

materials on deposit in several locations around the country so the research community would have copies more readily available to them.

Mr. ESCH. I would not only anticipate it but hope it would come to pass. It is an innovative program you propose in relation to the cataloging; and the timelag between acquisition and cataloging which has been one bane of all librarians.

I wonder would you comment on what kinds of other innovative techniques you might utilize or present that might translate the cataloging program within the library systems internally in this country?

Mr. MUMFORD. As you know, we are progressing on the automation of the Library of Congress' central bibliographic record, which should benefit all libraries. As to techniques of disseminating information, we have had a pilot program going now for several months whereby we are putting cataloging copy for English language titles on magnetic tapes and sending them out to a selected number of libraries.

Sixteen libraries are participating in this pilot project. They have been experimenting with the tapes to see how they can use them and they are reporting back to us. The response has been very favorable.

We have requests from many other libraries for these tapes at the present time, and we are preparing to make it possible for others to have them.

Eventually we expect this program to cover most of our current cataloging output including foreign-language materials, and for this information to be available on tapes for use in computers in various research libraries and other places. The pilot project is not limited to research libraries; also taking part are county school systems, public libraries, laboratories, and so on. We have taken a cross section of institutions that have good computer equipment available and that know how to manipulate the tapes. It is our intention to develop this program to the point where cataloging can be available on tapes to any library that wants it in that form.

Mr. ESCH. One further question, do you see the Library of Congress as a catalytic agent serving centralization more and more in the next decade toward not only cataloging but the acquisition and the coordinating function for libraries throughout the country?

Mr. MUMFORD. I think other libraries will continue to obtain copies of publications for themselves in areas where the export book trade is organized. One or more copies at the Library of Congress cannot serve all the national needs, but the Library of Congress can help supplement and fill in gaps in collections, and supply things that other libraries do not have.

Libraries are looking to us to take the leadership in serving as a central point of activity for many national programs, including the preservation of deteriorating materials, for example. There are other areas, as I just indicated—cataloging, automation, et cetera—where the Library of Congress is taking the leadership. Such programs can be done at one place more economically and more effectively for the use of the other libraries throughout the country than they could by having them carried on in many, many places.

Mr. ESCH. Thank you very much.

Mr. GIBBONS. May I ask a question?

Mrs. GREEN. Yes.