

of the materials' rather than 'the' central material. And we are using more expendable materials in elementary school. As such, we look to publishers to publish more individualized materials like loose leaf books, taped instructional ma-

terials, etc." States another superintendent: "It has been our practice to adopt a single basic text and then provide library collections for the wide variety of supplementary materials, including other texts in smaller quantities."

texts. In fact, over 44% of the districts last purchased a reading series prior to 1962-63, over 42% last bought a history text prior to that year. More than 55% of the districts are currently using history and/or reading texts at least three years old—and in many cases a good deal older.

Why aren't the districts in this region buying history and reading books? One in three blames the lack of a history purchase on cycling, one in four blames cycling for failure to buy a reading text in the past three years. These statistics have great significance. They show that one out of every five districts in the entire five state region has not bought a history text only because purchasing is done by cycle and the history cycle has not yet come up. The non-purchase figure of reading texts due to cycling—15% of all districts—though not as high as the history figure still warrants mention.

It's also revealing to note the large number of districts in Region 9 that have rejected new texts because "present texts are good" (50% of those not purchasing new biology books since 1961); because "we are reinforcing our present text with supplementary materials (almost 20% of the districts that haven't purchased new readers); and because "our school board budget hasn't permitted us to make a new adoption" (one out of every four districts failing to purchase general science or reading texts and almost 35% of those not buying a new math series).

Distribution patterns

Region 9 districts almost all provide free texts to students. On the

REGION 9

■ The median district in Region 9 spends \$4.46 per student on elementary texts, \$6.07 on secondary texts. How is this money being spent?

It is being spent almost entirely on biology, general science and math texts. Almost none of it is being spent for reading and history texts.

In 1965-66, better than three districts in 10 purchased new general science and biology texts, almost four in 10 bought new elementary math books. By contrast, only slightly more than 7% of the districts in this five-state region made reading or history purchases. This emphasis on math and science—at the expense of history and reading—marks the region's buying patterns throughout the past several years. The combined figures for the past two years reveal that 68% of the districts bought new math books, 60% made new biology purchases and half the districts bought new general science texts. During this same two-year period, less than three districts in 10 bought new Ameri-

can history texts, fewer than one in four bought a new reading series.

In the areas of math, science and biology, Region 9 is running well ahead of the nation on current purchases. However, quite the opposite is true in reading and history. The nation's districts are currently buying reading texts at about twice the rate of Region 9 districts. When you consider that national reading text purchase figures are themselves low (14.6%), you get some idea of the state of reading text purchasing in Region 9.

The history picture is not much brighter compared to national figures. Nationally, 13.7% of the districts bought history texts this year, compared to 7.9% in the region. The discrepancy isn't very great, except when considered in light of the figures themselves. The national percentage is the lowest of all five text book categories, the lowest in fact of any category in the past three years. Yet the regional figure is well below that.

Obviously, Region 9 districts are not buying history and reading

REGION 9 SPENDING BOXSCORE

	Low 25%	Median	High 25%	Top 10%
ETB	\$.95	\$4.46	\$6.81	\$ 9.2
STB	4.69	6.07	8.00	10.0
ELB	1.93	3.04	4.17	7.4
SLB	2.85	3.91	5.21	7.3

ETB Elementary textbooks, STB Secondary textbooks, ELB Elementary library books, SLB Secondary library books.