

GRANTS FOR TRAINING IN LIBRARIANSHIP

SEC. 223(a). The Commissioner is authorized to make grants to institutions of higher education to assist them in training persons in librarianship.

Such grants may be used by such institutions to assist (1) in covering the costs of courses of training or study including short-term or regular session institutes for such persons, (2) for establishing and maintaining fellowships or traineeships with stipends (including allowances for traveling, subsistence, and other expenses) for fellows and others undergoing training and their dependents, and (3) for establishing, developing, or expanding programs of library and information science, not in excess of such maximum amounts as may be prescribed by the Commissioner.

It is obviously our belief that this substitute amendment would achieve more effectively the purpose intended than the language in the bill before you.

We support enthusiastically the obvious intent in H.R. 6232 to provide early extension of the various titles of the HEA expiring at the end of fiscal year 1968. The library profession will be most grateful for anything you can do to make possible more long-term educational planning.

In a study made by the Library Education Division of the American Library Association, the deans of accredited library schools reported almost unanimously as their most critical problem the need for advance planning to allow for better use of personnel and appropriations. Your leadership in extending title II-B of HEA this year will make possible much sounder educational planning and programing.

Also significant is the need for research studies to determine the most effective ways to provide library services and to educate librarians. There have been pitifully small amounts of money from public and private sources to support research and development programs for library and information services.

When one considers the importance of these services to national programs, this becomes alarming.

Since the research program authorized in title II-B of the Higher Education Act was delayed in getting underway because of limited appropriations, it is impossible to give a valid evaluation of the library research program now.

It is our understanding that the Bureau of Research, U. S. Office of Education, has received more proposals designed to study a wide range of types of libraries and services than can be funded with the amount of money currently available.

There is much evidence that research in library and information science is necessary and that research programs can be developed with competent researchers if there is funding available for it.

In a recent release on the library and information science research program by the Bureau of Research, U. S. Office of Education, seven topics suggested in research proposals to that Bureau were identified as being of critical importance. These are:

1. Education: The techniques, philosophy, and scope of training and education for librarianship.
2. Use and users: Information and read services; expressed and unexpressed goals for different kinds of users (students, specialists, and