfy all conditions of the grants which made it possible for you to receive this publication.

Helene Borg

Helene Borg, President

Harriett Herb

Harriett Herb, Executive Director

Fold so that the LWVMN address shows, staple or tape, and mail.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA, ROOM 212

ST. PAUL, MN 55102



(Library services for children, students, adult education and elderly would be considered basic public library functions to be covered by per capita public library aid, which should be sufficiently high to cover such services.)]

TITLE III - FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO COLLEGE LIBRARIES

Sections 301, et seq. [These sections would re-enact provisions of the present Higher Education Act Title II-A and II-B, as appropriate.]

TITLE IV - FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO MEDICAL LIBRARIES

Sections 401, et seq. [These sections would re-enact provisions of the present Medical Library Assistance Act, with appropriate modifications.]

TITLE V - FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO RESEARCH LIBRARIES

Sections 501, et seq. [These sections would re-enact provisions of present Title II-C of the Higher Education Act, with appropriate modifications.]

TITLE VI - EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF LIBRARY PERSONNEL

Sections 601, et seq. [These sections would create a program of scholarships, fellowships and training institutes to train information specialists, community liaison personnel, learner's advisors and other needed library skills to meet special user needs.]

* * *

Please send comments or suggestions to:

Joint Committee on White House Conference
c/o National Citizens Emergency Committee
to Save Our Public Libraries
Box 366 - Bowling Green Station
New York, New York 10004

[Note: the following is a discussion draft of possible Federal legislation for consideration at the White House Conference on Library and Information Services.]

PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION
DRAFT 9/78

FILE COPY

Working Outline

NATIONAL LIBRARY ACT

Section 1. Congressional declaration of policy

It is the policy of the United States to establish, support and expand educational opportunities for people of all ages and conditions; to provide persons in need with information relating to health, employment, education, recreation, old-age assistance, and other publicly-supported service programs; and to implement the constitutional guarantees of free speech and free press through free public access to open repositories of information of all kinds. In order to achieve these goals, it is essential that a national library program be established and implemented and that appropriations be authorized to provide grants to insure that an adequate level of library service is made available in all communities to all persons without regard to their educational attainments, individual ability or economic condition.

Section 2. Definitions

[To be adapted from existing legislation with appropriate modifications. One suggested change: re-define public libraries to permit research libraries to receive direct financial aid under Title VI, in addition to general grants for public library operations (see 20 U.S.C. §351 (a)(5)).]

TITLE I - ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE AGENCY

Sections 101, et seq. [This title will establish a National Library Service Agency and will define its responsibilities to include:

- (a) planning and coordinating a national library network to permit libraries to share their resources;
- (b) planning and coordinating interlibrary cooperation, including national and regional library resource centers, aid to state library agencies, creation of inter-institutional catalogs, transmission of bibliographic information, joint operation of communications facilities and similar activities;
- (c) planning and coordinating the transmission of information to public libraries for the benefit of individual users concerning federal and state programs relating to individual assistance, health and Social Security benefits, unemployment services and similar government aid;

- (d) planning and coordinating a network of federal libraries and agency information services to provide full access to government bibliographies and other resources, information and data, including the National Agricultural Library and National Library of Medicine;
- (e) conducting research programs in innovative library techniques and services;
- (f) establishing cooperative library exchange programs with foreign libraries, including the translation and distribution of library materials, and, where appropriate, the establishment and maintenance of American information libraries abroad;
- (g) assisting in the development of the nation's library resources, including the acquisition of foreign materials, improved cataloging procedures, preservation of library materials, and encouragement of technological advances;
- (h) planning and implementing a national plan for the distribution of government publications to insure convenient access to all government publications by all citizens, with adequate funding to maintain collections and facsimile transmission and other technical facilities where appropriate;
- (i) planning and coordinating the collection and dissemination of statistical data relating to library services;
- (j) administering a program of financial assistance to facilitate the purchase of equipment, needed by individual libraries or library systems to participate in information service and other networks; and
- (k) sponsoring cultural services for use by libraries with limited resources.]

TITLE II - FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Sections 201, et seq. [This title will replace the present provisions of SCA (20 U.S.C. §351, et seq.). The limitations stated in Section 351(a) would be deleted, but those guarantees of state and local control contained in Section 351(b) would be preserved. A general program of grants to states would be authorized, keyed to maintaining a minimum level of public library expenditures on a per capita basis, with a formula for matching funds from state and local units of government. Additional funding would also be provided to assist with public library construction. In addition, specific program grants would be authorized to assist individual public libraries in providing special services based on the special needs of the communities they serve.

A. General Grants for Public Library Services.

For discussion purposes, the following approach to a per capita funding program is suggested, based on the report of the National Commission on Libraries

and Information Science entitled "Alternatives for Financing the Public Library" dated May, 1974:

1. Establishment of a national minimum standard of public library expenditures on a per capita basis--suggested level \$10 per capita.
2. The per capita figure should be automatically adjusted each year to reflect the impact of inflationary changes in the dollar costs of library personnel, materials, and plant.
3. Matching funds to provide the adjusted \$10 per capita figure should initially be supplied in the following ratio:

Federal	30%
State	20%
Local	50%

Over the course of ten years this ratio would be modified to a final formula of:

Federal	20%
State	50%
Local	30%

B. Library Construction Grants.

Provision should also be made to assist in public library construction costs, based on present LSCA concepts.

C. Specific Program Grants.

In addition to general per capita aid for the operation of public libraries, and assistance with new construction, there should also be specific program grants available to fund the additional expenses involved in high-cost services to meet special user needs because of the make-up of the particular constituencies served by individual public libraries. Such special high-cost services include:

- . adult literacy training programs;
- . job placement services and career counseling in high unemployment areas;
- . English language instruction;
- . special library services for the blind and physically handicapped;
- . extension library services for mental and general hospitals, correctional facilities and other institutions;
- . outreach programs to serve the economically and educationally disadvantaged;
- . special technical reference services to serve special business, employee, scientific or other groups.

Come On Board!

If you'd like to join with other citizens in your state and in the nation to fight for public libraries, send in this card today.

Please enroll me as a member of the Citizens Committee for Public Libraries in my state and send me my Volunteer Kit and regular newsletters:

Name _____
(Print)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone () _____

Library affiliation:

☐ User ☐ Staff ☐ Trustee

My public library is:

Name _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☐ You may also sign me up as a Legislative Contact.
My Congressional District is _____



The logo of the Citizens Committee for Public Libraries is a Roman coin issued during the administration of Augustus Caesar, the first public official in Western history to recognize the need for a system of free public libraries financed with government funding. Emperor Augustus established the first public library in Rome in the Temple of Apollo on the Palatine Hill, which opened in 28 BC, and created the magnificent Porticus Octaviae which later housed the Octavian Library. Successors of Augustus kept up the tradition of funding free public libraries and soon the Roman library system extended throughout the Empire — from Italy to Asia Minor, to Africa, to France, and to Spain — the world's first library network.

Show your support by putting up posters to Support Your Public Library and by installing window stickers on your car, home or office windows, identifying yourself as a member of the Citizens Committee for Public Libraries.

Circulate petitions to your neighbors, to club members or at your supermarket to gain added visible support for public libraries. The petitions will be assembled in Washington and presented to the White House and to members of Congress.

Notify the press about your activities in support of public libraries so that political and community leaders can read about your work and recognize the seriousness of the effort.

As a member of the Citizens Committee for Public Libraries, you will receive a free newsletter regularly from National Headquarters telling you about important developments concerning public libraries so you know how the campaign is going.

VOLUNTEER FOR EXTRA DUTY

If you are an extrovert and are willing to assert yourself, then you can help a great deal more by volunteering to serve as a Legislative Contact in your own Congressional district. What this means is that you will be asked to communicate about library needs on a one-to-one basis with the state and Federal legislators who represent you.

As a Legislative Contact, you will become one of the key people in your state to help public libraries grow over the next few years. This is the most useful and the most rewarding service you can render. What it requires is that you must be willing to telephone, write and visit your legislators on a regular basis so they know that you are very concerned about the welfare of public libraries and that you want them to take an interest, too.

Often the best way to do this is by getting to know a key staff person in each legislator's office. It's important to contact them regularly, to follow through when action or information is requested and to show appreciation and support at the proper time.

Serving as a Legislative Contact benefits you in several ways: You'll make interesting acquaintances; get a glimpse of the behind-the-scenes activities of government; and help public libraries at the same time.

The important thing, of course, is to act today, while the spirit is on you. If you do it now, you'll encourage others to join you.

National Citizens Emergency Committee to Save Our Public Libraries
P.O. Box 366, Bowling Green Station, New York, New York 10004



How You Can Save Our Public Libraries

Here are some basic facts of life you should know about public libraries.

Their main problem is that people take them for granted.

Who?

People like you and me.

"Why not?" we ask. "Somebody else paid the money to build the libraries. Somebody else supplies the money to keep them going. All we're supposed to do is use them. Right?"

Wrong.

This is the way a lot of people have been thinking for a long time—too long. Recently, however, library users in different parts of the country started waking up to some of the hard facts of life about their public libraries:

Public libraries must compete for public tax dollars in order to operate. When government budgets get tight and services must be cut back, the first ones to get hit are the services that many politicians consider luxuries, like libraries and museums.

Public libraries are highly susceptible to inflation. The lion's share of library budgets goes for salaries and materials, the most volatile components in the inflationary spiral. When inflation doubles, library costs double, too, unless services are reduced as has happened in many communities.

Public libraries by themselves have no political clout. Librarians are few in number compared to policemen, firemen, and other public employees. Sometimes library trustees can help at City Hall, but the real untapped political muscle rests with library users, if they would only organize and speak up. That's right—you and me.

SUCCESS STORY

In the last few years, these facts of life have been learned the hard way in a number of communities across the country, including Detroit, San Francisco, Cleveland, Philadelphia, and New York to name just a few. When political leaders in those cities faced budget crunches, they cut back library services to help close the gap. Library users suddenly found that some branches were closing, others were reducing hours of service, acquisitions were being curtailed and personnel laid off.

In each of those cities, groups of library users banded together on an emergency basis and raised their voices to protest the cutbacks. They organized sit-ins,

demonstrations and petition-signings, and they produced results—not perfect results, but effective enough to reward their efforts. Many proposed cutbacks were averted; some services were restored. Public library operations are still not at the optimum level in these communities, but at least the worst appears to be over.

Those lessons were important ones to learn, for they showed that the only way public libraries are going to stay strong and healthy is by harnessing the citizen strength of library users and channeling it in constructive directions. The place it all begins is with the individual. With you.

SPEAK UP

The single most useful thing you can do to help your public library is to show that you care and want to help. Here's how:

Introduce yourself to the director of your own public library, in person or by letter. Ask what the library's greatest needs are and how you can help out. Then do whatever seems most useful to meet those needs. Keep in touch with your library, too, so you can switch your activities if conditions change.

Tell your friends how important it is for them to take an interest in the public library. Pass on what the library director says are its present needs and urge them to work with you, too.

Write your elected representative a simple note, something like this: "I am very much concerned about the future of our public libraries. Would you let me know what programs are being planned for improved library services and funding?" If you receive a good reply, acknowledge it and ask to be kept informed. Legislators usually are glad to have constituents take an interest in such things, and appreciate the chance to be helpful.

It will mean a great deal if you just do these three things. But if you have time for more, read on.

JOIN UP

The National Citizens Emergency Committee to Save Our Public Libraries, which was created in 1976 in response to the crisis in library funding, is organizing state chapters of concerned citizens who want to take an active role in helping ensure the future of our public libraries. If you wish to join in this effort, fill out the coupon below and send it in. You will receive a Volunteer Kit to assist you in doing the following:

Place
15c
Stamp
Here

National Citizens Emergency Committee to Save Our Public Libraries
P.O. Box 366,
Bowling Green Station
New York, New York 10004

OCT 19 1978

NATIONAL CITIZENS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE TO SAVE OUR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

BOX 366, BOWLING GREEN STATION

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10004

FILE COPY

Background

The National Citizens Emergency Committee to Save Our Public Libraries was organized in the Spring of 1976 at a time when libraries in San Francisco, Detroit, Cleveland, Philadelphia, New York--and in scores of large and small communities in between--were feeling the impact of new budget cuts while runaway inflation had already strained their resources. Some public libraries were closing their doors; many others were reducing staff and cutting hours of service.

Representatives of libraries in Washington, Cleveland and New York came together informally and agreed to organize a national committee of library users to plead the cause of public libraries in Washington and in the state capitols. Spokesmen were recruited for the National Committee in all corners of the nation--people who represented the elderly, the disadvantaged, organized labor, community leaders, and citizens active in their local libraries. Today over forty states are represented on the Committee. Public figures who agreed to serve as honorary co-chairmen of the committee were ISAAC ASIMOV, biochemist, educator, and author; TERENCE CARDINAL COOKE, Archbishop of New York; MARGARET TRUMAN DANIEL, author and broadcaster; RALPH ELLISON, prize-winning writer and educator; and GEORGE MEANY, President, AFL-CIO.

The basic mission of the committee is to represent the concerns of members of the general public who are library users. The committee has focused its main attention on the need for improving library services through a national library program, and for providing a meaningful level of operating funds through a Federal-State-Local partnership. The committee supplements the work of the American Library Association (representing the professional librarian) and the Urban Libraries Council (representing the trustees of public libraries in cities over 100,000). The committee carries on most of its substantive programs in direct cooperation with these groups.

The major activities of NCEC have been:

1. Research and publication of detailed Fact Sheets on who uses public libraries and why. These Fact Sheets - which have been distributed to news media and key Federal, State, and Local officials - covered such topics as the library

needs of the elderly, the disadvantaged, the unemployed, students, and journalists.

2. Preparation of a citizen handbook on public libraries based in large part on the Fact Sheets, which will be published for public distribution and sale by Doubleday in March, 1979.

3. Research and preparation of a series of background papers on the changing role of public libraries for use by persons concerned with developing programs for public libraries, and particularly those involved in the White House Conference on Library and Information Services to be held in September, 1979.

4. Organizing state and local "Citizens Committees for Public Libraries" to provide a voice in local communities for public library funding and service needs where such organizations do not already exist.

[For further information contact Tryntje VanNess Seymour, Public Information Officer, at (212) 943-2443].

NATIONAL CITIZENS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

TO SAVE OUR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Progress Report #10
October 4, 1978

1. CARNEGIE CORPORATION GRANT. Last week we received the good news that Carnegie Corporation of New York had approved a discretionary grant of \$15,000 as seed money to help get our national grass roots organizing efforts under way. Our goal is to raise \$40,000 per year for three years to permit us to run an information and membership service to support local citizen efforts in key states as well as at the national level.

2. NEW PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER. As a result of the Carnegie grant we have been able to add to our staff a part-time Research Director (Liz Layne) and a part-time Public Information Officer (Tryntje Seymour). The latter is a 1978 Smith College graduate (American Studies major) with work experience at United Press International (UPI, New York Office); WNBC-Radio News; a women's magazine; and a fine letterpress printer (Oliphant Press N.Y.C.). She recently published a limited edition book of photographs (Dylan Thomas' New York) which received favorable notice in the American Library Association's Booklist and will soon be published in a popular paperback edition. Tryntje has agreed to do public education and membership work for the committee at a modest hourly salary until we have sufficient funds to hire more experienced full-time staff.

3. WISCONSIN, OHIO, D. C., WEST VIRGINIA, and NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCES. Our expanded staff has permitted us to send a representative to cover major governors' conferences, which are composed of 1/3 librarians and 2/3 lay citizens, and are held for the selection of delegates for the White House Conference on Library and Information Services, to be held on October 28 - November 1, 1979. We hope to cover all major state conferences from here on out to help in recruiting volunteers and to identify public library needs in specific localities. We have prepared a new recruiting folder "How to Save Our Public Libraries" for distribution at these state conferences. (Copy enclosed).

4. DOUBLEDAY TO PRINT WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE BACKGROUND PAPERS. Liz Layne continues to apply her major efforts to the preparation of White House Conference Background papers, intended to provide in-depth analyses of the changing role of public libraries. Alex Hoffman at Doubleday has advised us that his company will contribute the printing of these papers for the committee, a very significant public service for which we are most grateful.

5. CELEBRATION OF NATION'S FIRST PUBLIC LIBRARY. To launch our citizen volunteer recruiting drive, we have sparked the organizing of a celebration to mark the 175th Anniversary of the founding of the first tax-supported public library in the United States. The celebration will be held on Saturday afternoon, October 14, at 3 PM, in Salisbury, Connecticut. (Invitation enclosed) If you find yourself nearby the northwestern corner of Connecticut on that day and would like to drive through the Berkshire Hills to enjoy the autumn foilage, you will find the occasion a most pleasant one. The main speaker will be Harrison Salisbury. The undersigned will present a bronze plaque to mark the site as a gift from the Committee. We have also sponsored publication of a striking 19x25 inch poster - "THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, an American Tradition for 175 Years" - which is being distributed to Federal and State officials throughout the country, as well as state conferees. (If you would like a copy, simply drop a line to us at Box 366, Bowling Green Station, New York, New York 10004, or call (212) 943-2443).

