

# Library Services for Deaf Students

Wrenn Sharpe

Central North Carolina School for the Deaf is located on a 75-acre campus, ten miles north of Greensboro. The school was established in Greensboro in 1975 to serve the central Piedmont section of North Carolina. There are eight buildings on the campus: a general administration building, two classroom buildings, two dormitories, one gymnasium/auditorium, a central kitchen, and a maintenance/repair shop.

The school serves gifted, average, and multi-handicapped hearing-impaired students from 19 central Piedmont counties. Students range in age from 18 months to 16 years. The majority of the students stay on campus in the dormitories dur-

ing the week, and all the students go home on the weekends. The school also serves preschool children in six satellite programs in Lexington, Winston-Salem, Burlington, Chapel Hill, Southern Pines, and on campus here in Greensboro.

The school's library program has a staff consisting of the librarian for the deaf/blind and an aide. Libraries are in each of the two classroom buildings. Dixon Building has classes for students from preschool through grade four, and Phillips-Payne Building has students from grade five through junior high school. The library aide works with the younger students in the primary program in Dixon Building, and the librarian works with the older students in Phillips-Payne Building. The librarian is also responsible for the ordering and processing of materials and for computer

Wrenn Sharpe is Librarian for Deaf/Blind at the Central North Carolina School for the Deaf in Greensboro.



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programs. The libraries have white walls decorated with colorful posters, and new books are always on display on the tops of the counter-high shelving. The design of both libraries is the same, but they contain different materials since they serve different age groups. We also have a professional library housed in the same room with resource materials for teachers. Four years ago we set up the resource room to store materials and units written by our teachers so our staff could share ideas, materials, and resources without re-inventing the wheel each school year. The resource room has proven to be very successful for teachers, since they or the librarian and aide can easily find materials for various units of study.

Students come to the library once a week for storytelling, reading magazines, viewing captioned movies, and checking out books for pleasure reading. The younger students have the opportunity to watch stories told in ASL (American Sign Language) because the library aide is deaf herself. This provides a wonderful opportunity for the students to learn about books in their native language—ASL. The older students come to the library for storytelling, library skills study to pre-

pare them both for high school and to use the public library, and for pleasure reading. The older students also use the library for reports for their social studies and science classes.

Here at Central School, we also have a class of deaf-blind students which is unique. It presents a real challenge to the librarian. These students come to the library weekly just as do all of the other students. Their limited vision permits use of large print materials only, so library activities consist of craft ideas for the students to improve their eye-hand coordination and the reading of simple stories with a lot of action and body movement. These students require one-on-one attention so the librarian uses older students to assist her with them.

Children's Book Week and National Library Week are very special times of the year at CNCSD. We always try to have some kind of special activity which will involve the students in both classroom buildings. In the past we have had a book character parade complete with a real, live horse and donkey; jogging teams going on a scavenger hunt; reading teams made up of students who dressed up as storybook characters and dramatized stories for our younger students. This



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past autumn, we were visited by a professional storyteller, and this spring, we held a balloon launch.

As the librarian, one of the more difficult aspects of my job is the ordering of materials. Since all of the students and some of the staff are hearing-impaired, I must find books (especially fiction) that have the interest level of our students but are written with an easy vocabulary. This is not always possible because many of the high-interest, low-vocabulary books available do not fit our needs. When ordering filmstrips or sound filmstrips, I must make sure that the filmstrip is either captioned or that the kit has a written teacher's guide because some of our hearing-impaired teachers cannot use a record or cassette and must have a script to accompany the filmstrip.

### National Award to N. C. Library Association

Chicago, IL ... The Intellectual Freedom Committee of the North Carolina Library Association was presented the Intellectual Freedom Round Table's State Program Award this summer in ceremonies at the 104th Annual Conference of the American Library Association meeting in Chicago. The award honors the state intellectual freedom committee that has implemented the most successful and creative state project for the year. Accepting the award was Dr. Gene D. Lanier, professor of library science at East Carolina University in Greenville, NC, who has served as chairman of the committee since 1980.

Dennis Day, representing the Award Committee, cited the multi-year work of the committee to keep intellectual freedom alive in North Carolina through programs, publicity, and testimony. The committee was presented a plaque and a \$1000 award from Social Issues Resources Series, Inc., represented by president and owner Elliot Goldstein. The committee has fought attempts by individuals and groups who have tried to censor materials in Tar Heel libraries. They have also testified in the N. C. General Assembly concerning legislation which could put librarians in jeopardy. They initiated the Confidentiality of Library User Records Bill which was ratified this session.

Dr. Lanier received the John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award for Intellectual Freedom last year from the American Library Association for his work in this area, as well as awards from the N. C. Association of School Librarians and the Playboy Foundation.

Last year we started a pre-vocational program using students as library assistants to shelve library books. This has proven to be very successful. When we began the program, we had one student working in the library and one student interested in working. This year we have three students involved and one interested in participating next year. This program not only helps me, the librarian, but also gives the student an opportunity to earn some spending money and learn a skill which could lead to a summer job.

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### NCLA Scholarships

The North Carolina Library Association administers three funds which assist students of library science who are residents of North Carolina.

The North Carolina Library Association Memorial Scholarship is a \$1000 scholarship for any type of study in library science. The Query-Long Scholarship is a \$1000 scholarship for a student who plans to work with children or young adults. The McLendon Student Loan Fund awards loans at a low rate of interest.

The association is pleased to announce its scholarship winners for 1985. The Memorial Scholarships will be awarded to Sharon Arnette of Brevard, who will be attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Linda Shoffner of Greenville, a student at East Carolina University. The Query-Long Scholarship will go to Barbara Privette of Zebulon, a student at East Carolina University. In addition, two loans of \$300 each will be made from the McLendon Fund.

Applications for 1986 Scholarships are due March 1, 1986. For application forms and further information about requirements, contact

Sheila A. Core, Chairman  
NCLA Scholarship Committee  
Surrey Community College Library  
P.O. Box 304  
Dobson, North Carolina 27017