

make it possible for libraries to share their combined resources much more effectively than in the past, and it will also greatly facilitate the distribution, exchange, and use of the newer media. Sound and video recordings, microfilm, digital computer tapes, movie films, and other audio-visual materials are the stock in trade of the modern library and demands for their use are increasing steadily throughout the country.

Library networks will not only provide college and university libraries with freer access to each other's materials, but will also allow them to interconnect with national and private information resources as well. The Library of Congress, the National Library of Medicine, the National Agricultural Library, and many other information centers in the private sector, are engaged in active network programs that are aimed eventually at a linking of their resources to libraries elsewhere in the nation. Fuller implementation of the network principle will bring with it a new and challenging opportunity for higher education. The ability to communicate data as well as voice over common carrier communication lines will enable libraries to tap the vast and rich resources of our large national libraries in an unprecedented way. It can serve as a mechanism for identifying the location of a particular bibliographic item, for obtaining copies of materials which cannot be found locally, and for drawing on the information sources which are unique to specified collections. A national network of knowledge is certain to have a profound effect on higher education by making a wider range of materials uniformly available to individual institutions. Certainly, this new capability can only result in a general upgrading of the level and quality of library support to higher education.

Libraries, through inter-library loan systems, have been in the forefront of network activity for the inter-university sharing of printed materials. More recently, several college and university libraries have begun to investigate newer methods such as facsimile and computer time-sharing systems to further improve their efforts. Now the Networks for Knowledge provision of H.R. 15067 offers the potential for developing more rapid and more comprehensive means for transmitting desired information to a user wherever he is and whenever he wants it. The American Library Association endorses this objective and therefore strongly urges favorable action on Title IX of H.R. 15067.

At the same time it must be borne in mind that much as we welcome the advantages which technology can offer, the pushbutton age of library operations is not yet here, and for a very considerable time to come we shall be dependent on traditional means of making our resources available to each other. These procedures are time-consuming, costly and generally misunderstood. Roughly 90 percent of the expense and labor incurred by a library in sharing its materials with other libraries is not apparent and we hope devoutly that in the implementation of the authorization provided by this Amendment it will be borne in mind that the libraries called upon to share their research resources need very considerable assistance with the costs involved. Almost no university library that serves as a resource institution for smaller libraries can afford the expense it currently incurs in meeting these requests. For efficient interlibrary network service as could be provided under this Title, financial assistance is needed and will be needed for a long time while we experiment with more efficient techniques that utilize technological developments for the storage, retrieval and transmission of recorded information.

Madam Chairman and Gentlemen, may I conclude by saying that although I have addressed myself mainly to certain sections of H.R. 15067, the American Library Association also endorses other amendments such as the provision for advance funding and for extension of the Higher Educational Facilities Act of 1963. Once again may I express, on behalf of the Association, our thanks to the Committee both for the significant benefits already derived from the legislation to aid higher education and for the proposed improvements in these measures.

I am grateful to you for this opportunity to appear here today.

Mrs. GREEN. Congressman Quie, do you have questions you would like to direct to him or do you want to ask Mr. McCarthy to speak first?

Mr. QUIE. Let us have Mr. McCarthy speak first.