6. LIBRARY NEWS. Enclosed is a copy of the Fall, 1978 issue of LIBRARY NEWS prepared by our committee for the Urban Libraries Council. One hundred thousand copies are being distributed to library users at the 100-plus member libraries of ULC. You will recognize the material on pages 2 and 3 as a digest of one of our Fact Sheets on Library Users. Page 4 is a volunteer recruiting page, using the same material as in our folder for state conferences.

7. BACKGROUND UPDATE. We also enclose an updated blue background sheet describing our Committee and its activities, which replaces the green version of two years ago.

8. "NATIONAL LIBRARY ACT". One of the goals of groups connected with the White House Conference is the development of comprehensive new legislation to provide for library support services and a federal-state-local funding formula for public library operations. Enclosed is a discussion draft of a proposal being discussed informally among groups concerned with the future welfare of public libraries. Your comments and suggestions would be most welcome.

9. INDEFATIGABLE ISAAC ASIMOV (HONORARY CO-CHAIRMAN). Isaac Asimov is proving to be one of the most useful activists in the public library movement. He recently authored a statement

on the role of public libraries for the Salisbury celebration and will be the keynote speaker at the North Carolina Governor's Conference on October 19. If other committee members or supporters would like to become more actively involved please let us hear from you.

10. NYPL SUPPORT. The New York Public Library continues to be our major source of strength and support. President Richard Couper is a constant advisor; Vice Presidents George Labalme and Susan Lamb help us constantly with financial and operational matters. Trustee Phyllis Gordan was one of our original organizers and continues to be a key member of our ad hoc steering committee. It is a most felicitous relationship for which we are all grateful.

W. N. Seymour, Jr.
Secretary pro tem

Library News

Published for library users by the Urban Libraries Council
and distributed through the cooperation of its Member Libraries.

Volume II

Fall 1978

Library Advocates Go After Federal Funding

Urban Libraries' Survival Depends on Appropriations Authorized by Congress

Spurred on by the continuing erosion of library services all across the country, library supporters are getting ready to tackle Federal and state legislators in the continuing battle for more library aid.

Their goal is to persuade lawmakers to increase library appropriations enough to trigger the funding formula set up in the extension of the Library Services and Construction Act Title I recently signed by President Carter. The current proposed appropriation for 1978 — \$56,900,000 — falls short of the \$60,000,000-plus needed to start filling urban library coffers.

To achieve adequate funding, Congress must appropriate another \$53,100,000, the balance of the \$110,000,000 authorized by the 1978 extension of LSCA, and okay 1979's entire appropriation of \$140,000,000.

Short-fall Federal funding would be disastrous for library service nationwide, and perhaps even fatal in the many areas that are now just able to maintain minimum service with their shrinking dollars, according to the American Library Association's Eileen Cooke.

A recent survey of 73 city libraries with a total population of over 33 million revealed that the average per capita expenditure for library materials in these cities was 91 cents in 1975, 93 cents in 1976 and projected at only 98 cents for 1977. These amounts are far too small to even keep pace with an inflation rate that is currently running at about 8 percent a year.

Inflation is not the only threat to efforts to rescue important library centers and provide additional aid to

libraries. Supporters are also worried about the effects of the financial crises in many of America's larger cities, where the cost of local government is increasing at a rate greater than the growth of the municipal tax base. The situation is having a calamitous effect on public libraries, as these samples demonstrate:



Average Cost	1967	1977
Books	\$8.43	\$18.03
Periodicals	\$8.02	\$24.59

These figures show how inflation erodes our libraries' purchasing power.

In Detroit, the city's financial situation is so bad that the library will not get a penny of city funds for its budget next year.

In Utica, tax support for the public library has been slashed so drastically — from \$441,000 in 1974 to \$226,000 in 1977, a 50 percent reduction — that the library no longer qualifies for state aid. The staff has suffered equally serious cuts — from 78 persons in 1974 to 16 1/2 full-time equivalent staff positions in 1977.

In Chicago, all of the city's bookmobiles are sitting in a storage garage because there are no funds to staff them and put them back on the road.

In Providence, because of budget cutbacks there were no salary increases for the staff last year. Nine employees were dismissed, 28 part-time employees had their hours cut back and evening service in the central branch was reduced by another 2 evenings to only 2 nights a week.

Rural areas, where libraries often play a key role in community life, are faring no better. According to one recent survey, 297 counties in 19 states, including Washington, Virginia, Kentucky, Mississippi and Iowa, now have no library service at all.

Library support is too important to be reduced to an arrangement that forces large and small facilities to take turns receiving funding. Congress must be persuaded to provide enough money to serve all libraries, the supporters point out, or we may lose the chance to be served at all.

Survey Supports City Library Aid

A statewide survey conducted by the Massachusetts Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information Services found that a big majority (73 percent) sees a need for more state and Federal aid to libraries, especially the large city libraries.

Only 28 percent of those surveyed agreed that their schools and public libraries are getting adequate funding now. The survey showed that most people think public libraries are doing a better job of serving their children than are school libraries. Public libraries got top grades from 82 percent; for school libraries, it was only 44 percent.

President Carter Signs Library Funding Formula

by Eileen Cooke

Director, Washington Office
American Library Association

Urban library supporters have emerged from the first round of their battle for the survival of library services in their communities with an important victory.

On October 7, 1977, President Carter signed PL95-123, a five-year extension of the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA), a new provision in the law that sets up a formula for Federal funding of urban libraries. While Congress has appropriated general library funds for more than two decades, this is the first time it has recognized the special needs of libraries in metropolitan centers.

According to the new provision, when appropriations for LSCA Title I exceed \$60,000,000, a portion of the excess is expressively reserved for major urban resource libraries—that is, libraries in cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants. For example, in a state with 30 percent of its population in six cities of over 100,000, 30 percent of the state's share of the LSCA funds over \$60,000,000 will go to libraries located in those six urban cities. But these urban libraries' portions cannot exceed 50 percent of any state's additional funds.

The funds earmarked for urban libraries are to be used for supporting and expanding library services of major urban resource libraries to meet the demands for these services.

In states with no cities over 100,000 inhabitants, there is no special set-aside for urban libraries. Their portions of the excess funds will be administered through the state library agencies for statewide services. They can be used to promote and improve new and existing services and assist groups with special needs.

Despite President Carter's approval of the new LSCA and his previous campaign statement indicating his backing of additional support for these library programs, when his first presidential budget was released in January of this year the administration did not recommend increased funding for LSCA Title I. The \$56.9 million in the 1979 budget, the same level as last year, is not enough to activate the urban library funding provision.

The disappointing news has galvanized professional and citizen library advocates into organizing a campaign to step up their lobbying efforts to go after the missing funds.

State Meetings Plan for '79 White House Conference

by Paxton Price

Executive Director
Urban Libraries Council

As the time for the 1979 White House Conference on Library and Information Services draws closer, state library organizations across the country are going ahead with their regional planning sessions to prepare for this important library congress.

The groups are sponsoring get-togethers within their states to develop agendas for Conference consideration and to lay the ground work to implement Conference recommendations when the national meeting is over. They are calling on a variety of lay and professional resources to provide ideas about services, funding and legislation to the planning committees who are charged with determining the content of the various Conference meetings. It is hoped that these sessions can also be used to successfully recruit individuals, who have shown an interest in library matters, to become lay delegates.

Conference legislation stipulates that two-thirds of the 100 to 400 delegates attending from each state or territory must be lay citizens not associated with libraries and information services. So special efforts are being made to see that all interested library

patrons, including the trustees and professionals who are not eligible to attend, have sufficient opportunities to participate in the discussions and contribute to the content recommendations of the planning sessions.

In addition to their direct Conference-related roles, these sessions are proving to be an excellent test of the general public's understanding of the goals and objectives of library service within the community, and of their willingness to work for the support that will be needed if libraries are to continue to grow.

Following is a list of Pre-White House Conferences that have been scheduled to date. Individuals interested in participating should not wait to be called, but should contact the state's chief library officer* and volunteer.

September: District of Columbia, Louisiana, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Virginia Islands, Wisconsin.

October: Delaware, Maryland, Montana, North Carolina, U.S. Indians, West Virginia.

November: Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Guam, Illinois, Missouri, Nevada, Tennessee, Texas.

December: Connecticut, Northern Mariana Is., Trust Territory.

cont. on pg. 4

Students Need Many Libraries

The majority of high school and college students in this country today have libraries available to them in their own educational institutions. Yet high school and college students are by far the largest single category of users of the nation's public libraries. While hundreds of millions of education dollars continue to be poured into campus libraries, public libraries are struggling to combat inflationary cost increases, reduced local funding, and layoffs and branch closings in many communities throughout the nation.

A survey of users of the Detroit Main Library's reference and research facilities during two sample weeks showed that 64 percent were full-time high school and college students. This figure did not include the thousands of part-time students who also used the library during the survey period.

An earlier survey of students and faculty of 46 Ohio academic institutions scattered throughout the state revealed that half of them used off-campus libraries; of the 10 most frequently used outside libraries, 8 were public libraries.

A Chicago study found that 58 percent of that city's young adults (15 to 19) accounted for over a third of the users of adult sections in Chicago libraries.

High school and college students also use public libraries more intensively than adults who are not students. The average length of time spent by students during any one visit to the public library in the Ohio study was between one and four hours.

A Colorado study found that both college and high school students are generally more aware of library services, make more use of available libraries and are more inclined to use proposed new services than non-students.

In an examination of disadvantaged inner-city library users and non-users published in 1972, "The Disadvantaged and Library Effectiveness," author Clair Lipsman observed that the strong market for urban library services in disadvantaged areas is the student.

In some of the low-income branches she visited, up to 95 percent of the library users were 18 years and under. She also noted that the most powerful variable that distinguished adult users from nonusers is current enrollment in an educational or vocational program.

Demand Increasing

According to the Ohio survey, students use off-campus libraries for convenience, familiarity and the quality of the collections. The Colorado survey indicated that many students may prefer to use a public library even when convenience is not a determining factor.

In spite of the rapid growth in school and college libraries, student demands on public libraries are greater than ever, for several reasons. Enrollment in higher education over the past 15 years has burgeoned, from 3.8 million in 1960 to 11.3 million in 1975. Approximately one third of the 3,000 institutions of higher learning have been established in the last 15 years.

During that time, the rate of enrollment has also increased substantially. For the 25- to 35-year old group, for example, the ratio enrolled in college or with college experience jumped from 32.3 percent of the population in 1970 to 42.4 percent in 1975.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, most of the growth in higher education has been in public education, particularly in two-year institutions. In 1960, these institutions enrolled 393,000 students for degree credit; by 1974, enrollment numbered 2,104,000 students for degree credit—a five-fold increase in 14 years. During the same period, the number of public two-year schools more than doubled.

The increase in the enrollment at two-year institutions almost dictates a greater burden on public libraries, according to the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. It has found that many campus libraries are severely understaffed, their collections contain only 50 percent of their indicated needs and access to them is limited by short hours of service.

Most two-year institutions cater to students who commute between class and home and often to work.

Mrs. Mildred Goeck, after completing a study of the library problems of commuting students in 1970 in four southeastern New York counties, reported that the commuting student has unique and painful problems of time, cost and effort that must somehow fit into a tight schedule of conflicting roles.

One public library director in a growing suburban county in New York estimated that he served students from 50 different colleges during any one-week period. Even students with exceptional libraries make substantial use of other libraries when such a course is more convenient.



The comments made by one full-time undergraduate majoring in classics at a Manhattan university and living in New Jersey illustrate this.

"I used the 42nd Street [public] library for certain obscure items I could not get at my school. I used the Bronx branch for ordinary circulation items that were already borrowed [in Manhattan] . . . The only Manhattan branch I used was the Music Library at 58th Street . . . I used the East Orange [New Jersey] library often because their circulation collection is as good as almost any New York City branch library and more convenient for me. I also used the Newark Public Library often, going so far as to buy a non-resident card there, because their circulation collection is, in my opinion, better than that at any public library system I have seen in New Jersey or New York."

Such evidence clearly suggests that any growth in commuting students means more intense use of off-campus libraries.

Educational Counseling

Another important factor in the growing use of public libraries by students is the growing number of part-time adult students.

For the first time in our history, the majority of students enrolled in post-secondary institutions, both credit and non-credit, are part-time adult students. The National Center for Education Statistics reports that out of a total of 25 million adult enrollees, 17 million are part-time continuing education students.

Today's students are also older. The 1974 annual report of the National Advisory Council on Extension and Continuing Education notes that one-third of all students enrolled in post-secondary education are between the ages of 25 and 34, and 2 out of 3 of these students are continuing their education on a part-time basis. Seventy-five percent of these part-time students are currently employed.

The spectacular growth in adult education and the great diversity of programs that have sprung up around the country within the past decade mean that potential students need guidance from a neutral source in their communities. Numerous studies show that millions of people would like to continue their education but have no idea of the opportunities available to them.

In response to this need, public libraries are expanding their activities to provide advisory services.

Library News is published by the Urban Libraries Council, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving library services and advancing the interests of public libraries serving urban populations in cities of more than 100,000 inhabitants. Address inquiries and requests for additional copies to: Paxton Price, Executive Director, Urban Libraries Council, 1104 North Third Street, Los Angeles, N.M. 88001. Editor: Ann Mitchell.

One of the newest counseling programs is the experimental Higher Educational Library Advisory Service (HELAS) being offered at four libraries in New York State in conjunction with the New York State Board of Regents. Under this program, librarians are specially trained to give information on all types of post-secondary education options in the community, to help individuals make decisions about their educational goals and to refer people to appropriate institutions.

Recent queries fielded by the HELAS librarian, Beth Wladis, included these:

A man in his middle thirties, with only a high school education, had built a successful training school for stockbrokers. He wanted to earn a degree in business administration with a specialty in finance while continuing his demanding business, and wanted to know his best options.

A young man, confined to a hospital bed for several months, called to find out if there was any way to earn some credits in his field—medical engineering—while he was hospitalized.

A licensed practical nurse with 12 years' experience had acquired the knowledge and ability that enabled her to perform many of the duties of a registered nurse but without the accompanying pay and career recognition. She wanted to know how she could become an RN to increase her job opportunities without disrupting her life and with minimum expenditures of time and money.

Some public libraries do not provide advisory services but do arrange for them through other groups. In public libraries in 32 Wisconsin counties, for example, counselors from the University of Wisconsin Extension encourage and assist adults in sorting out alternatives and enrolling in the post-secondary educational programs most appropriate to their needs.

The counselors use books, cassettes and films from classes, conferences and workshops, as well as individuals and other institutions in the community to provide the necessary help.

Clearly, growing numbers of students of all ages mean increasingly heavy demands on the resources of all public libraries.

Successful Projects

Library users seeking improved job skills range from the industrial psychologist who wants to brush up on the latest counseling techniques, to the financial writer who looks over the new acquisition shelves of the library near his office for the latest books in his field, to the fireman who takes advantage of library resources to help win promotion to fire captain.

Under the independent learning program initiated by a number of public libraries in cooperation with the College Entrance Examination Board, many people have been helped to job advancement or to start businesses of their own.

A woman who had been working as an occupational therapist for 23 years wanted to obtain state certification as a qualified occupational therapist. Her librarian suggested courses to supplement her career background in preparation for an upcoming state exam; recommended three schools in the area offering such classes; prepared a suggested reading list of the subject; and referred the applicant to the Civil Service Commission for more detailed information. With this help the candidate succeeded.

In Maine, a man decided to start his own business operating a small commercial fishing boat. He owned a sailboat and was familiar with basic navigation and boat handling, but that was all he knew. He needed to learn where to begin, what fishermen actually do, where fish can be found and what type of boat, gear, and rigging would be necessary. Through his local public library he found government publications on Federal aid available to a small fishing business; a specialist in marine science who taught a workshop in advanced navigation; and a lawyer who had recently gone into a small commercial fishing business. By the time the man completed his research he was negotiating for a boat that could remain at sea for up to 10 days and required a crew of five.

Libraries Play Key Role In Adult Ed

One of the most significant developments for public libraries has been the growth in so-called non-traditional education. Although it takes many forms, the emphasis is on non-classroom study and independent learning. Programs are geared to the needs of working adults who frequently cannot find the time or money to pursue traditional classroom instruction. Most provide little or no teacher contact; the student's primary help is likely to come from his favorite public librarian.

Colleges and universities are expanding programs to meet the needs of life-long learning and many non-collegiate and technical schools now offer a broad range of general and specialized courses. Adult education activities, useful for securing job skills or credentials, are also offered by employers, educational institutions, museums, libraries and other agencies or organizations.

Non-traditional programs leading toward recognized academic accreditation take several forms:

Correspondence courses. More than 50 member colleges and universities of the National University Extension Association offer correspondence courses, ranging from accounting to writing, for which undergraduate credit is given; 7 institutions offer graduate credit by correspondence. These courses are designed for those who either must study at home or prefer to work at their own pace.

