

STATEMENT ON ROLE OF THE HEALTH SCIENCE LIBRARY IN THE HOSPITAL

Approved by American Hospital Association

October 16, 1968

The significance of the hospital in the delivery of health services to large numbers of the U. S. population has increased in recent years to such an extent that it is today the focal point for the provision of patient care. The hospital provides an institutional framework within which the modern health care team, composed of an unprecedented number of specialized professional and nonprofessional personnel, can effectively operate. Not only has the hospital emerged as the center of the delivery of health care services, but also it has become the major teaching milieu for the health professions. Exposure to the clinical environment provided by the hospital is an essential component of large numbers of educational programs. In addition to formal educational efforts, hospitals are encouraging continuing education and inservice training for all categories of hospital personnel. Accompanying the expansion of patient care and educational programs has been an increase in the amount of research undertaken within the hospital setting. The complexity of the modern hospital environment is both a cause and a result of dramatic changes in medical research and practice.

The health science library is a vital center serving the hospital's objectives of patient care, education, and research. It must acquire, organize, and store books, journals, and other learning resources, but its true value to the hospital lies in its ability to identify and provide information to all who need it—students, teachers, practitioners, and researchers. The modern health science library must go beyond the hospital walls and extend its service through participation in library systems and in local, regional, and national communications networks. It is more than a warehouse of stored information. It is an essential source of knowledge, capable of generating information economically and efficiently. The modern health science library represents all the interests of the hospital including patient care, public health, education, research, and administration. Its scope must cover the totality of the hospital with its many disciplines, professions, and health care interests.

To the extent that the health science library is successful in fulfilling its mission, the hospital will be successful in providing effective educational and research programs at all levels and in fulfilling its goal of better patient care.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNER

Mrs. Billie Neal Cherry has been selected by the Awards and Scholarship Committee of the North Carolina Association of School Librarians as recipient of the N.C.A.S.L. Scholarship for the amount of \$500.00. The award is to be used for educational improvement in the field of Library Science.

Mrs. Cherry is a native of Reidsville, North Carolina, and presently lives at 1806 Heilwood Drive, Greensboro, North Carolina. She received her A.B. degree at East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina, and plans to do graduate work at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She has been employed by the Greensboro City School system for the past five years and is currently librarian in the Allen Junior High School, Greensboro.