COOPERATION BETWEEN TYPES OF LIBRARIES:

THE BEGINNINGS OF A STATE PLAN

FOR

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COOPERATION BETWEEN TYPES OF LIBRARIES: THE BEGINNINGS OF A STATE PLAN FOR LIBRARY SERVICES IN ILLINOIS

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VOLUMES IN THIS SERIES

The School Library Supervisor (Allerton Park Institute No. 1), 1956. $2 paper.
The Nature and Development of the Library Collection (No. 3), 1957. $2 paper.
Collecting Science Literature for General Reading (No. 7), 1960. $2 paper/$3 cloth.
The Impact of the Library Services Act: Progress and Potential (No. 8), 1961. $2 paper.
Selection and Acquisition Procedures in Medium-Sized and Large Libraries (No. 9), 1963. $2 paper/$3 cloth.
The School Library Materials Center: Its Resources and Their Utilization (No. 10), 1964. $3 cloth.
University Archives (No. 11), 1965. $2 paper/$3 cloth.
The Changing Environment for Library Services in the Metropolitan Area (No. 12), 1966. $2 paper/$3 cloth.
Trends in American Publishing (No. 14), 1968. $4 cloth.
FOREWORD

The Fifteenth Allerton Park Institute sponsored by the faculty of the Graduate School of Library Science of the University of Illinois was conducted from Sunday, November 3 to Wednesday, November 6, 1968, at Allerton Park, the university-owned estate near Monticello, Illinois.

The Institute theme focused on "Cooperation Between Types of Libraries." The conference was supported by the Illinois State Library through funds made available under Title III of the Library Services and Construction Act, as amended in 1966. Illinois librarians representing various types and sizes of libraries were invited to the conference. An attempt was made by the planning committee to have the various regions within the state represented by librarians from the various kinds of libraries located within the several regions. The committee was most interested in creating an environment for interaction among these librarians in order to stimulate greater local cooperative efforts among types of libraries. A related objective was the desire that the beginnings of a state plan for library services in Illinois would emerge.

Speakers of state and national reputation and representing a variety of experiences in different types of libraries were invited to survey past efforts of interlibrary cooperation involving the many facets of library services and to suggest directions in which interlibrary cooperative activities might more effectively be brought into being. The atmosphere of the Institute was one of congenial discussion and interaction among participants and speakers.

The keynote speaker for the conference was Lowell Martin. His paper discusses trends in interlibrary cooperation and traces the history of such efforts nationally, and in Illinois. The kinds of cooperation which have existed among and within types of libraries are discussed, as well as the changing structures of libraries which may lead to greater interlibrary cooperation. Martin projects the possibilities of cooperative efforts through technological innovations which may serve as stimulants to increasing such activities.

Committed to surveying the extent and nature of cooperation between types of libraries in technical service areas, Sarah Vann also directs attention to the ingredients essential to such efforts. Not to be overlooked, Vann maintains, is the element of human resource involvement in cooperative library programs. Vann presents some questions for the self-appraisal of librarians. Librarians' responses to these queries may result in the first steps toward the formulation of a state plan for library services in Illinois.

To determine the extent of interlibrary cooperation among Illinois libraries, Donald Wright conducted a literature search and also used a questionnaire which he submitted to some 500 librarians in the state. The literature search revealed little, but the two hundred and ninety-six respondents to the questionnaire reported some positive experiences as well as some negative attempts at interlibrary cooperation. Wright describes in detail some examples of interlibrary activities which are representative of cooperative efforts within the state.

Drawing from her experience as the Director of School Libraries and Instructional Materials for the state of Hawaii, Carolyn Crawford describes the unique organizational structure affecting library services in that state. The
cooperative efforts among public and school libraries in various other states are noted. Crawford admonishes public and school librarians to develop cooperative programs and at the same time to define their separate as well as their mutual responsibilities.

Another paper in this volume is devoted to exploring cooperation between special libraries and other types of libraries. Russell Shank limits his discussion to those special libraries which exist in business, industry, government, museums, societies, and non-profit research agencies. Recognizing the constraints placed on this type of library, Shank goes on to note the relationships that affect special and other types of libraries in systems development. He describes various activities of a cooperative nature but notes that the greatest interaction comes about through "informal or non-systematized contacts." Shank contends that one of the greatest limitations affecting the full utilization of the resources of special libraries is our inability to evaluate collections and then to interfile the subject analyses of the many libraries. Organizing regional agencies must be undertaken—but not before we have sufficient understanding and knowledge of local communities, so as "to find the best configuration of elements to make serviceable systems."

Craig Lovitt, representing the Lieutenant Governor's office in the state of Illinois and assigned to the Office of Intergovernmental Cooperation, describes the work of his office and notes the hierarchy of governmental agencies as they are affected by federal, state, and local governments. He expresses the belief that cooperative action must originate at the local level, that communications must be easy between libraries and other publicly supported organizations, and that recommendations for cooperative efforts should be the joint concern of the professional library associations and state officials and other interested agencies. Lovitt hypothesizes that, "cooperation between people and institutions can contribute much toward creating a community awareness that libraries are essential ... to our way of life."

Throughout the conference, participants representing different kinds of libraries within a particular region of the state met together in discussion sessions to explore ways in which they might cooperate to provide library services more effectively and efficiently. The edited summaries of those group reports are included at the end of this publication along with the reactions to the reports. A panel of speakers and participants served as reactors. Hopefully the recommendations made by the participants in this conferences do represent the beginnings of a state plan for library services in Illinois.

Program planning was directed by Guy Garrison and Herbert Goldhor, Frances B. Jenkins and Cora E. Thomassen of the Graduate School of Library Science faculty. Timothy Sineath, in the Division of University Extension, was responsible for other conference arrangements.

Cora E. Thomassen
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