Credit by Examination

Proficiency examinations. These allow students to earn full course credit by examination without attending class. One of the best known is the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) initiated by the College Entrance Examination Board in the mid-1960's. CLEP tests are offered in more than 50 college subjects; credit is then given by 1,800 participating colleges and universities. Since 1971, over a million CLEP tests have been taken. It does not matter how the student learned the subject matter; if the results of his test are acceptable to his college, he receives credit. Some institutions allow as many as 60 credits to be earned through proficiency examinations. The CLEP program offers no preparation guidance to students.

External degrees. Over 100 colleges and universities in 39 states offer recognized external degrees designed to serve those who are unable to attend institutions of higher learning. Some colleges such as Empire State in New York and Thomas A. Edison in New Jersey have no faculty, no classrooms and no libraries. Credits are often earned by a combination of means—proficiency examinations, televised instruction, regular courses, life experience that can be shown to be the equivalent of a college-level competence in a given area and non-collegiate sponsored instruction given by private companies such as Eastman Kodak or General Electric.

The emphasis on self-preparation and the fact that these students live off campus means that library use by them is likely to be far greater than that of traditional students.

Libraries Call for Fairer Sharing of Funds for Educational Services

Even though they have been working to fill their ever-increasing role in the education system, public libraries have received short shrift in Federal and state budgets. The National Center for Education Statistics estimates that while \$81.4 billion Federal, state and local tax dollars were spent on public education in 1974-1975 by the nation's elementary and secondary schools and other institutions of higher learning, the total amount of tax dollars spent on public libraries amounted to only approximately \$1 billion, or 1.2 percent of the education budget.

In 1974, operating expenditures by college and university libraries amounted to an average of \$134 per student. By contrast, public library tax funds allocated to college students in 1974 on a per capita basis amounted to only \$5.15 per full-time equivalent student.

Funding Sources

When it comes to the source of tax dollars, 91 percent (\$17.9 billion) of the tax dollars spent by institutions of higher education come from Federal and state government sources, while only 16.7 percent (\$168 million) of the funds for public libraries come from the same sources.

Students studying for non-residential degrees require far more extensive library resources than the traditional neighborhood public library collection provides. Sometimes they must go to some lengths to find what they need. One young automobile mechanic, who recently earned a bachelor's degree in business administration by studying on his own for a New York Regents External Degree, relied on the resources of the Brooklyn Public Library although he lived in New Jersey and worked full-time in another borough of New York.

Study Guides Available

Increasingly, public libraries make a point of stocking their shelves with books called for in proficiency examination study guides. Many stock a variety of textbooks helpful in preparation for CLEP examinations. A few libraries, such as Dallas' Public Library, prepare special study guides for independent learners. The St. Louis Public Library administers CLEP examinations and those of the American College Testing Proficiency Examination Program.

The Commission on Non-Traditional Study was formed in 1971 by the College Entrance Examination Board and the Educational Testing Service to examine the entire range of non-traditional study and to formulate specific recommendations for the future guidance of non-traditional education. In its 1973 report, "Diversity by Design," the Commission recommended that the public library should be strengthened to become a far more powerful instrument for non-traditional education than is now the case. The Commission urged college and university faculty members and administrators to work with public librarians in developing non-traditional study opportunities at the post-secondary level.

Today, hundreds of libraries across the country are cooperating with nearby colleges to provide classroom space, equipment and space for viewing course lectures on videotape, as well as providing back-up study materials. They make it easier for people who find the atmosphere of their neighborhood library less intimidating than that of a large college or university; for working people who find it convenient to drop in at the local library in the evenings for classes or study;



One Man Repays His Library

The quiet work of public libraries in helping people get ahead in their jobs and careers often goes unnoticed. Everybody simply takes it for granted. In the words of many career librarians, "That's what we're here for."

Every now and then, however, someone who has succeeded in a big way says "thank you" in a form to help make it possible for other people to obtain the same opportunities. One such person was John DeFerrari, son of an immigrant fruit peddler, who presented the Boston Public Library with more than a million and a half dollars in the late 1940's in appreciation of its services. This account of an interview with Mr. DeFerrari by Joseph F. Dinnen appeared in the *Boston Daily Globe* at the time:

"You say you gave this money so that others could make money as you did. How would a man go about making two or three million dollars with only the public library for equipment?"

"By doing what I did—making use of the information available at the public library."

"Where?"

"The Statistical Room, for one place. Have you ever been to the Statistical Room? Do you know what information is on tap there?"

"No."

"Drop out there sometime and look it over. Complete your education."

"And make myself a million dollars?" I said.

"You can."

"How?"

"Study the corporation reports like I did. Find out who's behind a business. Learn all about it, and then invest your money in the right ones."

and for the housewife whose problems are finding time, babysitters, and transportation, to use the local library as a campus.

Accelerated Schedule

A joint effort of the Chicago Public Library and the City College of Chicago allows students to pursue courses for credit in six different city libraries. The program provides a simple, unstructured and inexpensive way to start college. Texts and study guides are available in each participating library. Each student is assigned two viewing hours a week at the most convenient time possible for him.

The program aims to help mature students through their first two years of college as quickly as possible so that they can pursue their objectives in a four-year college. Since its inception in 1973, approximately 1,200 adults have gone through the program. In addition to the college credit courses, the joint program also helps students prepare for high school equivalency examinations and CLEP examinations, or to seek personal enrichment.

Taken as a whole, the program has attracted such groups as mature people over 30 with little or no formal education; people well educated in another tongue but who are weak in English; young people who have been in correctional institutions or are on welfare or who have had their education interrupted for one reason or another; and those already in college who want to squeeze in additional courses.

The most recent national figures available* show that academic libraries are open for use an average of 82 hours per week per student, while the population served by public libraries has access to them for an average of only 45 hours per week.

Upgrading Libraries

Nobody would argue for a reduction in the allocation of funds for college and university libraries. Indeed, the recently issued National Commission on Libraries and Information Science study, "National Inventory of Library Needs—1975," underscores the need for upgrading academic libraries, particularly at two-year institutions.

The point is that the Federal and state governments have neglected their obligations to public libraries, even when viewed from the vantage point of education alone. These libraries must receive more attention in the allocation of education dollars, not at the expense of academic libraries, but as part of the total educational plan. Continuing neglect by Federal and state governments is inexcusable.

*1975 for college and university libraries; 1974 for public libraries.

State Libraries Send Out Call for Supporters

Here are some basic facts of life you should know about public libraries.

Their main problem is that people take them for granted.

Who?

People like you and me.

"Why not?" we ask. "Somebody else paid the money to build the libraries. Somebody else supplies the money to keep them going. All we're supposed to do is use them. Right?"

Wrong.

This is the way a lot of people have been thinking for a long time—too long. Recently, however, library users in different parts of the country started waking up to some of the hard facts of life about their public libraries:

Public libraries must compete for public tax dollars in order to operate. When government budgets get tight and services must be cut back, the first ones to get hit are the services that many politicians consider luxuries, like libraries and museums.

Public libraries are highly susceptible to inflation. The lion's share of library budgets goes for salaries and materials, the most volatile components in the inflationary spiral. When inflation doubles, library costs double, too, unless services are reduced as has happened in many communities.

Public libraries by themselves have no political clout. Librarians are few in number compared to policemen, firemen, and other public employees. Sometimes library trustees can help at City Hall, but the real untapped political muscle rests with library users, if they would only organize and speak up. That's right—you and me.

SUCCESS STORY

In the last few years, these facts of life have been learned the hard way in a number of communities across the country, including Detroit, San Francisco, Cleveland, Philadelphia, and New York to name just a few. When political leaders in those cities faced budget crunches, they cut back library services to help close the gap. Library users suddenly found that some branches were closing, others were reducing hours of service, acquisitions were being curtailed and personnel laid off.

In each of those cities, groups of library users banded together on an

emergency basis and raised their voices to protest the cutbacks. They organized sit-ins, demonstrations and petition-signings, and they produced results—not perfect results, but effective enough to reward their efforts. Many proposed cutbacks were averted; some services were restored. Public library operations are still not at the optimum level in these communities, but at least the worst appears to be over.

Those lessons were important ones to learn, for they showed that the only way public libraries are going to stay strong and healthy is by harnessing the citizen strength of library users and channeling it in constructive directions. The place it all begins is with the individual. With you.

SPEAK UP

The single most useful thing you can do to help your public library is to show that you care and want to help. Here's how:

Introduce yourself to the director of your own public library, in person or by letter. Ask what the library's greatest needs are and how you can help out. Then do whatever seems most useful to meet those needs. Keep in touch with your library, too, so you can switch your activities if conditions change.

Tell your friends how important it is for them to take an interest in the public library. Pass on what the library director says are its present needs and urge them to work with you, too.

Write your elected representative a simple note, something like this: "I am very much concerned about the future of our public libraries. Would you let me know what programs are being planned for improved library services and funding?" If you receive a good reply, acknowledge it and ask to be kept informed. Legislators usually are glad to have constituents take an interest in such things, and

appreciate the chance to be helpful.

It will mean a great deal if you just do these three things. But if you have time for more, read on.

JOIN UP

The National Citizens Emergency Committee to Save Our Public Libraries, which was created in 1976 in response to the crisis in library funding, is organizing state chapters of concerned citizens who want to take an active role in helping ensure the future of our public libraries. If you wish to join in this effort, fill out the coupon below and send it in. You will receive a Volunteer Kit to assist you in doing the following:

Show your support by putting up posters to Support Your Public Library and by installing window stickers on your car, home or office windows, identifying yourself as a member of the Citizens Committee for Public Libraries.

Circulate petitions to your neighbors, to club members or at your supermarket to gain added visible support for public libraries. The petitions will be assembled in Washington and presented to the White House and to members of Congress.

Notify the press about your activities in support of public libraries so that political and community leaders

can read about your work and recognize the seriousness of the effort.

As a member of the Citizens Committee for Public Libraries, you will receive a free newsletter regularly from National Headquarters telling you about important developments concerning public libraries so you know how the campaign is going.

VOLUNTEER FOR EXTRA DUTY

If you are an extrovert and are willing to assert yourself, then you can help a great deal more by volunteering to serve as a Legislative Contact in your own Congressional District. What this means is that you will be asked to communicate about library needs on a one-to-one basis with the state and Federal legislators who represent you.

As a Legislative Contact, you will become one of the key people in your state to help public libraries grow over the next few years. This is the most useful and the most rewarding service you can render. What it requires is that you must be willing to telephone, write and visit your legislators on a regular basis so they know that you are very concerned about the welfare of public libraries and that you want them to take an interest, too.

Often the best way to do this is by getting to know a key staff person in each legislator's office. It's important to contact them regularly, to follow through when action or information is requested and to show appreciation and support at the proper time.

Serving as a Legislative Contact benefits you in several ways: You'll make interesting acquaintances; get a glimpse of the behind-the-scenes activities of government; and help public libraries at the same time.

The important thing, of course, is to act today, while the spirit is on you. If you do it now, you'll encourage others to join you.

State Meetings cont.

Jan. '79: Alabama.

Feb. '79: Alaska, Mississippi, Puerto Rico.

March '79: California, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, South Carolina, Virginia.

Spring '79: New Mexico.

April '79: Colorado, Maine, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wyoming.

*Ask your local librarian for the correct name and address.

Come On Board!

If you'd like to join with other citizens in your state and in the nation to fight for public libraries, send in this coupon.

National Citizens Emergency Committee to Save Our Public Libraries
P.O. Box 366,
Bowling Green Station
New York, New York 10004

Please enroll me as a member of the Citizens Committee for Public Libraries in my state and send me the Volunteer Kit and regular newsletters:

Name _____ (Print)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone () _____

Library affiliation: ☐ User ☐ Staff ☐ Trustee

My public library is:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☐ You may also sign me up as a Legislative Contact. My Congressional District is _____

Library Manual Available

The Friends of the Free Library of Philadelphia have published a manual on the formation of library support groups.

The action-oriented manual has been designed to take interested citizens step-by-step through the activities needed to develop a group of library supporters, from creating the organization to developing communications to assisting with membership drives and building campaigns.

Copies of the manual are available at \$5 each from: Patricia A. Boyle, Friends of the Free Library of Philadelphia, Logan Square, Philadelphia, PA., 19103.

See Education testimony

Great River Regional
Library Budget

Ellen Mork, St. Cloud

NATIONAL CITIZENS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

TO SAVE OUR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Progress Report
September 8, 1977

1. HONORARY CO-CHAIRMEN TESTIFY. Two of our Honorary Co-chairmen were lead-off witnesses at public hearings before the Senate Subcommittee on Education, Arts and Humanities held in New York City. Cardinal Cooke and Margaret Truman Daniel gave eloquent statements in support of the extension of Federal legislation to aid libraries (LSCA). Press and public response was very gratifying.

2. FACT SHEETS COMPLETED. Our committee's original goal was to research and write six fact sheets on library users:

1. The Elderly
2. The Economy
3. The Right to Know
4. The Disadvantaged
5. Education
6. The Individual

It is gratifying to report that all six fact sheets have now been fully researched and written, right on schedule. All of the basic research has been done by our talented and perceptive research director, Elizabeth Layne. The first four fact sheets have already been distributed to some 2,000 Congressmen and other public officials, each with a personal covering letter. The fifth fact sheet, on Education, will be distributed shortly after Congress re-convenes. The final fact sheet is being polished for distribution later in the year.

The response to our persistence has been most encouraging. Not only have we become known in the Capitol as the voice of library users, but we are increasingly being sought out to appear at Congressional hearings and other key meetings on library needs.

3. WHITE HOUSE STAFF MEETING. In June, our committee organized a special meeting with key members of the White House staff to discuss planning for the White House Conference on Libraries, which has now been scheduled for April, 1979. This conference holds a major potential for the future of public libraries in America, provided it deals with key issues

concerning the role and needs of such libraries and the communities they serve. We invited to the White House staff meeting representatives of the American Library Association, the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, and the Urban Libraries Council. Out of the meeting came a common agreement on a crash program of research and preparation of working papers on the future role of public libraries, for distribution to participants in the state library conferences to be held across the country in preparation for the White House Conference in 1979.

Because no one else is taking on these assignments, our committee volunteered to oversee this important work. Ms. Layne has again agreed to perform the basic research for these worksheets, which will consume several months and require trips to libraries in various parts of the country.

Joan Kaplan Davidson of the J. M. Kaplan Fund, which has been a major source of funding for our committee's operations, has been very affirmative in her support of this research program for the White House Conference and we have hopes that the trustees of the Kaplan Fund will authorize funding for the project.

4. "LIBRARY NEWS". Our cooperative work with other library groups has been most gratifying, but none has been as immediately productive as our alliance with the Urban Libraries Council. When we proposed at a meeting of the ULC in Hartford a couple of months ago the publication of a tabloid newspaper-style pamphlet for distribution to library users through member libraries of the Council, its executive board was most enthusiastic and immediately appropriated the funds. The result is a grass roots document which is about to go to press, which will soon be distributed to library users across the country, urging them to become active in efforts to obtain more Federal and state funding and to organize meaningful state conferences in preparation for 1979.

Most of the material for the issue of "Library News" was supplied by our Committee, including digests of two of our fact sheets. The editor for the paper is Ann Michell, a talented consumer-oriented writer from Brooklyn Heights.

You will be receiving a copy shortly.

We are making good headway.

Thanks for your support.

W.N. Seymour, Jr.
Secretary pro tem

NATIONAL CITIZENS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

TO SAVE OUR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIBRARIES BEING SHORTCHANGED ON AID TO POOR, STUDY SHOWS

Complaining that the Federal Government annually expends \$1,000 per capita on programs to aid the poor, but only 25¢ per capita for public libraries, a national group of library users says that government neglect of library aid "simply does not make sense."

According to a study just released by the National Citizens Emergency Committee to Save Our Public Libraries, public libraries across the country have developed many programs to assist poor people to help themselves. The problem is that nobody is doing much to help the libraries, and as a result they are undergoing sharp cutbacks in service. This means that self-help library programs are now becoming unavailable to those who need them most.

The Citizens Committee study identified three types of library programs specifically designed to aid the disadvantaged:

1. "Outreach Programs" in which library services are delivered directly to the user. Bookmobiles are frequently employed in such programs and have been used to reach poverty areas in Appalachia, migrant farmworker camps, and

-MORE-

Indian reservations. In urban areas like Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Houston, Texas, library services are provided at community centers. Community workshops have been employed in Baltimore to develop library-sponsored adult education programs for persons with less than 8th grade reading skills. A food stamping waiting line is the focus of a small library in Memphis, Tennessee.

2. Information and referral services to help poor people obtain needed assistance. In some libraries such information services are provided by telephone (such as Detroit, Michigan, Montclair, New Jersey, and Wake County, North Carolina). In Chicago a special library telephone has been set up for users who can only speak Spanish. Information requests cover such items as welfare and health services, nursing homes, landlord and tenant problems, and legal aid.

3. Literacy programs to help disadvantaged adults learn to read. Some libraries have specially trained librarians to run adult reading skills programs. Others work in cooperation with special groups such as the Literacy Volunteers of America. In addition to basic reading skills, many libraries also offer training materials for high school equivalency examinations.

