UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA,
Minneapolis, Minn., April 12, 1967.

Mr. A. M. MOOD,
Assistant Commissioner for Statistics,
U.S. Office of Education,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. MOOD: With this letter I am enclosing the library statistics you requested in your form letter of March 30, which reached me yesterday.

The fact that the request blank carries the printed directive "Please return on or before October 1" (a date that passed over six months ago) clearly indicates that something is seriously wrong with your new procedure for gathering college and university library statistics.

As I wrote* Dr. Frank Schick a year ago (before he left the Office of Education in discouragement with the new set up for statistics) I had misgivings lest the reorganization would fail to furnish university libraries with the data they urgently need for budget planning, in time to be useful.

This has now proved to be the case. To date the latest library publication the Office of Education has issued is the Institutional Data for 1963–64. As you know, the A.L.A., A.R.L. and A.C.R.L. urged you to send your 1965–66 request forms directly to each library, but it was evident when you spoke to the A.L.A. conference last summer in New York that this advice would be disregarded.

As a result of your decision A.L.A. had to undertake, as an emergency measure, its own collection of 1965–66 library data (with some financial aid from U.S.O.E.), when it became evident that your office could not do the job. Some time ago I received the finished 233 page publication furnishing basic data for 1,891 institutions.

Admitting that the results of your current data solicitation may possibly cover more institutions, it will, whether compiled and issued in late 1967 or 1968 became available too late and be too out-dated to be of use to libraries, except for historical purposes.

If library figures are to be of any use in planning budgets and in support of state legislative requests, the data from the most recent fiscal year, ending June 30, are needed by the following January, or February at the latest. Until last year's U.S.O.E. reorganization botched the enterprise, this time-table had become generally operative, after years of gradual improvement in U.S.O.E.'s handling. Now, these advances have been largely wiped out under the new system.

In the light of this year's regrettable failure I strongly urge that next year, if U.S.O.E. is to continue to collect these data, the library figures for colleges and universities once again be solicited directly from the libraries, The centralization of state reporting through the state library slowed up the operation in some cases, by introducing an additional level of clearance and communication, but was not serious. The well-intended effort to obtain all university data through each President's office obviously is not working. Frequently, especially in large universities, he simply does not have the figures, and with so many offices to contact to assemble full institutional data for all parts of the questionnaire, it it not surprising that deadlines cannot be met.

Please solicit library figure directly from the libraries in the future.

Very sincerely,

E. B. STANFORD,
Director of Libraries.

APRIL 27, 1966.

Dr. FRANK L. SCHICK,
Co-ordinator of Library Statistics,
National Center for Educational Statistics,
U.S. Office of Education,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR DR. SCHICK: I have just read your article in the March issue of *Special Libraries* concerning the status of library statistics in the Office of Education.

As you know, the ACRL and the Association of Research Libraries was delighted when the Office of Education assumed full responsibility for the col-

*See enclosed letter.