

What your textbook dollar will buy for your pupils

Suggested kits of printed materials for Grades 1-6, with price lists to help you estimate the cost of keeping pupils supplied with books.

Approximate average net prices for high school texts, workbooks and tests.

After receiving requests for information from a large number of school administrators and directors of instruction. The American Textbook Publishers Institute issued in 1952 a manual to assist educators in planning budgets. The manual contained a list of desirable quantities of printed materials and costs covering standard curricula for the first six grades.

The objective was to arrive at a kit of printed materials which would be recognized as reasonable and desirable from the standpoints of the average teacher, the children, the school administrator and the Board of Education who are guided in their expenditures by common sense and the "prudent man" standard.

The original study was made by a committee of seven representatives of member companies of the Institute. The basic data have now been reviewed and found generally valid except as to average prices which have been adjusted to 1966 standards.

To establish prevailing curriculum practices, the original study reviewed the curricula of more than 100 communities including states (among them the 23 state-adoption states), counties and cities of various sizes. The study committee carefully reviewed detailed curricula reports which revealed that, except for the area of social studies, the curricula throughout the nation are reasonably uniform in structure for the first six grades.

The following recommended kits of printed instructional materials for the first six grades are for classes representing the normal ranges of abilities and aptitudes found in the unselected heterogeneous group of children in average schools. It is assumed that other funds will be available for the purchase of other books and other kinds of instructional materials. Intentionally the lists do not include teachers' professional books, the school library books, periodicals, maps, globes and classroom charts other than primary reading charts and cards. The category of "Textbooks" includes not only basal textbooks but also supplementary books and classroom reference books.

Estimated annual cost per pupil is based upon projected average net wholesale prices in 1966 and upon life expectancies in use of 1 year for text-workbooks, workbooks, and tests, 2 years for paperbound books, 3 or 4 years for hardbound textbooks, and 5 to 7 years for supplementary and reference books.

To decide upon the average life expectancies of different kinds of books used in different ways, the committee has been guided by the opinions of a number of State Textbook Directors. Obviously, the way each book is used in each school will determine the life span.