Author Ralph Ellison, one of the honorary co-chairmen of the citizens group, says that long-range

government funding of public libraries is needed to help the nation's poor.

"Our Federal and State governments have done much to provide the poor with housing, food, welfare. What they have overlooked is that many of the poor can do something to help themselves if they are only given the right tools. One of the best ways to provide those tools is by giving community public libraries the financial support needed for outreach, information services, literacy training and other programs specifically designed for the disadvantaged."

The National Citizens Emergency Committee To Save Our Public Libraries has members in over 40 states. Its honorary co-chairmen, in addition to Mr. Ellison, include Dr. Isaac Asimov, Terence Cardinal Cooke, Margaret Truman Daniel, George Meany, and Leonard Woodcock.

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[Copy of the fact sheet "Public Libraries and the Poor" is enclosed. For further information call W. N. Seymour, Jr. or Hester B. Coe at (212) 483-9000, Ext. 369.]

5/23/77

BRINGING YOU NEWS ABOUT THE MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC LIBRARY & INFORMATION CENTER

Computer searches now available

You may have heard about our latest service to the public, computerized data base searching. This idea might sound revolutionary, but in fact the Minneapolis Public Library and Information Center has been using a computer terminal to access information since 1975.

Computer use began here as a pilot study with Lockheed Information Systems, a bank of 30 data bases covering various fields. Later we obtained access to System Development Corporation's bases, bringing the total to over 80 data bases indexing a variety of subjects in the sciences, social sciences, business, and government.

For the first year and a half, data base searching was done only for customers of INFORM, the Library's fee-based research service, and the cost of the computer time was billed to them. But from the outset, the desire was present to make this form of research available to everyone. The problem was finding a method of doing so that would keep costs within our means.

Addressing this problem was one of the charges of the group of staff members appointed as a Management Team for Machine Assisted Reference Service (MARS). The first approach was to allocate a small sum of money from the materials budget for some departmental computer searching. This allowed Librarians in the subject departments the discretion to abandon a conventional manual information search in favor of a computer search. Usually the factors that determined this decision were constraints of time or availability.

Last fall, the MARS Team mounted a publicity blitz with the staff to make computer searching more widely known and to build a bank of information from which some decisions could proceed. It was learned that most satisfactory searches could be made in less than eight minutes of "online" time.

This information and several other factors provided the impetus for our decision to offer computer data base searching to the

public. As the brochure out on our reference desks explains, "Computer searches are now available to Minneapolis Public Library users needing information on a specific subject. A computer search, performed by a library staff member, provides a detailed listing of pertinent articles, books, government documents, etc. You can then refer to these sources to find the information you need. This service is offered free of charge for up to eight minutes of 'online' time. Beyond that, you have the option of continuing the search on a

direct cost basis. Costs may range from \$5 up, depending on the nature of the search and the amount of computer time required."

Computer data bases are usually more up to date than indexes in book form and often provide listings not available in printed indexes. Next time you are looking for especially in-depth or current information, inquire at one of our reference desks about a computer search. This most modern research tool may be the solution to your information needs.

Reference survey shows favorable user opinion

Results have been compiled from the survey on reference work conducted at all MPLIC agencies in April. In the three survey days, 14,037 library users responded, and the overwhelming majority expressed satisfaction with reference help.

In addition to evaluating our reference work, the survey helped identify some of the characteristics of our users. For example, it was found that more males than females use the Central Library and that the reverse is true for Community Libraries. By occupation, there are high percentages of professional and student users, and a significant proportion of homemakers, blue collar workers, and retired persons. The majority of our users fall in the 34 and under bracket, with the highest range being ages 25-34. Over half the respondents have completed at least some college.

About 39% of all users said they asked staff for assistance, and 90% of these were satisfied. Over 67% of users said they found the materials they wanted and over 80% responded that they received the service they expected. Most users indicated they found the Library hours convenient.

A total of 14,660 questions were answered on the three survey days. Over 70% of these were either topical or factual in nature. The high peaks in question times were 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Central and 1 to 5 p.m. at Community Libraries. Of all questions asked, 59% were posed in person, 33% by phone, and 8% in writing. More than 98% of the questions received were answered, and the average time required was 2.55 minutes.

The volunteer observers assigned to report on user/staff interactions found about 95% positive attitudes on the part of both staff members and questioners. About 80% of those asking questions either by phone or in person were helped in 5 minutes or less.

Needless to say, we are pleased to report such positive results. While the study was only a pilot project, it will help build a bank of information for analysis and evaluation of reference work, a library function that has not previously been measured effectively.

It is expected that additional surveys will be conducted this coming fall and winter to accumulate sufficient data upon which to base future policy decisions. Such data could have a bearing on policies relating to staffing patterns, hours, and allocation of funds.

"briefly"

Library Board president Frances Naftalin has been nominated by President Carter to the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS). The appointment is pending confirmation by the Senate Committee on Human Resources. There are 15 representatives on NCLIS, and this is the first nomination to come from Minnesota.

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Over 5,000 children have registered in the "Super Summer" reading program taking place at Central and Community Libraries. A variety of activities, including T-shirt printing, puppet shows, singalongs, and a traveling reptile show, have been staged to encourage library use. Readers and non-readers alike may participate by keeping a record at the Library of the books they read or have someone read to them, and many of the Libraries offer a prize for the most books read. All children who read ten or more books are rewarded with a certificate for a free milkshake from McDonald's.

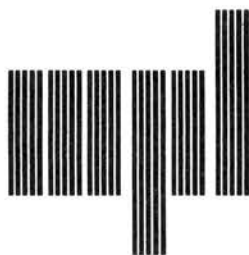
A move to acquire the proposed site for the new Walker Community Library was initiated by the Library Board at its June meeting. The Board voted to take possession of the property by the right of eminent domain and the architects are finalizing plans based on the on-site soil borings. Efforts are underway to relocate the businesses presently operating on the site, located at Hennepin and Lagoon Avenues, across Hennepin and slightly south of the present library. The full price for the land has yet to be determined by Hennepin County District Court.

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First hand work experience in a library is being obtained by several young people in internship programs at Minneapolis Libraries this summer. One program is a vocational exploration program for disadvantaged and handicapped youth aged 16-21. Another, the Neighborhood Youth Corps, provides summer library jobs for high school students. Post-high school students are participating in the Urban Corps program to supplement their education with work experience. These interns not only gain insights into the field of library work, but provide extra help to our staff in ongoing activities and/or special projects.

1978 Library use statistics

	April-June
Circulation transactions	609,223
Research, fact finding, and directional questions	316,414
Central Library gate count	214,134



Minneapolis Public Library and Information Center
300 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, Minn. 55401

Branches: Changes, changes

One of the oldest Community Libraries in the city, Franklin, will get a "facelift" soon as part of its remodeling for handicapped accessibility. Built in 1917, Franklin is one of three Library projects funded by Community Development Block Grant funds for renovation in 1979.

The most major of the three projects, Franklin will be given a new ground level entrance and an interior elevator, replacing a prohibitive set of outside stairs. In conjunction with work on the entrance, the exterior brick and terra cotta will be cleaned and repointed and the trim and windows repainted. Interior walls and ceilings will also be repainted, and insulation and electrical outlets will be brought up to standard.

Changes to be made at North Regional Library and Northeast Community Library, two relatively new buildings, involve upgrading parking, restrooms, and doors for handicapped use. One additional change at North Regional will convert the present workroom on the main level to periodical stacks, open to the public, eliminating the need for paging of these materials.

Also undergoing change next year will be Webber Park Community Library, constructed in 1910 on park land and still owned by the Park Board. In order to build a new swimming pool in the area, the Park Board intends to remove the library building in early 1979. The Library Board is seeking funds for replacement of the building, and plans to provide full time bookmobile service in the area until a new facility is completed.

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NATIONAL CITIZENS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

TO SAVE OUR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Progress Report #9
June 15, 1978

We are pleased to report that four major steps have been taken to expand the work of the National Citizens Emergency Committee:

1. CITIZENS HANDBOOK. The manuscript for our handbook on public libraries has been completed. It is presently scheduled for publication by Doubleday early in 1979 under the title "Fighting for Public Libraries." An outline of the book's contents is attached.

2. CONFERENCE BACKGROUND PAPERS. A leaflet describing the six background papers we are working on for the White House Conference jointly with ALA, ULC and the National Commission is currently in preparation for distribution to participants in governor's conferences around the country. The schedule set by our Research Director, Liz Layne, calls for the completion of all draft background papers by November 1.

3. RECRUITING CITIZEN VOLUNTEERS. Up until now, budget and personnel restraints have made it impossible to engage in a full scale drive for citizen volunteer members, with the accompanying administrative burdens of list maintenance, correspondence, newsletters and the like. Our initial organizational efforts have drawn entirely on citizen leaders in various states around the country who already had leadership roles in their communities and access to other citizens through associations in which they were affiliated. Having now come to realize the great need for a strong citizen movement to concentrate on public library funding and expanded library services, the ad hoc steering committee of NCEC met in May and decided to launch a nationwide drive for members. The key to such a drive is money and staff. We are currently seeking seed money to carry this effort over three years, by which time the major objectives of the White House Conference should be well on their way toward accomplishment. Our goal is \$120,000, which we are seeking from a group of national foundations and corporations. In the meantime we have recruited Tryntje Van Ness Seymour, a 1978 Smith College graduate (and daughter of your Secretary pro tem) to serve as our Public Information Officer, organizer, membership secretary, and jack-of-all-trades on a per diem plus expenses basis until we can fund permanent full-time staff. An outline of these plans is enclosed.

4. STATE ORGANIZATIONS. A key to future support for public library activities is in the state capitals. One of the objectives of our citizen recruiting, therefore, will be the establishment of centralized state committees with a strong individual to serve as working chairman, plus an executive committee consisting of one active member in each Congressional District to contact elected state and Federal representatives on a one-on-one basis. We hope to be able to provide a modest expense allowance to cover telephoning, printing, secretarial and other expenses. Plainly the most difficult job will be to find the right person in each state to take on the assignment of organizing and running the Citizens Committee for Public Libraries in that state for at least three years. We have not asked any of the present members of the National Citizens Emergency Committee to do that kind of work, but if you are in a position to volunteer your services, or have a suggestion of the perfect candidate for State Chairman in your state, we would very much appreciate hearing from you.

W. N. Seymour, Jr.
Secretary pro tem

FIGHTING FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

A Handbook for the Concerned Citizen

by

Whitney North Seymour, Jr. and Elizabeth N. Layne

with a

Foreword by James Thomas Flexner

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NATIONAL CITIZENS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

TO SAVE OUR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

April, 1978

Working Outline

"CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES"

General Concept. To provide a vehicle for library users and other concerned citizens to seek adequate government funding for public libraries and to achieve improvements in library services. An independent voice for public libraries, acting in concert with existing library groups representing professional librarians (ALA) and library trustees (ULC and ALTA) where appropriate, but free to act alone if necessary.

Major Objective. Enactment and implementation of a National Library Act to provide federal-state funding for public library operations, together with state enabling legislation where required. Achievement of full funding of NLA and follow-through to insure that minimum standards of library services are achieved.

Functions.

(1) Public Education. Increasing general public awareness of public library operations and funding needs through news media; public service advertising; literature.

(2) Recruiting. Enlisting interested citizens and through them organizing state and local chapters (viz. "Montana Citizens Committee for Public Libraries", "Bisbee Citizens Committee for Public Libraries"). Focusing citizen efforts on their state and federal representatives in order to generate official responsiveness to library funding requests.

(3) Congressional Relations. Developing regular contacts with Congressmen and their staffs to encourage interest in the welfare of public libraries. Distribution of fact sheets and background papers, etc.

(4) Shaping Conference Objectives. Working with special joint committee of NCEC, ALA, ULC, National Commission and White House Staff, to implement existing program for researching, preparing and distributing background papers for state and national library conferences.

Organization. Initial activities to be carried on under the banner of the National Citizens Emergency Committee to Save Our Public Libraries (through the White House Conference in September, 1979). Announcement of permanent organization (National Citizens Committee for Public Libraries) to be made at time of White House Conference for purpose of insuring achievement of Conference objectives (viz. National Library Act). At that time, each State Citizens Committee will be asked to elect a member of the Executive Committee of the new national group, which will meet to map out a program for implementation. Thereafter, the organization will function much like the League of Women Voters, with an annual national gathering and with state and local activities planned to meet specific funding and library improvement needs.

Budget and Staffing. For the initial organization period (through September, 1979), it should be sufficient to have two staff members:

Public Information Officer - A full-time employee who is free to travel to Washington and to state library conferences to handle: news media contacts; Congressional relations; recruiting citizen members; and stimulating discussion of key library conference objectives.

Administrative Director - a part-time or full-time jack-of-all-trades to handle mailings, correspondence from members, preparation of newsletter, membership records, printing details, expenditures and all other back-office operations.

(In addition to the foregoing, the committee has already engaged a Research Director and obtained full funding for conference background papers.)

The estimated budget for first year of operations is \$25,000 for staff and \$15,000 for expenses. This figure can be reduced substantially if office space and administrative services and staff are contributed in kind.

Funding. It is proposed that a three-year funding commitment be obtained to cover the heavy initial recruitment and organization expenses, and permit the Citizens Committee to shift over to a self-sustaining dues-paying organization (if possible) after the objectives of the White House Conference are well on their way to achievement. In addition, it is proposed that a committee of publishers undertake a public-service advertising program during the next twelve months to help enlist Citizens Committee volunteers.

Library News

Published for library users by the Urban Libraries Council
and distributed through the cooperation of its Member Libraries.

Volume I

Fall/Winter 1977

Library Cutbacks Creating Serious Hardships

Until 1970, the New York Public Library's research library, which has one of the largest research collections in the United States, operated on an 87-hour-a-week-schedule. It provided service not only during regular daytime hours, but on evenings, Sundays and holidays, too. By 1976, budget cuts had reduced its schedule to only 43 hours a week and forced closing of the entire building on Sundays and Thursdays as well.

This is just one example of the disastrous cutbacks in library services that have been imposed on public libraries all over the country by legislators and financial bureaucrats who have identified library appropriations as a good source of funds to make up growing budget gaps within their communities.

There are many other examples. At one point in its continuing battle of the budget, New York's Buffalo and Erie County Public Library was forced to suspend its telephone information service every day between 12 noon and 2 p.m., turn off the phones at 5 p.m., close its film department, terminate service to schools, eliminate evening service in the children's department of the Central branch, retire three of its four bookmobiles and terminate its reserve service, too.

In San Francisco, where the public library system serves more than half-a-million people, pressure to cut library expenditures continued even after Director Kevin Starr pointed out that completely eliminating the entire library system for San Francisco would save the city less than one percent of its total budget.

In 1976, the Toledo-Lucas Public Library, which serves as a resource center for 35 libraries in 12 counties in Ohio, lost its entire budget for new books for its rental collection, according to a library representative.

Nor has the financial dismantling been limited just

to the big city library systems. The Burlington (Vt.) Fletcher Free Library, which serves about 38,000 citizens, figured that proposed budget cuts ordered by the mayor would mean that five positions including reference librarian would have to be abolished, telephone reference service would have to be discontinued, service hours would shrink by about 30 percent and outreach programs, including school visits, service for shut-ins and work with community groups, would also have to be eliminated.

In mid-1976, the Memphis-Shelby County Library and Information Center was faced with a proposed budget cut of more than half-a-million dollars that

would force dropping of 40 to 50 of 300 jobs and leave it with less than half the funds for acquisitions that it had two years ago.

Of course, these cuts tell only part of the story. They do not convey the hidden penalties paid by library users because of a slow-down in services.

With fewer people to do more work, it takes longer to retrieve research material and select new titles, process reserves and shelf books. Skills of highly trained research librarians go to waste when they must do routine administrative tasks in order to keep the doors open.

For libraries like the one in Newark, N.J., where as many as 50 percent of the users of reference services are non-residents who may not be able to return if a book or reference material is not immediately available, service delays can be disastrous.

At the same time that libraries are being called on to serve people with specialized needs, some are finding it almost impossible just to maintain existing service.

The Denver Public Library's 1977 appropriation was \$588,000 less than requested, which represented no change from the previous year. To pare costs, the library had to cut book and serial purchases by \$210,000 and reduce the staff by the equivalent of more than a dozen full-time positions. Because of tax abatement for land development, the St. Louis Public Library over the last four years has sustained a total loss of \$344,000 in annual tax revenues.

They are over 8,000 libraries in the United States today. They serve all ages, colors and creeds. They're open to all, regardless of social or economic position. But they can't do it alone.



Public Libraries Press For More Federal Funds

As part of a plan to halt the service cutbacks that are threatening public libraries all over the country, the American Library Association has stepped up its efforts to obtain increased funding for the Library Services and Construction Act.

Library supporters had hoped that President Carter would follow up his strong pre-election statement on behalf of the Federal Library Association with a request for additional money to provide the programs he supported. Unfortunately, when the budget was released, it revealed that instead, the Administration had settled only for a renewal of the prior year's appropriation.

