

Your comments and recommendations and suggestions will be helpful to us when we start drafting this legislation.

Thank you.

(The document referred to follows:)

STATEMENT BY STEPHEN A. MCCARTHY, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, ASSOCIATION OF
RESEARCH LIBRARIES

Madam Chairman and members of the subcommittee, my name is Stephen A. McCarthy, I am Executive Director of the Association of Research Libraries. The Association of Research Libraries is an organization of seventy-nine major university, private, and government research libraries whose purpose is to assist in the development and strengthening of member libraries in support of education, research and scholarship.

On behalf of the Association I wish to express our thanks for this opportunity to present our views on some of the Higher Education Amendments of 1968.

Before discussing the legislation under consideration, however, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the perceptive and farsighted legislation which has been sponsored by this Subcommittee during the past several years. The provisions of Title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965 have been of significant assistance to college and university libraries in all parts of the country.

Despite the fact that Title II-A has never been funded at more than fifty percent of the authorization, it has nevertheless enabled many smaller institutions to augment their library resources in a substantial manner. Under the supplemental and special grants program of Title II-A, selected larger libraries have been assisted in developing special library resources in support of programs of instruction and research which otherwise would have been of far poorer quality.

Title II-B through its provision of support for training librarians and for research in the field of librarianship has helped to increase the flow of competent professional people into the field of librarianship and has provided for research projects which may be expected to yield improved methods and procedures in the operation and services of libraries in our colleges and universities.

Title II-C, "Strengthening College and Research Library Resources", has been of particular interest to the Association of Research Libraries from its inception. This program, through which funds are appropriated to the Office of Education for transfer to the Library of Congress for the purpose of acquiring and cataloging promptly materials needed for research, has already been of great benefit not only to the larger university and research libraries but to many college and public libraries as well. The Association of Research Libraries is deeply appreciative of the interest and support of this Subcommittee in the effort to improve college and university libraries through this legislation.

I would like now to turn to the specific legislation embodied in HR 15067, Higher Education Amendments 1968. The Association of Research Libraries is particularly pleased to note that HR 15067 includes the amendments of language which were supported by this Association in Hearings held by this Subcommittee in the spring of 1967. As Mr. Dix stated before this Subcommittee, both the Library of Congress and the members of our Association who are most immediately concerned, believe that the changes represented by these amendments will serve to strengthen, broaden, and improve the program. These changes will provide valuable added services and benefits, the need for which could not be foreseen at the time the original legislation was drafted.

In one respect the Association of Research Libraries would recommend a change in HR 15067, Title II-C. The extension provided in the present legislation for this Title is only two years. For most other parts of the Higher Education Act of 1965, which are being extended through HR 15067, the extension recommended is five years. The Association of Research Libraries urgently requests that Title II-C be extended for five years.

In support of this request for a five-year extension, the following points are relevant:

1. This is still a developing, expanding program. As an example, it has been extended to Italy only within the past two months.
2. The impact of this program is cumulative. It takes time to make its effects felt and these effects tend to build up over a period of months and years.