

The evaluation of the needs for library materials according to national standards (the *National Inventory of Library Needs*, American Library Association, 1964) indicates that the shortage of books in 1964 was over 390,000,000 volumes. At the current price of books (without discount) this would have required expenditures exceeding \$1.6 billion. After this one-time closing of the volume gap, there would be required about 35,000,000 volumes to keep up to standards for schools. Colleges and universities would have to purchase about 55,000,000 volumes annually, and public libraries 102,000,000 volumes to meet these standards.

Selected data concerning libraries and resource materials needs are given in Tables 3, 4, and 5. Table 3 indicates that the number of volumes per student in 1965-66 is 7.0. According to the standards it should be 10. The per pupil expenditure is \$2.84. Considering the needs for the replacement of worn out and outdated materials, the funds for new purchases seem limited.

Tables 3, 4, and 5 indicate the quantitative needs, and why, in spite of larger expenditures, gaps remain.

However, as a result of the 1965 Congressional enactment of library and textbook related legislation a definite improvement is in the offing.

Commissioner Howe included in his statement before this Subcommittee on August 23 a listing of the recent Federal programs providing funds for instructional materials and estimates of the amounts for the Fiscal years 1966 and 1967.

We have estimated that the Federal expenditure for books and instructional other than audiovisual materials through grant programs for 1965-66 may be around \$230,000,000 and during 1966-67 may approach \$300,000,000.

According to data compiled by the Office of Education and the industry, we may estimate the total expenditure of all libraries for library materials as about \$225,000,000 in 1963-64.

To summarize, we may say that recent Federal legislation has about doubled the funds available for books and other instructional materials, and binding in college, university school and public libraries, starting with FY 1966.

TRENDS IN PRICING OF BOOKS

The Senate Report (Rep. No. 1291, June 21, 1966, p. 5) on the Library Services and Construction Act summarize the problems related to the evaluation of book prices as follows:

"Last year, in its report on the Higher Education Act of 1965 (S. Rept. 673), the Committee expressed its concern that the cost of books and periodicals has risen more than the cost of living. The Commissioner of Education and the Librarian of Congress, as indicated by their testimony during the hearings on this bill, share this concern.

"The American Book Publishers Council, in its statement, disputed some of these statistics and indicated that the Council would be glad to cooperate with the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in arriving at a proper base for measuring changes in book prices. It is suggested that this be done, as this Committee is interested in maintaining a continuing look at increases in the prices of library and text books."

Steps are now being taken by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare—U.S. Office of Education, the American Library Association, and the Book Publishers Council to develop more effective tools to measure price fluctuations of published materials than are presently available. In the absence of such improved yardsticks tables 6 to 10 were prepared. For many years the average price of books and periodicals subscriptions (Tables 6 and 7) have been used by librarians for internal budgeting purposes. They show that since 1947-49 the average trade book has more than doubled in price (from \$3.59 to \$7.65). The price of children's books, however, increased by only 47.6%, and that of books on education by 7.05% (table 6).

Since 1947-49 the subscription cost of periodicals has more than doubled (from \$3.62 to \$7.44). Periodicals in the education field have increased by 110.5% and children's periodicals by 88.3% (table 7).

Data compiled by publishers are presented in tables 8 through 10. Using 1957-59 as a base period, table 8 shows that receipts for elementary texts have risen by 39%, by 10% for high school texts, and by 7% for college texts during the seven-year period. Table 9 indicates that during the same period the price received by publishers for work-books increased even more sharply (30% for elementary, 22% for high school and 14% for college texts). Table 10 shows that dollar receipts for adult trade books increased 16 and 13% respectively for hard and soft bound books.