This latest lobbying effort follows earlier joint appeals by the Urban Libraries Council, the National Citizens Emergency Committee To Save Our Public Libraries and the American Library Association for a 20 percent increase in appropriations for the library legislation. Its director, ALA's able Washington spokesperson, Eileen D. Cooke, has been pounding the corridors of Capitol Hill to seek an additional \$18 million in Title I funds (for a total of \$75,000,000) as well as more money for library construction and network planning.

Ms. Cooke has been hammering away at the financial plight of public

libraries for many months. In April, she testified before the House Subcommittee on Labor-HEW Appropriations about the financial straits many libraries are fighting. She spoke of step-ups in staff layoffs and the curtailment of services and hours that has resulted.

Sharply reduced book budgets are commonplace in school, academic and public libraries, according to Ms. Cooke, even though costs have shot up so fast that in 1975-76, alone, the average cost of a hardcover book went from \$14.09 to \$16.19 and the average annual periodical subscription climbed from \$17.71 to \$19.94.

Some of the most serious cuts have occurred in rural areas where libraries play a major role in community life. Many are now open only a few hours a week. A recent survey shows that 297 counties in 19 states have no library services at all. This includes rural areas in Washington, Virginia, North and South Dakota, Kentucky, Missouri and Iowa.

All over the country, schools are dismantling their libraries and cities are closing library branches. Ms. Cooke pointed out, and all because of lack of funds, even though library usage is on the increase. The result is that, at the very time Americans are turning to their libraries, libraries are being forced to turn them away.

Library Users' Protests Restore Some Services

Protests by citizens concerned about the effects of library cutbacks are paying off.

In New York City, scheduled shutdowns of several library branches were averted with emergency aid from Albany and from the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act after users staffed City Hall demonstrations and library sit-ins.

In Philadelphia budget cuts which threatened sharp reductions in library staff and hours were restored after user complaints mounted.

In the Bronx section of New York, a local citizen was so concerned when he read that the community's branch library was slated for closing that he donated the \$15,000 needed to keep it open until community volunteers could raise an additional \$20,000.

On the national scene, user concern over the shrinkage of local funding and inadequate levels of Federal and state library aid last year resulted in the organizing of the National Citizens Emergency Committee To Save Our Public Libraries, an organization of groups from Washington, Cleveland and New York who came together informally and established this committee. Its goal is to organize a national committee of library users who will publicize important concerns in Washington and in state capitals. Its membership includes repre-

sentatives of many groups of citizens with a strong interest in libraries, including senior citizens, organized labor, authors and journalists, professionals and women voters.

Initially, NCEC aimed its guns at the Ford Administration's plan to eliminate all direct Federal aid to public libraries. The Committee has been active in applauding and supporting Congressional action to extend Federal aid through the Library Services and Construction Act.

It has also prepared background papers on the libraries' involvement in key national concerns including senior citizen problems, the economy and public access to information.

NCEC's long range goal is new legislation to provide for a joint national/state/local formula that would fund minimum levels of library service nationwide on a per capita or similar objective basis. The citizens group believes this can be the result of the upcoming Governors' and White House Conferences scheduled from now until 1979. It is urging all interested citizens to focus their efforts, both on these conferences and on their elected representatives, to develop a meaningful approach to library services and funding.

(For a list of steps individuals can take to help public libraries, see page 4.)

Facts About Library Users

Libraries' Services Sustain Elderly

Day in and day out, libraries throughout America are providing large numbers of older Americans with books and reference materials. These services, which are often taken for granted, are unpublishable and therefore invisible. Yet to the older Americans reached by them, they are an essential component of their lives.

Many elderly spend time at the local library because they have no place else to go. The building is air-conditioned in summer, heated in winter and it is a safe place to be.

Others stop by for half an hour to look over the new acquisitions or stay a bit longer on Thursdays when the new issues of *Time* and *Newsweek* come in. Frequently, older naturalized citizens come by for a few hours each day to read foreign language newspapers.

Many senior library users regularly travel long distances from their homes to return to the libraries of their childhood. If one of them fails to show up, the librarian—and sometimes only the librarian—knows something is wrong.

Many of these elderly are invisible users. They hold no library card and never take out books. This is particularly true in poorer neighborhoods, where people are often afraid to sign their names or are intimidated by procedures.

Special Materials

A number of libraries also provide special services for the elderly. They utilize bookmobiles, which are often equipped for wheelchairs, books by mail, personal distribution and deposit collections in senior centers to make books available to those who are unable to go to libraries. Librarians often lead book talks and discussion groups or offer film programs at senior citizen centers, churches and nursing homes.

Libraries also provide special materials for those with impaired hearing or eyesight. These include large print books, publications in Braille, special magnifiers

and films, and books, lectures and religious services on tape.

More and more libraries are filling community service gaps by providing information and referrals for elderly who have been defrauded by door-to-door salesmen or have trouble with their landlords or haven't received their Social Security checks and don't know where to turn for help.

The demand for services is expected to continue over the next 25 years. In 1900, there were 4 million elderly in this country; by the end of the century, according to a recent Census Bureau study, they are expected to number 31 million.

Active Elderly

Contrary to popular belief, the great majority of the elderly are mobile, in good health and live on their own. Only about five percent are in institutions. Most of the men in the 65 and over age group are retired. The women, many of whom were never in the labor force, also have more leisure time because few of them have children or other family members still living at home.

This increase in leisure time offers elderly citizens opportunities to try many things; it also challenges them to make major adjustments. Many older Americans are isolated from the main currents of American life by early retirement, reduced incomes, the scattering of their families and the loss of friends and family through death. They must find new outlets for their abilities and interests.

Many are making this adjustment by participating in adult education programs. Recently, for example, a 97-year-old woman received an award for completing a program at a community college in Connecticut. There are now at least 800 colleges that have some kind of specialized programs for older adults, according to the Academy for Educational Development.

Library News is published by the Urban Libraries Council, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving library services and advancing the interests of public libraries serving urban populations in cities of more than 100,000 inhabitants.

Address inquiries and requests for additional copies to:
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c/o St. Louis Public Library
1301 Olive St.
St. Louis, MO 63103

Editor: Ann Michell

Without public libraries, a number of these adult education programs could not be offered. Many colleges use library facilities for classrooms because they are easier for older students to get to and they are also less threatening than college classrooms. Participants in these programs also use libraries' resources for materials to supplement the formal instruction. Unfortunately, when library cuts are drawn up, the senior educational programs are often the first to go.

No Appropriations

Although Congress has been advocating help for senior citizens through libraries since the early 1970's, appropriations to fund the various programs it's proposed have never been made. Even more serious has been the lack of Federal support for the libraries. The result has been an increase in the demand for library services at the same time that the burden of funding is being shifted to already strained local budgets.

For many senior citizens who are alone and forgotten, their lives are given structure and substance by daily visits to the library and by the activities offered there. The steady dismantling of these services that funding cutbacks have caused is more than just an inconvenience to elderly Americans; it is destroying the fabric of their lives.

The articles on page 2 and 3 are abstracted from "Fact Sheets on Library Users," prepared by the National Citizens Emergency Committee to Save Our Public Libraries, 1666 K St., N.W., 10th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20006.

Public Libraries and the "Right To Know"

"A popular Government without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy; or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance: And a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives."

James Madison
August 4, 1822

Public libraries are the nation's memory. They collect and store up the information on which future decisions must be made. They are one of the basic resources, not only for the individual citizen, but also for authors of books and articles on current issues, government researchers, social scientists and journalists.

Many important areas of the free press would not exist without the public library market. Much of the printed material issued by the government would not be available to citizens if it were not for the public libraries which serve as depositories of public documents.

We tend to think of the news media as the main channel of communication about our government, our community and the problems of our society. But standing alongside the news media as a bulwark of information and ideas is an equally important institution we all take for granted—the public library.

Ironically, as the nation becomes more and more aware of its obligations to provide free access to information, many of our public libraries are reducing their hours, cutting back their collections, falling behind in the processing of material and even closing their doors.

The Federal Government congratulates itself on a Freedom of Information Act to provide access to government documents at the same time it is allowing the public to lose access to a much larger resource of information vital to the operation of a democracy.

Public Libraries and the News Media

Newspapers are the lifeblood of the land. 1,775 dailies and 7,650 weeklies keep the nation on its toes. They inform their readers about vital issues, expose frauds and misconduct in government and provide a ready voice of dissent. Millions of Americans from every walk of life depend on them every day.

What many of these people don't realize is that newspapers also depend on public libraries. Current news, of course, usually comes directly from events and human sources. But behind many stories lie important facts which must be gotten from public libraries. In some fields, especially those involving local history, libraries are the dominant source for these newspaper stories.

Public Libraries and a Free Press

Important as newspapers are in communicating information, they are just one source of material on vital issues. Of equal significance are periodicals and books, an area of the free press where library involvement is even more direct.

Ever since Thomas Paine used his pen to rally dissatisfied colonials to support the American Revolution, government leaders in this country have respected the pamphleteer. In modern times the pamphleteer has become the magazine writer, who combines investigative research and pungent analysis to move his fellow citizens to action in countless fields including consumerism, environmental protection, public health and welfare reform.

Many of the smaller journals which focus on ideas, like *Public Interest*, *Environment* and *Yale Review*, do not receive large advertising revenues. Their existence depends on paid subscriptions. For many of them public libraries are the largest single group of subscribers. Library sales keep them going. Unfortunately, tight budgets threaten the existence of many of these valuable journals.

Issue Books

In addition to annually publishing thousands of new books of transitory interest, the publishing industry also produces books of major significance to the welfare of the nation. Examples include Michael Harring-

ton's *The Other America*, which set the stage for the war on poverty, Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, which helped trigger the environmental movement, and Ralph Nader's *Unsafe At Any Speed*, which contributed to adoption of stringent automobile safety standards.

Earlier classics in the reform tradition include Jacob Riis's *How The Other Half Lives*, which set off a series of reforms in housing, Upton Sinclair's *Jungle*, which led to sweeping revision of food inspection laws, and Lincoln Steffin's *The Shame of Cities*, which contributed to the urban reform movements.

Recent books that are still having an impact on governmental policies are Susan Brownmiller's *Against Our Will*, which is causing re-examination of the laws relating to rape, and Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique*, which sounded the clarion call of the women's lib movement.

All of these books have relied on public libraries for their existence and circulation.

Economic Lifeline

The economic impact of the library's role in creating and spreading the ideas in these issue books is becoming increasingly evident. A special survey reported in *Publisher's Weekly* last year indicated that libraries represent the largest single market for most non-text book publishers.

Over half of the 61 publishers who responded to the survey said that libraries generate at least 40 percent of their total sales.

The books that will be jeopardized as library budgets fall behind are not the popular fiction titles but

As a journalist and author, I am acutely aware of the importance of our nation's public libraries as a basic information resource. I have no hesitation in saying that our public libraries are absolutely essential to that unique American institution—The First Amendment.

The starting place for any journalist on a big story is his public library. Cut off this source and you impair the freedom of the press. Unfortunately, that is exactly what is going on today in our country. Public libraries are closing their doors or reducing hours in community after community. Authors—particularly those who are holding down full-time jobs—find libraries are no longer open at night when they want to do research. America's literacy output is bound to suffer in the long run if this situation is not corrected at once.

The obvious answer lies in dependable long-range Federal funding for public libraries, in partnership with State and local government. A free press quite literally depends on your response to the needs of our libraries.

THEODORE H. WHITE

the serious non-fiction books that reflect the independent voices and thoughts theoretically guaranteed under the First Amendment.

Libraries and Access to Information

Public libraries are the citizens' newspaper morgue. Virtually every public library has a file of back issues, at least of the local newspapers. Anyone who wants some information from a back newspaper—a student doing local history research, a government investigator checking consumer prices, a political candidate researching votes by his opponent—turns to the public library.

Many libraries carry more than just the local paper. Over 800 libraries in the country subscribe to *The New*

I grew up in a library and I continue to visit one weekly. I can't imagine a world without them. That is why the big city trend to reduce services, with libraries and museums regarded as fringe services that can be cut back first, is alarming. How sad it is that we have millions for elaborate sports stadiums but close the libraries on weekends. This sports fan feels that somewhere along the line we have lost our sense of priority.

B. Dale Davis
Philadelphia Bulletin

York Times Index and also the special service which supplies all back issues of the *Times* on microfilm.

For his monumental work, *The Brooklyn Bridge*, David McCullough sought out back copies of more than 30 different newspapers, ranging from the *Boston Post* to the *Troy Record*, in more than 15 separate libraries, to tell the story of "the most famous bridge in the world."

Current and back issues of periodicals are also made available to the public through libraries. Often they provide the only link with specialized information. A newly appointed member of Maine's Board of Environmental Protection, for example, who lives along an isolated shore off the Maine coast, depends on the periodicals in the Portland Public Library to keep up with environmental affairs.

Public Libraries and the Federal Government

In the 19th century, Congress established a policy of making publications about the activities of the Federal Government available to the general public through public libraries. Libraries which met certain specifications became Depository Libraries for distribution of publications issued by all branches of the Federal establishment. Here they are available free to the public.

Today the Government Printing Office annually distributes more than 37,700 different documents. These include bills before Congress, public laws, committee reports on bills and results of committee hearings, which often provide an exhaustive study of a subject, and the Congressional Record.

These government documents frequently contain invaluable research material. No extended research in questions of labor conditions in America, for example, can be done without using some Department of Labor material.

The depository system is a mammoth undertaking. In fiscal 1976, the Government Printing Office shipped 25,000,000 documents to depositories. All depository documents are distributed free to the libraries.

But despite the many benefits, the system is one more source of problems for libraries handling its materials. For while the libraries receive the documents free of charge, they receive no assistance from the Federal government in meeting the costs of storage, record keeping, preservation and service.

Frances Buckley, documents specialist at the Detroit Public Library, estimates that the annual cost of maintaining that library's extensive depository holdings is \$136,000. This does not include the cost of about 2,820 shelves that are required to house the collection. Then, Detroit's obligations as a regional depository, which includes references and inter-library loan requests from selective depositories, adds another \$5,670 a year to their expenses, again exclusive of space.

In addition, many government agencies and committees are lax about sending along publications to the Government Printing Office for distribution. The Central Intelligence Agency, for example, makes almost nothing available.

So, many of the more than 150 Depository Libraries must also pay membership fees to the Documents Expediting Project at the Library of Congress. Its task is to canvass government agencies for material that has not been sent to the Government Printing Office. Detroit, for example, spends another \$73,000 a year on staff, maintenance and acquisition of this additional information.

It also pays \$7,000 a year for tools such as the *Congressional Information Service Index*, *American Statistics Index*, *Congressional Quarterly Weekly Reports* and *Cumulative Subject Index*, which are needed to provide comprehensive research service.

Altogether, Mr. Buckley estimates that making government publications available for free use by the public costs the Detroit Public Library more than \$222,000 a year. This cost must be covered entirely by state and local funds.

If there is, as many assert, a public right to know, then that right certainly should extend to access to the vital storehouses of information in our public libraries. The accelerating rate of their financial distress will undoubtedly have a substantial impact on the working of the First Amendment and the participation of citizens in our government.

Shortchanging The Public Libraries

Level of Federal and State Contributions to Public Library Operating Funds (latest figures—1975)

ANNUAL LIBRARY EXPENDITURES

State	Dollar Amount (thousands)	Total Expenditures Per Capita	Federal & State Contributions Per Capita	State	Dollar Amount (thousands)	Total Expenditures Per Capita	Federal & State Contributions Per Capita
ALABAMA	\$ 8,778	\$ 2.43	.51	MONTANA	3,844	5.14	.30*
ALASKA	2,839	8.12	.57	NEBRASKA	8,867	5.74	.29
ARIZONA	10,694	4.81	NA	NEVADA	3,690	6.23	.45
ARKANSAS	4,357	2.06	.50	NEW HAMPSHIRE	4,269	5.22	NA
CALIFORNIA	165,352	7.81	.23	NEW JERSEY	50,267	6.87	1.53
COLORADO	15,866	6.26	.06*	NEW MEXICO	5,792	5.05	.09
CONNECTICUT	24,391	7.88	.39	NEW YORK	131,827	7.28	1.65
DELAWARE	1,523	2.63	NA	NORTH CAROLINA	17,816	3.27	.92
FLORIDA	29,178	3.49	NA	NORTH DAKOTA	2,012	3.17	.57*
GEORGIA	12,395	2.52	1.56	OHIO	37,386	3.47	.32
HAWAII	7,265	8.17	0	OKLAHOMA	10,477	3.86	NA
IDAH0	3,024	3.69	.84	OREGON	12,763	5.58	.08*
ILLINOIS	63,491	5.70	1.00	PENNSYLVANIA	32,918	2.78	.91
INDIANA	27,696	5.21	0	RHODE ISLAND	5,321	5.74	1.21
IOWA	12,781	4.45	.56	SOUTH CAROLINA	7,806	2.77	.54
KANSAS	7,281	3.21	.45	SOUTH DAKOTA	2,984	4.37	0
KENTUCKY	13,246	3.90	.94	TENNESSEE	17,455	4.16	0
LOUISIANA	14,625	3.86	.15*	TEXAS	41,474	3.39	.33
MAINE	3,653	3.45	.12	UTAH	7,683	6.30	.10*
MARYLAND	33,839	8.26	1.23	VERMONT	2,296	4.87	.24*
MASSACHUSETTS	55,777	9.57	.87	VIRGINIA	23,547	4.74	.40
MICHIGAN	37,691	4.12	.66	WASHINGTON	28,071	7.92	.20
MINNESOTA	25,242	6.43	.70	WEST VIRGINIA	6,274	3.48	.54
MISSISSIPPI	7,388	3.15	.66	WISCONSIN	29,401	6.38	.81
MISSOURI	24,764	5.20	.45	WYOMING	2,770	7.41	0

*Federal only; no State aid.

