

Because he must catch a plane, Mr. Trezza, of the American Library Association, has asked if he might be permitted to speak first and we are very pleased to hear from him.

STATEMENT OF ALPHONSE F. TREZZA, ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION DIVISION, AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

(The prepared statement of Mr. Trezza follows:)

PREPARED STATEMENT OF ALPHONSE F. TREZZA, ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

I am Alphonse F. Trezza, Associate Executive Director of the American Library Association, and Executive Secretary of the Library Administration Division of the American Library Association.

This statement is presented on behalf of the American Library Association, a non-profit professional association of more than 31,000 members consisting of librarians, trustees, and laymen interested in the development, extension and improvement of libraries as essential factors in the education program of the nation.

I have been invited to appear here this morning to discuss what we see as the strengths and weaknesses of the Office of Education in administering programs, and to help identify areas of concern which we hope will provide a basis for recommendations which would be of benefit to the education community and to the Office itself.

My particular involvement with the U.S. Office of Education for the past six years has been in the area of library statistics. I have also been concerned with various aspects of the Library Services and Construction Act of 1965. Prior to the reorganization of the U.S. Office of Education in the spring of 1965, the LAD's relationships with the Library Services Division relative to matters of library statistics were generally fruitful. We worked well together on formulating common definitions of library terminology, in order to assure comparability in the collection of statistics. A Library Services Division representative helped us formulate a proposal for a statistical study which was funded by the Council on Library Resources, but the director of that project was a member of the staff of the U.S. Office of Education, who was given a leave of absence to work with us. As a result of that project a very important publication was issued by ALA, in the spring of 1966, entitled *Library Statistics: A Handbook of Concepts, Definitions and Terminology*. This publication served as a basic document for a National Conference on Library Statistics held in Chicago, June 6-8, 1966, co-sponsored by the National Center for Educational Statistics, USOE, and the Library Administration Division, ALA. You can see, therefore, evidence of close cooperation between the library profession and USOE.

The problem areas that we have had to a varying degree these past six years have had to do with the currency of these statistics. The need for valid, meaningful and recurring statistics for academic libraries, public libraries, and school libraries for measuring and comparing the development and growth of effective library service is so obvious that it hardly needs emphasizing. Up to date and comprehensive statistical surveys are needed if we are to measure the effectiveness of library legislation on the program of our nation's libraries these past ten years.

For a number of years the Association, with the support and cooperation of other library associations gathered and published academic library statistics. In 1959, by mutual consent, we ceased collecting these statistics, agreeing instead to cooperate with the Office of Education in their collecting and publishing academic library statistics. USOE had the responsibility for the collection of statistics for academic institutions and it seemed unnecessary to have a national group, such as ours, collecting similar statistics. It was agreed, however, that library statistics, if they were to be of any real value to academic institutions in their development of library programs and institutional budgets, had to be collected in the late summer and early fall, and published no later than the end of January. The 1962-63 and 1963-64 academic statistics were published by USOE in January of 1964 and 1965.