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ALLERTON PARK INSTITUTE  
Number Eight



**THE IMPACT OF THE LIBRARY SERVICES ACT:  
PROGRESS AND POTENTIAL**

Papers presented at an Institute  
conducted jointly by the  
University of Illinois  
Graduate School of Library Science  
and the  
Library Services Branch,  
U. S. Office of Education  
November 5-8, 1961

*Edited with a Foreword  
by  
Donald E. Strout*

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## FOREWORD

In the belief that the Library Services Act is perhaps the most unique and far-reaching development to have occurred in librarianship in recent decades, the Graduate School of Library Science at the University of Illinois early in 1961 invited the Library Services Branch of the U. S. Office of Education (under whose aegis the LSA is administered) to co-sponsor an institute on the Act, to which would be invited representatives selected by the state library agencies throughout the United States and its outlying possessions. The result was the Allerton Park Institute on "The Impact of the Library Services Act--Progress and Potential," held on November 5-8, 1961, in the relaxed and informal atmosphere of Allerton Park, a University-owned country estate near Monticello, Illinois.

Presented herewith are the papers of the Institute, which is the eighth in an annual series on aspects of the current library scene. The content of earlier institutes has embraced such matters as school library supervision, collection building for the small and medium-sized public library, reference services, the role of classification, and collecting science literature for general reading.

The year of 1961 witnessed the end of the first five years of the Library Services Act and the beginning of the new five-year extension of the Act to June 30, 1966, as authorized by the 86th Congress in 1960. Thus the time seemed peculiarly appropriate for a close and critical look at the Act to date and a forecast of the years ahead, in terms of its effects upon governmental agencies and thinking, library development, and the library profession as a whole, at national, state, and local levels.

To this end, speakers were asked to range the full spectrum of theory and experience in their presentations, to cast an objective eye over the events of the past, and to voice a considered judgement on the course of the future. The roster of speakers, in turn, was selected on as wide a range as possible, to effect voices to represent the profession as a whole, the national and state operations level, and the field of political science.

Registration at the Institute totalled eighty-five. Represented were thirty-five states and Puerto Rico, the American Library Association and the Canadian Library Association,

the Library Services Branch, and the Graduate School of Library Science.

Here one must pause to express special thanks to the staff of the Extension Division of the University in whose capable hands is placed the responsibility of handling the myriad details of the institutes and conferences which are held at Allerton and elsewhere on and off the campus. Their help and support from the first days of planning straight through to the end of the Institute was invaluable.

Program planning for the Institute rested with a committee composed of John G. Lorenz and John C. Frantz of the Library Services Branch, and Harold Goldstein, J. Clement Harrison, Harold Lancour (*ex officio*), and Donald E. Strout of the Graduate School of Library Science.

In an event of this sort, it is obviously impossible to list by name those whose hands were ready and whose hearts were willing to push it forward. Such measure of success as the Institute realized lies, of course, in the first instance with the speakers and the registrants, who took time from busy schedules to sit apart, ponder, reflect, and share their thoughts and words with one another. Faculty colleagues at Illinois and members of the staff of the Library Services Branch, by their advice, help, encouragement, and participation, did much to further the course of the Institute.

The editor is particularly grateful to Esther Clausen, Documents Librarian of the University of Illinois, for her aid in guiding him through the intricacies of governmental organization. A word of special recognition is due R. Joanne Fields, Assistant to the Editor, Graduate School of Library Science, for her assistance and her execution of the tedious and time-consuming task of preparing typescript for photocopying. Last, but by no means least, a wife deserves more than passing mention when the hours she spends in helping to ready the papers in final form far exceeds the normal limits of uxorial patience and devotion.

Donald E. Strout  
Chairman, LSA Institute

Urbana, Illinois  
April 8, 1962

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