Source: Annual library expenditures from U.S. Bureau of the Census, "State Government Finances in 1975" and unpublished data in the Government Division. State and Federal aid from NCL's survey of State library officers, published in Table 5 of the Urban Libraries Council study, *Improving State Aid to Public Libraries* (1977).

What You Can Do

AS AN INDIVIDUAL

Contact your elected representatives in Congress and urge them to join forces with other legislators to support full funding of the Library Services and Construction Act. This legislation funds public library construction and supports services and programs. Without it, many libraries will be hard-pressed even to maintain existing levels of services.

Mailing Addresses:

Honorable (Senator's Name)*
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable (Representative's Name)*
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

*If you don't know, ask your local public library or call the League of Women Voters. A Western Union Mailgram is an easy, inexpensive way to send your message.

Contact your Governor. Urge him to give top priority to your state's library conference. Governors receive more requests for support than they can fulfill. Many listen to the constituents who show the most interest when deciding which ones to grant.

AS A MEMBER OF AN ORGANIZATION

Adopt resolutions urging your state legislature to provide funds and community services for the conference and your Governor to take an active role in it.

Sponsor a resolution to urge Federal and state appropriations and full funding for public library operations.

See that copies of the resolutions are sent to your Governor and all elected representatives.

AS AN ACTIVIST

Make your interest known to your local librarian. Ask what you can do to help with local funding needs.

Use your ability to get things done. Organize a local or state Citizens Emergency Committee to Save Our Public Libraries that can focus on these important issues.

Work to see that your state library conference includes adequate consideration of basic issues; full service to the community and adequate Federal and state funding and support.

Develop a list of qualified lay persons to serve as citizen delegates to the state and White House conferences and submit their names to the head of your State Library Agency. (See list)

Open up communications with local and national government offices. Identify spokespeople so your messages can be directed to those who count. Get your organization on the mailing lists of groups whose work affects the future of libraries. Attend meetings and other gatherings where you can pick up important information and make contacts.

TO KEEP INFORMED ABOUT LIBRARY ISSUES:

Join the American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, Ill. 60611 and subscribe to its Washington Newsletter. Dues for lay members are \$20 per year and include a one-year subscription to *American Libraries*.

Looking Ahead

Next Step: Governor's Conferences

All over the country, organizations concerned with the success of the 1979 White House Conference on Library and Information Services are stepping up their efforts in planning state and territorial Governors' Conferences that will precede the national meeting.

Because the findings of these preliminary conferences will affect library operations in each state and will also determine what the agenda for the White House meeting will be, coalitions of lay and professional groups have joined together to ensure their success. They realize that these conferences will play a key role in deciding whether libraries are able to compete successfully for Federal and state funds and the legislation needed if libraries are to provide the kind of service Americans have a right to expect from them.

One of the things that sets this White House Conference apart from some of the other national meetings designed to focus attention on important issues is the major role assigned to the public. This is a users' conference, according to Sen. Jacob

Javits (R-NY), who is a member of the national Advisory Committee. It has been planned to give citizens from all walks of life an opportunity to determine the direction of the libraries they support with their taxes.

To guarantee that the public's interests are fully represented at every meeting, conference legislation stipulates that two-thirds of those attending must be lay citizens not associated with libraries and information services. Each conference is to consist of between 100 and 400 delegates and last at least 2½ days. Conferences in each state capital are to take place between September 15, 1977, and April 30, 1979.

State planners must work to enlist top professional, lay and governmental interests within each state. When the Governor agrees to sponsor and participate in the conference, for example, it will increase the quality of resources available to conference participants.

Every discussion should feature library users from the community who can describe from their own ex-

periences why libraries are such a vital resource today and make suggestions about how to increase service to take care of unmet needs. Interested citizens need not wait to be asked to testify. They should contact their local libraries and volunteer.

Conference schedules must allow enough preparation and meeting time to evaluate a state's existing programs and determine its future needs so conference delegates are prepared to make recommendations about which services should remain the state's responsibility and which will need Federal funding and support.

A successful conference must accomplish many things, according to Sen. Javits. It must provide assessment of library services. It must find out how libraries can better serve their patrons, including those who are not now taking advantage of them. It must determine the state and Federal roles in funding and service. And it must also provide the basis for future legislation.

These can be achieved only when the states are full partners.

Directory of State Library Agency Heads

Contact them for more information about plans for holding a statewide library conference in your state.

ALABAMA	Anthony Miele, Director, Alabama Public Library Service, 6030 Monticello Dr., Montgomery 36109 (205) 832-5743
ALASKA	Richard Engen, Director, Div. of State Libraries, Pouch G, Juneau 99811 (907) 465-2910
ARIZONA	Mrs. Marguerite Cooley, Director, Library, Archives & Public Records Dept., 13rd Floor, State Capitol, Phoenix 85007 (602) 271-3701
ARKANSAS	Mrs. Frances Neel, Librarian, Arkansas Library Comm., 506½ Center St., Little Rock 72201 (501) 371-1524
CALIFORNIA	Mrs. Ethel Crockett, State Librarian, California State Library, P.O. Box 2037, Sacramento 95809 (916) 445-4027
COLORADO	Ms. Anne Marie Falone, Asst. Comm., Office of Library Services, Colorado Dept. of Education, State Library Bldg., 1362 Lincoln, Denver 80203 (303) 892-2174
CONNECTICUT	Charles Funk, Jr., State Librarian, Connecticut State Library, 231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford 06115 (203) 566-4301
DELAWARE	Mrs. Ruth Ruby, Office Mgr., Div. of Libraries, P.O. Box 635, W. Loockerman St., Dover 19901 (302) 678-4748
FLORIDA	Barratt Wilkins, State Librarian, R.A. Gray Bldg., Tallahassee 32304 (904) 487-2651
GEORGIA	Carlton J. Thaxton, Director, Div. of Public Library Services, 156 Trinity Ave., S.W., Atlanta 30303 (404) 656-2461
HAWAII	Mrs. May Chan, State Librarian, Office of Library Services, Dept. of Education, P.O. Box 2360, Honolulu 96804 (808) 548-2430
IDAHO	Ms. Helen M. Miller, State Librarian, Idaho State Library, 325 W. State St., Boise 83702 (208) 384-2190
ILLINOIS	Mrs. K. Gesterfeld, Director, Illinois State Library, 209 Centennial Bldg., Springfield 62756 (317) 782-2994
INDIANA	Marcelle Foote, Director, Indiana State Library, 140 North Senate Ave., Indianapolis 46204 (317) 633-5440
IOWA	Barry Porter, Director, State Library Comm. of Iowa, Historical Bldg., Des Moines 50319 (515) 281-4105
KANSAS	Mrs. Ernestine Gilliland, State Librarian, Kansas State Library, 3rd Floor, Statehouse, Topeka 66612 (913) 296-3250
KENTUCKY	Mrs. Barbara Williams, State Librarian, Dept. of Library & Archives, Box 537, Frankfort 40601 (502) 564-2190
LOUISIANA	Thomas Jacques, State Librarian, Louisiana State Library, P.O. Box 131, Baton Rouge 70821 (504) 389-6651
MAINE	J. Gary Nichols, State Librarian, Maine State Library, Augusta 04330 (207) 289-3561
MARYLAND	Nettie Taylor, Director, Maryland State Dept. of Education, P.O. Box 8717, Baltimore 21240 (301) 796-8300
MASSACHUSETTS	Charles Joyce, Director, Bureau of Library Extension, 648 Beacon St., Boston 02215 (617) 267-9400
MICHIGAN	Francis Scannell, State Librarian, Michigan Dept. of Education, 735 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing 48913 (517) 373-1580
MINNESOTA	William Asp, Director, Office of Public Libraries, 301 Hanover Bldg., 480 Cedar St., St. Paul 55101 (612) 296-2821
MISSISSIPPI	Jack Mulkey, Director, Mississippi Library Comm., P.O. Box 3260, Jackson 39207 (601) 354-6369
MISSOURI	Charles O'Halloran, State Librarian, Missouri State Library, 308 E. High St., Jefferson City 65101, (314) 751-2751
MONTANA	Mrs. Alma Jacobs, State Librarian, Montana State Library, 930 E. Lyndale Ave., Helena 59601 (406) 449-3004
NEBRASKA	John Kopschke, State Librarian, Nebraska Library Comm., 1420 P St., Lincoln 68508 (402) 471-2634
NEVADA	Joseph Anderson, State Librarian, Nevada State Library, Capitol Complex, Carson City 89701 (702) 885-5130
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Mrs. Avis Duckworth, State Librarian, New Hampshire State Library, 20 Park St., Concord 03301 (603) 271-2392
NEW JERSEY	Donald Palmer, Acting Director, Div. of State Library & History, 185 W. State St., Trenton, 08625 (609) 292-6200
NEW MEXICO	C. Edwin Dowlin, State Librarian, New Mexico State Library, P.O. Box 1629, Santa Fe 87501 (505) 827-2033
NEW YORK	John Humphrey, State Librarian, New York State Education Dept., State Education Bldg., Albany 12224 (518) 474-5930
NORTH CAROLINA	David McKay, Director, Div. of State Library, 109 E. Jones St., Raleigh 27611 (919) 829-2570
NORTH DAKOTA	Richard Wolfert, State Librarian, North Dakota State Library, Highway 83 North, Bismarck 58501 (701) 224-2492
OHIO	Joseph Shubert, State Librarian, State Library of Ohio, 63 Front St., Columbus 43215 (614) 466-2693
OKLAHOMA	Robert Clark, Jr., State Librarian, Dept. of Libraries, 200 North East 18th, Oklahoma City 73105 (405) 521-2502
OREGON	Mrs. Marcia Lowell, State Librarian, Oregon State Library Bldg., Salem 97310 (503) 378-4367
PENNSYLVANIA	Ernest Doerschuk, Jr., State Librarian, State Library of Pennsylvania, Box 1601, Harrisburg 17126 (717) 787-2646
RHODE ISLAND	Mrs. Jewel Drickamer, Director, Rhode Island Dept. of State Library Service, 95 Davis St., Providence 02908 (401) 277-2726
SOUTH CAROLINA	Ms. Estelene Walker, State Librarian, South Carolina State Library, P.O. Box 11469, Columbia 29211 (803) 758-3181
SOUTH DAKOTA	Herschel Anderson, State Librarian, South Dakota State Library, State Library Bldg., Pierre 57501 (605) 224-3131
TENNESSEE	Mrs. Kathryn Culbertson, State Librarian, Tennessee State Library, 403 Seventh Ave. N., Nashville 37219 (615) 741-7996
TEXAS	Dr. Dorman Winfrey, Director, Texas State Library, Box 12927, Capitol Station, Austin 78711 (512) 475-2166
UTAH	Russell Davis, Director, Utah State Library Comm., 2150 South 300 West, Salt Lake City 84115 (801) 533-5875
VERMONT	John McCrossan, State Librarian, State of Vermont Libraries Administration, Montpelier 05602 (802) 828-3265
VIRGINIA	Ronald Haynes, State Librarian, Virginia State Library, Richmond 23219 (804) 786-2332
WASHINGTON	Roderick Swartz, State Librarian, Washington State Library, Olympia 98504 (206) 753-5592
WEST VIRGINIA	Frederic Glazer, Executive Secretary, West Virginia Library Comm., 2004 Quarrier St., Charleston 25311 (304) 348-2041
WISCONSIN	W. Lyle Eberhart, Administrator, Wisconsin Dept. of Public Instruction, 126 Langdon St., Madison 53702 (608) 266-2205
WYOMING	William Williams, State Librarian, Wyoming State Library, Supreme Court & State Library Bldg., Cheyenne 82002 (307) 777-7281

Ellen

League of Women Voters of Minnesota, 555 Wabasha, St. Paul, MN 55102, January, 1978

Memo to: Library Study Committee and Marie Goss
From: Katharine Muff
Re: Agenda for January 20 Meeting
Date: January 12, 1978

The Committee will meet at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, January 20, at the state office 555 Wabasha, St. Paul. This will be an all-day meeting so bring a bag lunch. (If it is impossible to bring a lunch, let the office know, and we'll have something available.)

AGENDA

Review of minutes of 10-20-77 meeting (attached)
Approval of agenda
Determination of who or which groups are ready to make reports later in the meeting
Brief overview of the committee's charge
Define the objectives of the study
Reports of committee members
Interrelationship of this state study to local library studies
Determine what LWVMN can do in areas where there is no local LWV
Appointment of subcommittees and assignments (e.g. editors: Rosenblatt and Rosenfeld)
Review of timeline:
Governor's Pre-White House Conference Committee will be holding Speak Out meetings, and there will be a 2nd week in September large Conference meeting.
Does this change what we do and when?
Set date for next meeting. Fill out vouchers.
Adjourn

Included: Minutes of 10-20-77 Committee meeting
Glossary of terms
Circulator

Minutes

Library Funding Study Committee meeting

Friday, January 20, 1978

Members present: Katherine Muff, Chair; Dorothy Herbert, Sue Rosenfeld, Marie Goss, Milo Schefers, Jean Flanagan, Marylea Osier, Sandra Shanley
State Board members present: Helene Borg, Pam Berkwitz, Mary Waldo

The minutes of the October 20, 1977, meeting were reviewed. The chairperson restated the reasons for having a large committee. She also reviewed the charge to the committee - to only deal with funding-financing public libraries. We must give local Leagues enough information to make decisions from given alternatives.

Considerations are: *local*
increased taxes
decreased services
formula for state aid

Reports of Committee members:

Sandra Shanley reviewed the material she had written:

- Introductory material
- How public libraries are now funded
- Description of Library systems in Minnesota
- Description of MELSA
- State Aids and distribution

The committee discussed additions and/or clarifications to the material.

There was considerable discussion regarding how the committee should approach the subject of formulas.

Milo Schefers reported on her prepared material - History of Funding Public Libraries in Minnesota. Suggestions were made as to additions and/or changes.

The committee reviewed definitions which were included with the agenda for this meeting. These will be added to and become part of the glossary.

Supplemental materials to be sent to local Leagues were discussed. Dorothy Herbert will review materials prepared by the Minnesota Library Association - legislative committee study.

The committee viewed the slide/tape "Beyond Your Local Library," prepared by OPLIC (Office of Public Libraries and Interlibrary Cooperation of the Minnesota Department of Education).

Task Forces of the committee were set up and assignments made.

Task Forces and Assignments:

Current Funding - Shanley, Herbert, Rosenfeld, Thomas, Goss

History of Funding - Schefers and Flanagan

Glossary - Muff

Bibliography - total Committee

Proposed changes in patterns of funding

1. Sources of funding) Rosenfeld, Goss, Muff
2. Distribution)

Definitions: Libraries and Library Services - Herbert

Board Memo communications - Waldo

(Over)

The Committee reviewed the time line originally proposed and decided that no revision was necessary at this time.

February 15 - revisions of written material due to state office and to Katherine Muff.

March 3 - next Committee meeting - state office

This meeting will focus on putting the written material in final form and writing consensus questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Waldo

To: Library Funding Committee
From: Katharine Muff
Re: Agenda for March 3, 1978
Date: February 22, 1978

The Funding of Public Libraries Committee will meet at 10:00 a.m., Friday, March 3, at the state office. Bring your bag lunch; coffee, tea, and pop will be available.

AGENDA

- I. a. Roll Call
b. Minutes of the January 20 committee meeting
- II. Brief presentation of Suggested Consensus Questions. Very little discussion. The purpose of this item is to enable us to check to see if we are providing adequate study material and reference material sources to our Leagues.
- III. Approval of bibliography and glossary.
- IV. Presentation of reports. General discussion followed by:
 - a. Assignments for preliminary editing, particularly to obtain reasonable brevity, and
 - b. To review after staff editing.

(We may have to clarify what we mean, but this is procedural.)
- V. We have to make a decision. Can staff editing be followed by mailing edited material to core members of this committee? If near unanimous approval results, can we proceed to presentation to the Board?
- VI. Consensus questions first review. If time permits, repeat Roman Numerals IV, II, III. If agreement is reached, proceed to #V.

Now, if we can accomplish the above, we need not hold another full committee until the Board has acted upon our work.

Memo to: Katharine Muff
From: Helene Borg
Re: Standard Policies and Procedures for LWVMN Program Study Chairpersons
and Committee Members
Date: November 18, 1977

It is our policy that any and all communications of Program study committees be channeled through the LWVMN office. Correspondence, meeting notices, minutes, research materials, etc., need to be kept on file both at the office and the chairperson's home so we have a complete record of the study from its beginning to its completion.

The office, as you know, is staffed, equipped, willing and capable to handle all of your correspondence for you and to duplicate all of your materials.

Any knowledge or research gained or developed by a committee member or chairperson should be sent to the office for duplication and routing. This is the only way we have of maintaining a complete record of a study, and a complete record is vital to LWVMN's credibility and for its protection.

While a League study is in progress - indeed, until consensus is reached by the members and the position is approved by your state Board - no comments should be made about the study except in the most general of terms. Studies have ways of taking unexpected twists, and member agreement is unpredictable.

Staff is available to collate the responses to the questionnaire you had sent out in August, so if you will mail them back, first class, please, staff can begin that process and circulate the results to all of your committee members.

Since we will be seeking external-to-the-League funding for parts of this study, it is incumbent upon us to keep accurate records of costs incurred and time spent on the study. Enclosed is a voucher and a time sheet for your use. It really impresses grantors when we can show that League members have given our studies hundreds (or thousands) of hours of research.

Thanks, Katharine, for your cooperation - and continued success in chairing this study.

B:H:M

Eveleth, Mn 55734
March 22, 1978

Dear Ellen:

I think that you can assume that the first time-line proposed in the October 20th meeting is correct. Mary Waldo wrote it and I assume that she knows what is feasible. The minutes of the March 3rd meeting indicate that we are approximately on schedule.

The publication will, as nearly as is possible, be confined to the subject of FUNDING OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES, which is the only mandate we have from the LWV 1977 Convention. History, Description of Services etc etc will be included only to develop the main theme.

Many Leagues have had studies of their own Regional Systems and we have used their material to further our understanding but - contrary to the October 20th minutes Regional long-range plans will not be included except as they occur in publications listed as additional resources. Other-wise I think that the minutes of October 20th and March 3rd are indicative of the scope of the study.

I can make no suggestions of changes at this time because I have not yet received the first draft of the publication. I anticipate no major revisions.

As to the M.L.A. packets, why not send one each to the Regional Libraries? We can add that title to our bibliography.

It is no secret that I have been impatient with the pace of our study but I have learned that like the gestation of an elephant or the building of Rome, a League position can't be hurried!

It is possible that I may attend Council but I am not now planning to do so. After refusing to be nominated for President I felt that I should leave the opportunity to attend to possible candidates! But I'll be in touch with you.

Thanks for your help and your patience.

Katharine Muff

MINUTES OF THE LIBRARY STUDY COMMITTEE
Meeting of March 3, 1978

MEMBERS PRESENT: Muff, Chair; Goss, Helgeson, Herbert, Namie, Pidcock, Rosenfeld, Shanley
STATE BOARD MEMBER PRESENT: Dunn

The chairperson stated that at this meeting it was intended to set up a core committee to do preliminary writing. This material would be sent to other committee members for comments and approval, and then to the Board.

The consensus questions written by committee members were read. The purpose was not to discuss the questions themselves but to evaluate the written material in light of these questions. The chair reminded members of the necessity to hold to the mandate of the Convention, i.e., study only the funding of libraries.

The bibliography prepared by Muff was discussed, some additions being suggested. These would be listed as resources for additional study, and all would be available in local libraries. The bibliography was tentatively approved.

The glossary prepared by Muff was approved, with additions suggested by Herbert.

The material written by committee members was distributed and discussed. Some specific suggestions were: placing most tables in boxes, including objections to increased state funding, mention of fees for service, listing implications of no increased funding. Goss, Rosenfeld and Shanley will use the written material and suggestions discussed to write the first draft. This will be sent to committee members who have taken part in preparing material. The chair asked that they be specific in their comments and suggestions and set priority on suggestions.

Brief discussion and tentative consensus on consensus questions are to be evaluated by the same process as above.

Members to review draft: Katharine Muff, Dorothy Herbert, Jean Flanagan, Milo Schefers, Marylea Osier, Jean Carr, Barbara Namie, Ellen Mork, Joan Hicks, Hazel Helgeson, Carol Pidcock.

THE CIRCULATOR

MAR 8 1978
Volume 6, Number 2
February, 1978

BRINGING YOU NEWS ABOUT THE MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC LIBRARY & INFORMATION CENTER

And now for some good news...

The Circulator has been forced to report a lot of bad news of late... shortage of funds, reductions in service, closing of a branch... but this issue is pleased to report a piece of good news for Library users.

Beginning March 6, 1978, hours will be increased at two community agencies to help offset some of the recent cutbacks. The libraries affected are Washburn Community Library, 5244 Lyndale Av. S., and North Regional Library, 1315 Lowry Av. N.

The new hours for these agencies will be 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

The increase is made possible by additional CETA (Concentrated Employment and Training Act) funding that became available through the City of Minneapolis. CETA is a federal program that provides monies for hiring unemployed or underemployed workers.

The additional \$75,000 in CETA funding made available to the Library was found to be enough to restore some Community Library hours by hiring extra staff. Washburn and North Regional were chosen in order to provide a uniform number of hours, including evening and Saturday

service, in both the north and south areas of the City.

This new schedule will remain in effect through May 31, 1978, when the Library's summer hours schedule is enacted.

Displays planned

The Central Library arcade will feature displays on a variety of interesting subjects this coming year. The current exhibit, through February 28, deals with the history of American advertising. Using magazines and newspapers from colonial times up to the present, the display points out how ads mirror the spirit of the times in America.

For the month of March, the arcade display will focus on the future. Following the theme of our Science Museum's new exhibit, the "Marketplace of Possibilities," the display will present information on a variety of scientific innovations and technologies that will affect our future. Such concepts as geodesic dome structures, rapid transit systems, optic fibers, and computerized education will be included.

The subsequent exhibit, beginning April 10, will commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising. Designed to help reveal the lessons for contemporary society that can be learned from that period, the display will present materials on the Holocaust and Jewish persecution during World War II. Photographs and objects such as uniforms and weapons will augment the printed materials displayed.

The display will be of further interest because of a nine-hour television drama, "The Holocaust," to be aired on NBC-TV April 16-19. The original drama, based on actual records, traces the fate of two German families—one Jewish and one Nazi—from 1933 to 1945.

Live programming at the Library is also being planned around the exhibit. Film showings and talks by Holocaust survivors will be scheduled for school groups as well as the general public.

Library slide show ready for use

"Our group is interested in learning more about the Library—can someone there tell us?" "Can you make a presentation to our club about what the Minneapolis Public Library has to offer?"

Such questions can now be answered with a resounding "Yes!" thanks to the Library's exciting new slide/tape presentation.

This 11½ minute show conveys a wealth of information about the Library and its resources. Everyone, from the non-Library user to the most avid patron, can learn something new about their Library from it.

Some basic services are covered, like reciprocal borrowing, availability of non-print materials, and reference help. Special services are also touched on, such as the bookmobile, Service to the Homebound, children's programs, and specialized collections.

A good portion of the show addresses some of the newer and more innovative ways in which the Library is serving information needs. "Learning Unlimited," the experimental independent learning program offered at nine Community Libraries, is one such service highlighted in the show. Two different "Learning Unlimited" clients

tell how the Library is helping them reach their learning goals.

The Neighborhood Information Center, designed to meet specialized needs for community information and referral services, is another innovative resource explained in the program.

The theme of the show is "information movement." All of the Library's offerings are seen as "vehicles" for moving information—books, records, films, computer data bases; bookmobiles, Community Libraries, homebound delivery; story hours, adult classes, film showings.

The show stresses that the computer age has made us more aware of the concept of "information movement," but whatever vehicles are employed, it is still people who move the information. The conclusion is that people—in the form of a dedicated and ready-to-serve staff—are the greatest resource this Library has to offer.

Library staff members are now being trained in operating the show in order to make maximum use of it in the community. Area groups, clubs, and organizations interested in scheduling a showing, accompanied by a talk if desired, are asked to contact the Publicity Office, 372-6606, for arrangements.

"briefly"

Income Tax forms are now available at all Minneapolis Public Library agencies. This service is appreciated and used by many individuals who want additional copies of blank Federal and State forms. The Business/Science department at Central Library also has cassette tapes of step-by-step instructions for completing Federal forms.

One hour free parking for evening and Saturday Library users is offered through the Skyway Ramp, 413 Nicollet Mall. Parking tickets are stamped at the Information Desk from 5 to 8 p.m. Monday and Thursday and all day Saturday.

Requests for funding in 1979 were submitted to the Capital Long Range Improvements Committee February 1. Of the three Library projects proposed, first priority is the automated inventory control system, followed by Central Library remodeling and renovation, and modernization and improved handicap accessibility at two Community Libraries.

A volunteer policy, recently adopted by the Library Board, enables the Library to augment services to its public by utilizing volunteers for projects that cannot be accomplished by regularly budgeted staff. The framework for instituting this policy is in the development stages. Plans are to create a centralized volunteer office that will coordinate the volunteer function with the Friends of the Library. Potential volunteers will be channeled from this office into an appropriate project. More details in the next **Circulator**.

Frances Naftalin was elected president of the Library Board at its annual meeting January 5. Ann Higgins was voted secretary and JoAnne Thorbeck was elected representative to the Board of Estimate and Taxation. The former officers, who did not seek reelection, were Marie Goss, president for the past four years, and Grace M. Ennen, who had served as secretary for 14½ years. Ms. Naftalin was the Board of Estimate representative in 1977.

President Naftalin has appointed these Library Board committee chairpersons for 1978: JoAnne Thorbeck, Finance Commit-

tee; Marie Goss, Branch Library and Building Committee; and David Doty, General Committee.

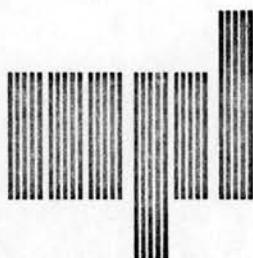
Mayor Hofstede has appointed Sean Rice, 248 Russell Av. S., to a two year term on the Library Board. Rice is a Harvard University graduate in his second year of law at Hamline University Law School in St. Paul.

Courses by Media is an experimental project at Southeast Community Library that makes available cassette tapes of radio broadcast University of Minnesota courses for use by anyone interested in enrolling in the course for credit or simply in learning about the subject. Course titles currently available are Music Appreciation, History of American Theatre, and Psychical Phenomenon.

Over 50,000 visitors are expected at the Home Show, April 28-May 3, in which the Library will be a participant. The Library booth will be part of a two day "community awareness show" Friday and Saturday, April 28-29. Our exhibit will present information about the home improvement and consumer resources we have available.

1977 Library use statistics

	October-December	1977 Totals
Circulation transactions	581,538	2,515,399
Research & fact finding questions	409,898	1,714,287
Central Library gate count	220,743	874,333



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BRIEF MINUTES OF THE LIBRARY STUDY COMMITTEE MEETING of October 20, 1977

Present: Katharine Muff, Chair, Pidcock, Rosenfeld, Namie, Schefers, Thomas, Kelly, Konhauser, Porter, Helgeson, Schanley, Carr, Nelson
State Board Members Present: Berkwitz, Waldo
Staff Present: Herb

The Chairperson stated that all those present except those who demurred would be consider members of the Funding Public Library Study Committee and that all others on the mailing list would be considered resource people. Several proposed time lines were developed. One:

- 1979 January, Legislative Session Begins
- 1978 November - LWVMN Board approves consensus
 October - Consensus reports from local Leagues in and collated, possible position prepared for the November state Board meeting
 September - Unit meetings
 July - material to local Leagues
 June - editing and printing
 May - expert readers' reaction to publication and editing
 April - Board committee reading, revising and first editing
- 1977 December through March, 1978 - research and preliminary writing

The second time line developed would have the state Board approve any consensus at its January, 1979, meeting, with the balance of the time line adjusted accordingly.

A rough outline for the publication was developed:

- I. Definition of terms, for example, there are two types of public library systems as well as affiliated public libraries.
- II. The role of the State Department of Education; Public Library Funding is a line item in their budget request to the Legislature.
- III. History
- IV. Current Funding
 - a. Formula - what it is, how it works
 - b. Local relation to municipality or county, regional and state (Federal funding, which amounts to about 1 1/2% would be included in the state section.)
- V. Current Services
 - a. Types of services, for example, multi-media
 - b. Trends in services
- VI. Funding Alternatives
 - a. State long-range plans
 - b. Regional long-range plans

The following people will assume the following assignments:

Katharine Muff will work on the definition of terms
Milo Schefers on the history
Hazel Helgeson on funding alternatives

It was decided that local Leagues would be identified in each public library regional area and that those local Leagues would be requested to ascertain current funding for the public libraries in their region.

The next meeting of the Study of Funding Public Libraries will probably be held in January, 1978.

League of Women Voters of Minnesota, 555 Wabasha, St. Paul, MN 55102
October 20, 1977

LIBRARY STUDY COMMITTEE

Katharine Muff, 723 Douglas Avenue, Eveleth, MN 55734 - 218-741-8621
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Sandra Shanley, 3245 Sprague Street, Anoka, MN 55303 - 612-421-0123
Jean E. Carr, 1105 9th Street N.W., Austin, MN 55912 -
Gert Nelson, 710 9th Avenue S.W., Austin, MN 55912 - 433-433-8193



JAN 31 1978

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102 • TELEPHONE (612) 224-5445

Eveleth, Mn
January 28, 1978

Mary Waldo
LWV of Minnesota
St Paul, Mn

Dear Mary:

The minutes you sent me are a fine summary of our meeting of January 20th but maybe we should insert "local" between "higher" and "taxes" Those who were there certainly understood it that way and yet I am sure that your minutes accurately reflect what we said. We must be more careful. We surely don't want it on record that League ever considered raising taxes! Without a good definition. Don't let me forget to have this corrected next time.

About the February Board Memo: I'd like to have something like the following included. Modify style and wording to fit VOTER style or whatever.

Not only have Leagues throughout the state responded well to the Library conscious ^{ness} survey but an unusually large number of members are contributing to the Study Committee. Difficult as it is for many to physically attend meetings in St Paul this promises to be truly a state effort.

Leagues which have had local item studies of their regional libraries have been a rich source of information, as was to be expected, and, in addition, we are particularly pleased to get responses from so many Leagues and from new Leagues like Grand Rapids; (the now deactivated League at Silver Bay, still committed to good library services;) and from members-at-large like Millie Michaels.

The Library Financing Study Committee hopes to have material for a Facts and Issues publication ready for editing in early March

The Governor's Pre-White House Conference

I have the information needed for the bibliography and assurance that all items will be available from our libraries.

Enclosed is a letter for the file with another name and my voucher. I hope I understood directions. Did I understand that Helene asked for an accounting of time spent? How do we go about that?

Kathy Sciortino, our Voter Service Chairperson, has asked when she will get the Caucus material. She has requests from schools and wants to leave a few leaflets in each one. Did you meet her last summer? She is a fine young woman and we are lucky to have her.

Best regards to you and Harriett. I'm learning to appreciate you and the work that is done in that office!

Katharine Muff

(omit if you think best. I have hopes
for members-at-large in Silver Bay)

BRINGING YOU NEWS ABOUT THE MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC LIBRARY & INFORMATION CENTER

Computer searches now available

You may have heard about our latest service to the public, computerized data base searching. This idea might sound revolutionary, but in fact the Minneapolis Public Library and Information Center has been using a computer terminal to access information since 1975.

Computer use began here as a pilot study with Lockheed Information Systems, a bank of 30 data bases covering various fields. Later we obtained access to System Development Corporation's bases, bringing the total to over 80 data bases indexing a variety of subjects in the sciences, social sciences, business, and government.

For the first year and a half, data base searching was done only for customers of INFORM, the Library's fee-based research service, and the cost of the computer time was billed to them. But from the outset, the desire was present to make this form of research available to everyone. The problem was finding a method of doing so that would keep costs within our means.

Addressing this problem was one of the charges of the group of staff members appointed as a Management Team for Machine Assisted Reference Service (MARS). The first approach was to allocate a small sum of money from the materials budget for some departmental computer searching. This allowed Librarians in the subject departments the discretion to abandon a conventional manual information search in favor of a computer search. Usually the factors that determined this decision were constraints of time or availability.

Last fall, the MARS Team mounted a publicity blitz with the staff to make computer searching more widely known and to build a bank of information from which some decisions could proceed. It was learned that most satisfactory searches could be made in less than eight minutes of "online" time.

This information and several other factors provided the impetus for our decision to offer computer data base searching to the

public. As the brochure out on our reference desks explains, "Computer searches are now available to Minneapolis Public Library users needing information on a specific subject. A computer search, performed by a library staff member, provides a detailed listing of pertinent articles, books, government documents, etc. You can then refer to these sources to find the information you need. This service is offered free of charge for up to eight minutes of 'online' time. Beyond that, you have the option of continuing the search on a

direct cost basis. Costs may range from \$5 up, depending on the nature of the search and the amount of computer time required."

Computer data bases are usually more up to date than indexes in book form and often provide listings not available in printed indexes. Next time you are looking for especially in-depth or current information, inquire at one of our reference desks about a computer search. This most modern research tool may be the solution to your information needs.

Reference survey shows favorable user opinion

Results have been compiled from the survey on reference work conducted at all MPLIC agencies in April. In the three survey days, 14,037 library users responded, and the overwhelming majority expressed satisfaction with reference help.

In addition to evaluating our reference work, the survey helped identify some of the characteristics of our users. For example, it was found that more males than females use the Central Library and that the reverse is true for Community Libraries. By occupation, there are high percentages of professional and student users, and a significant proportion of homemakers, blue collar workers, and retired persons. The majority of our users fall in the 34 and under bracket, with the highest range being ages 25-34. Over half the respondents have completed at least some college.

About 39% of all users said they asked staff for assistance, and 90% of these were satisfied. Over 67% of users said they found the materials they wanted and over 80% responded that they received the service they expected. Most users indicated they found the Library hours convenient.

A total of 14,660 questions were answered on the three survey days. Over 70% of these were either topical or factual in nature. The high peaks in question times were 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Central and 1 to 5 p.m. at Community Libraries. Of all questions asked, 59% were posed in person, 33% by phone, and 8% in writing. More than 98% of the questions received were answered, and the average time required was 2.55 minutes.

The volunteer observers assigned to report on user/staff interactions found about 95% positive attitudes on the part of both staff members and questioners. About 80% of those asking questions either by phone or in person were helped in 5 minutes or less.

Needless to say, we are pleased to report such positive results. While the study was only a pilot project, it will help build a bank of information for analysis and evaluation of reference work, a library function that has not previously been measured effectively.

It is expected that additional surveys will be conducted this coming fall and winter to accumulate sufficient data upon which to base future policy decisions. Such data could have a bearing on policies relating to staffing patterns, hours, and allocation of funds.

"briefly"

Library Board president Frances Naftalin has been nominated by President Carter to the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS). The appointment is pending confirmation by the Senate Committee on Human Resources. There are 15 representatives on NCLIS, and this is the first nomination to come from Minnesota.

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Over 5,000 children have registered in the "Super Summer" reading program taking place at Central and Community Libraries. A variety of activities, including T-shirt printing, puppet shows, singalongs, and a traveling reptile show, have been staged to encourage library use. Readers and non-readers alike may participate by keeping a record at the Library of the books they read or have someone read to them, and many of the Libraries offer a prize for the most books read. All children who read ten or more books are rewarded with a certificate for a free milkshake from McDonald's.

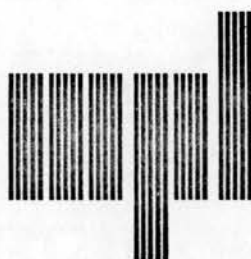
A move to acquire the proposed site for the new Walker Community Library was initiated by the Library Board at its June meeting. The Board voted to take possession of the property by the right of eminent domain and the architects are finalizing plans based on the on-site soil borings. Efforts are underway to relocate the businesses presently operating on the site, located at Hennepin and Lagoon Avenues, across Hennepin and slightly south of the present library. The full price for the land has yet to be determined by Hennepin County District Court.

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First hand work experience in a library is being obtained by several young people in internship programs at Minneapolis Libraries this summer. One program is a vocational exploration program for disadvantaged and handicapped youth aged 16-21. Another, the Neighborhood Youth Corps, provides summer library jobs for high school students. Post-high school students are participating in the Urban Corps program to supplement their education with work experience. These interns not only gain insights into the field of library work, but provide extra help to our staff in ongoing activities and/or special projects.

1978 Library use statistics

	April-June
Circulation transactions	609,223
Research, fact finding, and directional questions	316,414
Central Library gate count	214,134



Minneapolis Public Library and Information Center

300 Nicollet Mall

Minneapolis, Minn. 55401

Branches: Changes, changes

One of the oldest Community Libraries in the city, Franklin, will get a "facelift" soon as part of its remodeling for handicapped accessibility. Built in 1917, Franklin is one of three Library projects funded by Community Development Block Grant funds for renovation in 1979.

The most major of the three projects, Franklin will be given a new ground level entrance and an interior elevator, replacing a prohibitive set of outside stairs. In conjunction with work on the entrance, the exterior brick and terra cotta will be cleaned and repointed and the trim and windows repainted. Interior walls and ceilings will also be repainted, and insulation and electrical outlets will be brought up to standard.

Changes to be made at North Regional Library and Northeast Community Library, two relatively new buildings, involve upgrading parking, restrooms, and doors for handicapped use. One additional change at North Regional will convert the present workroom on the main level to periodical stacks, open to the public, eliminating the need for paging of these materials.

Also undergoing change next year will be Webber Park Community Library, constructed in 1910 on park land and still owned by the Park Board. In order to build a new swimming pool in the area, the Park Board intends to remove the library building in early 1979. The Library Board is seeking funds for replacement of the building, and plans to provide full time bookmobile service in the area until a new facility is completed.

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BRINGING YOU NEWS ABOUT THE MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC LIBRARY & INFORMATION CENTER

Governor's Conference plans in full swing

It is not too early to be making plans to attend the Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services, September 10-12 at the Leamington Hotel in downtown Minneapolis.

It is going to be a citizens' meeting called by Governor Perpich to examine current library and information services and resources, to anticipate future needs, and to develop programs to meet those needs.

The conference will provide an opportunity to develop recommendations for the next steps to be taken in developing library and information services in the state and it will also provide input for the White House Conference to be held in Washington in the fall of 1979.

A Conference Committee appointed by the Governor last September is hard at work eliciting opinions at the grass roots level all over the state which will form the basis for the issues to be discussed. Two hundred persons, as representative of all groups and conditions of people it is possible to identify, will be the Official Delegates to the Conference. Two-thirds of these will be

lay citizens; one-third will be Librarians or Library-affiliated persons, such as Library Trustees.

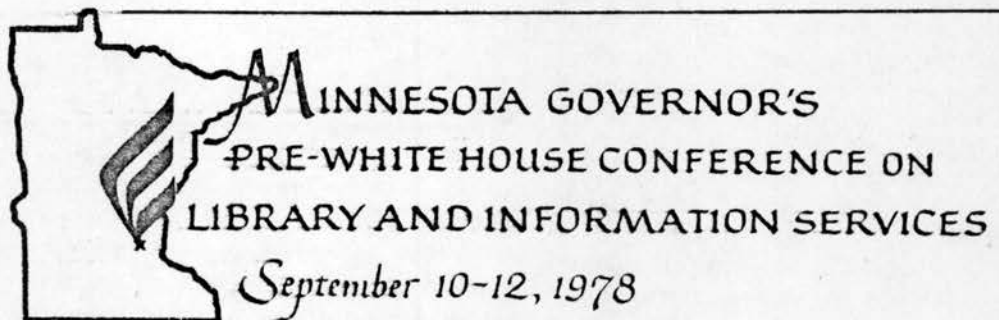
At this writing, the speakers and group discussion leaders are not known, but a slate of outstanding state and national leaders has been invited to address the Conference.

Exciting exhibits—some of which will seem futuristic to many of us—are being planned as educational adjuncts to the Conference. Electronic hook-ups to data bases will demonstrate some of the techniques that Librarians can employ to answer

today's—and tomorrow's—more sophisticated and technical reference questions.

In addition to the Official Delegates, there will be space for a number of Alternates, observers, and non-voting attendees. Everyone will be welcome, and registration fees and costs will be kept as low as possible to encourage wide attendance.

For more information about the Conference, you should write to the Minnesota Governor's Pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services, 301 Hanover Building, 480 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55101.



Part of national study Reference work evaluated

This Library is one of eight library systems in the country that participated in an extensive survey during April to determine the volume, quality, and effectiveness of reference service. The survey was conducted April 13, 18, and 26 at all Minneapolis Public Libraries, as well as the public libraries of Salt Lake City, Houston, East Brunswick, N.J., Woodbridge, N.J., Portland, Maine, Tulsa-City-County, and Washington State.

The results of this pilot survey will help build a data base for comparison and measurement of reference work, a library function that has previously not been measured effectively.

Everyone who entered the library on the survey days was given a brief form to

complete that asked for basic information such as age and occupation, and also input on use of and satisfaction with Library service. Additionally, observers were stationed in the Libraries to record the time, point of contact, accuracy of information given, and quality of user/staff interactions.

Volunteers from the Friends of the Minneapolis Public Library and students from the University of Minnesota and the College of St. Catherine served as information gatherers for the survey. Now that the information has been gathered, tabulation is underway. The *Circulator* will report further as our results are compiled and compared with those of the other libraries participating in this important national survey.

I would like to urge everyone who reads the *Circulator* to get involved in the Conference. Its success depends on you. This is a rare opportunity that we have of capturing the public imagination. It may never happen again in our lifetime.

One very specific way for you to get involved right now is by participating in a "Speak-out." These brainstorming sessions are being held throughout the state to gather data from individuals on their personal library and information needs. "Speak-outs" can be conducted at a meeting of an organization such as a business association, senior citizen group, youth organization, ethnic organization, church group, service club, etc. If you are a member of such a group looking for an interesting and worthwhile meeting topic, please contact the Governor's Conference Office (address above) about a "Speak-out."

Joseph Kimbrough
Director

"briefly"

Nearly \$10,000 worth of special gifts have been purchased for the Library by the Friends of the Minneapolis Public Library so far in 1978. The Friends organization provides funds for projects that are needed by the Library and its public but not affordable within the Library budget. Purchases this year include the film "Roots" (12 parts), a coin-operated microfilm reader/printer, and new paperback racks for five Community Libraries.

The Huttner Abolition and Anti-Slavery Collection, acquired by the Library in 1974, and the Mark Twain Collection, donated in 1977, have been cataloged and now appear as entries in the Central Library card catalogs. Of the 677 books and pamphlets cataloged, only 27 of the Huttner Collection titles were duplicates of titles already in the Library's collection. Both these special collections are housed in the Athenaeum on the fourth floor of the Central Library, where they may be used for research and study.

Color photos of MPLIC staff members on the job are featured in a new book by Lerner Publications called "Careers in a Library." Part of Lerner's Early Career Series, the book is intended to define areas of library work for young children. At the same time, it is a nice documentary of this Library in action, and we are pleased to have been chosen to exemplify how rewarding a career in a library can be.

A "Super Summer" will be offered for children beginning in June at all metropolitan area public libraries. The summer program for youngsters, coordinated by the Metropolitan Library Service Agency, is designed to involve kids in library use during school vacation. Children keep a record at the Library of the books they have read, and many libraries offer a party or other reward for children completing a specified reading quota. Special programs to encourage library visits are also offered; this year's programs at Minneapolis libraries include a storyteller, a folksinger, a puppet troupe, and a snake handler.

Volunteer Office becoming reality

A Volunteer Office is steadily emerging within the functions of the Minneapolis Public Library and Information Center. As reported in the last Circulator, the Library Board has adopted a policy statement allowing for use of volunteers to augment Library services through a "carefully planned and supervised program for special activities and projects that cannot be accomplished by regularly budgeted/authorized staff."

The first move toward implementing such a program was an office relocation that placed the Friends of the Minneapolis Public Library office and the Service to the Homebound staff together in a public area on the third floor of the Central Library. This new office area, accessible by the public elevators, is a step toward coordinating Friends projects with Library supervised volunteer positions.

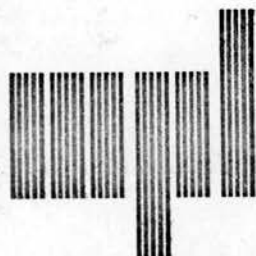
At this time, the active Service to the Homebound program involves about 120 volunteers in Library supervised work. Job descriptions are being formulated to define other areas of special Library services that may be performed by volunteers. The jobs to be filled by volunteers are distinguishable from Friends projects in that the volunteer would work directly under a Library supervisor within a Library agency. Supervisors are now in the process of developing requests for projects or activities that they would like to implement, but cannot do within current staffing levels.

Meanwhile, the Friends of the Library continue to provide a wealth of volunteer hours in such services as Library tours, used book sales, and the Friends Book Shop.

1978 Library use statistics

January-March

Circulation transactions	616,530
Research & fact finding questions	440,064
Central Library gate count	202,291



Minneapolis Public Library and Information Center
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Minneapolis, Minn. 55401

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LIBRARY STUDY PROPOSAL

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota, at its 1977 Convention, voted to study the financing of public libraries.

Minnesotans, like the rest of the nation, have seen libraries cutting hours of service and trimming book budgets and staff. Librarians and many of their patrons consider this a crisis situation. Recently twelve young high school students wrote the St. Paul Dispatch saying, "We strongly object to the manner in which the (library) hours were curtailed."

Unfortunately, libraries cost more to run today. Patrons increasingly use libraries as information sources, not simply as suppliers of recreational reading materials. Furthermore, these sources must be varied, numerous and current. Libraries have also become resources for non-print media as well. Many libraries rely on automation to control their collections. Security and protection systems must be installed and maintained. These costs have made their impact on library budgets.

Any consideration of costs inevitably leads to the question of how libraries are funded. Our public libraries are one of the last bastions of local funding and control. Locally provided funds, usually from county and city property taxes, provide from 88% to 96% of their monies. Sources such as fines, fees and gifts provide about 3%.

Federal and state aids round out the budgets and are administered through the Minnesota Department of Education. Public library funding is a line item in the Department's budget request to the Legislature. However, although public libraries are considered important community facilities, they hold a low priority during budget time.

As the name implies, the libraries are public. They are paid for by the public and are used by the public. (85% of the state population lives in the service area of one of the regional public library systems, and an additional 12% live in a municipality served by a public library.)

The public is intimately involved with its library system. However, if you were to ask the man doing research in a library reference room how the library is funded, chances are he couldn't tell you. If you asked the woman writing out a tax check if any of the money would go toward funding libraries, she probably wouldn't know.

That is why the League of Women Voters of Minnesota proposed this study. Its goal would be to communicate to the public in a readable and understandable form, the ways in which libraries are funded, how the money is spent and what alternatives ^{there are} to present funding, ~~exist~~. Increased public understanding of the problems and issues of financing libraries will lead to more educated input by citizens into a system that directly affects them.

The LWVMN study will result in a publication which would include: a description of the two types of public library systems and the affiliated public library system; current funding methods for libraries; current services and trends in library services; funding alternatives, including state and regional long-range plans.

The publication will have a printing of 10,000 and will be disseminated to a broad cross-section of Minnesota citizens. Target groups include service clubs, Chambers of Commerce, junior and senior high schools, senior citizen organizations, county and city commissioners, community colleges, church groups, community centers and citizen groups such as the Citizens League.

In carrying out its study, the League has the support of the Minnesota Department of Education. In its Administrative Manual it states, "the responsibilities...include advice, guidance and encouragement to local citizens, public officials and library officials in the establishment, development and improvement of library services."

While there have been other efforts to provide the public with information about their libraries, the League's project is the only one to address itself so extensively to the basic problems of financing. Last year the Minnesota Library Association published a brochure on "State Aid for Public Libraries" which included a rough break-down of Library funding and its budget request to the 1976-77 legislature.

OPLIC (Office of Public Libraries and Interlibrary Cooperation of the Minnesota Department of Education) has produced a slide/tape presentation titled "Beyond Your Local Library." Ironically, the presentation is outdated and it is questionable whether current budget limits will allow for staff time to update it.

Much of the work done on the League study will be accomplished by volunteer LWVMN members from throughout the state. Local Leagues in each Minnesota library region will participate. Because of the state-wide nature of the project, the LWVMN Library Study Committee has a membership representing 22 different Minnesota communities.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota is well-qualified to carry out its study. Many Local Leagues in the state have conducted studies on libraries within their communities. In addition, last year's LWVMN study on Financing State Government was distributed to over 10,000 citizens. Representative William Kelly, Chairman of the Minnesota House Taxes Committee recommended the report as "extremely useful...an excellent overview."

Budget for the study is ~~\$4736~~. 6065.

LIBRARY STUDY BUDGET

Printing:	\$ 1200.
Committee Expense:	2400.
(Travel, telephone, xeroxing, etc.)	
Office Expense:	500.
Project Director:	400.
Consultant Fees;	525.
Distribution & Postage:	650.
Grant Administration:	100.
Ed Fund 5% service charge:	290.
	<hr/>
	\$ 6065.

APR 24 1978

Eveleth, Mn
April 19, 1978

Paula F Goldberg
c/o League of Women Voters of Minnesota
555 Wabasha
St Paul, Mn 55102

A copy of your letter, dated March 27th, relative to the evaluation of public libraries' accessibility, was sent to me from the State LWV office. I have checked locally and I am sure that evaluation is in process. Like all older public building, libraries certainly were not built to today's standards of functional accessibility. It is going to take a lot of funding - and none has been provided. In my own town the Post Office and the City Hall are very bad examples, worse, really, than the Library. It is good that we are beginning to see the need. I fear that the remedies are not at hand.

Fortunately, there are alternative methods for getting library services to handicapped persons. May I suggest that Mr Judd's organization help get this information to its members? Meanwhile, a phone call to the librarian will obtain information for individuals in a given community.

I appreciate your concern for serving the unserved.

Sincerely,

Katharine E Muff

Katharine E Muff